



HAWAII COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

Serving Our Community Since 1916

# Faces of Philanthropy

QUARTERLY NEWS FROM THE HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2013 ISSUE 3

*"There are so many worthwhile things going on at the Foundation"*



Vi and her late husband Paul (pictured in 2006), came to HCF to fulfill their charitable giving in Hawai'i.

## Looking Back and Giving Forward: One Family's Legacy Celebrating 25 years of giving through the Hawai'i Community Foundation

Vi at HCF's donor event in 2013.

One memory that stuck with Vi Loo from her childhood in Singapore was watching her father and uncle distribute bags of rice to senior citizens during Chinese New Year festivities. "The lines stretched down the road," Vi recalls, "and as people passed by, I remember their wide grins and wrinkled faces."

The responsibility to give back to the community was ingrained early on in the Shaw family, as demonstrated by Vi's father (now 106 years old), who co-founded a legendary movie production company in Hong Kong known for classic martial arts films. Vi attributes not only a tradition of philanthropy, but also a lifelong interest in the arts, to the early influences of her father. At the Shaw Bros. Studio, young Vi watched sets being designed and built and listened in on conversations about filmmaking. At home, she vividly remembers the animated discussions between her father, a collector of Chinese and European art, and the dealers who would visit on weekends, carrying with them carved objects of jade, wood, porcelain, even scrolls.

Decades later, when Vi moved to Hawai'i with her (now late) husband Paul Loo, it seemed only natural to perpetuate the

family's legacy of philanthropy. They established the Paul C.T. and Violet Shaw Loo Fund at the Hawai'i Community Foundation in 1988, and continue to give generously. "There are so many worthwhile things going on at the Foundation" said Vi. "I admire the Foundation's ability to identify specific needs in the community and combine the resources of many people to make a big impact where it's needed."

Through her own hands-on style of philanthropy, Vi Loo is making a big impact in our community. This grandmother of five with a calendar as booked as any CEO puts in countless hours as chairman of the board of trustees for the Honolulu Museum of Art and also serves on the boards of Hawai'i Pacific University and Chaminade University.

Having never lost touch with the family values that clearly shaped her, and 25 years after establishing a fund at the Hawai'i Community Foundation, Vi Loo is passionate about her life's work: "It is not only fun but gratifying to give and share. The satisfaction is indescribable."

## OUR *Mission*

We help people make a difference by inspiring the spirit of giving and by investing in people and solutions to benefit every island community.



*Paul Kosasa and Kelvin H. Taketa*

### LEADING THE MISSION

*A message from Paul Kosasa, Board Chair  
and Kelvin H. Taketa, President & CEO*

### The Giving Season

Toward the end of each year, we approach “the giving season.” The kinds of gifts we are hoping for at the Hawai‘i Community Foundation are not those that can be wrapped, but those that can change lives... namely, charitable donations. On that front, there is some good news and some sobering news to share.

On the up side, the improvement in the economy is influencing the generosity of givers. A survey in *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* concluded that “more than 80% of Americans now say that the financial crisis won’t affect their donations.”

Also, as shared by Curtis in the “News You Can Use” column in this issue, the tax climate for giving has improved dramatically this year. Hawai‘i taxpayers now have no limitations on the amount of charitable contributions they can deduct from their state income tax. And relative stability around federal tax policy has allowed taxpayers to plan ahead on their giving strategies, including the IRA charitable rollover provision.

That’s a good thing, because there are many families in Hawai‘i who need our help. In our 2012 Nonprofit Industry Study, findings show that nearly 75% of the nonprofit organizations that serve those in need expect to experience an increase in demand for their services in the next two years. The study also showed that in the past few years charitable giving has remained flat or decreased when adjusted for inflation. In addition, the future of government funding continues to be unknown.

So the time to give is now. In previous household giving surveys by the Foundation, the number one reason cited as to why someone gave to a particular charity is “because they were asked.” So we’re asking. Indeed, if Hawai‘i households gave just one-half of one percent more of their income to charity, it would provide an additional \$160 million for Hawai‘i nonprofits and the people they serve. ***Mahalo.***

To learn more about how to make a year-end gift, contact Senior Development Officer, Cara Mazzei at 566-5527 or [cmazzei@hcf-hawaii.org](mailto:cmazzei@hcf-hawaii.org).





Curtis Saiki, Esq., Vice President of Philanthropy and General Counsel

## The Gift of Giving: Save More, Give More

It's not tax season and it's not yet holiday time, but it's time to be thinking about both! Individuals and organizations often make charitable donations in the last quarter of the year, and this year, there's some good news to share on that front.

For the first time in over 10 years, our federal tax laws are relatively stable. So planning is easier than ever. Furthermore, with the passage of HB430, we are no longer capped on our charitable deduction for Hawai'i income tax purposes.

While we know that donors do not make charitable gifts solely for tax reasons, giving to charity may result in better tax savings than it has in the recent past:

- In 2012, a married couple with income of \$200,000 and \$65,000 in itemized deductions (including a \$20,000 charitable gift to the Foundation) owed approximately \$10,882 in Hawai'i income taxes. In 2013 the same couple, having the exact same income and itemized deductions and making the same gift, would owe \$9,645 ... a savings of \$1,237 (over an 11% reduction)!
- Assume that the same couple, both over age 70 1/2, will recognize as part of their \$200,000 annual income a required minimum distribution from their IRAs of \$20,000. If they "reach" into their IRA and roll over the \$20,000 to charity rather than gifting the same from their bank account, the couple's taxable income would then be \$180,000 and they would owe \$7,995 in state income taxes, saving \$1,650. Moreover, the couple would save approximately \$5,000 in federal income taxes! (The charitable rollover is expected to expire December 31.)

In this situation, the couple received no less in needed income and gave the same amount to charity.

While the tax laws are more conducive to giving, we encourage you to consult your professional advisor at this point in the year to determine the most effective ways to give. We can also partner with your advisor to maximize the impact you have on the charities you support.

Contact me to learn more: [csaiki@hcf-hawaii.org](mailto:csaiki@hcf-hawaii.org) or 808-566-5521.

NOTICE: The purpose of this article is for educational purposes only. Consult your own professional advisor prior to taking any actions in regards to your overall tax planning.

Any federal tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments or enclosures) is not intended and cannot be used for purposes of avoiding penalties imposed by the IRS or to promote, market, or recommend to another party any tax related matter(s) addressed herein.



## FEATURED Profile



Roger Beck and Eric Anderson (right)

### Philanthropy: Passionate and Practical

The chosen name of their fund—the Anderson-Beck Kōkua a Ulu Fund—reflects the aspirations of Big Island residents Eric Anderson and Roger Beck to help cultivate the human and natural environment. It's a lofty goal, but one that serves as a personal mission statement for playwright, Eric, and horticulturist, Roger: "A world for healthy people must be a healthy world."

To that end, the two have donated significant time and resources to a range of charities dedicated to the arts, social services and the environment. And while they acknowledge that they "would like to help everyone everywhere," they know they simply can't. In reality, their passion to help others is mobilized by a very practical approach to doing so. "We want to do things the easy way," said the two, half jokingly. "Peter Kubota referred us to the Hawai'i Community Foundation because it's well equipped to help us distribute the funds and help us decide where those funds should go."

As humble as they are generous, Anderson and Beck view giving to others as eminently practical: "We have more income than we currently need but one urgent need of ours is to help others for whom this isn't true." That's a sentiment that the Hawai'i Community Foundation is honored to help carry out.



## HCF Happenings

The Hawai'i Community Foundation works closely with professional advisors—including estate planning attorneys, accountants and financial consultants—to help their clients fulfill their philanthropic goals. These six individuals received the inaugural **2013 Outstanding Professional Advisor in Philanthropy Award** for their exemplary practice of incorporating philanthropy into their everyday work. Watch video interviews with the advisors to hear their thoughts on the importance of philanthropy at [www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/professional-advisors](http://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/professional-advisors).



**Harmon Brown**  
**Schiff Hardin LLP**

*"Philanthropy binds a family to its community and gives the family a purpose that their resources alone will never provide."*



**Frances Lui-Kwan**  
**Wealth Management CPA**

*"You can't do planning without getting to know who your clients are, what they need and want to accomplish."*

**Robert Hastings**  
**Robert W. Hastings II, Attorney at Law**

*"I believe that most people like to leave a legacy and be remembered for having made a positive difference. Doing something good for our community feels good, and each time I've been able to assist a client in accomplishing his or her charitable goal, it has made me feel good, too."*



**Raymond Okada**  
**Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel, LLP**

*"Nowadays with the government so strapped with funding, it can't possibly provide the services needed. So nonprofit organizations fill that gap. Helping clients help the community makes my job fun and rewarding."*



**Elizabeth Ivey**  
**Ivey Fosbinder Fosbinder LLLC**

*"Nonprofit organizations – from canoe clubs to soup kitchens to the colleges we attend – all exist because someone said, 'I want to make a difference.' So helping someone with a planned gift is really their gift to the island – their gift to everybody – that lasts forever and ever."*



**Stephen Reese**  
**Law Offices of Stephen H. Reese**

*"Charitable giving gives clients the satisfaction of knowing that they are going to leave a footprint that will continue past them, past their children, past their grandchildren."*





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## KNOWLEDGE CENTER

[www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/knowledge-center](http://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/knowledge-center)

The Hawai'i Community Foundation created a Knowledge Center on its website as a place for sharing information from many sources about the nonprofit sector, leadership and best practices. In addition to posting research findings and reports of interest to our island community, we've uploaded past issues of *Faces of Philanthropy* and our recent 2013 Report to the Community.

In this year's report, we've focused on the magnifying power of philanthropy. While the concept of exponential growth is most often used in mathematical equations, in philanthropy it means that the results of giving can extend far beyond the gift itself. We have seen this exponential effect occur in real life as we work with individuals, organizations and communities throughout Hawai'i. We invite you to read some of their stories online and check out what other kinds of resources we've made available for you at the Knowledge Center.

Help HCF go green! Send your email to [communications@hcf-hawaii.org](mailto:communications@hcf-hawaii.org) to receive future *Faces of Philanthropy* newsletters electronically.