

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF NANCY LIU AND	*	
PAK HANG SIU ON BEHALF OF	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
KATANA SUSHI OF LAKESIDE, INC.,	*	
t/a KATANA SUSHI, FOR A TRANSFER	*	FOR
AND A CHANGE OF CLASS TO A	*	
CLASS B BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
7-DAY ON-SALE LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No. 17-11
	*	

DECISION AND ORDER

The Board of License Commissioners for Howard County, Maryland (the “Liquor Board”), pursuant to Rule 1.02(A) of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, has delegated the authority to hear and decide cases to the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board for Howard County, Maryland (the “Hearing Board”).

On February 14, 2017, the Hearing Board heard the application of Nancy Liu and Pak Hang Siu (the “Applicants”), on behalf of Katana Sushi of Lakeside, Inc., t/a Katana Sushi (“Katana Sushi of Lakeside, Inc.”), for a transfer of a Class B Beer and Light Wine 7-day on-sale license held by Kee Kwan Cheung-On on behalf of Rintex, Inc., t/a Hanamura Japanese Restaurant, and a change of class to a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on-sale license, for a 1,800 square foot restaurant located at 8865-105 Stanford Boulevard, Columbia, Maryland 21045. The hearing was properly advertised pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicants were not represented by an attorney. There were no protestants who appeared in opposition to the application.

All the documents on file were incorporated into the record by reference. These include

the following: a letter dated February 10, 2017, from the Applicant to the Liquor Board Administrator informing the Board that they would be using a language interpreter; a cover sheet listing the documents being submitted with the application for Katana Sushi of Lakeside, Inc., t/a Katana Sushi; the application; a copy of the floor plan; the Articles of Incorporation for Katana Sushi of Lakeside, Inc.; Resolutions of Directors for Katana Sushi of Lakeside, Inc., dated September 29, 2016; background questionnaires for the Applicants; copies of Certificates of Naturalization and Maryland Driver's Licenses for the Applicants; a copy of a voter's verification for Nancy Liu from the Maryland State Board of Elections; copies of receipts of fingerprint applications for the Applicants from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections Services; a letter dated January 9, 2017, from Hospitality Solutions advising that Pak Hang Siu, Nancy Liu, and four other persons have completed a TIPS Alcohol Awareness Course; a copy of a memorandum dated January 4, 2017, from the Liquor Board to the Alcohol Beverage Inspector, the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits, the Bureau of Environmental Health, the Department of Planning and Zoning, and the Office of the Fire Marshal; the background investigations of the Applicants by the Alcohol Beverage Inspector, dated February 3, 2017; an email dated February 3, 2017, from the Office of the Fire Marshal; a memorandum dated February 9, 2017, from the Bureau of Environmental Health; a memorandum dated February 10, 2017, from the Department of Planning and Zoning; a letter dated January 4, 2017, to the Department of Finance; a letter from the Department of Finance; a letter dated January 4, 2017, to the Comptroller of Maryland; a letter dated February 6, 2017, from the Comptroller of Maryland; an email dated January 5, 2017, from the Liquor Board Administrator to Martin Johnson, attaching a letter dated January 4, 2017, to the Applicants, advising notification of the

hearing date, and enclosing the required advertisement; and an email dated January 27, 2017, from the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector stating the premises had been posted.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Nina Lai was sworn and testified that she is a Maryland court-certified Chinese language interpreter, and that she would be assisting the Applicants with their testimony.

Pak Hang Sui, Director and 45% shareholder of Katana Sushi of Lakeside, Inc., t/a Katana Sushi, was sworn and testified that he and Nancy Liu are applying for a transfer of the license held by Hanamura Restaurant, and are asking for a change of class to include liquor with the license. Mr. Sui testified that a management agreement was submitted October 5, 2016, and that they have been operating the restaurant since December 2016. Mr. Sui testified that customers have been asking for liquor drinks including saki, which contains more than 15% alcohol.

Mr. Sui testified that they have owned Katana Sushi in Elkridge for five years without any violations, and that they plan to run this restaurant in a similar manner. Mr. Sui testified that they will card anyone who appears to be under the age of 40. Mr. Sui testified that all staff members will be required to become alcohol awareness certified. Mr. Sui testified that they will be given the restaurant's written policies and will be required to sign them. Mr. Sui testified that Martin Johnson gave them two ID Checking Guide books to assist with carding.

Mr. Siu testified that they have 16 dining tables, a sushi bar, and are able to seat 54 customers. Mr. Siu testified that they have two full-time employees and eight part-time employees. The hours of operation are Monday through Thursday, 11:30 A.M. to 10:00 P.M., Saturday, 11:30 A.M. to 10:30 P.M., and Sunday 12:00 noon to 9:30 P.M.

The following Exhibits were entered into the record:

Exhibit 1 – a menu and a paper copy of a menu

Exhibit 2 – 6 photographs (4 interior photographs, 1 aerial photograph, and 1 photograph of a map showing the location of Katana Sushi)

Pursuant to Rule 6.13 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, the Applicants waived their right to request the Liquor Board to hear the case.

Based on the evidence presented at the hearing, the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Hearing Board finds that Nancy Liu and Pak Hang Siu on behalf of Katana Sushi of Lakeside, Inc., t/a Katana Sushi, have applied for a transfer of a Class B Beer and Light Wine 7-day on-sale license held by Kee Kwan Cheung-On on behalf of Rintex, Inc., t/a Hanamura Japanese Restaurant, and a change of class to a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on-sale license, for a 1,800 square foot restaurant located at 8865-105 Stanford Boulevard, Columbia, Maryland 21045.

2. The Hearing Board finds that the Applicants are fit and proper persons to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board finds that Nancy Liu has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, and a 55% shareholder of Katana Sushi of Lakeside, Inc., t/a Katana Sushi.

4. The Hearing Board finds that the granting of the application is necessary for the accommodation of the public.

5. The Hearing Board finds that the granting of the application will not unduly

disturb the peace and safety of the residents of the neighborhood.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Hearing Board concludes that Nancy Liu and Pak Hang Siu on behalf of Katana Sushi of Lakeside, Inc., t/a Katana Sushi have applied for a transfer of a Class B Beer and Light Wine 7-day on-sale license held by Kee Kwan Cheung-On on behalf of Rintex, Inc., t/a Hanamura Japanese Restaurant, and a change of class to a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on-sale license, for a 1,800 square foot restaurant located at 8865-105 Stanford Boulevard, Columbia, Maryland 21045.

2. The Hearing Board concludes that the Applicants are fit and proper persons to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board concludes that Nancy Liu meets the requirements of Rules 1.09(T), 1.09(U), 2.06, and 2.10 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations concerning resident agent qualifications.

4. The Hearing Board concludes that the granting of the application is necessary for the accommodation of the public.

5. The Hearing Board concludes that the granting of the application would not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the neighborhood.

ORDER

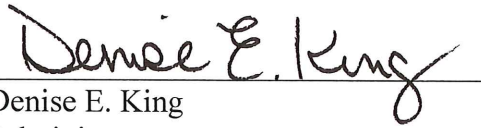
For the foregoing reasons, it is this 28th day of February 2017, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, **ORDERED** that the application of Nancy Liu and Pak Hang Siu on behalf of Katana Sushi of Lakeside, Inc., t/a Katana Sushi, for a transfer of a Class B Beer and Light Wine 7-day on-sale license held by Kee Kwan Cheung-On on behalf of

Rintex, Inc., t/a Hanamura Japanese Restaurant, and a change of class to a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on-sale license, for a 1,800 square foot restaurant located at 8865-105 Stanford Boulevard, Columbia, Maryland 21045, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That the Applicants comply with all State and County laws; and
- (b) Failure to comply with these conditions and obtain the license by March 31, 2017, shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

ATTEST:

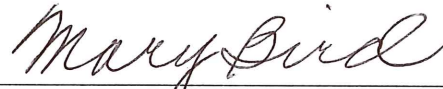
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND



Denise E. King
Administrator



Heather Gaetano, Chairperson




Mary Bird, Vice-Chairperson

REVIEWED BY HOWARD COUNTY
OFFICE OF LAW
GARY W. KUC
COUNTY SOLICITOR

Charles C. Feaga, Member

ABSENT
Gene Ryan, Member



Lewis Taylor, Esquire
Assistant County Solicitor

Charley C. Sung, Member