

Lung Doo Benevolent Society 美國夏威夷隆都從善會

159 North Hotel Street

Telephone (808) 537-2853

Office hours: 8:00am-12:00pm (M-Su)

Mission: To help one another in times of need, foster better understanding and relationships within the community, and preserve the common cultural heritage; furthermore, to reach out to the wider community through charitable contributions of time and resources.



History: The Society was established in 1891, while Hawai‘i was still a kingdom, by Lau Yin Fong, Chang Hong Kee, and Lum Hop—immigrants from the Lung Doo (Longdu 隆都) district of Zhongshan county in Guangdong province in the PRC. It is the forerunner of similar groups formed on the basis of common geographic origin and for the purpose of helping its members survive in and adjust to a new culture.

In 1895, the Society bought a small plot on the present Aala Lane to erect a meeting hall, which included living quarters for indigent members. This site served well until 1965, when the Honolulu Redevelopment Agency began work on the Kukui block area, paving the way for construction of the Chinese Cultural Plaza at the edge of Chinatown. In 1974, the Society made a temporary move to the third floor of the new Cultural Plaza, and two years later moved to its current location on the corner of Kekaulike and Hotel Streets—a parcel purchased in 1902. Subsequently, additional property was acquired, the income derived from them dedicated to helping members in need, participating in community affairs, and general charity.

The present Society Hall on Hotel Street is one of the few remaining buildings in Chinatown with a distinctive Chinese architectural style. It is a concrete building, with a ceramic-tiled pagoda sitting atop the building. From 1997-2000, the Hall was renovated and modernized on the interior. Two large, vertical signs with Chinese sayings adorn the walls at the top of the stairwell. Inscribed on each are the following words: On the right—“Chung Gung Kwong Yut Ngit (*pinyin* GET THE CHARACTERS FOR THESE) The dedication of the Society is brighter than the moon;” on the left—“Sin Hee Gun Kin Fun (*pinyin* GET THE

CHARACTERS FOR THESE) The charity you do for the community is reflected throughout the world.”

The Society Hall is open everyday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and is utilized regularly by its members who come to read newspapers, magazines, socialize with friends, and meet in committees to plan events and discuss issues. The monthly Directors' meetings and Committee Meetings are also held in the Hall.

Activities: In its early days, the Society established a bank (later dissolved) to meet their own financial needs. During WWII, the Society donated US \$10,000 to the Chinese government, to aid with the establishment of a Chinese air force.

Nowadays, members of the Society enjoy yearly festivities such as the New Year's Day installation of officers and directors, a Chinese New Year's celebration, the spring banquet (the 112th Annual Spring Banquet was held at New Empress Restaurant in 2003; there were approximately 830 people in attendance), celebrations of the Moon festival and the Mid-Autumn festival, a Thanksgiving reception, and a Christmas party. These activities demonstrate the assimilation of Chinese into western culture. In 2002-03, the Society hosted Lung Doo-born visitors from Vancouver, Boston and San Francisco. In August 2003, a delegation from Zhongshan, consisting of more than twenty members, including government officers as well as businesspeople, visited the Society in Hawaii.

Specific events that the Society has taken part in (or participate in on a regular basis) include the following:

Lum Sai Ho Tong Parade: In May 1999, members of the Society took part in a special parade through Chinatown sponsored by the Lum Sai Ho Tong. It honored the 110th birthday of Tin Hau, the Empress of Heaven, also known as Queen Mother of Heaven, and revered as the Goddess of the Sea. About 50 Society members, several of whom are also members of the Lum Sai Ho Tong, participated. In appreciation, the Lum Sai Ho Tong presented the Lung Doo Benevolent Society with a figurine of Kwan Yin and a plaque.

The Third Worldwide Chungshan Convention, held in Honolulu in September 2000, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Society members helped by making donations, placing an advertisement in the Souvenir Booklet, and attending some of the events. In appreciation, the Society received special plaques from the following Associations: the Malaysia Chungshan Association, the Hong Kong Chungshan Lung Chan Clan Association, and the Singapore Chungshan Association. All three plaques are now on display in the Society Hall.

Sun Yat Sen Memorial Observances: Every year, the various Chinese organizations in Hawaii are invited to honor Dr. Sun Yat-Sen by presenting leis to his statue at the Chinese Cultural Plaza. Society presidents, vice-presidents and other members have represented the general membership on these occasions.

Chinese Navy Visits to Hawaii: In 1997 and 2000, ships of the PRC Navy visited Hawaii and docked at Pearl Harbor. Lung Doo chartered buses for its members to allow them to visit the ships. In 1997, 100 members visited, and in 2000, 106 members did so.

Qingming Observances: The Chinese “tomb-sweeping” festival is celebrated every year with a visit to Manoa Cemetery to honor Lung Doo ancestors who have passed away. This celebration is a very special occasion and is always attended by many members (about 200 in recent years), including several past presidents. For a number of years now, the Society has hired two buses to transport its members to the site.

Dragon Boat Races: The Society participated in this multi-ethnic event in Honolulu to perpetuate their Chinese culture and to interact with other people and organizations. Team captains Harlin Young (1997-99) and Benjamin Sheu (2000) have led the Lung Doo Dragon Boat Race Teams to many victories among the teams in friendly competition. Trophies received for these accomplishments and certificates of appreciation for participation are on display at the Society Hall. The team captain for 2001 was Wah Lun Wong.

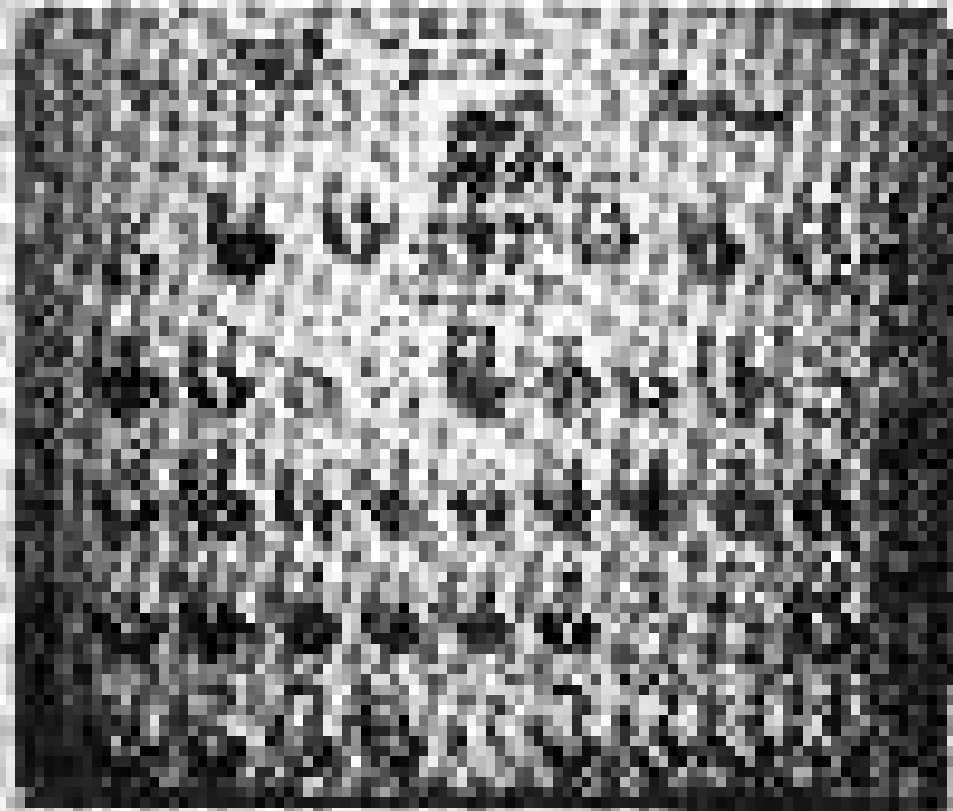
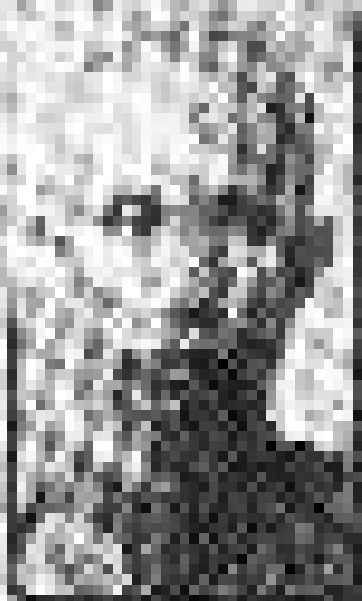
Kuan Dai Dan (Celebration of the Birthday of Guandi): Lung Doo has a statue of Kuan Dai (*Guandi* 關帝) on its altar, as do several other Chinese societies and restaurants in town. Kuan Dai's birthday is always celebrated on the thirteenth day of the fifth month of the Chinese calendar. The Society celebrates this memorial occasion with a luncheon held at the Society Hall in July or August. A figure of Kuan Dai Gung sits on the altar and members pay their respects to him before eating and enjoying fellowship with one another.

Scholarships: Thirty years ago, the Society began giving money to build new schools in China and provide money for students' school expenses. The Society has made contributions to the Cherk Sang Intermediate School and the Nam Long Hospital in the Lung Doo region of Guangdong Province, PRC. In addition, the Scholarship Program was established in 1990s to help financially needy students in the US, to further their education by attending universities or community colleges. During the period of 1994-2000, \$126,250 was awarded to 287 applicants who met the criteria set by the Scholarship Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. To date, over 300 scholarships have been awarded. Most scholarship recipients complete their education and go on to obtain good jobs in Hawaii or on the US mainland. Awardees sometimes help out at Society Spring Banquets and Christmas parties, or by participating as rowers in the Dragon Boat Races. Every year, the Society also donates between \$2,500-3,000 to the UH Richardson School of Law, to help Chinese law students.

Donations of Stone Lanterns to Manoa Cemetery: In February, 2000, the Society donated two stone lanterns to the Manoa Chinese Cemetery in commemoration of its ancestors who are buried at the Lin Yee Chung Cemetery. These lanterns are located near the left front entrance to the cemetery, and are inscribed with the declaration “A Gift from Lung Doo Benevolent Society, April 2000.” Lin Yee Chung Association president George C.K. Young recognized Lung Doo at the opening Ching Ming ceremonies by presenting it with a special plaque of gratitude. This plaque is displayed prominently on the wall next to the grandfather clock at the Society Hall.

Welfare: Every year, the Society makes contributions to various charitable and needy organizations. During the 1994-2001 period, some of those organizations were: the Arthritis Foundation, the Outreach Program, the Salvation Army, the American Cancer Association, the Aloha

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United Way, the American Lung Association, the Red Cross, the Heart Association, the Hawaii Buddhist Association, the YMCA, and the UH Christmas Fund. Larger donations (\$500 each) were given to the Palolo Chinese Home, the Golden Agers Club, the Wah Kau Kong Memorial, and the Guam Hurricane Relief Fund. The largest donations were sent to the Philippines Hurricane Relief Fund (\$1,000), the Texas Flood Relief Fund (\$1,000), the China Disaster Relief Fund (\$1,000), the UH Law Foundation (\$2,500), the China Flood Relief Fund (\$5,000), and the Taiwan Earthquake Relief Fund (\$5,000). Individual members also contributed a total of \$1,780 for the Taiwan Earthquake Relief Fund. The Society's Welfare Committee also visits its members who are sick or hospitalized, and sends letters of condolences and a li-see to the family of a member who has died.

In 2003, the Society purchased a bilingual computer system, including a printer, copier, fax machine, scanner, and digital camera, for \$2,000. This system will enable the Society to create and maintain an electronic membership database and to archive its historical documents and photos in an electronic format. The computer system will enable the Society to defray the cost of printing materials such as invitations, party programs and the bi-lingual newsletter that it publishes.

Membership: At its peak, the Society had more than 4,000 members. Every month, Lung Doo Benevolent Society receives and approves about 8-15 applicants for membership. Today, there are more than 2,000 members enrolled. Recently, the membership rolls were updated and new membership cards issued. The Membership Committee works hard to keep its records current and hopes to digitalize its archival registration books in the near future. The age range of members is from as young as one to as venerable as ninety-four years of age. As of March 2001, there were 339 members who were sixty-five years of age or older, and 74 who were between the ages of eighty to eighty-nine. There were 10 members ninety years or age or older.

The Society was traditionally all male. However, in 1997, the By-Laws were revised to allow women to join. During 1997-98, 810 new members were registered, and of this number, many were women. Also in 1997, the Society elected its first woman director. Since then, six women have served as directors.

Members enjoy the following benefits:

1. Spring Banquet : a. 65 years and older at no cost; b. 80 years and older at no cost, plus Lee See (a monetary gift);
2. January 1 Installation of Officers' Luncheon;
3. Chinese New Year Eve Luncheon;
4. Day after Chinese New Year's Eve Luncheon;
5. Qingming at Manoa Cemetery Luncheon;
6. Quan Memorial Service Luncheon;
7. Dragon Boat Race Picnic;
8. Moon Festival Luncheon;
9. Thanksgiving Luncheon;
10. Christmas Party (at a nominal fee);
11. Scholarship opportunities

In addition, beginning in 2003, the following benefits have been added: 1. Visits with elderly past presidents, taking them oranges, dried fruits, and videotapes; 2. New Year's Luncheon for the past presidents, again taking them oranges, dried fruits and videotapes; 3. Health care professional advice at special seminars.

Association presidents

1900 Young Nin
1901 Lum Mun Tai
1902 Lau Yin Fong
1903–04 Pang Lum Mau
1905 Yee Chin
1906–07 Lau Yin Fong
1908–10 Yee Chin
1911–14 Lum Hop
1915 Yee Yip
1916–17 Lau Yin Chee
1918–19 Yee Young
1920 Lum Hop
1921–22 Siu Chin Dai
1923–24 Lum Hop
1925 Lau Sai
1926 Yuen Poy
1927 Lum Chung Chee
1928 Chong Kam Sing
1929 Lum Gun
1930 Siu Chin Dai
1931 Lee Chee Chan
1932 Chun Hoon
1933 Wong Goon Sun
1934 Lau Chong Cho
1935 Lee Lan

1936 Chun Kau
1937 Wong Hoon Wo
1938 Chong Song
1939 Wong Buck Hung
1940–41 Samuel K. Young
1942–43 Chun Young
1944–45 Wong Chock Tong
1946–47 Chow Tim Kau
1948–49 Jack Quon Young
1950 David Lee Pang
1951 Young Hook Ing
1952 Abraham K.S. Ng
1953 Lum Yee Nung
1954 George Y.S. Siu
1955 Chong Hong Bun
1956 Albert Hop Yuen
1957 Lum Quon Chock
1958 William H.C. Young
1959 Hong Quon Pang
1960 Leonard D.Y. Wong
1961 Lum Kam On
1962 Francis C.K. Chong
1963 Ronald Y.C. Lee
1964 Hung Lum Chun
1965–66 William Hin Wong

1967 George A.L. Yuen
1968 Kam Ping Lum
1969 Park Liu Chong
1970 Tin Hop Pang
1971–72 William Y.K. Lee
1973–74 Howard M.K. Chun
1975 David Y.Y. Wong
1976 Pang Hung Chow
1977 Chew Leong Wong
1978 Tit Kwong Chun
1979–80 Francis S. Young
1981–82 Henry H.W. Lee
1983 Clifford Yuen
1984–85 George C.K. Young
1986–87 Richard H.S. Leong
1988–89 Harry W.C. Young
1990–91 Joseph Young
1992–93 Charles Y.K. Chun
1994 David T.S. Chun
1995 Richard H.S. Leong
1996 Clarence W.H. Lam
1997–98 Stanford Yuen
1999–00 Lawrence Siu
2001–02 Chuck Lim Ho
2003 Lily Tang

