

Victim: Called Hall 'punk, twerp'

By Ken Kobayashi
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Businessman Rodney Y. Inaba testified yesterday that he was shot twice by Robert W. Hall after calling Hall a "punk," a "twerp" and possibly an "idiot" at the Waikiki Yacht Club four years ago.

Inaba, 46, a real estate broker, said he disliked Hall and described him as "very irritating," "arrogant," "self-centered" and "a very loud-mouthed individual."

But Inaba denied he threatened Hall that evening, and disputed the suggestion that he "verbally abused" him.

"I didn't verbally abuse him," Inaba testified. "I just called him a punk and a twerp, which is what he is."

Hall, 50, a businessman, is on trial in Circuit Judge Patrick Yim's courtroom on four counts of attempted murder and a firearm charge for shooting Inaba and two others at the club on May 17, 1980.

Hall's defense is that he was suffering from an allergic reaction to a specific ingredient — not alcohol — in a white wine he drank earlier. That reaction and Hall's fear of Inaba led to the shooting — for which Hall should not be criminally responsible, according to defense attorney David Schutter.

Inaba, who was shot above



Robert Hall
Disliked by Inaba



Rodney Inaba
"Didn't verbally abuse him"

the right knee and near his groin, spent 18 weeks in the hospital. Yesterday was the first time he publicly testified about the shooting.

According to Inaba, Hall sponsored his membership into the Waikiki Yacht Club before their relationship deteriorated. "The more I got to know him, the

more I stayed away," Inaba said.

Inaba said Hall was "normally obnoxious" and always yelling at the waiters or waitresses or into the phone so others could overhear his business deals.

After a round-the-state race in 1976 or 1977, Hall tried to disqualify Inaba's winning yacht

because the crew raised the Japanese naval ensign as the vessel crossed the finish line, Inaba said.

Several hours prior to the shooting, Inaba said he was in a "good mood" with friends when he saw Hall give him the "stink eye" three or four times. Inaba said his sometimes loud response was, "Robert Hall, I think you're a punk and a twerp."


Inaba said he had about six or seven drinks and testified that he became "intoxicated" by the time of the shooting. Both the police and the manager asked him to leave, he said, but he remained after assuring them that "nothing would happen."

Sometime after midnight, Inaba said Hall asked to speak to him. Inaba testified he started toward Hall, but then saw that he had a gun, holding it "cowboy-style" at the waist.

Inaba said he saw a "flash," then heard a sound similar to a "2-by-4 hitting a wall." Inaba said he was shot in the right knee from about eight to 10 feet away, but doesn't recall the second bullet hitting him in the groin area. He couldn't stand, but managed to drag himself out of the line of fire, Inaba said.

Inaba said Hall didn't appear to be intoxicated.

The non-jury trial is expected to continue through next week.

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