



LEO LIONA

HAPPY
NEWYEAR

The Voice of District 50 Hawai'i Lions

HAPPY
NEWYEAR

Upcoming Cabinet Meetings

Jan. 27 - 28, 2023

Winter Forum
Kilauea Military Camp,
Island of Hawaii

Apr. 27 - 29, 2023

Cabinet Meeting & District
Convention
Ala Moana Hotel

Clubs Featured in this Issue

Akaka Falls
Catalyst Cubs Leo Club
Ewa Beach
Hawaii Kai
Hilo
Hilo Crescent City
Hilo Crescent City Leo Club
Hilo High School Leo Club
Iolani High School Leo Club
Kamehameha
Kapolei City
Kapolei High School Leo Club
Koko Head
Mana Loa-Nimitz
Manoa
Mililani
Mililani High School Leo Club
Moanalua
Region VII Zone 1
Waiakea
Waiakea High School Leo Club
Waimea High School Leo Club
West Kauai

District Governor's Message

Aloha District 50 – Hawaii Lions, Companions in Service (CIS) and Leos,

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!



MAHALO to Lions, CIS and Leos for serving our communities in a busy December 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following five clubs in District 50 and their immediate past presidents (IPP) who were honored with the 2021-2022 Club Excellence award.



Hilo Hawaii Lions Unlimited Lions club:

IPP Joy Tassillio

Hilo Waiakea Lions club: IPP Wayne Kuwaye

Koko Head Lions club: IPP James Campbell

Mana Loa-Nimitz Lions club: IPP Dexter Aoki

Pearl City Lions club: IPP Guy Inouye

Every club should apply for the award this year. Here are the requirements:

1. Membership: Positive growth or chartered new Lions, Leo or Club Branch.
2. Service: Donate to LCIF. Do a new project. 3 projects reported in MyLion.
3. Leadership: Club in good standing. Officers reported to LCI & trained.
4. Marketing: Publicize service activities on local/social media.

I MUA District 50 because "Together We Can"

Lion Gary Nip

District Governor 2022-2023

2022-2023 District 50 Leadership

District Governor

Gary Nip

First Vice District Governor

C.J. Kalopodes

Second Vice District Governor

Lori Inouye-Yamashita

Immediate Past District

Governor

Mitch Tam

Cabinet Secretary

Jeff Ching

Cabinet Treasurer

Lester Nip

Sergeant at Arms

Sean Benito

International Director

Robert Lee

Past International Director

Maurice Kahawaii

Board of Governors

PDG Angie Haramoto,

Chairperson

ID Robert Lee

PDG Blayne Hanagami

PDG Garrett Ogawa

IPDG Mitch Tam

DG Gary Nip

Submissions

Renee Ako, Editor

Please email submissions for the February issue by Jan. 25, 2023 to:
d50leoliona2022.2023@gmail.com

Club Charter Anniversaries

Jan. 03 Kapahulu Mo'ili'ili Lions Club - 1957

Jan. 04 Wahiawa Lions Club - 1940

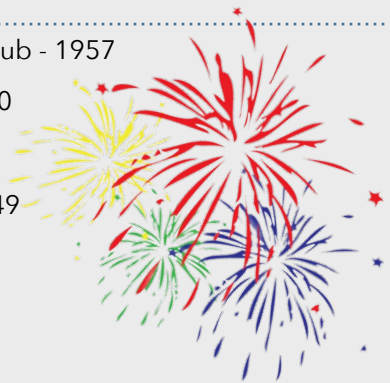
Jan. 10 Molokai Lions Club - 1939

Jan. 11 Haleakala Lions Club - 1949

Jan. 13 Mililani Lions Club - 1971

Jan. 17 Waimea Lions Club - 1955

Jan. 29 Manoa Lions Club - 1951



Click links for forms

January 15th

[Advanced Lions Leadership Institute Application](#)

January 29th

[Convention Registration Forms](#)

January 31st

[D50 Hawaii Lions Humanitarian Award Nomination Form](#)



Region II - Zone 2

Beach Park Clean Up

Hale'iwa Ali'i Beach Park

Sat. January 21, 2023 8:00 a.m.

RSVP by Jan. 14th and enjoy a light lunch

Contact Lion Pam or Lion Kobey

GAT's Best Practices

with

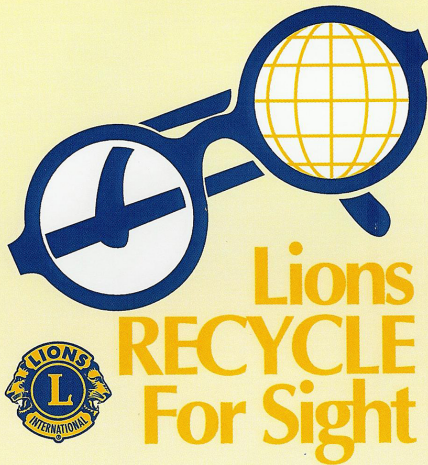
PDG Cecelia Izuo

Zoom Webinar
Monday, Jan. 23, 2023
6:30 p.m.



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday January 21, 2023 8am-2pm



Lions Clubs International

CARE GIVE RECYCLE

Your Used Eyeglasses
Can Help Someone See Better

DONATE USED EYEGLASSES HERE

Its "Lions in Sight" Month and throughout January, Hawaii Lions Clubs will be collecting used prescription **EYEGLASSES & SUNGLASSES** as part of a unique recycling program. The glasses will be distributed to those in need in developing countries where eye care is often unaffordable and inaccessible.

Imagine if you could help a child read. An adult succeed in his job. A senior maintain his or her independence. And provide a community with more opportunities to grow and thrive.

The Hawaii Lions has partnered up with local retailer **WALMART** in our effort to mass collect used eyeglasses.

We're also accepting HEARING AIDS!!



**HOURS & LOCATIONS
WILL BE CONFIRMED SOON!**

**D50 Hawaii Lions...please be available
and ready for the annual STATEWIDE coordinated service project!**

hawaiilions.org



Spotlight on the Hawaii Leos of District 50

Mililani High School

Photos and article submitted by
Lion Curtis Ogi & Leo President Ray Shiramizu

The early 1970s were a busy time for the budding Mililani community and the Lions who would help shape it. Mililani Lions Club was chartered in 1972. Mililani High School opened in the fall of 1973. In that very first school year, the Mililani Lions, still a fledgling club themselves, began recruiting Leos and applied for an official charter from Lions International, which they received on July 15, 1974, making the Mililani Leo Club

one of the oldest organizations at Mililani High School. Mililani Leo Club is looking forward to celebrating its 50th charter anniversary in 2024.

Bouncing back from the pandemic, the Mililani Leo Club is rebuilding its list of annual projects, partnering with the Mililani Lions Club, whenever possible. Regular projects include quarterly book sales to support the Friends of the Mililani Public Library, participation in the City and

County of Honolulu's Adopt-a-Block Program, and the annual Mililani Holiday Parade and food drive, sponsored by the Mililani Lions Club.

Club President Ray Shiramizu, a four-year Leo Club member, enjoys opportunities like the annual Holiday Parade, where he can show pride in the Leo and Lion programs. He says, "Leo Club has taught me how to think outside the box when it comes to serving the community, especially during the pandemic when a lot of traditional service opportunities were lost." Ray and his club executive board are working hard to rebuild the program after two years of pandemic restrictions.



"Leo Club has taught me how to think outside the box when it comes to serving the community, especially during the pandemic when a lot of traditional service opportunities were lost."

- Ray Shiramizu, Club President



**ADVANCED LIONS
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
ALLI**

Feb. 18 - 20, 2023

Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center

Deadline to register: Jan. 15th



Global Action Team

January 2023



Lion David Iwana **Global Leadership Team** **Coordinator**

Advanced Lions Leadership Institute (ALLI) is scheduled for February 18-20, 2023 at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center in Honolulu. The completed application form (click [here](#)) and registration fee of \$125 (payable to *District 50 Hawaii Lions*) must be postmarked no later than January 15, 2023. The application may be emailed, with the registration fee mailed separately. Submit application and fee to Lion David Iwana.

Lion Tony Tassillio **Global Membership Team** **Coordinator**

Recognition benefits Lions by contributing to:

Productivity. When people are rewarded for their accomplishments, they feel that their tasks are more meaningful. As a result, they are more productive. This means that Lions accomplish more for the communities they serve.

Morale. Morale can be contagious. Happiness can spread, and the club or district becomes a more comfortable environment for current members and a more attractive choice for potential new members.

Retention. When you identify and address specific needs of your members and provide recognition that satisfies these needs, your members are more likely to stay with the association because they are satisfied with their roles.



Lion Dr. Cedric Mitsui **Global Service Team** **Coordinator**

As of Dec. 19, 2022

District 50

Service Activities Completed:
1996

Volunteer Hours: 30,839

People Served: 652,738

Funds Donated: \$56,478

Funds Raised: \$64,745

Lions Club Reporting:

38/55=69%

LEO Club Reporting:

6/29=20% (Hilo Crescent City/

Kaimuki/Kona/Mililani/
Moanalua/Roosevelt)

TOTAL % Reporting:

44/84 =52.4%

ZC and Club Presidents, we need 3 more Lions and LEO clubs to report their service projects to reach our District goal of 55%. Executive Assistant Lion Gavin Hall can work with your club/Leo Club to report your service project.

Any LEO Club who did not report service project on My Lion last fiscal year and reports during July 1-December 31, 2022 will receive a \$25 Check or \$25 Amazon gift card. Service reporting is important!

Winners of the Region level Best New Club project will be announced at the 3rd Cabinet Meeting at KMC on January 28, 2023.

If you're interested in serving as the District's GST Chairperson during 2023-24, please contact 1st VDG CJ Kalopodoes. GST Chairperson in 2024-25 please contact 2nd VDG Dr. Lori Inouye-Yamashita.



Spotlight on Lion Lester Nip

Lion Cabinet Treasurer Lester Nip is a relatively new Lions member, joining the Koko Head Lions Club in October 2021, sponsored

by brother and DG Gary Nip. His spouse, Lorraine, also joined at the same time. They have two grown sons.

Lester graduated from St. Louis High School, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa, with a Bachelors degree in Business Administration, majoring in Accounting.

He worked in the accounting and audit fields for 41 years, a profession where financial integrity, reporting accuracy, and internal controls were paramount.

He retired from Hawaiian Electric after 31 years, where he held various positions in Finance, Accounting, Internal Audit, and IT. In earlier years, he was with: GTE Hawaiian Tel as Senior Accountant; Pioneer Federal Savings Bank as Controller, Assistant Vice President, and also Treasurer for its subsidiaries; and Touche Ross and Co., CPAs as Senior Auditor.

He was with the Ala Moana Jaycees a long time ago (about 35 years) and remembers leading the

logistics team for the Honolulu marathon, where fellow Jaycees procured materials and equipment for the race. That was quite a challenge.

When asked why he joined the Lions, his response was, "I joined Lions because DG Gary kept asking. DG Gary is very persistent (a good lesson for adding new members). However, having worked for 41 years with often, much overtime, little time was left for other pursuits. Perhaps this is the time to use my experience to help others and the community.

On a related note and speaking as a relatively new (maybe naïve) member, I am saddened to see the 20 / 80 rule in action, where a club may look like it has a lot of members on paper, but only about 20% of the club shows up for events and meetings, or hold office. That is, 20% of the members of the club are doing 80% of the work, maybe more. This rule seems to apply to every club I have met and talked with so far. We need to fix this.

When I was in the Jaycees (although it was a long time ago), our club had the 80 / 80 rule. That is, 80% of the members did 80% of the work, maybe more. I would like to see this for the Lions. I am committed to be tactfully persistent in asking new persons to become Lion members in 2023. I hope you will join me.

*Next month: Spotlight on Global Leadership Team
Coordinator David Iwana*



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D50 Lions Spreading

Christmas Cheer



1



2



3



4

1 11/26/22 **Hawaii Kai Christmas Parade**

Chair Lion Ken Nishibun (Hawaii Kai Lions club) reported 1,200 participants, 30 vehicles and 60 police officers made the parade a "ROARING SUCCESS" after a two-year COVID hiatus. A number of media outlets covered the parade including KHON, KITV, Hawaii News Now and the Star Advertiser. I MUA

2 11/26/22 **Downtown Hilo Christmas Lights Parade.**

After the local merchants decided to stop co-hosting the parade, Lions of Region VII Zone 1 did an outstanding job of sponsoring the parade. The public came out in such numbers that the 7,000 candy canes ran out early. Families started to set up tents for tailgating along the parade route in the afternoon. "Thank

you Lions" could be heard from the crowds. I MUA

3 11/26/22 **Lions and Leos Christmas display outside Honolulu Hale**

thanks to PDG Garrett Ogawa and FVDG CJ Kalopodes.

4 Children in the photo shared their art on the doodle pads provided by the Leos. I MUA





5



6



7



8

5 12/01/22 **Kaimuki Christmas Parade**

Koko Head Lion Richard Ching said, "MAHALOS for your support of the Maunalani (Nursing Home) marching unit. Although there were some glitches, you all came through like pros and embodied the 'go with the flow' strategy and came through for the unit. Maunalani really appreciated our support." Special mahalos go to (Lion) Jayson Nip, our "he man" of the group who pulled one of the

supply wagons most of the way. I MUA

6 12/03/22 Lion and Leo volunteers helped manage the crowds viewing the **Christmas tree display at Honolulu Hale**. Lions kept the public out of display areas, reminded them to not touch the display and took photos when requested. It was opening night and the crowds saw Lions at work.

7 12/03/22 After a two year absence, the **35th Annual Mililani Holiday Parade** brought over a thousand marchers and some 80 vehicles that proceeded from Mililani High School to the Town Center of Mililani. Among the parade dignitaries was Lion International Director Bob Lee.

8 Winner of the Marchers Category: Pas De Deux Hawaii LLC.





9



10



11



12

9 12/07/22 West Kauai Lions and friends playing and singing **Christmas songs at Hofgaard Park** in Waimea. This has become an annual event.

10 12/10/22 West Kauai Lions, Waimea Leos and the Koloa Senior Ukulele group at the annual **Hanapepe Salvation Army bell ringing fundraiser**. The intake for the Hanapepe Salvation Army was \$1,433 with a single anonymous donation of

\$10,000, total collected \$11,433!

11 12/10/22 & 12/17/22 You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch! Kapolei City Lions Club and Kapolei High School Leos came out to help support the

12 **Red Kettle Bell Ringing at Kapolei Walmart.** The mean old Grinch stopped by and scared people into donating! It was good fun and many people were excited to see the Grinch

being kind and helping the community!

People also donated non-perishable food items for the Hawaii Food Bank such as a bag of rice, stewed tomatoes, corned beef, corn, tuna, and spam.

It was a day filled with helping those in need and getting into the holiday spirit!





13 12/10/22 **Manoa Christmas Parade**

Manoa Lions Club planned and executed the Christmas parade. The Lions club took a photo at Noelani Elementary School before it got crazy busy running the parade and passing out candy.

12/10/22 **District 50 FUNraiser via Zoom** featured prizes, ugly sweater contest, prizes, ornament contest, prizes, Christmas tree contest, prizes,

bingo, prizes, scavenger hunt and did I mention prizes? Lion Cuz Wayne Kuwaye (Waiakea Lions club) shows one of the items on the scavenger hunt game. Mahalo to CIS Peggy Oyama and her committee for planning and executing a FUN night with Lions across the state.

12/17/22. The **Ewa Beach Lions Club Annual Community Christmas Parade** processed 27 applications, that included a

variety of marchers, vehicles and trailers. Units were judged to determine a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner. The winners received a plaque indicating their win. This year's winners were: Cobras Softball, Bantolina's Ranch and Ewa Beach Little League. There were approximately 2,000 people who lined up along the parade route.

Mahalo to DG Gary and all the Lions for their photo and article submissions.



Kapolei City

Going Green Day at Kapolei High School

December 3, 2022

Submitted by Lion Puna Nouchi & Lion Aimee Matsuura



Time to clean house and get rid of junk—make room for the holidays! Kapolei City Lions Club and Kapolei High School Leos came out to help support the Kapolei High

School in their Going Green Day E-Waste Recycling where donations were accepted.

Items that were collected were computers, printers, TV's, batteries, HI-5 beverage containers, canned

goods for the Hawaii Food Bank, clothing, eye glasses, and pet food and towels for animals.

It was great weather for donations and nice to get outside! What a great way to help recycle and help our Kapolei community!



Lions Can COOK Book

December 3, 2022

Article & photos submitted by
Lion Gary Nip

Purchase District 50 "Hawaii Lions Can COOK Book for only \$15. The book of over 200 pages of recipes is the initiative of CIS Joyce Nip to showcase the culinary talents of our Hawai'i Lions and CIS. Proceeds will assist younger Lions to attend conventions and the USA Canada Leadership forum. Proceeds will also support Hawai'i Lions Foundation.

Hawai'i Lions Can Cook Book



On Saturday December 3, 2022, 18 Lions and CIS reduced the cost by binding the books ourselves. 1,000 cookbooks have

been sold/distributed in one month. Only 1,000 cookbooks left; **there will be no second printing.**

We could use your help on Saturday January 7, 2023 to bind the remaining cook books. Meet at Ma'ema'e Elementary School faculty meeting room at 7am. Lions can also purchase these books at the school or contact DG Gary.



Hilo Crescent City A Month of Giving with the Lions & Leos

Submitted by Lion Bruddah Sean



At the Car Wash On November 12 & December 17, Santa's Helpers A.K.A "the Hilo Crescent City Leos," along with their advisors from their sponsoring club the Hilo Crescent City Lions, volunteered to wash cars at Minit Stop Puainako to benefit the Partners In Development Foundation - Project Pilina's Foster Care Program.



Project Pilina was chosen as a 4th Quarter beneficiary for the "Fuel Up, Do Good Program" from Ohana Fuels and part of their requirement to receive this grant

was to participate in two car washes from October to December. Car washes were both free and received donations. A total of \$941 was collected for both events, in which donations will directly benefit teenagers in the East Hawaii Foster Care Program.

These Leos from Hilo are truly inspiring as both car washes were held from 9am-1pm on Saturdays, and gave freely of their time to assist youth in need.

Mele Kalikimaka Holiday Canned Food Drive on Dec. 3rd On the first Saturday of the month, the Hilo Crescent City Lions collect canned food and monetary donations for the Food Basket of Hawaii Island at KTA Super Stores - Puainako.



On this particular day they exceeded their average collection almost four fold, totaling \$1,700 and 50 lbs. of food for only three hours (8am-11am) as they partnered with volunteers from "Waiakea Volcanic Water" and "Big Island Substance Abuse Council" that held signs motivating shoppers to assist our Hawaii Island residents in need.



Special mahalo to Lion Geoli Ng for creating the Food Drive signs.

Laulima Giving Program on Dec. 3rd

The Hilo Crescent City Leos volunteered from 8:00am to 4:30pm to assist "Keiki O Ka 'Aina's" annual Laulima Giving Program sponsored by

KHON News with collecting toys and gifts at Prince Kuhio Plaza to assist East Hawaii residents in need.

Continued on page 13



Photo above features KHON 2 news reporters Justin Cruz and Gina Mangieri with the Hilo Crescent City Leos.



"Jingle 🛎 All The Way" on Dec. 10th The Hilo Crescent City Leos collected \$197.92 on Saturday, 12/10/22 from 10am-2pm for the Salvation Army Hilo at KTA Keawe. Leos and Lions entertained customers by dancing to Christmas Music 🎄 while skillfully ringing the traditional bells that go with the Christmas season.

**G a r d e n
Enchantment at
Liliuokalani
Gardens on Dec.
23rd & 24th**
Region VII - East
Hawaii Lions and
Leos volunteered
to decorate the



Liliuokalani Park and Gardens with Christmas lights for the Annual Garden Enchantment Event.

Participating Clubs:

Lions Clubs

- Akaka Falls Lions
- Hilo Lions
- Hilo Crescent City Lions
- Waiakea Lions

Leo Clubs

- Hilo High Leos
- Hilo Crescent City Leos
- Waiakea High Leos

Visitors were given free candy and hot cocoa from 6pm to 9pm on both nights. This was the first year the three Leo Clubs in East Hawaii participated with the Region VII - East Hawaii Lions which made for a



fast set up and clean up. This also was an impressive showing of Lionism in East Hawaii.

The Secret

Santa Project goes to East Hawaii On December 26, the Hilo Crescent City Leos will deliver presents to a family of four children in East Hawaii for "the Secret Santa Project Hawaii" originating from Oahu and founded in 2016 by President RyleeBrooke Kamahele (15 yrs old) of the Catalyst Cubs Leo Club sponsored by the Koko Head Lions (see *photo next page*)

The HCC Leos are excited to participate and possibly extend "The Secret Santa Project Hawaii," to East Hawaii in 2023.

Continued on page 14



The Secret Santa Project program currently benefits Oahu children that were not able to receive assistance from non-profits because of not making the toy drive deadlines or because of a lack of funding. For more info follow @thesecretsantaprojecthawaii on Instagram.

Facebook @hilocrescentcitylions

Instagram @hiloscrescentcitylions & @hilo.crescent.city.leos

Tiktok @hilo.crescent.city.leos



Mana Loa-Nimitz Hawaii Lions Foundation Fellow

December 10, 2022

Article submitted by Lion Wendell Hosea

Photo submitted by Lion Elizabeth Frilles

Mana Loa-Nimitz Lions Club is proud to announce its second HLF Fellow - 1st Level (Norman Sakata) is Lion Harvey Ouchi, who has written a check amount of \$1,430.00 to Hawaii Lions Foundation, dated 11/20/22. He joined the Lions Club Ohana (Family) officially on the same 11/20/22 date.

Lion Harvey was officially inducted on 12/10/22 at MLNLC Induction/Christmas Luncheon by DG Gary Nip. Lion CIS Joyce was encouraging the D50 Cookbook sales. First-



*Lion Harvey Ouchi with
RIVZ2/Club President Brian Nitta*

Year ID Bob Lee and Lion CIS Pamela Davis Lee did attend the luncheon. Eleven other new Lions will also be inducted at Ruby Tuesday

Restaurant - Moanalua Shopping Center. Mana Loa-Nimitz shall grow from 23 to 35 members - a 152% increase.

Lion HLF Trustee-At-Large Wendell Hosea, is the first duly noted Norman Sakata HLF Fellow at the October 22, 2022, in person D50 Cabinet Meeting.

Please join me to welcome new member Lion Harvey Ouchi as the upcoming prestigious Hawaii Lions Foundation Fellow in his first day as a Lion member.

Moanalua

48th Annual Ho'opono Christmas Party

December 4, 2022

Article & Photos submitted by Lion Kathy Higa

After two long years the Moanalua Lions Club has finally been able to hold our 48th Annual Ho'opono Christmas party!! Due to the pandemic we weren't able to hold our annual fundraisers so funding our Ho'opono party was up in the air. We were trying to work out the numbers, then a miracle happened. A miracle named Blind Vendors Association. With a large donation from the Blind Vendors Association and other community supporters, we were able to once again come together and celebrate the season and each other!!

We were also able to honor Jay Larrin. Jay has been performing at our Ho'opono



Luncheon for over 35 years!! Our President Lion Guy, presented Jay with an award and a basket of goodies which included the hot off the press *Lions Can Cook* cookbook. Jay also mentioned that he hadn't sang in two years and was worried he couldn't sing as he used to. Jay still has it, and singing was perfect!!!

Dancing along to *Snows of Mauna Kea* was the lovely Leilani Kahoano who also used to teach hula to students at Ho'opono. Darrin Chinen plus surprise guest Gensen Rabacal, Eliana Fong and Vicky Kennedy (all former Ho'opono students), also kept the guests entertained. Of course the event isn't a Christmas event without a visit from our own Hawaiian Santa!!! The Moanalua High School Leos helped to distribute goodie bags to all the Ho'opono Students. Thank you everyone who donated and attended to help make our event successful. I could tell by all the smiles on the faces that everyone had a great time!!

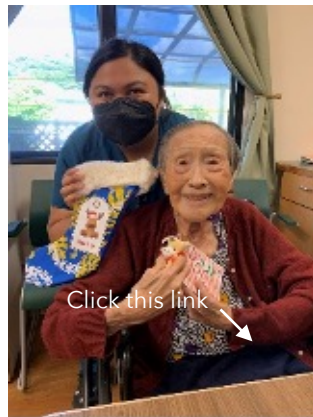


Kamehameha

Lions Club Kupuna Cards Project

Article & photos submitted by Lion Lori K. Yamada

Every year a group of very creative Lions members and friends churn out handmade greeting cards (Christmas, Valentine's Day and Birthday) and envelopes for residents of some of Honolulu's nursing home residents. Mahalo to Kamehameha Lions Club members



Click this link

-Sharon Ito Matsuo, Reena Rabago, Logan Rabago, Arlina Agbayani, Donna Miyashiro, Darlene Shakur, Cherrieann Diaz, Karen Pack, Amanda Chiavetta; Hawaii Cyber Lions - Peggy Oyama, founder of this project; 'Iolani Leos Club members and advisor Mrs. Amy

Yonashiro; Hawaii Kai Lions Club - Marja Leivo; and Mrs. Sally Pestana for an additional donation of 340 cards last year and much appreciated advice.

This year, cards made by the Kamehameha Lions Club, were delivered to Palolo Chinese Home

and Manoa Cottages in Kaimuki and in Manoa. Other clubs participating have nursing homes that they regularly donate to. All of these residents really appreciate receiving personalized holiday greetings from us. It makes their holidays extra special!



At A Glance

Hawaii Lions Convention 2023

hawaiilionsconvention.com

Download the **PROMO PAK** for EVERYTHING you need to know about the convention:

Click this link!

- Schedule of events
- Transportation
- Golf tournament @ Waialeale Country Club
- Keynote Speaker Luncheon with ID Allen Snider
- Flag Ceremony & Reception @ St. Louis Alumni Clubhouse
- The Greatest Showman Carnival @ Ho'okupu Center
- DG Banquet & Dance Party @ C'est Si Bon
- And more!



Don't forget these important deadlines!

- Jan. 29** Event registration deadline - \$45
- Feb. 28** Souvenir book advertising deadline
- Apr. 09** Golf tournament entry deadline - \$75

"It's So Important To Check the Box"

Photo and article submitted by Lion Angie Haramoto



"I can't express how important the eye bank is. It changes lives."

- Lion Kyle Laconsay

"It's so important to check the box."

Lion Kyle Laconsay is a vibrant woman who lives life to the fullest. Her voice radiates with joy as she talks about being a longtime member of the Honolulu Lions club, and being president of the Honolulu Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i.

Lion Kyle understands full well the importance of organ donation. Without the gift of corneal transplants and a liver transplant, she would not be able to give back her time and energy to the community today. Aside from being an active member with the Lions, she works at Ho'opono Services for the Blind, providing valuable skills and empathy to those in need.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Lion Kyle was blind

from a disease called keratoconus, which changes the shape of the cornea. She moved to the Aloha State and became involved with the local Lions after hearing of their mission and meeting Lions members. She said she admired the Lions' dedication to helping the blind see again and thought, "I want to do what they do!"

"I can't express how important the eye bank is," she said. "It changes lives."

Her journey with organ and tissue transplantation involves four corneal transplants to help correct her vision; one came through a donor from Pearl Harbor. Lion Kyle then unexpectedly required a different transplant a few years ago after she had reported feeling tired to her doctor and discovered that her immune system was attacking her liver. A liver transplant saved her life.

Lion Kyle is grateful every day for her cornea and organ donation angels. She has the chance to be there for her

husband, children, friends and family thanks to the people who "checked the box" and made the commitment to becoming organ donors. Lion Kyle encourages everyone to consider becoming an organ donor.

"We shouldn't take it for granted," she said.

Hawai'i Lions
Eye Bank
& Makana Foundation
www.lebh.org



The Lions Eye Bank of Hawaii and Makana Foundation remains the primary focus and the major activity of the Hawaii Lions Foundation. Its primary objective is to remove corneal tissue for transplant or research.



Help Wanted: Office Clerk

The Eye Bank is looking for a part-time office clerk (16 hours a week) to perform various administrative and clerical tasks. If you are interested, please contact Brent at the Eye Bank (808) 536-7416.



District Governor Maika'i Coin

Article and photos by Lion Gary Nip

District Governor (DG) Gary Nip has a limited special DG Maika'i (Job Well Done) coin to recognize those who go beyond.

Here are some of the recipients and their outstanding achievements:



CORRECTION:

Sincere apologies to **Lion Jeffrey Dansdill** (Akaka Falls Lions club) whose last name was misspelled in the December Leo Liona.



Mindy Runnells

(Director of the Panaewa Zoo in Hilo) was recognized on 10/14/22 for allowing the Pahoa Elementary School students to enjoy an exclusive day at the Panaewa Zoo.

The children had such a great time enjoying the zoo exhibits, playground equipment, scavenger hunt, entertainment, and lunch. Mindy is a prospective member of the Akaka Falls Lions Club.



Wilbur Sargunraj

(Known as the Simple Superstar) was recognized on 10/14/22 for a fantastic job entertaining the Pahoa Elementary School students at the Panaewa Zoo in Hilo. His energetic performance and infectious smile

had the children jumping for joy. His desire is to celebrate simplicity and to make the common extraordinary as we embrace diversity and learn from each other.



CIS Lyn Yee

Hawaii Kai Lions club

On 10/20/22 President Frances Lum noted CIS Lyn is the wife of our charter member Lion Rick Yee. CIS Lyn has been volunteering at many projects, more than some

Lions! She was key in planning our recent BBQ get together which resulted in a great turnout of Lions and CISs.

Lion Silvia Ardilla

Hawaii Kai Lions club

Honored on 10/20/22. Her contributions to the club are priceless. She maintains the club website and all of their social media, promptly posting new material, and creating beautiful videos of activities. Plus she has a lot of enthusiasm and is full of good ideas. (photo unavailable)



Lion Conchita Stewart

Oahu Central Lions club

On 11/16/22 President Mark Arinaga praised Lion Conchita as a dedicated Charter Member and the club's diligent Secretary who is always willing to serve her community as best as she can. When asked if she prefers to have the District email her members directly, Lion Conchita declined and replied, "I take good care of my members."



Lion Aren Pai

Leaders for Life "L4L" Branch club

Honored on 11/16/22 with the District Governor Maika'i coin for being one of her club's most active member, for having a bright attitude, and for planning, organizing and participating in lots of community service projects. Lion Aren also serves at the District level as chair of the Leo to Lion committee. The Leo-Lion program is an incentivized membership program for current or former Leos who are ready to transition to Lions membership

Read more stories in the next Leo Liona

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