

Dr. Sun Yat-sen Hawai'i Foundation

夏威夷孫中山基金會

c/o secretary Joanne Tachibana, e-mail:

<sunys@sunyatsen.hawaii.org>; website:

<www.sunyatsenhawaii.org/english/foundation.html>

Mission: To document and share information about Dr. Sun Yat-sen's revolutionary activities in Hawai'i and the extent of support offered him by Hawai'i's Chinese population; to promote Hawai'i as the crucible of ideas that helped establish modern China; and to create a significant memorial in Hawai'i to Dr. Sun's life and work.



History: Sun Yat-Sen (1866-1925; aka Sun Zhongshan or Sun Wen) was born into the family of a tenant-farmer in China's Guangdong Province, in the village of Cuiheng, Xiangshan (now renamed Zhongshan County in his honor). At the age of 13 he was to Honolulu to join his older brother, Sun Mei, at his ranch in Kula, Maui. The younger Sun later moved to Oahu and attended both Iolani School and Oahu College, the predecessor of Punahou School. In Hawai'i, he began his search for a model of government to suit his beloved homeland, China. He completed his studies at the Hong Kong Medical College in 1895. Dr. Sun and his friends then formed the Revive China Society (Xing Zhong Hui). He returned to Hawaii to begin his work of raising contributions to fund his revolutionary activities, to bring down the Imperial regime and establish a Republic in China. His efforts were finally rewarded with the success of the Revolution of 1911, which heralded the foundation of the Republic of China.

The Foundation is a registered non-profit organization and is the recipient of a \$20,000 grant from the State and Hawai'i. Together with matching contributions from Charter Donors and Supporters, these monies support the work of the Foundation.

Among the members of the Foundation's board of directors are several with direct ties to Dr. Sun. They are:

Board President Steven Ai, whose grandfather, Chung-kun Ai, was a classmate of Dr. Sun at Iolani School and an early supporter of Dr. Sun's revolutionary organizations; Vice President Yen Chun, a relative of Dr. Sun; Vice President C. F. "Frank" Damon, whose grandparents supported Dr. Sun's education and work; Board Member Carolyn Luke, the granddaughter of Luke Chan, a close friend and supporter of Dr. Sun, who helped bring the Sun family to Hawai'i after the failure of the first Canton Uprising of 1895.



A calligraphic scroll written by Sun Yat-sen (here using his given name Sun Wen), and presented to Yang Hsien-I, the maternal grandfather of Leigh-wai Doo. The four characters (read r to l) are Zhi Zai Chong Tian (His Will is to Soar the Heavens).

Activities The Foundation’s first and primary activity was to create a virtual library of documents and artifacts pertaining to Dr. Sun’s time and activities in Hawai‘i. This effort was led by Dr. Loretta Pang, historian at Kapiolani Community College. “Dr. Sun Yat-sen: His Hawai‘i Roots” was completed in 1998, and subsequently received a four-star (“very useful”) rating by the Asian Studies WWW Monitor.

The Foundation holds a public symposium to celebrate Dr. Sun’s birthday on November 12 each year. It is currently working to create a “Dr. Sun Yat-sen Asian Garden and Learning Center” at the Foster Botanical Garden.

Board of directors

Steven Ai, President, City Mill.

James K. Apana, Jr. Mayor of Maui County.

Kenneth Chong. Attorney.

Yen Chun. U.S.-China business consultant.

C. F. Damon, Jr. Attorney.

Leigh-Wai Doo. Attorney. His maternal grandfather was the “Father of Chinese Aviation” and one of the 72 National Martyrs of Revolutionary China.

Donald Goo. Architect.

Stanley W. Hong. Past President of the Hawai‘i Visitors Bureau.

Robert Lees. Secretary General of the Pacific Basin Economic Council.

Carolyn Luke.

Warren Luke. Chief Executive Officer of Hawai‘i National Bank.

Joanne Tachibana. Freelance writer.

Charlotte Vick. VP, Starr Seigle Communications.

Lucien Wong. President, Lucien Wong & Associates, LLC

Officers

Chairman: Warren Luke

President: Steven Ai

Sources: Website, and correspondence with Leigh-Wai Doo and Anne Chipchase.



L to r: Robert Lees, Loretta Pang, Kenneth Chong, Yen Chun, Donald Goo, Joanne Tachibana, Steven Ai, Leigh-wai Doo, Lucien Wong, Frank Damon