History: The Center was established in 1982 by thirty dedicated residents of Hawai‘i of Chinese ancestry. From 1983 to 1999, it received partial funding from the Overseas Chinese Affairs Commission (OCAC) in Taipei, Taiwan. In addition, the Longevity International Corporation assisted by affording space in Room 302 of the Chinese Cultural Plaza.

The Center provided a lending library of Chinese books, magazines, and newspapers; a monthly screening of a Chinese movie; seminars, conferences, and workshops on selected topics related to Chinese culture; and special memorial and festival activities. It also offered regular classes in Chinese language (Anna Hsiung has been principal of the Chinese language school since 1998), Chinese calligraphy, cultural topics (on demand), immigration issues, Chinese martial arts, and Chi-kung (qigong). Cultural activities of the Center included an Overseas Chinese Cultural Festival featuring a calligraphy competition for students, an exhibition of Chinese calligraphy and painting, and musical events such as Cantonese operas. The Center also participated regularly in the celebration of Confucius (Teacher’s) Day.

Since July, 1999, when the Chinese Cultural Plaza changed management and new policies were implemented for the OCAC, funding from Taiwan ended. Space in the Chinese Cultural Plaza originally occupied by the Center was allocated to the proposed Dr. Sun Yat-sen Hall (Room 302) and the new Chinese Culture Center (Room 202).
Activities  Currently, the Center continues to participate in the Confucius (Teacher’s) Day Celebration. It also still organizes an annual Student Chinese Calligraphy Competition, an exhibition of Chinese painting and calligraphy, and a free monthly Chinese movie screening. Chinese calligraphy classes have also been resumed. Most activities are still being conducted in Room 302 of the Chinese Cultural Plaza.

For the future, the Center plans to develop further service activities, while being careful not to duplicate the efforts of other Chinese organizations.

Membership  The Center has about 200 current members, and a board of directors (each serving a two-year term) to oversee activities. Anyone interested in Chinese culture and in serving the Chinese community is welcome to join.