

# GEE HING CHINESE COMPANY CHARITABLE TRUST

Bank of Hawaii and Steven C. Ai, Co-Trustees

## ***HISTORICAL INFORMATION***

Gee Hing Chinese Company Charitable Trust was established in 1987. Researchers have gathered and compiled historical information that has enabled the Trust to trace its roots back to the Tong Wo Tong Cemetery Association and the Gee Hing Fraternal Society in Kailua-Kona on the Island of Hawaii.

Tong Wo Tong Cemetery in Keauhou, Hawaii remains today as a peaceful reminder of the Kona Chinese community of yesteryear. The Trust continues to maintain, enhance and preserve this historical cemetery site.

Gee Hing Fraternal Society was an organization founded in Kona to maintain the Chinese cultural heritage in Kona. This Society was designed to support and shelter its members who had somehow found themselves in the middle of a foreign, and sometimes hostile, community.

As patrons, boarders and guests in Hawaii, the Chinese were favorably accepted, but as immigrants entering the merchant arena, they were seen as competitors by the already existing businesses.

Gee Hing Fraternal Society ensured that the social benefits for the Chinese merchants were a top priority. It is this organization that led to the creation of the Gee Hing Chinese Company Charitable Trust.

Today, the Trust strives for the perpetual care and enhancement of the Tong Wo Tong Chinese Cemetery in Keauhou, Hawaii and for the promotion of Chinese culture and the preservation of the history of Chinese in the State of Hawaii, with primary emphasis on programs and projects in Kona, secondarily on the Island of Hawaii and third throughout the remainder of the State.