
HAB FORUM

HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND
Advocating for
Independence, Equality, Opportunity

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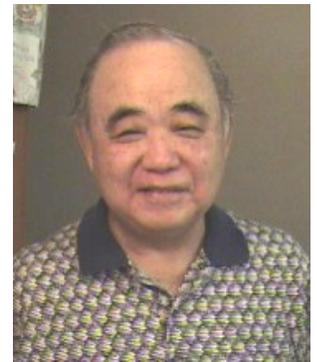
ALOHA! The Hawaii Association of the Blind (HAB) is proud to introduce everyone to the HAB Forum. This newsletter is published twice a year.

HAB is an organization comprised of blind and sighted members, who strongly believe in advocating for independence, equality, and opportunity for all blind persons. The officers are:

- President: Warren Toyama, vendor at the Tripler Army Medical Center
- First Vice-President: Filo Tu, President and CEO of Blind Vendors Ohana
- Second Vice-President & Scholarship Chairman: Don Thomson, Professor at Leeward Community College
- Secretary: Maureen Sheedy
- Treasurer: Amelia Cetrone, retired hotel CEO
- Board Members:
 - Myles Tamashiro, vendor at Kona Airport
 - Norman Ota, dark room technician at Tripler Army Medical Center
 - Nora Ota-Burrows, vending stand reliever
 - Miriam Onomura, vendor at Municipal Building

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Warren Toyama

Over the past six to eight months, HAB's membership has grown significantly. New faces adorn our meetings and activities which is a very welcome sight. Many of the new members are already active in the committee work of HAB. We strongly encourage participation by all members.



Last month Warren and Julia Toyama, Don Thomson, and Myles Tamashiro formed the Hawaii delegation to the 43rd annual National Convention of the American Council of the Blind (ACB) in Birmingham, Alabama. Members, start saving your dollars for next summer's ACB convention in Las Vegas. We hope to have a Hawaii delegation of at least twenty people. Plan to be there!

The 37th annual convention of the Hawaii Association of the Blind was held on March 19 – 20 at the Pagoda Hotel. Mr. Ralph Sanders of Washington State spoke on Social Security matters, while Patricia Shreck also from Washington spoke on the interaction of ACB with the National Library Services. Also on the program were Bernice Okamura (Ho'opono), and Don Thomson (Legislative issues and Resolutions).

Mr. Sanders presented a most thought provoking speech at the evening's banquet. HAB presented financial grants to the Library, Ho'opono, and to all but one of the DOE school districts through their teachers of the blind.

In December 2003, seventeen members of HAB gathered at the former Palama Fire Station which is now a research center for the Arcamedus Project. The goal of this particular project was to find a way to teach blind people to write print via the computer.

Sandy Gabrieli and Neal Scott headed the project. This research project is an arm of the University of Hawaii.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE - Myles Tamashiro, Chairperson



Aloha! The Social Committee was very busy planning a pool party which was held on Saturday, August 7, 2004. This cool event gave members a chance to relax and enjoy each other's company. Louise Horio and Lauren Kukino organized games which turned out to be fun and enjoyable. They even had prizes for all winners! Many thanks go out to Beth Flormata and her sisters, Cecilia and Christina for the most scrumptious dinner they prepared. Thanks to Norman Ota and Myles Tamashiro for picking up the drinks, and Louise Horio and Perlita Manginsay for the delicious desserts. Eula Flormata, thank you for being such a big help to all of us! This social was a tremendous success!!

Other activities being considered are bowling and casino night. The committee is headed by co-chairs Louise Horio and Myles Tamashiro. Members of the Committee include Nora Ota-Burrows, Dolores Rupard, Norman Ota, Maureen Sheedy, Julia Toyama, Ron Flormata, Beth Flormata, Joe Wilcox, Lauren Kukino, Laura Tanigawa, Jeanette Tu, and Perlita Manginsay.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE – Myles Tamashiro, Chairperson

Aloha from the Fundraising Committee! The members of HAB decided to have a chili sale this year. Congratulations to Norman Ota for spearheading this successful project. We sold lots

and lots of chili, and banana and chocolate breads. A special thanks to Amelia Cetrone and Norman Ota for working out the details with Zippy's and the HAB members.

The hard working members of the Fundraising Committee include Miriam Onomura, Nora Ota-Burrows, and Yoshiko Nishihara. Look out for more exciting fundraisers to come!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Norman Ota, Chairperson

The membership committee is pleased to announce the creation of several sub-committees:

1. Contact Committee – Nora Ota-Burrows, Chairperson
2. Transportation Committee – Filo Tu, Chairperson
3. Internal Support Committee – Elizabeth Flormata, Chairperson



We are better organized and I know the Membership Committee will be more productive and effective.

Within the first few months the Membership Committee has accomplished a great deal. Due to the diligent efforts of all the committees, membership has increased, and attendance at our meetings and activities has grown.

The Membership Committee has a number of activities planned for the rest of the year. Small group get-togethers for the purpose of discussions and socialization are planned. Joint activities with the Social Committee are planned for the Holidays.

If you are interested in joining us or if you have any questions, please contact me at 834-1079.

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE – Yoshiko Nishihara and Miriam Onomura, Co-Chairs

As always, these two dependable women are continually supplying the membership at monthly meetings with scrumptious goodies. Thank you Yoshiko and Miriam!

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – Ronald Flormata, Webmaster

HAB has a newly reconstructed website! The site now offers a number of features that members and the general public will find interesting and informative. Upon opening of the website, visitors will be treated to the latest news and announcements involving the blind community, HAB in particular. One can read the history of HAB, the calendar of events, resources available to the blind in Hawaii, how to contact HAB, the HAB scholarship, and job opportunities.

Visitors who want to add our HAB website to their favorites need only to click “ADD” located on the right of the plumeria.

We encourage everyone to visit the website at: <http://www.acb.org/hawaii>. The HAB website is residing in the (computer) server courtesy of the American Council of the Blind.

The site is updated frequently as the need arises. We invite everyone to come visit and tell us what you think we can do to improve on the service. For comments and suggestions, please contact the HAB webmaster, Ronald Flormata via email at comhaus1@hotmail.com.

The Hawaii State Committee of Blind Vendors – Filo Tu, Chairperson



I have a scoop for you. One of our own members received one of the most prestigious awards at the American Council of the Blind convention in Birmingham, Alabama on July 4, 2004. The ACB presents the George Card Award to people whom they feel have made outstanding contributions throughout their life not only to help the blind in their own state, but all of the blind throughout the country. I know that all of you know who this person is, because, that's what he has been doing for more than 40 years. Congratulations Warren Toyama! You make all of us proud to be members of the Hawaii Association of the Blind. I am wondering though, why is it that the Nation can see what this man is doing for the blind, and yet our own State can't see it? Well, I think it's because of the difference in time. We all know that we are behind, but we can only hope that one day we will catch up with the world.

This has been a very tough year for the blind vendors on the Federal level. As you know, there are different groups out there who are trying to take away the Military mess hall from the blind vending program. I have to let you know, this is a very big issue for the program. It is so big, that the two national organizations of the blind are working together to prevent this thing from happening. We also talked to our two U.S. Senators and they have been very helpful. This is not over! We are now getting ready for next year. We will keep you informed as this unfolds.

There are also lots of other things going on in the vending program. There are grievances and mediations going on, but I can't talk to you about it at this time. Hopefully, I will have something for you on this in our next issue.

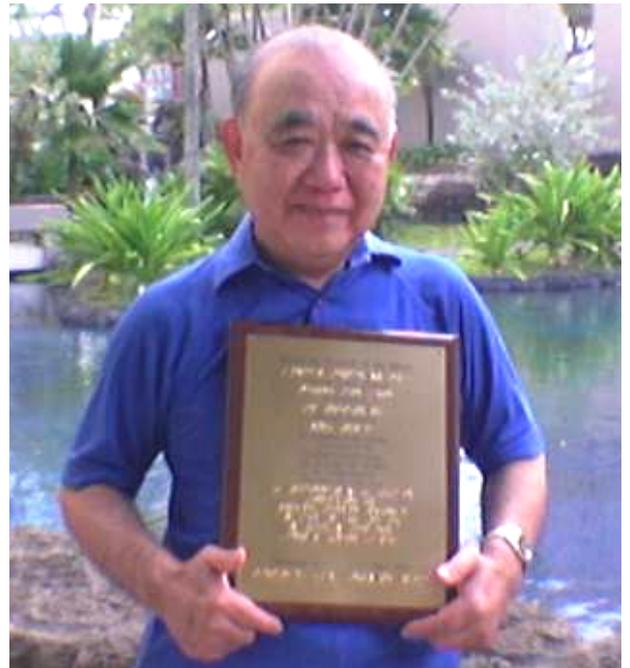
George Card Award – Ralph Sanders (written April 15, 2004 to the Awards Committee)

“I want to second the nomination of Warren Toyama for the George Card Award submitted by Charles Hodge. I concur with his judgment that no one is more deserving of this prestigious honor to be bestowed by the American Council of the Blind

I have personally known Warren Toyama since 1972 so I have personal knowledge of his commitment and work for the betterment of all blind and visually impaired individuals.

He is a leader and a champion of blind and visually impaired Hawaiians. He works with state officials involving rehabilitation programs, education of blind children, and library services. And, most significantly, he serves as a teacher and mentor of blind adults about their rights and responsibilities as part of the organized blind movement.

As the President of the Hawaii Association of the Blind, the ACB state affiliate, he has worked hard to build and nurture a strong, identifiable presence for the ACB in Hawaii.



And, his work goes well beyond working with blind adults. Under his leadership, the Hawaii Association of the Blind has worked to support and encourage a viable chapter of the National Association of Parents of Children with Visual Impairments.

His influence in public education spreads far beyond Hawaii. Whenever there is a major legislative issue involving blindness, U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka will know the ACB's position.

It is not by accident that Hawaii is the only state in the nation where the vending facilities problem for the blind has the priority to operate gift shops in all public airports.

His quiet personal commitment to our cause over the past several decades has served as an inspiration to blind and visually impaired people throughout the United States. Seldom does Warren seek the public spotlight, but whenever there is a need for funds, Warren and the HAB stand up to be counted. Whenever blind people's rights are challenged, Warren and the HAB stand up to be counted.

I can think of no blind individual in our organization who better exemplifies the leadership and personal qualities of George Card than Warren Toyama.”

Blind Vendors Ohana – Filo Tu, President/CEO

Blind Vendors Ohana opened its doors for business at the Honolulu International Airport on June 1, 1994. On June 1, 2004, Ohana celebrated ten years of successful operation! The festivities began on Tuesday June 1st with a very beautiful cake which was shared by the owners, managers, and all employees. Then on Friday, the employees presented each of the owners with a

beautiful aloha shirt. The owners proudly wore the shirts on Saturday night at our anniversary party.

Ohana celebrated its 10th anniversary with a gala event on Saturday at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel. Everyone talked about how nice the party was. Let me tell you, the party was great because of all the employees. Special thanks go out to Maricen Olipares and Julia Toyama for helping me put the anniversary party together and for putting up with me. I also would like to thank all of the employees for the beautiful watch and the recognition of being a good boss. Thank you very much for everything! I also would like to thank our special guests for making our 10th anniversary successful. Now, let's try for another ten years!! I hope all of you will be there for that celebration!

Hawaii Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired (HAPVI) – Myles Tamashiro, President

Cheers from HAPVI! We will be having a cookie sale during August and September. We will be selling School Kine Cookies.

Our annual convention is scheduled for September 18, 2004 at the Pagoda Hotel. We promise you a day filled with information, camaraderie, and fun. Come and join us, and share your thoughts and suggestions with us. If you have any questions concerning HAPVI or the convention, please contact me at 626-0535. Please RSVP for the convention by Friday, September 10, 2004.

HAPVI Annual Convention
“Tapping into Services for Our Children”

WHEN: Saturday, September 18, 2004 (8:00 am – 2:00 pm)
 WHERE: Pagoda Hotel, 1525 Rycroft Street (941-6611)
 COST: (Payable to HAPVI)
 \$5 Annual Family Memberships
 \$20 Lunch / Registration

Agenda

8:00 am Registration / Morning Refreshments
 9:00 am Morning Session

- Dr. Paul Ban, Special Education – DOE
- Sydney Freitas, Hawaii Center for the Deaf and Blind (HCDB)
- Fusako Miyashiro, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH)
- DOE Teachers of Visually Impaired – Orientation & Mobility Services, Recreational and Leisure Opportunities

12:00 pm Lunch
 1:00 pm Election of Officers / Door Prizes
 2:00 pm Closing

SHAER Report – Amy Downard

The State of Hawaii Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind (SHAER) hosted a conference on April 16 – 17, 2004 at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel. The conference was entitled “Low Vision: Reaching High to Address Low Vision”, and it was well attended by professionals, parents, and students.

Jennifer Bell and Cindy Bachofer from Project PAVE (Providing Access to the Visual Environment) were the featured

presenters. Topics covered included accessing low vision devices through a low vision clinic, and integrating these devices into education, and community and home use. Other highlights included a panel discussion of Ho'opono's new vision students, and a panel discussion of local eye care professionals. SHAER intends to follow-up with area ophthalmologists to provide information to families on how to obtain special services for students who are eligible for visual impairment services.

SHAER would like to recognize and thank the Hawaii Association of the Blind for their generous donation to our organization. This donation allowed us to greatly lower the costs for all parents attending, and it provided free registration to all students and siblings.

SHAER President, Amy Downard, will be attending the AER International conference in Orlando, Florida in mid-July 2004. For more information regarding SHAER events, contact Amy Downard at (808) 587-4710 or Amy_Downard@notes.k12.hi.us.

Legislative Report- Donald Thomson

We had a busy time this past spring in Washington D.C. The Randolph-Sheppard Act was threatened by an amendment to the Defense Authorization Act of 2005. This amendment, introduced by Nevada Senator John Ensign, would have eliminated the priority the Randolph-Sheppard Blind Vendors enjoy on military troop feeding contracts in favor of the severely handicapped as represented by NISH (National Industries for the Severely Handicapped).

The significant result of our lobbying is that the amendment was blocked and the 2004 language retained for one more year.

Our own Warren Toyama and Filo Tu played a key role in persuading Hawaii's U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka to stand up for the nation's blind vendors. The two Hawaii Senators came through for us, and as a result we have won a one year space in which to prepare our congressional strategy.

On the home-front, an attempt to pass a Resolution calling for an audit of the Randolph-Sheppard Revolving Account failed in the House Finance Committee, chaired by Big Island Representative Dwight Takamine. We will try again next year.

Auntie Weezie's Corner – Louise Horio



Aloha and welcome to Auntie Weezie's Corner! I'd like to express my appreciation to HAB for letting me use this corner to do a lot of sharing with you. I hope to share some recipes for living that will feed the body, the mind, and the soul. I hope that this corner will become a means to make new friends and strengthen old friendships. (That means we welcome YOUR recipes too!)

Egg Drop Soup

Brown $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ pound of ground pork. Remove oil with paper towels. Add crushed ginger and 3 to 4 cloves garlic. Brown well. Add splash of shoyu and oyster sauce. Fry. Add 2 to 3 cans chicken broth. Add 1 to 2 cans water. Bring to boil. (Can add creamed corn, peas, carrots, bamboo shoots, mushrooms, etc. if desired) Add 1 egg and stir quickly. Thicken with corn starch.

Shrimp Lover's Delight (*Elizabeth Flormata*)

2 tablespoon chopped Garlic
 1 cup chopped Onion
 ½ teaspoon chopped Ginger
 2 cups Green Onion

1 cup Sweet Chili Sauce
 ¾ cup Oyster Sauce
 2 pounds Large Shrimp

Sauté garlic, onion, and ginger. Add green onion, chili sauce, and oyster sauce. Add a little water so that the sauce does not become too thick. Add the shrimp and simmers until cooked. For best results, serve just before meal.

Thought for the month:

Got smelly shoes? Hate the messy shoe powders? Try putting a sheet of Bounce fabric softener in each shoe. Remove sheet before wearing, and put back in at the end of the day.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Erika Flormata – 2004 Leilehua High School. She will be attending Leeward Community College, majoring in architecture.

Malia Tamashiro – 2004 Mililani high School. She will be attending George Fox University in Oregon, majoring in education and minoring in music.



HAB Scholarship

The Hawaii Association of the Blind is offering scholarships to legally blind college students who are also Hawaii residents. The students may be attending any accredited university or college regardless of location. May 15th and November 15th are the deadlines for Fall and Spring applications.

Scholarships may be offered on an annual or a semi-annual basis as determined by the scholarship committee. The committee reserves the right not only to accept or deny scholarship applications, but also to determine the amount and duration of the scholarship. Scholarship recipients must re-apply in order to be considered for future scholarships. Those who are denied a scholarship are eligible to re-apply in the future. Scholarships will not exceed one-year in duration and are not expected to be less than \$500 per semester.

- **Eligibility Requirements:**

- Must be legally blind as defined by national standards.
- Must be planning to attend college for the period which he/she is applying.
- Must be a resident of the State of Hawaii.
- Must not be a member of any national organization other than The American Council of the Blind, the parent organization of the Hawaii Association of the Blind (since other national organizations have their own scholarships).
- Persons who are not affiliated with any national organizations of blind people are encouraged to apply.

For further inquires, Phone: (808) 455-0367 or Email
(thomsond@hawaii.edu)

College Scholarship Application Form

Hawaii Association of the Blind

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

College: _____ Major (if any): _____

Completed Credit Hours: _____ Class: _____

- Applicants must submit a letter of no more than two pages describing his/her educational goals, and informing us of information he/she deems relevant to the application.
- Applicant must provide the scholarship committee with official college transcripts. If the applicant has not attended college or is in the first semester of attendance, official high-school transcripts are required.
- Applicant must submit at least two letters of reference, one of which must come from a professor or teacher.
- The committee reserves the right to ask the applicant for further information.
- Relevant false information given will cause any scholarship recipient to have his/her scholarship terminated and a legal action will be taken to reclaim money already awarded.
- Information omitted which is relevant to the requirements of the scholarship shall be considered to be falsely presented, and thus will result in the same penalty.

Please send scholarship applications to:

Hawaii Association of the Blind
College Scholarship Committee
1255 Nuuanu Avenue, #1102E
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Hawaii Association of the Blind
1255 Nuuanu Avenue, #1102E
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

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MATTER
FOR THE
BLIND**