



The Newsletter of Friends of Ala Wai Ballroom Dance Academy

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License to celebrate a fifth anniversary



Friends of Ala Wai's Board of Directors. Visit www.friendsofalawai.com for more photos.

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By Warren Mitsunaga

It started out back in November 2008 as a simple idea for our fifth anniversary celebration. But that "simple" idea quickly took on ambitious wings, and after many months of planning, practice and a lot of hard work, our James Bond themed "License to Dance" came together on Saturday May 23, 2009.

The stage setting, floor decorations, wall posters and our Board of Directors' Latin group dance formation all reflected and reinforced the James Bond theme.

It was the first time our entire board performed a routine together—and, I believe, we all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the energy it inserted into the board and the club as a whole.

The women looked hot in their Latin dresses and the men were dapper in their white dinner jackets. Professional Carlos Chang did an outstanding job choreographing the

routine, with intricate formation changes and nifty multiple segues between samba, cha cha and rumba.

He also started the evening's program with a dazzling cha cha solo of his own. Thanks also to Yoko and Bruce Wee, who performed a sultry Argentine Tango, and Aileen and David Hashimoto who dazzled the crowd with their international foxtrot.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped from early afternoon to late into the night. Without them, the event would not have been possible or as successful as it was. Thanks also to all our students and members who regularly come out and support Friends.

Lastly, I'd like to thank our Board of Directors for their insight and guidance in helping to make Friends of Ala Wai Ballroom Dance Academy one of the premier dance organizations in Hawaii. They truly outdid themselves this time!