Mission: The aims of the Society are to 1) establish and maintain harmony and understanding among its members; 2) render assistance, aid and comfort to members as others in the community whenever feasible or whenever it is deemed necessary; and 3) promote the general principles of charity, benevolence, education and science.

History: The thought of establishing a Hee Association (of those with the last name Hee \(\text{Xu} \text{ 許}\)) was conjured up in the minds of a number of people. The subject came up many times over cups of tea at the Sun Yun Wo Restaurant on Smith Street in Honolulu, as well as in many casual meetings on street corners in Chinatown. However, it was not until Raymond A.T. Hee and Chong Hee gathered some people together at an informal meeting that the project officially got underway.

The Society’s initial meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond A.T. Hee at 1526 C. Palolo Avenue on February 12, 1961. At this meeting, plans were made to “go full speed ahead” with the formal organization of the club. The legal groundwork was completed through the efforts of Attorney Richard M.C. Lum (his mother is a Hee), and a charter was drawn with the name “Hee Gow Yong Tong” as an eleemosynary society. Mr. Lum generously gave of his time and efforts for the preparation of the charter, and Chong Hee underwrote the expenses of the charter as his initial contribution to the Association. The Hee Gow Yong Tong was officially inaugurated on April 9, 1961.

The preliminary officers prior to the Society’s establishment were: Raymond A.T. Hee, chairman; Kim Moi Hee, secretary; Alex Hee, treasurer; and Alex Hee and Harry Fong Hee, co-chairmen of the membership committee.

The initial officers were: Raymond A.T. Hee, president; Chong Hee, first vice president; William Gin Hee, second vice president; Kim Moi Hee, recording secretary; Larry Hee, assistant recording secretary; Gladys Hee Chun, corresponding secretary; Robert Hee, assistant corresponding secretary; Arthur Hee, Chinese secretary; Marvin Hee, assistant Chinese secretary, Hau Hee, auditor; James Hee, assistant auditor; Richard W.J. Hee and Herbert C.H. Hee, sergeants-at-arms; Harry Hee, advisor.

At the time of the Society’s inception, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond A.T. Hee had opened their home as the general meeting place for Society gatherings. It was thereafter established as the official meeting place, pending the selection of another permanent location. Early activities included a spring banquet, an annual picnic, and the installation of new officers.
Activities: The board of directors meets about once a quarter. There are also spring and autumn general membership meetings held at a Chinese restaurant — for 25 years this was Wo Fat Restaurant in Chinatown. A summer picnic held at Kapioi Park is a pot-luck affair, with the Association contributing shave ice, cold drinks, and prizes for “luck number” drawings.

In 1985, the members of the Association put together a 124-page “Society Book,” on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. This book includes a brief introduction to Poon Sa (Pansha 半沙) Village in Chung Shan County, at the mouth of the Pearl River in Guangdong, the ancestral home of many of the Hees of Hawaii. The village was comprised of approximately 1,000 people, mostly belonging either to the Hee or the Wong clans. There is also a brief article on the elementary school in Poon Sa these days, and personal stories of many past members. The anniversary book was printed in Taiwan and distributed by the Association.

One of the current goals of the Society is to set up a scholarship fund for the children of the Hee Society’s members.

Association Presidents:
1960 Raymond A.T. Hee
1961-62 Chong Hee
1963 William Gin Hee
1964 Arthur J.K. Hee
1965 Raymond Y. Hee
1966 Hon Chew Hee
1967 Richard W.J. Hee
1968 Kim Moi Hee
1969-70 Chong Hee
1971 Richard W.J. Hee
1972 Violet Hee Lee
1973 Hazel Hee
1974 Dora Hee
1975 Helen Hee
1976-80 Arthur J.K. Hee
1981 Rayon Hee
1982-83 Bellamann Hee
1984-85 Doris Hee Chung
2000-01 Janis H. Chee
2003-4 William K.M. Hee

Membership: At present, the Association has approximately 100 members. To qualify for membership, one must have the surname of Hee, Hu or any Hee blood relationship. Membership dues are $3 per year. Benefits include fellowship for members and scholarship for Hee children.

Membership:

Recollection of Pun-sa Village in 1933, drawn in 1985 by member H.C. Hee

Sources: Hee Gow Yong Tong of Hawaii (an anniversary book published by members of the Society); correspondence with Bill Hee