**Mission:** To promote and maintain harmony among members of Oo Syak Village now living in Hawaii, and their descendants. To render assistance and comfort to members and others in times of need, and to engage in activities that are charitable, benevolent, educational and scientific.

**History:** Yick Leong Chang of the Oo Syak Heong (Oo Syak 烏石 Wushi Village, within the Gook Doo district of Chung Shan (Zhongshan) county, which is part of Guangdong Province) came to Honolulu in 1878. He established a store, Kung Hip Loong, at the corner of Hotel and Smith Streets, selling Chinese and Western goods. When people from Oo Syak Village living all over the Hawaiian islands came to Honolulu to buy farm tools and Chinese goods, they stayed at the Kung Hip Loong Store and took their meals there. Eventually the press of visitors grew too large, so Mr. Chang bought a piece of property on 312/318 Kamakela Lane near North Kukui Street for five hundred dollars, and built a two-storey wooden structure on it. The upstairs area included a sitting area for members use to rest and “talk story.” Downstairs were four rooms for transient visitors. Meals were still provided at the store. In this way, villagers maintained a sense of community among themselves.

After a number of years, Yick Leong Chang retired and returned to China to live. In 1900, Honolulu community members wrote a letter to him, to request that the deed to his store be transferred to the newly formed Oo Syak Gee Lu Society. Mr. Chang generously complied with the request.

In 1955, the Society was incorporated. At the time, its property was listed at 5645 sq. ft. on the tax bill. The house on it included about 14 rooms, rented for a monthly amount of $10 to $17. Tenants included Chinese and non-Chinese boarders.
The Society continued for many years, until the Honolulu city government bought out the property in the Chinatown redevelopment project of 1960. For a brief period in 1963-1964 when the Society was looking for a place to put its roots down, it owned a property in Waimanalo. Currently the Society owns an older 6-unit apartment building at 2624 B Kapiolani Blvd. near the intersection of Kapiolani, Date, and Kamoku streets, which was purchased in 1965 with funds from the sale of the Waimanalo property. Rental income from this property continues to fund the Society's activities.

Activities Following are the key activities of the Society.

- Annual scholarship awards: Student members pursuing higher education are eligible. Applications are due by the middle of July, and the scholarships are awarded in August. Four awards of $750 each are made, based on scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, leadership, and community involvement.

- Annual Banquet: Held in August at a Chinese restaurant. The society subsidizes the cost of the meal to encourage members to attend. Members 70-yrs and older are welcomed free. The Society’s annual scholarships are awarded at this banquet.

- Annual Christmas Party: Held over lunch at a Chinese restaurant during the first week of December. The party is free to all members.

- Double-Ten Parade: To commemorate the founding of the Republic of China and the end of imperial rule. The parade is held on the tenth day of the tenth month (October), and members march in their Oo Syak tee shirts.

- Quarterly Board of Director’s meeting: Members are encouraged join the board members to contribute to the discussion. Meetings take place at a Chinese restaurant, and lunch is served at the conclusion of business.

- Annual General Membership Meetings: Held in November at a Chinese restaurant. Lunch is provided to all attending, at no cost.

- Installation Luncheon: Held in January at a Chinese restaurant. Lunch is provided free to all members.

- Primary Charitable Donations: These are made annually to the Palolo Chinese Home, the Miss Chinatown Pageant, and the Narcissus Pageant.

The Society also maintains contact with members by publishing three newsletters a year, and through its website.

In 2006, Society members are planning to join with the California chapter in a trip back to the Oo Syak area, to visit and to find out more about family histories.

Sources: UCS publications, Society website, correspondence with Ed Chang
Association presidents

Records are available only after incorporation

1955  Nai Man Chang
1956-57  William Gee Ching Chang
1958-59  Nai Man Chang
1960-61  Raymond K.H. Young
1962-63  York Hon Hu
1964-65  Nai Man Chang
1966-67  Harry T.K. Chang
1968-69  Walter Won Chang
1970-71  Mun Bo Chang
1972  Koon Kau Chang
1973-74  Henry Amoy Young
1975-76  Lawrence G.H. Chang
1977-78  Sing Chang
1979  Gertrude K. Chang
1980-81  Ah Kau Young
1982-83  Johanna Y.K.C. Pang
1984-85  Harold K.C. Hu
1986-87  Leburta H.Y.C. Chock
1988-89  Bryan K.H. Hu
1990-95  Harold K.C. Hu
1996-97  Wah Jip Chang
1998-01  Edmund W.K. Chang
2002-04  Maile K. Chang

Membership:

At present, there are 255 active members in the Society.

Membership is open to anyone from the village of Oo Syak, or descended on the father's side from Oo Syak. Members have the opportunity to learn about family history and common ancestry; meet and stay in touch with family and other members by attending Society meetings, banquets (free or low-cost), or parades; participate in the scholarship program; and participate in (practice) meetings following Robert's Rules of Order.

Member highlight:

Mrs. Eunice Chang Lum Chun was one of the tenants of the old Kamakela headquarters/rooming house. Now in her 80s, Mrs. Chun helps the Society to learn about its past. She donated the beautiful silk banquet banner that is shown on the Society's web page, and has also generously willed her assets to the Palolo Chinese Home to help the elderly. She continues as Principal of the Tai Koong Chinese language school.