The Triple C  c/o Douglas Tom, 1429 Liholiho St. #3, Honolulu, HI 96822  
also c/o Bernard W.D. Fong, 97 Dowsett Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96817.  
Business phone (808) 538-1186. Residence phone (808) 595-3686.

Mission: To 1) create cooperation and unity among young Chinese business-people in the community; 2) promote athletic, educational, economic, and social activities; 3) encourage the Chinese in community activities; 4) promote the best in American citizenship and the highest in young manhood. The Club motto is: "Service is Wealth."

History: In the fall of 1920, eleven young Chinese men, some just out of high school and some who had found it necessary to enter the business world before completing high school, decided to form an association. Since none of them owned a car, they boarded Rapid Transit trolleys in the parts of Oahu where they lived—Kalili, Palama, Moiliili, Kapahulu—and arrived together at the YMCA, on Fort and Vineyard Streets. There they met with the Chinese Secretary of the "Y", Mr. K.F. Lum, and founded the Chinese Civic Club—The Triple "C". Very early on in its history, in keeping with a stated objective, The Triple "C" began to promote educational and economic activities among its members. In 1923, two members were encouraged to leave Honolulu for Detroit to join the rapidly expanding Ford Motor Company. During the next few years, between 1924 and 1928, two other members left Honolulu for the mainland to continue their education—Raymond H.C. Ching was trained with the YMCA and went to work in China, returning to Hawaii at the outbreak of World War II; and Theodore Char was trained and certified as a public accountant, to become the first CPA of Chinese ancestry in Hawaii and an invaluable idea and resource person for the Triple "C". In keeping with another objective, the Association began to promote athletic and social activities among its members as well. Members joined calisthenic classes at the YMCA, formed a volleyball team to play in competitions, and joined the Tsi Mui Club of the YWCA for parties and picnics.

In the summer of 1926, the Triple "C" began to meet at the homes of members rather than at the YMCA. It also began to organize more of its own activities. Especially popular among these were dances to raise money for the club’s treasury, and camping trips on long weekends to some of the more remote beaches on Oahu—Nanakuli, Waianae, and Kahuku Point. In 1930, members began to discuss building a clubhouse on Waimanalo Beach, on land one of them owned. A lease agreement was signed, whereby the Club would pay the property tax on the land and could use it until 1942. By the end of June, 1931, a new two-story building had been constructed at the cost of $1,280, and served the Club well until both building and land reverted to the landowner in 1942. Other members of the Club began to acquire beachfront properties as well, however, and after World War II, overnight outings were held at the homes of members in such places as Kaaawa and Kahana Bay.

Following the construction of the clubhouse in 1931, the members considered other joint financial ventures, and created a Trust Fund, which, as money accumulated, was used for investments in stocks. These did so well that in 1947, $1,250 was transferred from the Trust Fund to
establish an Investment Group. On September 24, 1947, with a paid-in capital of $11,000, the
Investment Group was incorporated into The Triple "C" Limited. In the fiscal year which
ended on June 30, 1986, the assets of that corporation amounted to more than $100,000 and
stockholders had received total cash dividends of approximately $75,000.

Another step taken by the Club in the 1930s that has benefited its members was convert-
ing the Triple "C" into a fraternal organization, formally approved on July 27, 1932. This
reorganization made it possible for the Club to officially provide benefits for the family of a
member who passed away, or for the member and his family if his wife passed. It also led to the
unofficial practice of various members contributing money toward expenses when a member or
someone in his family became ill. Other benefits have been provided for members and the
families of members as needs have arisen over the years.

By the time the United States entered World War II, the Club had changed in another
important way. Many of its members were now older and "frozen" in responsible civilian jobs,
which prevented them from entering the armed forces and fighting in World War II. However,
two notable exceptions were Herman Y.C. Ching and Hiram L. Fong (later U.S. Senator Fong).
Dr. Ching, a practicing dentist since 1932, volunteered for the U.S. Army Dental Corps shortly
after war broke out in December 1941; he was commissioned as a captain and served until April
1944, when he retired with the rank of major. Hiram Fong was called to active duty early in
1942 and became Judge Advocate of the 7th Fighter Command of the 7th Air Force; he served
until 1944, retired with the rank of colonel, and became a member of the U.S. Air Force Re-
serve. In addition, many sons of Club members served in the Army, Navy, and Air Force before
the war was over; other young men active in the armed forces were later elected to membership
in the Triple "C".

The annual banquet of the Triple "C" has been the most festive event of the year since it
was first held. All official Club meetings were also accompanied by a Chinese dinner, with the
exception of during World War II, when various restrictions made monthly dinner meetings
impossible. During these times, the Club met instead for lunch. These meetings were presided
over by officers elected in 1942 who then served until the war ended in 1945. After the War was
over, dinners were held at selected restaurants, after which the members adjourned to one of
their homes. The dinners were paid for by monthly assessments, the earliest of which was the
grand sum of $2.50. From 1951 until 1984, monthly dinners were held at Wo Fat's. The first
annual banquet, however, was held at the South Seas Restaurant and was a nine-course dinner at
the cost of $30.00 a table. This first banquet was enjoyed by eighty members, wives and friends.
In addition to the annual banquet, wives are now invited to club dinners on alternate months, a
tradition started in 1969.

In 1974, the Club began admitting sons of the original members due to the advanced age
of many of the members. By 1984, the custom of awarding "Senior Member" certificates was
introduced at the annual banquet to those members who had attained the age of 80. In 1986,
thirteen members had received this award.
Membership:
Around the time of the formation of the Club, the number of applications for membership was so great that the original members felt it necessary to limit the membership to 25 young men. "Adequate education" and "honorable character" were set as basic requirements, and admission was to be only by nomination and unanimous vote. The founding members decided that the vote was to be taken only after members had an opportunity to meet the nominee socially, usually at a dinner, and the nominee was not to be told of his candidacy unless and until he was voted in as a member. These rules for membership are still in effect today, except that the number of members has been raised to 35, and the required vote-to-admit reduced to 75% of the members present at the meeting at which the vote is taken. The wife of the nominee is also usually invited to the dinner. Only rarely does anyone turn down an offer of membership. Thus far, no woman has been nominated or has petitioned for membership. The club’s financial resources derive from dues and special assessments.

Activities  Members meet once a month to have dinner, and every other month, the spouses of the members also attend. The Club aims primarily to facilitate camaraderie and friendship.

Association presidents
1977  Tai Yau Chung
1978  Titus Y. Fong
1979  Herman C.Y. Ching
1980  Franklin P. Hee
1981  Daniel K.F. Chee
1982  George P. Lim
1983  Melvyn M.L. Yap
1984  Lowell T.S. Chung
1985  Harry T.G. Lin
1986  Gilbert N. Lai
1987  Franklin P. Hee
1988  Albert T.J. Pang
1989  Larry Ching
1990  George Lim
1991  Benjamin Lee
1992  Kendrick Wong
1993  Daniel Ching
1994-96  Tai Yau Chung
1997-00  Bernard Fong
2001  Franklin P. Hee
2002  Ronald F.K. Ching
2003  Randall Chang