

Hawaii Association of the Blind Newsletter

September 1, 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holoholo

This is an opportunity to gather together, fellowship, sharpen mobility skills and learn about shopping apps and of course shopping.

Date: Friday, September 8th

Time: 4 PM-7 PM

Location: Foodland Farms Pearl City , 1150 Kuala St , Pearl city

If you have any questions, please contact Sherry at (808)561-5968 or Anthony Akamine (808)372-2225.

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Hawaii Association of the Blind and the Parents and Youths committee is having the first Blind Awareness Fundraiser in order to support the organizations efforts to continuously raise awareness through advocating independence, equality and opportunity for the Blind. All of our efforts could not be done if it weren't for our community members such as yourselves. Please come and Join us!

Date: Saturday, October 7, 2023

Time: 3:00pm-7:00pm

Place: Palama settlement Dining Hall and Lanai

Location Address: Palama Settlement 810 N. Vineyard Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96817

Parking is in the lot that faces Vineyard Blvd. If lot is full you may have to find street parking. Please be courteous of persons with disabilities and

DO Not Block the Handicap access isle in the parking lot.

Program Part I

3:00 pm-5:00 pm (Free to all)

Vendors-\$25.00 per vendor to exhibit during this event. (No more than 10 exhibits)

Silent Auction

Costume contest

Halloween Games and prizes

Program Part II

5:30pm-7:00pm Dinner and Entertainment Cost \$25.00 per person

Entertainment by Natural Vibrations

Dinner by Kenekes Punaluu (Choice of either Regular Menu or Vegetarian Options available.) If you've already bought a presold ticket then you've chosen

your selection. If you have not yet purchased your ticket please contact Anthony Akamine (PAY Committee Chair) at (808)-372-2225. Tickets are limited so

please purchase them as soon as possible. Please make check payable to: Hawaii Association of the Blind.

Thank you United Airlines Volunteers for providing sighted assistance for this event.

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The 2023 White Cane Walk will be on Friday October 20, 10:00 a.m. starting at the State Capitol.

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Biographies

Crata Mizutani

As a new member of the Hawaii Association of the Blind, Crata Mizutani is 21 years of age which makes her the youngest member of this organization.

Her reason for joining H.A.B. is to give back to the blind community--especially those who are senior citizens. One thing Crata wishes to accomplish in H.A.B. is to encourage blind kids to attend events held by its PAY Committee.

She is a singer, does creative writing and speaks fluent English and Martialese, the latter which is a dialect of the Federated States of

Micronesia.

If Crata could change anything in the world, it would be Oahu's traffic conditions and the amount of violence being committed in the world.

Her hobbies and interests include Socializing, babysitting her cat, her 2-year-old niece and her 7-year-old sister, shopping, and eating.

The two things that would make Crata's day are coffee and hugs.

In her free time, she enjoys baking. The best decisions she has ever made in her life was going to college and also preparing to become a Braille teacher.

If money wasn't an important factor, Crata would build a farm while still working,

She cannot go a single day without both her cane and dresses, the latter because she comes from a conservative Christian background where the women and girls in her family wear mostly dresses and skirts.

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July 21, 2023

My name is Sanoë Kalaluhi. I am 17 years old. I have 4 younger sisters. I go to Roosevelt High School. I am in the 12th grade. My class goes off campus

to learn. I like to shop. I like to shop at Safeway, Don Quijote, Target and Walmart. I like to shop for potato chips, musubi, hair ties and shoes. I take

the city bus and handi-Van with someone. I like the city bus because it is fun. I like to use my magnifier at the store to see prices I used my white cane

with a roller tip. I can fold it up really fast.

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Kristian Lee's grandfather passed away happy knowing his first grandson will continue the surname of the family. Big sister, 3.5 years old, grandma, aunty

along with mom & dad was awaiting the arrival of the newest addition to their family in December 2010. A birth that should have been celebrated turned

into a traumatic event...he was deprived oxygen during birth that required him to be in NICU for almost two months.

Today, at 12 1/2 years old, soon to be a 7th grader, Kristian has been thru so much. We lost track of the number of surgeries he's had. Endless doctor

appointments, physical, speech & fine motor therapy, visual impairment challenges, he cannot eat or drink food orally, he cannot walk & cannot talk. He

has a history of seizures & high risk of illnesses. The challenges he faces daily is lifelong. As a family, it has been a tough journey, it's difficult

to see Kristian unable to do things a non-disabled child is able to do. The cost of everything needed for Kristian daily life is astronomical. I was

a full time mom & caregiver for Kristian after his birth & four years ago, I had to return to work full time. His big sister is his second mommy & spoils

him with love & affection. Kristian is happiest with daddy, his hero.

We have been so fortunate & blessed to have organizations like Hawaii Association of the Blind to assist Kristian & our family with the tools and materials

he needs to thrive & succeed at home and/or at school. Hawaii Association of the Blind has provided us with the education, opportunities, family support

& guidance we need to move forward & not look back. Though he may not be able to tell us, we see it in his smile his excitement in his body movement &

the squeal in his voice & that proves he's as happy as he can be. That's all that matters.

Thank you Hawaii Association of the Blind for your endless support

From our family to yours,

The Ohana of Kristian Lee

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My son's name is Kyzen. He is five years old, and he is partially blind. He also has epilepsy, heart defect, cerebral palsy, G-tube feeding, and hard of hearing as well. What makes my son awesome is with all these health complications. He still is the happiest person. His smile can light up the whole room and he does have an impression on everyone he meets because of his happiness. He wasn't born with these complications, but a heart defect, after undergoing surgery. He had a stroke, and a seizure, which led him to these health complications. He loves to watch children play around him. It makes him laugh and it makes him happy. He loves to play with his brother and his little baby sister. He loves to watch Bluey and blue's clues. He screams in excitement and smiles when he recognizes a person's face or voice. Although he is immobile, can't walk or sit on his own he does roll all around and he tries his best to grab anything and everything he could get his hands on. He also kicks pretty strong so we call him our little kickboxer. I can guarantee you the moment you meet him in person you will not forget his face and his smile and that is my son and that is how he's so amazing.

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Aloha,

My name is Elijah. But I go by "Lij."

I am newly 14 and I just started at Kaiser High-school.

I've grown up in Hawaii Kai.

I love to watch Family Feud with Steve Harvey.

I enjoy being taken on walks; I love swimming in my pool; I love listening to Hawaiian music and I love snacking on dry cereal.

I have 2 wild sisters and some day I hope to walk on my own.

Mahalo for our Walmart card to assist with school supplies.

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"My name is Civic, I am a recent graduate from Konawaena High School. I graduated with the status of Valedictorian as well as Academic Honors and a Career in Technical Education. I am really passionate about aviation. Although I cannot do too much with planes because of where I live, I still do things regarding planes such as collect aircraft models in both 1:400 and 1:200 scales. These scales are in relation to the actual plane. Apart from collecting aircraft models from airlines around the world, I also follow a lot of photographers who take pictures of planes. With a 100 dollar gift card, I would use it for food or other essentials for college. The 100 dollars would cover groceries, dorm essentials, and other necessary items for living on my own."

Thanks for your time

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My Schaumberg Experience

By Crata Mizutani

Thank you HAB for providing me the opportunity of experiencing the ACB national convention in Schaumberg Illinois. This was my first ACB convention. I

learned a lot. Some of my highlights that I experienced was getting to meet many people from all over including the ACB President Deb Cook Lewis. I enjoyed

the mixer with the students and ACB next generation. It was nice to connect with students and young professionals. It was good to see many of the Hawaii

folks involved in workshops including Vicki Kennedy and her guide dog experience, Sajja at the DKM reception, Terri-lynn at the communication workshop.

The DKM reception I learned about Durward k McDaniel and met first timer recipients and had many opportunities to connect with folks. One of the things

I learned was organizing myself by attending the organizational workshop. One of my favorite foods was chicken and waffles. The odyssey cruise was the

best because I learned about places in Chicago as they provided an audio description tour . I liked the upper deck where there was a big Ferris wheel.

I got to meet Mikey Wiseman, and Paul Edwards as well. I can't wait to tell my friends about convention.

The exhibit hall was good because there were many booths. One of the booths gave me a money reader. Another booth they let me feel the audible traffic buttons. It was a lot of fun and excitement.

My mom and I also got to attend a family breakfast hosted by ACB families. Jeff and Leslie Thom spoke about their experience hosting foreign students in their home. Thank you to many Hawaii folks that encouraged me and my mom along the way.

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Hawaii Association of the Blind

Holo Holo Assisted Shoppers Event Summary

Event Location: Foodland Farms Pearl City, 1150 Kuala Street

Event Date: 8-11-2023

Lead OM Instructors: Sherri Martinez, Amy Downard

Mahalo to Troy Kato and Ute Hoelscher

Picture Descriptions: Holo Holo Shoppers and OM Instructors shopping for groceries! Picture 1: Handi-Van Party Bus: Russell, Jolene, Emerald, Natalie, Art,

Hilarion, and Lance! Picture 2: Troy, Sharon, and Ernie! Picture 3: Anthony, Crata, Amy, Jolene, and Emerald! Picture 4: Art, Kenny, and Sherri! Picture

5: Russell and Ute! Picture 6: Jolene, Amy, and Crata!

Mahalo to HAB for another phenomenal Holo Holo at Pearl City Foodland Farms! One member wrote, "I want to say how much I appreciate this outing.

This ranks up there as one of, if not, the best one. The socialization was top notch." Another member wrote, "Thank you for a very engaging experience.

Had a lot of fun learning new skills, meeting new people, and trying out new food."

Description of Foodland Farms Pearl City:

The Handi-Van drop off is directly in front of the store's single main entrance.

CENTER: As you enter through the sliding door of the main entrance, there is only one door, forward about 20 feet is the customer service desk, behind it is a poke counter, behind that is the bar in the shape of a square with bar stools.

LEFT side: As you enter, turn left for HI Steaks counter and a large sitting area with about 20 tables with chairs and wall benches. When facing the sitting area, there are tables with wall benches and chairs on the left and right walls and the center tables are chairs only. All tables are square shaped.

RIGHT side: As you enter, turn right to move toward the produce section that is surrounded by counters with prepared food to go along the walls. These include steam tables at the Okazuya, prepared or made to order Sushi Counter, fried chicken, pizza, burritos, sandwiches, bakery and the calabash section, which is food you take home to prepare, is at the back right area. These counters are all along the wall, but in front of them by the produce are pre-packaged items to go such as mochi, bentos, chicken wings, and prepared meals. Prices are marked on each packaged item.

BACK of store: The back of the store along the wall has the packaged meats, the butcher, fishmonger and seafood counters.

RESTROOM: The restroom is located in the back of the store, to the left of the seafood counter and to the right of the milk display. There are two swinging

double doors to enter, continue forward then turn left, the Women's restroom is first on your right, then the Men's. Each restroom has about 3 stalls and

sinks. No key or code is needed to enter; just trying to find it may require assistance.

The remaining aisles with products on shelves are mainly behind the center of the store to the left. These include refrigerated and freezer items. This

is a nice space to gather and shop with lots of seating, food choices, great customer service and a well-organized space.