



FINAL DRAFT

March 15, 2024

2024 Proposed Amendments to District 50 By-Laws

The following five proposed By-Law amendments have been reviewed and accepted by the 2023-24 D50 Committee on Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Policies.

Proposed By-Law Amendment No. 1, to add Lions in Sight Eyeglasses Recycling Committee as Standing Committee no. 21 under By-Law Article IV.6

Proposed text:

(21) To Support District 50 in collecting, storing, and distributing recycled eyeglasses for countries in need. To bring public awareness of the role District 50 Lions play in giving aid to countries in need of eye care for the visually impaired and our commitment to being “Knights of the Blind in the Crusade against Darkness.” To bring D50 together in collecting eyeglasses, cleaning, storing, and coordinating the distribution of cleaned recycled eyeglasses to organizations or business participating in medical missions or shipping to Lions Clubs within countries in need.

Rationale:

This is an independent, autonomous committee that is not involved with the vision committee. Ad hoc committees don't need to be recognized by the sitting District Governor. This Committee has been in existence since 2010. This is the first year the committee was overlooked.

Lions are still calling the chairpersons from previous years and shipping boxes to Oahu. It addresses the Lion's Global cause, vision. The committee coordinates an annual eyeglass collection day in front of Walmart and many other locations. The Lions receive great publicity by being in the news. This helps with public awareness. The eyeglasses are stored at Dependable Hawaii Express on Oahu. They apply for grants with Young Brothers to offset the shipping costs from the neighbor islands. They ship boxes of recycled eyeglasses to other Lions clubs in countries in need.

Budget:

Every year, the Lions in Sight Eyeglasses Recycling Committee has received an approval of \$3500 budget. This amount is sufficient to cover the shipping costs of the recycled eyeglasses. The committee has never exceeded this budgeted amount with the shipping cost.

Committee(s) potentially affected: Lions in Sight Eyeglasses Recycling

Submitted by: 1VDG Lori Inouye-Yamashita, Manoa Lions Club.

Proposed By-Law Amendment No. 2, to add Knights of the Blind Committee as Standing Committee no. 22 under By-Law Article IV.6

Proposed text:

(22) To serve the blind and visually impaired community through various projects, activities and events while encouraging collaboration between District 50 clubs, professional organizations and agencies and other groups supporting these initiatives of the blind and visually impaired community. The Knights of the Blind committee members shall collaborate with local agencies for the blind and visually impaired and other consumer groups to disseminate information regarding these initiatives.

Rationale:

Proposal is to make the Knights of the Blind committee a standing committee. This committee is currently an ad hoc committee. Helen Keller challenged the Lions to become the “Knights of the Blind in the crusade against darkness.” Vision and giving aid to visually impaired became a goal for the Lions organization.

This committee was formed in 2016. The “Knights of the Blind” committee members strive to engage visually impaired and blind individuals with the opportunity to engage in events and activities with members of the district 50 Hawaii Lions. Currently, local agencies for the blind have a focus on vocational rehabilitation which does not allow it to provide services to blind and visually impaired individuals who do not have a focus on work. In turn, there are many of these individuals whose needs are not being met in this capacity which the Knights of the Blind Committee can fulfill.

Budget:

The budget covers the Christmas trolley ride, ice cream social, dance social, audio-described movies on zoom or in a theater, picnic in the park and other activities for the blind & visually impaired community at large. The budget received in the past has been \$2000.

Committee(s) potentially affected: Knights of the Blind

Submitted by: 1VDG Lori Inouye-Yamashita, Manoa Lions Club.

Proposed By-Law Amendment No. 3, to revise By-Law Article IV.4.(6) Standing Committees (1), Awards and Recognition.

Current text:

~~(1) To determine awards and recognition on a District, Zone, or Club basis; to review and recommend rules for those selected awards and recognition; to select awards and to educate the District regarding International awards. Award recognition for the Best Club shall be based on the period from April 1 of the previous year to the end of March of the current fiscal year. Zone awards and recognition shall be based on the period of July 1 to the end of March of the current fiscal year.~~

Proposed text:

(1) The D50 Awards and Recognition Committee shall grant the following awards: The Companion-in-Service ‘Ohi‘a Lehua; Global Cause (for Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Environment, Hunger, Vision); Leos “Spotlight” Lions; Stellar Club; Lions Hall of Fame Award; Club Bulletin.

The committee will follow its procedures and guidelines, which includes due dates, set for each award. The committee will also promote the following Lions Club International Awards to D50 members: Club Excellence, Kindness Matters Service, The Humanitarian, and the Presidential.

Rationale:

This proposal is being re-submitted after being tabled (along with all other proposals) at the 2022-2023 Convention. The Awards and Recognition Committee feels that this policy ensures that these awards will be perpetuated annually. It also helps future Committee members to be aware of the Committee’s expectations.

Budget: \$2,475.

Committee(s) potentially affected: Awards and Recognition.

Submitted by: Gail Kono, 2022-23 A&R Chair, Leeward Oahu Lions Club;
Joyce Pang, 2023-24 A&R Chair, Honolulu Chinatown Lions Club.

Proposed By-Law Amendment No. 4, to revise By-Law Article IX.10 to add item (8), KOKUA Disaster Fund.

Proposed Text:

(8) KOKUA Disaster Fund. The District 50 Lions KOKUA Disaster Fund was established primarily to provide immediate funds to assist disaster victims in Districts and Multiple Districts outside of District 50 Hawaii. It would be preferred that these funds be sent to and administered within the disaster area by the Lions District or the Lions Multiple District affected, in a manner which will be beneficial to the disaster victims.

(a) Definition of Disaster. Whenever a declaration is made by the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) that a natural disaster condition exists, i.e. flooding, high winds, tsunami, wildfires, or any condition which in the opinion of the District Governor is a disaster, whether it affects an individual, family, or any other group of persons.

(b) Requesting Aid. Upon hearing of, or declaring a disaster, the District Governor shall Consult with the sitting International Director (ID), or the most recent Past International Director if there is no sitting ID, and the President of the Hawaii Lions Foundation to investigate and recommend the disbursement of funds as required. Inquiry should be made with the District Governor of the District, or the Council Chair of the Multiple District, in the immediate disaster area.

(c) Disbursement of Funds. The District Governor is authorized to designate the amount of each disbursement, only upon consultaion with and majority approval of the sitting International Director (ID), or the most recent Past International Director if there is no sitting ID, and the President of the Hawaii Lions Foundation. The District Governor shall authorize the Hawaii Lions Foundation to issue checks for monies in the Hawaii Lions Foundation segregate fund titled District 50 Lions KOKUA Disaster Fund. The checks shall be made payable to the affected District or Multiple District.

(d) Funding. The KOKUA Disaster Fund will be established by a one-time withdrawal of \$25,000 from the District 50 Reserves.

(e) Replenishment of Funds.

(1) When the District 50 Lions KOKUA Disaster Fund is below a minimum level of \$25,000, the District Governor shall issue a memo to all Lions clubs in District 50 requesting their voluntary contribution to replenish the fund. Each Club's voluntary contribution may be calculated at the rate of twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per month, or three dollars (\$3.00) per year. Monies should be from the Clubs' Activity accounts.

(2) The District Governor may also issue a call for emergency contributions in such amounts as determined by the District Governor.

(3) Any person, Lion or otherwise, or business entity, may make a contribution to the District 50 Lions KOKUA Disaster Fund.

(4) All checks payable to said fund shall be made payable to “HLF – District 50 Lions KOKUA Disaster Fund.

Rationale:

Since the devastating Lahaina wildfires in 2023, the Lions of Hawaii have received hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations from Lions Clubs, Districts and Multiple Districts around the world, during our moment of need. I believe it is time for us to "pay it forward" and reciprocate in kind. However, the District has no mechanism in place for us to do so. The creation of the KOKUA Disaster Fund, would allow us to help those impacted by a disaster outside of our District, in a prudent and fiscally responsible manner.

Budget: Estimated annual cost: One-time withdrawal of \$25,000 from reserves. Voluntary contributions thereafter.

Committee(s) potentially affected: Hawaii Lions Foundation.

Submitted by: ID Robert Lee, Chinatown LC.

Proposed By-Law Amendment No. 5, to add a new By-Law Section (14) to Article IX (Miscellaneous), titled D50 Hawaii Lions Club Conflict of Interest Policy

Proposed Text:

Section 14. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** The purpose of the conflict-of-interest policy is to protect D50 Hawaii Lions interest when it is contemplating entering a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the D50 Hawaii Lions or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

(1) Definitions

(a) Interested Person

Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

(b) Financial Interest

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

(b.1) An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the D50 Hawaii Lions has a transaction or arrangement.

(b.2) A compensation arrangement with the D50 Lions or with any entity or individual with which the D50 Lions has a transaction or arrangement.

(b.3) A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the D50 Hawaii Lions is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial. A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under 3(b) below, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

(2) Procedures

(a) Duty to Disclose. In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

(b) Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists. After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists by a majority vote.

(3) Violations of the Conflicts-of-Interest Policy

(a) If the governing board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.

(b) If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the governing board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

Rationale:

This Conflict-of-Interest Policy is needed to help D50 Hawaii Lions better understand the responsibilities needed to guard against conflicts of interest which may compromise the integrity and objectivity of D50 Hawaii Lions. The Conflict-of-Interest Policy follows a portion of the IRS Approved Sample Conflict of Interest Policy for Section 501(3) Organizations. (<https://www.nigp.org/chapters/legal-and-taxes/conflictinterest.pdf>).

Budget: none.

Committee(s) potentially affected: D50 Hawaii Cabinet and Committee Members.

Submitted by: Gail Kono, Leeward Oahu Lions Club.

End of By-Laws Amendment Proposal document.