



# UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

November/December 2020 Issue #189 Circulation 9,657

## Shuri Castle Reconstruction – Moving Forward

By Lynn Miyahira

First of all, mahalo to everyone who donated to the Shuri Castle Reconstruction effort back in late 2019. The outpouring of support from the worldwide Uchinanchu community was a testament to the strong connection that so many of us feel to our ancestral homeland. As we watched the news of the main hall burning, we all felt shocked and helpless to see this beautiful icon of Ryukyu history and culture falling before our eyes. We all felt an immediate need to do something to help with the reconstruction of this beautiful monument.

Thanks to the quick thinking of HUOA Executive Director Jon Itomura, we immediately setup an online donation portal and started collecting funds at the Hawaii Okinawa Center so that people could donate towards the effort to rebuild Shuri Castle. Altogether, the HUOA collected \$100,000 from people all over the world and, in March 2020, we presented Governor



Denny Tamaki with the funds.

It has been over a year now and they are moving forward with plans to reconstruct the magnificent symbol of the Ryukyu Kingdom. On my last visit to Okinawa in March 2020 (right before the coronavirus pandemic hit), I was able to visit Shuri Castle to get a glimpse at how the reconstruction efforts were going. You couldn't



Check presentation (L-R): Laverne Higa, Pat Miyashiro, Jon Itomura, Gov. Denny Tamaki, Lynn Miyahira, Akira Yamauchi, Choko Takayama, and Seiichiro Inamine.

see much from the small area where they were allowing people to stand, but you could see that they were carefully packaging the debris from the fire while trying to preserve the surrounding structures. It was a sobering sight to see the main hall completely gone, but it also gave me hope to see them moving forward with clearing the area to make way for reconstruction.

The reconstruction of Shuri Castle is sure to be an immense task and will take

coordination between the national, prefectural and city governments. The main area of Shuri Castle is part of the national park system in Japan, while the surrounding areas are on Okinawa Prefectural grounds and Naha City lands.

The leader of the reconstruction team is Mr. Kurayoshi Takara, former professor of Ryukyu history at the University of the Ryukyus and also former Vice Governor of Okinawa. He is also one of the few people still around who was on the previous Shuri Castle reconstruction team back in 1992 (during the most recent reconstruction of Shuri Castle). They have an ambitious goal of rebuilding Shuri Castle in five years (the last time it took about 30 years), but I am hopeful that with the effort of many hands they will be able to reach this goal.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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# President's Message

By Lynn Miyahira



CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF UCHINANCHU IN HAWAII  
HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

As we bring 2020 to a close, it's an opportunity for all of us to pause and reflect on how much our lives have changed in one year. I want to thank everyone for all the sacrifices you have made this year to help keep your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and community safe. 2020 will surely go down in history as one of the most challenging and tumultuous years in our lifetime, but I'm also grateful that 2020 gave us the opportunity to think about what's truly important in our lives.

The holidays are usually a time to gather with friends and family, but COVID-19 has forced us to rethink how we celebrate. We all miss having big holiday parties, but as the global pandemic rages on, we must continue to protect our loved ones – especially our kupuna – and avoid large gatherings. Here are some suggestions on how you can celebrate the holidays this year:

- Assign someone to help relatives or friends who may be technologically challenged to setup equipment for a virtual call. Please wear a mask when you visit.
- Play online games with friends and family – online trivia games or at-home scavenger hunts are really fun!
- Put together a video or slideshow of old family photos of past holiday gatherings to share with everyone.
- Ask children to make holiday cards or ornaments and do a drive-by drop off to family and friends.
- Send everyone a gift box ahead of time labeled, "Do not open." Then, schedule a virtual call and do an "unboxing" together to celebrate the holidays.
- Choose a local Okinawan restaurant (find a list on hawaiiokinawans.com), order take out on the same day, and eat and drink together on a video call.
- Schedule a drive-by celebration for elderly family or HUOA club members who live alone or are in care homes.
- Do arts and crafts together online – send a packet of materials to people ahead of time and schedule

These are just a few ways that we can creatively stay connected without gathering in large groups. We have all had to think outside the box this year, so I encourage everyone to continue to share their ideas on how to keep our community connected.

*"... 2020 gave us the opportunity to think about what's truly important in our lives."*

I am continually amazed by the strength, perseverance and ingenuity of our Okinawan community in Hawaii. There are many organizations, not just in Hawaii but around the world that are looking at HUOA as an example of how overcome the challenges brought about by COVID-19. We should all be incredibly proud of how our community has learned to adapt in this drastically new environment.

We have a lot of hope for 2021 and President-Elect Patrick Miyashiro picked an excellent theme: *Chimugukuru Tiichi – All Hearts United as One*. This will surely be a bright year, full of new opportunities and challenges. Pat is well prepared to lead the HUOA and has

gathered an amazing team of people to guide us through another year. I hope you join me in welcoming Pat as president of HUOA and are as excited for 2021 as I am!

It's because of all of you – *Ukaji Deebiru* – that the HUOA is able to come out of 2020 even stronger than before. From the bottom of my heart, *mahalo* and *ippee nifee deebiru* for an amazing year.

— HUOA President Lynn Miyahira



# UCHINANCHU

*Ippee Nifee Deebiru... Mahalo!*

*Uchinanchu* is our voice — the voice of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, its members, and the "home" we all built together, the Hawaii Okinawa Center. By sharing information and experiences, *Uchinanchu* keeps us connected as a family, dedicated to preserving, sharing and perpetuating our Okinawan cultural heritage.

Every dollar donated — along with the valuable income from advertising - helps offset the cost of publishing *Uchinanchu*. HUOA sends a sincere *ippee nifee deebiru* to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

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Production costs for Uchinanchu have escalated due to increases in circulation, labeling expenses and postage. Your contribution to help defray some of the expenses is greatly appreciated.

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Please include this form with your donation and send to:  
**HUOA Newsletter Fund, 94-587 Ukee Street, Waipahu, Hawaii 96797**

## 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The year at a glance!

**Events are subject to change.**

- January 16 Uchinanchu of the Year Honorees & Installation Celebration
- March 16 Leadership Workshop (tentative)
- June 7-11 Children's Cultural Day Camp, Oahu (tentative)
- June 18 Senior Health & Wellness Fair (tentative)
- June 23 Irei no Hi (tentative)

Check HUOA website - [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org) for more information.

### UCHINANCHU

*Uchinanchu* is the newsletter of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. Although subject to change, issues will be published bi-monthly. Volunteer writers are welcome. Send your name, address and telephone number to *Uchinanchu* Newsletter, Hawaii United Okinawa Association, 94-587 Ukee St., Waipahu, Hawaii 96797. E-mail articles to [huoa@huoa.org](mailto:huoa@huoa.org). *Uchinanchu* reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

HUOA President ..... Lynn Miyahira  
 Executive Director ..... Jon Itomura  
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**ADVERTISING INFORMATION**

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## Executive Director's Message

By Jon Itomura

*"Through the ingenuity and energy of the next generation, HUOA pivoted from in-person venues to live virtual events."*

### Haisai and Happy Holidays!

This year, 2020, HUOA was presented many challenges, unveiled many young leaders, and achieved many successes.

The heart and soul of HUOA has always been the support and contributions from its members and volunteers. Through the ingenuity and energy of the next generation, HUOA pivoted from in-person venues to live virtual events. Through this virtual portal, we reached old and new friends around the world! We are now able to share performances, experiences and Okinawa-related products with friends through the internet.

The Live Virtual Okinawa Festival featured over eight hours of entertainment and has been viewed by over 100,000 family and friends. Our weekly "Yuntaku Live" productions stepped into everyone's living rooms and allowed viewers to hear and get to know unique and talented individuals from Hawaii and Okinawa in an informal and personal setting. *Irei No Hi* and *Uchinanchu No Hi* provided memorable events that will be preserved in the virtual space for all to see.

Here at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, while the doors were officially closed during this pandemic to protect the health and safety of our members, our gardeners and office volunteers maintained social distancing

and their enthusiasm to keep the Hawaii Okinawa Center looking great and running smoothly.

The Hawaii Okinawa Center will re-open in January 2021 on a limited basis and subject to State and City regulations. When it does, you will discover many exciting changes. Legacy Hall has been re-carpeted, the entire facility including the parking lot has become much brighter at night, and the Higa Building will be featuring a spacious exhibition area. In addition, the Chaya will invite you to the Okinawa Genealogical Society of Hawaii research corner.

Due to pandemic restrictions and the cancellation of HUOA's traditional fundraising and all catered events, 2020 was and 2021 will continue to be a financial challenge. I sincerely convey my warmest *Mahalo and Ippei Nifee Debiru* to all our friends and supporters who have generously provided donations to help sustain our operations through these difficult times.

*Ichariba Choode* (once we meet and talk, we are family)! To everyone I have met this year – in person and through our virtual events – welcome to the HUOA family! *Mele Kalikimaka and Haouli Makahiki Hou!*

### SHURI CASTLE - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Once again, I want to thank everyone who donated to the Shuri Castle Restoration Fund. There were so many in the community who rushed to help, and it reminded me of the *yuimaaru* spirit that our *issei* and *nisei* must have felt when they heard about the devastation of Okinawa after WWII. "This must have been the same way my grandfather felt when he helped take the pigs over to Okinawa after WWII," said Jon Itomura, HUOA Executive Director. "When I saw Shuri Castle burning, I just knew we had to start a reconstruction fundraising effort right away. I'm hopeful that in the near future, we'll be able to see Shuri Castle in all its glory again."

## HUOA SOCIAL MEDIA:

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# HUOA Virtual Craft Fair

November 15 through January 15  
Support local vendors!  
Visit [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org)



**D**ue to the unique challenges and restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, HUOA will not be holding its in-person winter and evening craft fairs at the Hawaii Okinawa Center this year. Instead, we are featuring an online directory on [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org) to showcase over 30 local crafters and vendors, many of whom participate annually in our craft fairs. Shop directly with each vendor by visiting their website, or contact them to inquire how to purchase their items. This listing will run from November 15, 2020 through January 15, 2021. It's a great opportunity to do your holiday shopping while supporting local businesses!

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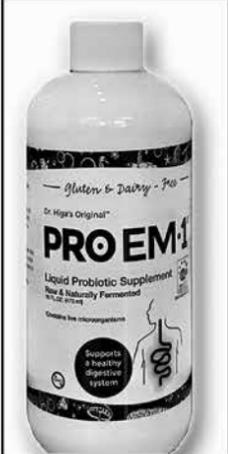
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For many of us, third generation and beyond, little remains besides our family name, that carries on the spirit of our forebears.

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# A Person to Remember

By Jon Ishihara

His name is Yoshio Tengwan, Helder son of Matsusuke and Kama, formerly of Honokowai near Lahaina, Maui. Yoshio's parents were *issei* who came from Gushikawa, Okinawa, in 1907 and 1910, respectively. Yoshio had an older sister, Yoshiko, and a younger brother, Hidemi.

Yoshio was born in Lahaina on May 5, 1922, attended Honokowai School, and graduated from Lahainaluna High School. Back in those days, attending Lahainaluna often meant that your family sacrificed to send you to high school, since one could have been working to earn money to help the family. Or, it could mean that you showed good promise of higher learning, or were highly driven to learn and do something other than sugar plantation work.

For reasons unknown, Yoshio's parents Matsusuke and Kama moved back to Okinawa when he was still attending Lahainaluna – likely taking Hidemi with them.

After graduating in 1940, Yoshio moved to Honolulu and lived with his father's younger sister, Aunt Matsu Nakamoto, and her family on Kamehameha IV Road in Kalihi. He later found work as a mechanic for Jimmie's Safety Garage in Honolulu, which in 1941 was located at Kapiolani Boulevard and Ward Avenue.



Photo taken on October 21, 2019, courtesy of Jon Ishihara.

My connection to Yoshio was triggered by my visit to Epinal when I attended ceremonies in October 2019 for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Bruyeres. Yoshio Tengwan, Private First Class, C Company, 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, rests in peace at Epinal



Yoshio Tengwan from the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center Facebook page.

American Cemetery located about 10 miles southwest of Bruyeres, France.

Yoshio is one of two Hawaii men out of 13 men of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team who gave their lives fighting in France in 1944 and who rest among the other American soldiers buried at Epinal American Cemetery.

Other men of the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> RCT who gave their lives fighting in France and Italy had their remains returned to family back in Hawaii, on the mainland, or even to family in Japan after the war.

Yoshio enlisted with the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team after the call went out for volunteers in late January 1943. U.S. Army enlisted records show that Yoshio "enlisted on March 25, 1943. Branch: Branch immaterial – Warrant Officers, USA; private. Skilled mechanics and repairment, motor vehicles. 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Single with 0 dependents."

Yoshio was 20 going on 21 when he and other local volunteers departed Hawaii for Camp Shelby, Mississippi, on April 4. He trained with the 442<sup>nd</sup> throughout 1943 and would have completed training by early 1944. Yoshio was sent as a replacement to join the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (Separate) already fighting in Italy, joining C Company. He served with the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (Separate) then with the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion after the Battalion joined with the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team in June 1944.

On October 14, 1944, Yoshio was killed in action near Bruyeres at the start of the battle to liberate the town (his date of death is listed October 15). Some records indicate that Yoshio got married just before he was sent overseas – his wife, Mildred, would not see him alive again. One of the ironies, or blessings if you prefer, is that there is a written account (published on the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Veteran's Education Center website) of Yoshio's death during the fighting near Bruyeres in the memoirs of Kazuto Hayashi, also of C Company, 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

Last year, thanks to the combined efforts of the local Okinawan community, we were able to contact a living relative of Yoshio's before the ceremonies in Bruyeres were held. This process began when the Honolulu mayor's office requested assistance in finding relatives of Hawaii soldiers buried near Bruyeres, which is a sister city to Honolulu.

The mayor's office contacted a member of the Sons & Daughters of the 442, who contacted a mutual friend, who then contacted me. I, in turn, reached out to the Hawaii Okinawan Center and the Hawaii United Okinawa Association via the Okinawa Genealogical Society of Hawaii. The Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai also pitched in to help me search out information on Yoshio and any family members. As a result, we were able to make contact with one of the Nakamoto family members with whom Yoshio lived with on Kamehameha IV Road. That individual was a first cousin of Yoshio, and I was able to provide this information to the mayor's office.

Yoshio's resting place in Epinal American Cemetery is well cared for, as Epinal is one of the permanent American military cemeteries operated and maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Over and above this, to this day community members of Chemin de la Paix et Jumelage Bruyeres Honolulu (The Peace and Freedom Trail Bruyeres-Honolulu Sister City association) visit and look after Yoshio's place and the places of the other men of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT at Epinal. If you are ever in France and can visit Bruyeres, please contact The Peace and Freedom Trail Bruyeres-Honolulu Sister City association and visit Epinal.

Yoshio Tengwan is a person to remember for his service and sacrifice for our local community, our State of Hawaii and for our country.

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# Show Us Your Food! Photo Contest Winners



My aunty Lynette Shiroma cooked Udon Iricha and Champuruu. My mom Amy Shinsato cooked Kandaba Juushi, Goya Namasu, Andagi, Beni Imo, Andadog, Luau stew, Shoyu pork and Taco Rice (This non-traditional dish originated in Kin, Okinawa, popularized by the U.S. military presence there.)



## Lori Shinsato

I am *yonse* (fourth generation), my *issei* relatives came from Kin and Gaza in Nishihara town. My family is affiliated with Maui Ryukyu Culture Group and Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai.

My mom, aunty and I have been playing *sanshin* together since 1996. We take *sanshin* lessons from Norman Kaneshiro Sensei. I also play the *kuuchoo* (Okinawan violin) under the instruction of Norman Kaneshiro Sensei. My sister is an *eisa taiko* player. She took lessons from Eric Wada Sensei. Pre COVID-19, we enjoyed Saturday lessons with the Maui Ryukyu Culture Group and Sensei visiting from Oahu. We miss practicing together, hanging out, and our potluck lunches of homemade dishes.

For the Virtual Okinawan Festival, we decided to wear our Maui Ryukyu Culture Group



Three generations of Okinawan girls in our family (L-R): Lori Shinsato (*yonse*), Cara Chong-Kee (*yonse*), Camy Chong-Kee (*gosei*), Lynette Shiroma (*sansei*), and Amy Shinsato (*sansei*).

t-shirts and charged our devices and battery packs, so that we could watch outside together but separately. My mom (Amy Shinsato) and aunty (Lynette Shiroma) worked really hard the evening before and morning of, to prepare our Okinawan food feast. I picked up the Orion beer.

For several years, my mom has chaired the cooking lessons at the Maui Okinawa Children's Camp. My aunty is the cooking helper at camp. They have also taken Okinawan cooking lessons from Eric Wada Sensei of Ukwanshin Kabudan. My mom and aunty put their experience and knowledge to good use for our little family meal.

We enjoyed the Virtual Okinawan Festival and watched it Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. We enjoyed the video and photo submissions from the different clubs and the messages from past HUOA presidents! The Shisa Distancing t-shirt is my favorite design since the Andagi Got Talent design many years ago. Whoever designed this year's shirt is super creative and humorous. I love it, "Kachashi 6 feet apart!"

Thank you to the photo contest committee. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to stay safer at home. That means there is less excitement and fewer things to mark the day as special. The days and months have been blurring together during the pandemic. I appreciate you guys and HUOA for giving us something fun to participate in and the good memories. Thank you!

<<< During the Virtual Okinawan Festival, Cara Chong-Kee yelled out to us, "Look it's Mrs. Konno!" Mrs. Konno is our good friend. She is well known in the Maui Okinawan community and now beyond! 🇺🇸

## Leslie Nagamine

I'm a fourth-generation, 50 percent *Uchinan*. My mother (Tengan from Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai and Toguchi from Motobu) is 100 percent *Uchinan*. My husband, Reid, is a proud fourth-generation 100 percent *Uchinan* (Nagamine from Itoman and Miyasato from Hiyane). Our kids are Miesha, Reimie, and Reign. We are members of Aza Gushikawa, Itoman, and Motobu Clubs

We love attending the Okinawan Festival and even have a staycation in Waikiki every year during that time. We used to volunteer with Aza Gushikawa in the shave ice booth on Sundays when the festival was held at Kapiolani Park. Now that it's been moved to the Convention Center, however, our club works the children's games on Sundays. We also love attending our Shinnen Enkai parties and club picnics.

We found out about this year's Virtual Okinawan Festival through social media, but since we volunteer at the Festival, we also learned about it through our Aza Gushikawa Club.

Our only plan for the Virtual Okinawan Festival weekend was to not make any plans so we could be home all afternoon and evening to watch the entire program.

We ordered and delivered food for my parents, in-laws, and my family – from Sunrise Restaurant on Saturday and Pagoda/Aloha Andagi on Sunday.

Love the idea of the virtual festival, but definitely must do the regular Okinawan Festival, so...do both! 🇺🇸



Bridging from Generation to Generation - For Our Children!



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# Ikuyu Madin

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association would like to acknowledge the following individuals, families, organizations and companies who have donated or pledged to our Campaign. Since our last report, we received \$2,150. We are humbled by the support and the confidence you have displayed through your generous donations.

The Hawaii Okinawa Plaza will be our testament to the future of Okinawan culture in Hawaii. *Magukuru Kara Ipee Nifee Deebiru.* From our hearts, thank you very much.

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*Continued from page 9*

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**T**hank you to the many members, friends and businesses that have responded to our 2020/2021 annual giving campaign. The coronavirus pandemic has impacted everyone around the globe and we understand that 2020 has been an extremely challenging year for many people. That is why we are deeply grateful for the confidence you have shown in us.

As we start our new campaign, we look forward to new promises and challenges. Your donation allows us to create a bright future for the HUOA and the Hawaii Okinawa Center. The new campaign started in November of 2020 and by the end of the month we received a total of 538 donations, representing \$93,178. We are forever grateful to all of you.

Please join us in 2021, in helping our community thrive and grow. It is through your continued contributions that we are able to have successful programs and upkeep our home, the Hawaii Okinawa Center. *Ippee Niffee Deebiru!*

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In memory of Genyei & Masako Miyashiro by Leatrice & Richard Itoh  
In memory of James Y. Miyashiro by Terry Goya  
In memory of Kiyoshi Miyashiro by Yoshiko Miyashiro  
In memory of Mildred Moriyama by Ruth Dick  
In memory of Amy S. Nakagawa by Wayne F. Nakagawa  
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In memory of Jean K Nishikawa by Gary Nishikawa  
In memory of Shinichi Okuhama by Alice A. Bensley  
In memory of Jogi & Fumiko Onaga by Stanley K. Onaga  
In honor of the late Kama & Uto Onaga by Clifton T. Onaga  
In memory of Lorna Yamauchi Oshima by Thomas Oshima  
In memory of Chad Y. Oshiro by Janise N. Oshiro  
In memory of Choko & Akiko Oshiro by Jean Oshiro  
In memory of Gail K. Oshiro (Okahara) by James Y. Okahara  
In memory of Thomas K. Oshiro Jr. by Patricia A. Oshiro  
In Honor of Tsugio & Hatsue Oshiro by Scott Nashiwa  
In memory of Richard, Phyllis & Danny Ota by Reid & Kelly  
In honor of Susumu & Hanako Saito & Tokusaburo & Shizuko  
In memory of Alice Santiago by Chereen Pires  
In memory of Kathy "Yuki" Sasaki by Brenda Kuessner  
In memory of Walter & Mildred Serikaku by George & Alyce Serikaku  
In Memory of Choriki & Dorothy Shimabuku by Lynne Murakami  
In memory of Edwin Shimabukuro by Dean Shimabukuro  
In memory of Teiki & Masako Shirota & Dianne Yoshizawa by Wallace  
In memory of Ushi, Yukiko & Yoshiko Takara & Akira Yamauchi by  
In memory of Floyd Tokuo Takushi by Karen L. Shishido  
In memory of mother, Matsu Kamata Tamashiro by Paul & Grace  
In memory of Matsuro & Masei Tengan by Mr. & Mrs. Goichi Toyooka  
In memory of Kana & Matsu Tokuda by Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Shigemoto  
In honor of George Motohide Tonaki (grandfather) & Margaret Yukie  
In memory of Harry Y. Toyama by Frances Toyama  
In memory of Mrs. Matsu Oshiro Toyama by Shigeo Toyama  
In memory of Kenichi & Agnes Tsuha by Jan K. Tsuha  
In memory of Kiyoshi Tshako by Betsy Y. Tshako  
In memory of Mrs. Take Uechi by Stephanie K. Asato  
In memory of Thomas Y. Uechi by G. Ken Uechi  
In memory of Sakae Uehara by Joyce & Glen Komatsu  
In memory of Yoshito & Myra Uehara by Ethel S. Uehara  
In memory of Shiki & Kama Uyema by Margaret Nohara  
In memory of Margaret Torigoe by Elaine Yamaguchi  
In memory of Charles & Haruko Yamashiro by Ron & Gina Yamashiro  
In memory of James & Joyce Yamashiro by Janet Yokotake  
In memory of Hazel Shiroma Yonamine by Kenji & Kay Tamashiro

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

# Preserving Our Legacy



In memory of Shinyei & Hatsue Zakahi by Aileen Yoshimura  
 In memory of Kenneth & Jean Zukeran by Lorrin & Susan Zukeran  
 To celebrate, our sister, Sue Asato by Ben & Gerri Maeda

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 James Akamine  
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 Ethel Asato  
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 Annette Miyashiro  
 Melvin Miyashiro  
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 Fusako Nakagawa  
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 Thomas Yonamine  
 Tomeo Yoshizawa  
 In memory of Gikichi & Goze Ajifu by Lane & Arlette Kiriyama  
 In memory of Dwayne M. Arakaki by Mr. & Mrs. Herbert M. Arakaki  
 In memory of Ryosei & Kamato Arakaki by Morris Arakaki  
 In memory of Sally Asato by Mildred Tagami  
 In memory of Richard T. China by Amy Ichiyama  
 In memory of Ellen Masako Chuck by Wilfred Chuck  
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 In memory of Nancy Sakiko Ichinaga by Loraine Shimada  
 In honor of Jocelyn Ige by Karen R. Koles  
 In memory of Thomas M. Ikehara by Laura Ikehara-Martin  
 In memory of Minori & Kiyoko Imada by Bernie Imada  
 In memory of Keith Matsumoto by Geraldine Matsumoto  
 In memory of Virginia N. Miyahira by Todd & Elizabeth Ayotte  
 In memory of James I. Miyasato by Barbara C. Miyasato  
 In memory of Helen Oh, Auntie Margaret & Auntie Janet Miji &  
 In memory of Arlene Kushi Shinagawa by Todd & Elizabeth Ayotte  
 In memory of Satoei & Sue Shiohira by Wayne Shiohira  
 In memory of Gilbert & Florence Tokuda by Gary Tokuda  
 In memory of Edwin & Sheri Watanabe by Jamie M. Watanabe  
 In memory of Chikako Yamashiro by Paul & Paula Yamamoto  
 In memory of Kyutaro & Ushi Yamashiro by Tsuneo Yamashiro  
 In memory of Shinyei & Hatsue Zakahi by Hazel Ginoza  
 In memory of Kenneth & Jean Zukeran by Lorrin & Susan Zukeran



## HUOA DONATIONS

October 1 - November 30, 2020

HUOA sends a sincere ippee niffee deebiru to the following donors:

Minoru Agena  
 Harold Asato  
 Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai  
 Laurence Funakoshi  
 Haneji Club  
 JTB Corporation  
 Arthur Kaneshiro  
 Jennifer Kaneshiro & Derek Wong  
 Scherie Kaneshiro  
 Shigeru Kobashigawa  
 Thom & Joyce Lichte  
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 Leroy K. Nagasako  
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 In Memory of Gary T. Toguchi from George & Irene Toguchi,  
 Wendy Kondo & Ross Toguchi  
 In Memory of Dora Yoneko Tomi  
 In Memory of Jack Uyehara (Aloha Tofu) by Nancy Chin  
 In Loving Memory of Thomas Isamu Isara by his family

**KOKUA IN KIND**  
 Gary Higa

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~ MEMBER OF AZA YOGI DOSHI KAI ~

# Okinawan FEASTival 2020 – a Gastronomic Success!

By Shari Y. Tamashiro

Photos courtesy of Reid Shimabukuro

The inaugural Okinawan FEASTival ran from November 2 to November 8. Mahalo and *niffee deebiru* to everyone who showed up in force and ate and ate and ate to support our local Okinawan owned restaurants! The response was overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

Hide-Chan, Sunrise and Utage were inundated with orders for their Okinawan dishes, frequently selling out and running out of food. The restaurants who created special dishes also did very well. Heiho House, who opened right before FEASTival week, was grateful for the many Okinawans who showed up to try their Kokuto Andagi Ice Cream. Hibachi Honolulu and Tatsuo's Hawaii – both in out of the way locations – saw a myriad of new customers who have become regulars. Hank's Haute Dog's brilliant Spam Andadog was so popular, Hank said he will bring it back as an occasional special! Gochi Grill sold out of their Soki Soba and Okidog, then helped their neighbor Aloha Poke Shop do an andagi mini and underdog pop up!

Mahalo to all of these restaurants for getting into the spirit of FEASTival, making it a wonderful celebration of our community and our food!

## Support is Still Needed

These businesses still need our support. One way to continue Okinawan FEASTival are "Okinawan Tuesdays," where one day out of the week is designated to support an Okinawan owned business. Tuesday was suggested because that is typically a slow business day.

In response to Okinawan Tuesdays, Ige's Mapunapuna @ Masa's Cafeteria announced that they will be offering Okinawan dishes every Tuesday!

With the holidays coming, please consider purchasing Gift Certificates as stocking stuffers.



Spam Andadog / Hank's Haute Dog's

## Yuimaaru

Mahalo to Caro Higa, Jo Ige, Lynn Miyahara, and Clarisse Kobashigawa for working with me to make FEASTival happen. I wanted to especially thank photographer Reid Shimabukuro, who volunteered his time and his talent, to capture mouth watering images of the FEASTival specials. Special thanks as well to Jennifer Kumura for volunteering a considerable amount of her time and skills to create the framework for the Hawaii Okinawans information site. We did this work because we sincerely want to help these local Okinawan owned restaurants to survive.

## Listing of Okinawan Owned Restaurant & Food Related Businesses

A listing of all the Okinawan owned restaurants and food related businesses on Oahu can be found at the website [www.hawaiiokinawans.com](http://www.hawaiiokinawans.com)

You can check out the "Map View" to find restaurants located near where you live or work. You can also scroll thru to find new places to try out or old favorites to re-visit!

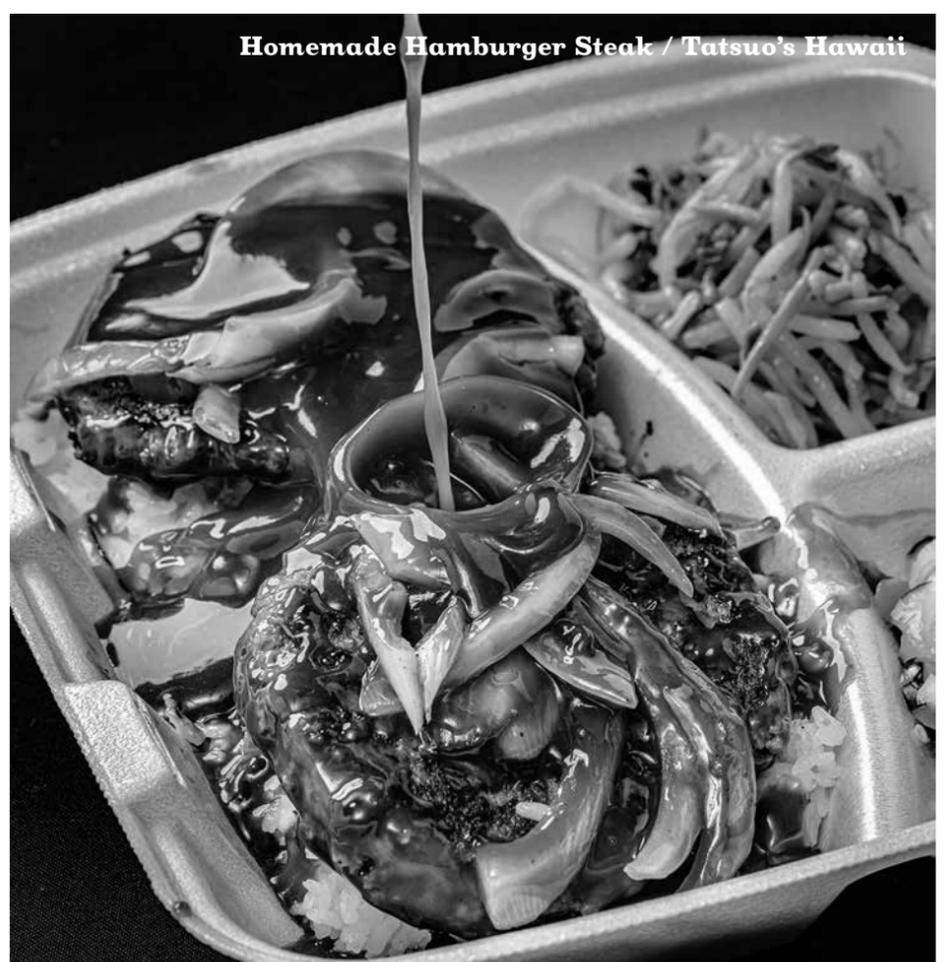
If you would like a business listed, please email [pigsfromthesea@gmail.com](mailto:pigsfromthesea@gmail.com). Please include name of the business and a point of contact (email and/or phone) because information does have to be collected and confirmed. 🍷



Kokuto Andagi Ice Cream / Heiho House



Pig Feet Soup / Sunrise



Homemade Hamburger Steak / Tatsuo's Hawaii



# CLUB NEWS

*Our Clubs, Our Future*

## Club News: Hui O Laulima

Submitted by K. Kuba-Hori

Aloha everyone and thank you for your support at our first fundraiser Cerebral Palsy Clothing Drive. Do you know, we collected about 5,000 pounds of stuff – who would have thought we had that much “extra” clothing in our closets. To put the weight into perspective, envision



Hui O Laulima President Audrey Gibo with senior member Betsy Miyahira and Ellen Higa.



Volunteers at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.



Volunteers at the Cerebral Palsy Warehouse.

a half Matson shipping container filled with plastic bags. Thank you to all the Laulima ladies and their friends for their donations.

The “work” wasn’t as bad as it seems. On Friday, we parked ourselves under the monkey pod trees at the Hawaii Okinawa Center and, on Saturday, the CP Warehouse had a large lanai roof to keep us out of the sun when we needed a break. Of course – to our benefit and appreciation – CP helped us load and pack our donated goods inside the container and truck. They stayed with us throughout our collection period.

Special thanks to our event chairpersons Sharon Ho Miyashiro, Laura Miyashiro, Karen Kuba-Hori and volunteers Alan Miyashiro, Leonard Kaneshiro, Laura Ajimine, Kate Ardon, Connie Chun, Audrey Gibo, Sandy Toma, Jean Oshiro and Nicole Hori.

Laulima would like to express its appreciation to the HUOA for the use of the HOC parking lot and advertising the event for us and to Cerebral Palsy who through their generosity allowed us to make this fundraiser a success.



# NIFEE DEEBIRU!

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We are honored to share your survivor story  
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From our club to yours  
**SEASON'S GREETINGS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**  
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**Here's a KARI! to your good health!**

Club contact info: gmiyashiro777@yahoo.com

# Senjukai Hawaii's 2020 Cultural Fusion

By Frances Nakachi Kuba

It has been 23 years since Frances Kuba sensei established Tamagusku Ryu Senju Kai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo, an Okinawan dance studio, which is currently based out of the Mānoa Japanese Language School. Each year, Senju Kai Hawaii hosts its annual fundraising event, Cultural Fusion. The proceeds raised at this event allow Senju Kai Hawaii to fulfill their mission to perpetuate the Okinawan culture through dance. Additionally, these proceeds provide scholarships to ease some of the

ensuring the rich Okinawan culture can be passed onto future generations. Through this showcase of traditional Okinawan dance, Senju Kai Hawaii hopes to inspire future generations of *Uchinanchu*, and *Uchinanchu* at heart, to join them in continuing the preservation of Okinawan culture and spirit.

If you were not able to join the event on December 4, video of the event can be viewed on Senju Kai Hawaii's YouTube page ([www.youtube.com/senjukaihawaii](http://www.youtube.com/senjukaihawaii)). Additionally, there are still more gift baskets for sale that include the ever popular *awamori* and other alcoholic beverages featured at Cultural Fusion events. You can find these specially curated baskets perfect for holiday gifts ([www.alohaawamori.com/collections/cultural-fusion](http://www.alohaawamori.com/collections/cultural-fusion)). A portion of the proceeds from the event will be donated to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. For more information, please email [senjukaihawaii@gmail.com](mailto:senjukaihawaii@gmail.com).

Senju Kai Hawaii is committed to sharing Okinawan culture through dance. Without the support of members of the community, Senju Kai Hawaii would not be able to host this event annually. Senju Kai Hawaii would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to advisors Randy Kuba,



Standing (L-R): Sandy Hayashi, Eric Kobayashi and Anna Lewis. Sitting: Megan Higa, Frances Nakachi Kuba sensei and co-chair Megan Martin.

financial burden on students training for and undergoing the *konkuru* certification exam in Okinawa. Celebrating its 18th year in 2020, Cultural Fusion is the Okinawan dance studio's primary fundraising event.

However, for the safety of the community during the pandemic, event co-chairs Megan Martin and Eric Kobayashi, both Senju Kai Hawaii students, decided that hosting the Cultural Fusion event in a traditional manner was not possible this year. In lieu of the face-to-face event, the school was able to hold Cultural Fusion virtually for the first time.

The members of the *dojo* prepared recorded dance numbers and self-introductions that were combined into a 90-minute presentation, which was streamed live on YouTube on December 4, 2020. They partnered with four local businesses – Pagoda Floating Restaurant, Lotus Spirits, Mud Hen Water Restaurant, and Aloha Andagi – that provided a specially curated menu for guests to pre-order food and drink to enjoy while watching the event. Cultural Fusion also featured an online auction and store where Senju Kai Hawaii sold *kimono* and *obi*, crafts, collectibles, and gift certificate packages to local businesses.

This year, guests and supporters were invited to take a special behind-the-scenes peek at the preparation and execution of *Konkuru* Certification. The journey towards obtaining certification – and ultimately the license to teach and continue Okinawan arts – is a long and hard one. The *konkuru* certification process, which takes a minimum of 15 years, requires the utmost dedication to the arts and depicts participants' commitment to perfecting and perpetuating their craft.

Viewers were fortunate to view parts of the certification process where Senju Kai Hawaii members performed in front of grand master teachers in Okinawa. The detail, concentration, poise and, most importantly, many dedicated years of practice to the art is evident in these performances. This group of certified Senju Kai members, having successfully obtained several levels of certification, represent the next generation of dancers tasked with



Senjukai Hawaii's members, family and supporters at Pagoda Floating Restaurant.

Cyrus Tamashiro, David Arakawa, Dexter Teruya, Jocelyn Ige, Norman Nakasone, Ronald Tomasa, and Sandy Goya for their continued support and encouragement. Furthermore, the *yuimaaru*, or mutual support, from this year's Cultural Fusion vendors helped to deliver the *Uchinanchu* spirit to the homes of family and friends.

Senju Kai Hawaii is extremely grateful to the participation of our local community, including: Pagoda Floating Restaurant and John Teruya, Aloha Andagi and Junko Bise Sensei, Randy Kuba and Aloha Awamori, as well as Chef Ed Kenney of Mud Hen Water Restaurant.

Additionally, this event could not have been made possible without the technical support from this year's HUOA Vice President, David Jones. *Ippee Nifee Deebiru* to all of Senju Kai's supporters, family, and friends who contributed to the continuation of *Uchinanchu* culture and spirit through support of this year's Cultural Fusion.

Finally, Senju Kai Hawaii extends its gratitude to HUOA for supporting and sponsoring this year's Cultural Fusion Event. It is with the support of HUOA that many of the *Uchinanchu* groups and businesses in the community can continue to thrive in Hawaii.

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# United Japanese Society of Hawaii's Tsukimi no Kai Event

By Frances Nakachi Kuba

One mission of United Japanese Society of Hawaii is preserving Japanese culture and tradition. *Tsukimi no Kai* is a tradition that we celebrate annually and is one of our legacy events. It is a joyous celebration.

*Tsukimi* refers to the Harvest or Autumn moon. *Tsukimi* literally means "Moon Viewing." It is held on August 15 of the lunar calendar year and is called *Jugoya*. They say that the moon is the brightest and most beautiful of the year.



From left to right: Bishop Daiya Amano (Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii), Frances Nakachi Kuba (UJSH, President), Reverend Jun Miyasaka (Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii)

The custom of moon viewing was introduced to Japan from China during the Heian period (794 to 1185). The Emperor's Court gathered in the moonlight to elegantly compose poems and listen to music.

During the Edo period (1603-1867), admiring the full moon in the fall became popular to the villagers such as the samurai and the farmers. Farmers prayed for a good harvest of rice and made offerings to the moon with fruits, flowers, vegetables, *susuki*, *sake* and *tsukimi dango*. It is like Thanksgiving, when friends and family gather, give thanks, and enjoy the great harvest.

On October 1, UJSH's annual *Tsukimi no Kai* became a virtual event! Like many organizations, we had to cancel our events due to the coro-



Kanzo Nara, Frances Nakachi Kuba, Courtney Takara, Heather Omori, Christine Imoto, Robert Imoto. Not pictured: Jo Ige and Renette Nakasone

na virus pandemic. However, thanks to the determined and innovative young leaders of UJSH, led by Chair Sheree Tamura, Courtney Takara, Heather Omori, and David "DJ" Jones, kept this tradition alive thanks to the generous support of the members. *Arigatougozaimasu!*

With the support of Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu, we were able to air a special NHK program on *Tsukimi* and integrated the Subaru Telescope presentation. We were able to view the moon virtually from the Subaru Telescope of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan on Mauna Kea.

Bishop Daiya Amano of Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii officiated a special blessing and poet Kaoru Nakamura provided a mini lesson on *haiku* using earlier submissions by UJSH members. Entertainment included *minyo uta* and *shamisen* by Anju Madoka *sensei* from Osaka, magic by Brazilian Nikkei Illusionist, Mario Kamia, *koto* music by Darin Miyashiro *sensei*, *Enka* by Karaoke grand champion Aolani Silva, Bon dance by Iwakuni Odori Aiko Kai, *Kachashii* by Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Hawaii and many more.

With YouTube, we were able to reach audiences in Japan, California and Brazil.

We are grateful to John Teruya and the staff at Pagoda Restaurant who provided the special *Tsukimi bentos* and *Tsukimi dango*, and Randy Kuba with Lotus Spirits providing the *sake* and *awamori* set. A portion of the sales supported UJSH. We appreciate all who have ordered and supported this event. *Ippee niffee deebiru!*



*Tsukimi dango* from Pagoda Restaurant and *awamori* from Lotus Spirits.

*Ukaji deebiru*, we were able to keep the tradition alive. Please visit United Japanese Society of Hawaii's YouTube channel to watch the *Tsukimi No Kai* event. Youtube Link: [https://youtu.be/RPW9W\\_GkJEE](https://youtu.be/RPW9W_GkJEE) Let's celebrate this enriching cultural event and watch the spectacular full moon together in 2021! *Gusuyo Mensore!* Everyone welcome! 🍷

## Okinawan Proverb

Shikin ya chuishijji du kurasuru

English:

*Let's live helping each other in the world.*

One of the teachings of Okinawa's spiritual culture of helping each other after overcoming difficulties.

Source: *Ko mago ni tsutaetai shimakutuba. Kugani Kutuba. Okinawa Proverb. By Muneharu Zamami*

## HUOA Kariyushi Hour with Umichiru

Tune in to KZOO Radio (AM 1210) every Sunday from 4-6pm for Okinawan music, up-to-date news from Okinawa, and upcoming community events. The "HUOA Kariyushi Hour" starts at 4pm and features a great selection of both Okinawan classics and O-Pop, as well as special guests.



Radio **KZOO**  
AM 1210  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

## Uchinaa-guchi

(Okinawan language)

### Word of the Month

November

Shi-kin, *n.* The world; society; life

December

Chui-shijji, *adv.* Helping each other

(Excerpted, with permission, from the Okinawan-English Wordbook, by Mitsugu Sakihara, edited by Stewart Curry, University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu, 2006)

# HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Mark Your Calendar!*

# HOT

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

### Important notes for our January-February calendar entries:

- Any event not already canceled or postponed will be subject to change given the unforeseen actions that may be taken by the State and County, including entries marked 'TBD'
- All 2021 EC and BOD meetings will be conducted on ZOOM video conference until further notice

### January 2021

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY-Holiday Observed
- 6 Executive Council meeting, ZOOM Video Conference 7pm
- 16 Virtual Uchinanchu of the Year & Installation Celebration 2pm
- 27 Board of Directors meeting, ZOOM Video Conference 7pm

### February 2021

- 10 Executive Council meeting, ZOOM Video Conference 7pm
- 15 PRESIDENTS DAY- Holiday Observed

**IMPORTANT:** All entries listed below continue to be on hold until further notice

### Classes • Other Meetings at Hawaii Okinawa Center

- HUOA Sanshin
- Ichi Go Ichi E
- Ikebana
- Karaoke nite
- Monday Crafters
- Okinawan Genealogical Society mtgs
- Uchinaaguchi
- Subject to Change (entries as of 12/9/20)

Our new episodes premiere on the first and third Saturday of the month at 7 pm and repeat the following Thursdays at 5 pm on 'Olelo Community Media Channel NATV 53. No Hawaii Okinawa Today (HOT) show is aired on the fifth Thursday of a month. Our new shows are submitted in high definition (HD) format. 'Olelo currently offers HD programming on Hawaiian Telcom's channels 1049 and 1053.

All 'Olelo shows are streamed on the Internet at [www.olelo.org](http://www.olelo.org). Our latest shows are available on-demand on the same 'Olelo website at: Tune In; 'OleloNet Video On Demand; then search for keyword "Okinawa". The HUOA website [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org) has links to the site.

This TV schedule is also available on the HUOA website, which will be updated should any changes occur.

Because of the pandemic, 'Olelo has allowed us to show previously-aired shows in place of new shows. So, we are taking advantage of that, and you will see some re-runs of episodes that we hope you will enjoy. You may express your choices to email, [hot@huoa.org](mailto:hot@huoa.org).

Jan 2, Sat, 7 pm, Jan 7 & 14, Thurs 5 pm - HOT New Year Special. This show is the first Hawaii Okinawa Today episode for the New Year and features Jake Shimabukuro, Udui Haru, Requios, Daiichi Hirata, Mamoru Miyagi, Albert Shiroma and BEGIN.

Jan 16, Sat 7 pm, Jan 21, 28 & Feb 4 Thurs 5 pm - (Re-run) Show Twelve of the 25th Okinawan Festival held at Kapiolani Park in Waikiki on August 31 to September 2, 2007. This episode features Part One of the Rincken Band concert.

Feb 6, Sat 7 pm, Feb 11 & 18 Thurs 5 pm - (Re-run) Show Ten of the 35th Okinawan Festival held at Kapiolani Park in Waikiki on September 2 & 3, 2017. This episode features the Rimi Natsukawa concert.

Feb 20, Sat 7 pm, Feb 25 & Mar 4 Thurs 5 pm - (Re-run) Show Thirteen of the 25th Okinawan Festival held at Kapiolani Park in Waikiki on August 31 to September 2, 2007. This episode features Part Two of the Rincken Band concert.



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