

U.S.–China Peoples Friendship Association 美中友協

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Mission: The USCPFA is an educational organization dedicated to developing and maintaining ties of friendship and mutual understanding between the people of China and the United States. The organization aims to attract and maintain a diverse membership of all cultures and ages.

Membership: The USCPFA is a non-profit organization with a national office, four regional offices, five sub-regional offices, and approximately 50 chapters throughout the US. Under the Western Region, the Hawai'i Subregion comprises the chapters of Hawaii Island, Honolulu, Hilo, Kailua-Kona, Kauai, and Oahu. The Honolulu chapter, with about 200 members, is one of the three largest and most active chapters in the country.

History: Hawai'i was one of the earliest states to form an association for friendship with the People's Republic of China. Koji Ariyoshi, a Kona-born Japanese-American, founded the Hawai'i–China People's Friendship Association in 1972. Later, as similar associations appeared following the resumption of relations between China and the U.S. in 1976, the HCPFA became a member of the national USCPFA, and changed its name to the USCPFA of Honolulu.

Koji Ariyoshi had spent over a year in Yenan, China, as a member of the U.S. Army assigned to the "Dixie Mission" to Communist-controlled areas in World War II. During this period, he came to know China's top revolutionary leaders, including Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, and Mme. Sun Yatsen. He was profoundly influenced by what he saw. Later, he worked tirelessly to promote friendship with the Chinese people. Besides founding and directing the HCPFA, he was an influential member of the Steering Committee of the USCPFA.

*USCPFA
tour to
China,
during
which
members
learn first-
hand about
people and
places*



Activities: In the early- and mid-1970s, during the Cold War period when most Americans knew little about and were suspicious of the Communist Chinese, USCPFA members devoted their efforts to promoting non-governmental contact between the Americans and Chinese. Activities included tours to China, hosting visiting Chinese delegations or individuals; holding talks, forums, and exhibitions about the PRC; sponsoring cultural, entertainment, and sports events; and organizing commemorative activities for major Chinese festivals, anniversaries, etc.

Since the mid-1980s, with more and more Chinese students coming to Hawai'i to study, USCPFA-Honolulu has devoted much time to helping incoming students via such activities as orientation programs, a welcoming picnic, a Christmas party, and jointly sponsoring a commemoration of China's National Day with the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA).

In recent years, a special project has been the hosting of Chinese journalists who come under the Parvin Program for a year's study at the UH Department of Journalism. USCPFA members invite the journalists home and introduce them to various aspects of American life, with a special focus on Hawai'i's unique culture. A highlight of the year for the journalists is the two-day trip to the Big Island partially underwritten by the USCPFA Hawai'i Subregion.

USCPFA-Honolulu offers free weekly Mandarin conversation classes, with instruction at two levels. The journalists from the PRC serve as volunteer instructors in these classes.

The USCPFA also works closely with the UH Center for Chinese Studies to offer a slate of lectures and film showings to the public, to further promote friendship and understanding. These are announced in the organization's newsletter, which is published approximately 5 times annually, at random dates.



Above: President Vernon Ching presents a USCPFA Honolulu-chapter T-shirt to a visiting guest from Shanghai

Below: The annual Honolulu-chapter Christmas Party is put on by members, welcomes Chinese students at the University of Hawaii, and offers food, presents, carol-singing, and comraderie





USCPFA Honolulu Chapter participates in “A Taste of China”, sponsored by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii.

Association presidents

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1972–76 Koji Ariyoshi | Heidi Paik (Hawaii Island) |
| 1976–78 Russell Ho | Caroline Lee Nakashima (Kailua-Kona) |
| 1978–80 Tien-ni Fang | Violet L. Hee (Kauai) |
| 1980–82 Russell Ho | 2003 Diane L. Wong (Hawaii Subregion) |
| 1982–90 K.B. Chun | Vernon W.C. Ching (Honolulu) |
| 1990–91 Daniel Yee | Daniel J.W. Yee (Oahu) |
| 1991–92 Kenneth Chong | Sara Burgess (Hilo) |
| 1992–94 Walter Lum | Heidi Paik (Hawaii Island) |
| 1994–98 Anita Wong | Caroline Lee Nakashima (Kailua-Kona) |
| 1998 Anita Wong (Honolulu) | Violet L. Hee (Kauai) |
| Brenda Lee (Hawaii Island) | 2004 Yun Soong Jim (Hawaii Subregion) |
| Shu-Li Tsai (Kauai Island) | Vernon W.C. Ching (Honolulu) |
| 1999–00 Walter T.C. Chang (Honolulu) | Daniel J.W. Yee (Oahu) |
| Brenda Lee (Hawaii Island) | Leilehua Yuen (Hilo) |
| Shu-Li Tsai (Kauai Island) | Heidi Paik (Hawaii Island) |
| 2001 Walter T.C. Chang (Honolulu) | Caroline Lee Nakashima (Kailua-Kona) |
| Brenda Lee (Hawaii Island) | Rachel Launder (Kauai) |
| Violet L. Hee (Kauai Island) | |
| 2002 Diane L. Wong (Hawaii Subregion) | |
| Walter T.C. Chang (Honolulu) | |
| Janis Chee (Oahu) | |
| Sara Burgess (Hilo) | |

Sources: UCS publications & correspondence with Frank Tang and Walter Chang