**Mission:** To promote the social well-being of the members, give mutual support to each other, have group recreational activities outside the home, and improve members’ English language skills in order to improve their quality of life in their adopted country.

**History:** Thanks to the persistent efforts of Sister Earnest Chung, Dr. LaVay Lau, Dr. Emily Khaw, and Mrs. Yuk Pang Law, who urged the Hawaii Department of Health’s Mental Health Division to establish a bilingual program for immigrants of no or limited English proficiency, the Club was established in 1980 as a program of the Koko Head Mental Health Clinic. It met as a Friday program led by a bilingual Chinese social worker from the Clinic.

At the same time, Mrs. Law, who worked at the Kalihi-Palama Immigrant Service Center (KPISC), started a cooking class during the lunch hour on Thursdays for a group of Chinese immigrants. Her purpose was to introduce them to each other, to develop friendships and have support in adjusting to their new environments. Mrs. Law and the bilingual social worker from the Clinic also helped them with other personal and logistic problems, as feasible.

In 1985, The Koko Head Mental Health Clinic lost the position for the bilingual Chinese social worker as well as the funding for the Club. Therefore, the Club and the cooking class merged into a Friday social club with Mrs. Law as its volunteer advisor. She continued in this capacity even after she resigned from her KPISC job in July, 1990.

Shortly afterwards, Mrs. Law became a self-employed interpreter and social service provider in Chinatown, as well as a teacher in a community school for adults, but continued to serve as an advocate for immigrants. In 1993, she became a board member of the Chinese Community Action Coalition (CCAC). At her request, the Chinese Health and Social Club came under the sponsorship of the CCAC at that time.

At first, CCAC board members helped the Club raise funds by selling members’ home-cooked Chinese New Year food at “A Night in Chinatown” during Chinese New Year’s fairs. However, after three years, it was determined that most members were getting too old for such strenuous activities. As a result, the Club was invited to join in with the CCAC annual fund-raising dinners as a new way to raise funds.
Activities: In the early years, the Club held its activities at Shim Hall in St. Elizabeth Church at 720 North King Street. Later, when the Church began to collect rent, the Club moved to the Hawaii headquarters of the Democratic Party on Kapiolani Boulevard in the downtown area. This move was courtesy of the Democratic Party. However, when the Kapiolani building was scheduled for demolition in 1999/2000, the Club again moved its activities program, this time to its current location at the Makua Alii Senior Center, 1541 Kalakaua Avenue. One of its main activities is the teaching of basic and survival English to club members. Classes are taught once a week by Dr. Sui Shan Au Yeung, who is also an instructor at the McKinley Community School for Adults. In addition, recreational group activities are arranged each Friday. On the first Friday of each month, members discuss club business and play bingo games. On the second Friday, Mrs. Law conducts a cooking class that now has nearly 30 people attending regularly. Those members whose birthdays occur during the month are honored and celebrated. During the Friday club gatherings, Mrs. Law also briefs members about recent news of Hawaii and the United States that concern immigrants, as well as about any changes to rules and regulations concerning social benefits. From time to time, she also does oral translations of English-language letters or notices that members may have received at home and been unable to read themselves. Past Club activities such as bingo games, watching movies, field trips and inviting outside speakers to talk on different subjects will also be resumed.
**Membership:** All adult Chinese immigrants and seniors are welcome to join. There is a $6 annual membership fee. Members can join group activities on Fridays and can also enroll in English language classes. There are currently 35 active members in the Club.

**Association Presidents:**

2004  Mr. De Guang Chen

Before 2004, there had never been a president or chairperson of the Club. At the beginning, the bilingual social worker from the Mental Health Clinic organized and coordinated Club activities. Later, a number of bilingual UH students volunteered to take on the role of activities coordinator in rotation. However, in the past five or six years, there has not been any more volunteer help from UH students and therefore a senior member of the Club, Mrs. Rebecca Mak, has volunteered her time to make sure the activities are still offered. In January, 2004, club member De Guang Chen became the first official president of the club.

*Sources: Correspondence with Mrs. Yuk Pang Law*