



The Caledonian Society of Hawaii  
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## CHIEFTAIN'S REPORT FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 19, 2021

No one can deny that our Society Year 2020-2021 tested our creativity to maintain our mission of providing quality cultural and educational programs for our members. Fortunately, we had the technical capacity within our membership to move to the virtual platform of ZOOM, which resulted in our ability to increase the number of programs we could present. Our Scottish Heroes theme series gave us seven evenings of learning about a variety of interesting people and topics related to Scotland. Most importantly, individual members stepped up to share what they researched on subjects of interest to them. As long as we continue to be under the cloud of the pandemic, we will continue our virtual meetings and I encourage all members to find a Scot of interest, do some research, and put together a presentation. We do have resources to help in putting together a PowerPoint, which seems to be the preferred way to deliver a program.

Our annual premier event, the Burns Night celebration, did not have the attendance that we hoped for in the virtual world. I think those members who did attend appreciated the effort and enjoyed themselves, especially with their haggis bag treats. Bill Mullen, who hosted the virtual event, made it a very special experience. Hopefully Burns Night 2022 will be back to a live event.

I have been your Chieftain for many years and I hope that I have always been able to provide the leadership that our members deserve as we learn together more and more about what it is to have Scottish heritage. I have been to Scotland many times over the last 30 plus years and can attest that we can all be proud of the homeland from which we have roots.

One additional subject I want to touch on is the status of the historic ship *Falls of Clyde*. As many of you know, I am the president of Friends of Falls of Clyde, Inc., the nonprofit organization that owns the ship, which has been under the control of the Harbors Division since 2016 in their attempt to have the ship removed from Honolulu Harbor. They put out a Request for Proposals in April 2021 to remove the ship, but withdrew it in May, but are likely to put out a new one in July. There is a group in Scotland that we have worked with since 2016 that wants to return the ship to Scotland to restore and repurpose it as a "green" eco-friendly sailing vessel. We are supportive of their plan and are prepared, as owner, to advocate for the RFP that we believe they will be submitting.

Slainte mhor.

