



# UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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## 2020 Aisatsu Visit to Okinawa

By Patrick Miyashiro, HUOA President-Elect

This was my first trip back to Okinawa since 2006. I was pleasantly surprised by the greeting we got when we landed at Naha airport at 10 p.m. in the evening. There were members of the Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai (OHK): Akira Yamauchi, Choko Takayama, Seichiro Inamine, Asami Ginoza, Masaji Matsuda, Yoshimasa Nohara, Satoko Kaneshi and Lavern Higa with their sign welcoming us to Okinawa. My cousin Chiaki and her friend Anna



Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai (OHK), (L-R): Akira Yamauchi, Choko Takayama, Seichiro Inamine, Asami Ginoza, Masaji Matsuda, Yoshimasa Nohara, Satoko Kaneshi and Lavern Higa with their sign welcoming us to Okinawa.

we were also there to greet us. It was the beginning of a heartwarming trip that I will cherish in my memory.

The support that the members of OHK offered us was truly amazing. They helped set up our

Mayor Mikiko Shiroma and Governor Denny Tamaki. One of the highlights of the trip was presenting a check for \$100,000 to Governor Tamaki for the Shuri Castle Restoration Fund. It was a proud moment to share the aloha spirit of the people of Hawaii.



Patrick Miyashiro and Alberto Shiroma at RBC/QAB.

We also got to visit the Okinawa Prefectural Library, University of the Ryukyus, The Okinawa Times, The Ryukyu Shimpo, RBC, QAB (Ryukyu Asahi Broadcasting Corporation), singer Alberto Shiroma and Diamantes manager Mr. Satoshi Itokazu.

Meeting with family

and getting reacquainted with them was very nice. The surprise highlight of the trip was when Jon Itomura's friend, Tateki Higa, Managing Director and Executive Officer Operations of The Terrace Hotels, invited us to dinner with the Kokuba brothers who own the hotels and let us stay over one night at the hotel, including an exquisite Japanese breakfast! That was awesome! For the rest of the trip we stayed at the Sun Palace Hotel which is conveniently located near the center of Naha's government buildings and near the beginning of the Kokusai Dori Street. This was a wonderful trip that taught me so much about HUOA's deep relationships with many people and organizations in Okinawa.

schedule and drove us to most of our appointments. We attended a seminar presented by Paul Yonamine of Central Pacific Bank at the beautiful Naha Terrace Hotel.

Afterwards, Miki Makiya offered to take us on a tour of Koza City. We had light snacks, visited the NHK offices in Okinawa, and then went out to a splendid Okinawan dinner along with Mrs. Masami Kinjo.

Besides meeting Mayor Akira Uema of Nishihara (Lynn's ancestral village) and Mayor Masanori Matsugawa of Ginowan (my ancestral village), we had the honor of meeting with Naha



Shuri Castle Donation (L-R): Laverne Higa, Patrick Miyashiro, Jon Itomura, Governor Denny Tamaki, Lynn Miyahira, Akira Yamauchi, Choko Takayama, and Seiichiro Inamine.

MORE AISATSU PHOTOS ON PAGE 4

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# President's Message

By Lynn Miyahira



CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF UCHINANCHU IN HAWAII  
HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

Who would have thought that 2020 was going to be like this? These unprecedented times have caused an upheaval of our lives that many of us have never seen in our lifetimes. Times of crisis reveal character and the resiliency of our community is incredibly inspiring. We are more adaptable than we think and are capable of making sacrifices to protect our community – especially our *kupuna*.

A great example of this adaptability was demonstrated on March 25, when we held our very first virtual HUOA Board of Directors meeting. We had 50 of us on a video conference call and there was not a single complaint from anyone about using the new technology. Many of our Board members are in their 60s or 70s and I'm sure many of them had apprehensions about joining the online meeting. But even if they weren't sure how to use the new technology, they asked a friend or family member for help or they figured out a workaround. One club even had someone hold up the telephone to their computer screen for the whole two-hour meeting! That is dedication!

Every day people are finding creative and innovative ways to help each other and the Okinawan spirit of *yuimaaru* – communities helping each other – is alive and well. People like Shari Tamashiro are doing their best to mobilize the community to support family-owned restaurants that serve Okinawan food, like Sunrise, Hide-Chan and Utage, by ordering take out or buying gift certificates. As she put it, now is the time for *yuimaaru* and we all have to strive to be as "*yuimaaru-y*" as we can be! (Yes, I said "*yuimaaru-y*" but I have to give credit to Shari for that word).

Other ways we see *yuimaaru* in action is through our #Masks4ALL campaign. We have many crafty Okinawans who are working hard to make cloth face masks for their family, friends, coworkers and neighbors. Some made masks from old Okinawan Festival shirts while others are using beautiful Uchinanchu fabrics. As our community adapts to becoming more of a mask wearing culture, HUOA is planning an effort to make sure that everyone has a mask – especially our senior citizens who may feel very isolated right now. Stay tuned for more information about how you can help.

If you would have told me in January that the coronavirus would become a global pandemic that shakes our society to our very core, I would not have believed you. As many of our HUOA events for March, April and May have been canceled or postponed, the rest of the year still holds much uncertainty. However, we are still moving forward with planning our big events, like the Okinawan Festival, while we closely watch the rapidly changing COVID-19 situation around the globe. Understandably, many of us feel anxious about the future and the rest of 2020 will test our ability to be flexible and adaptable as we navigate uncharted territory.

One thing is for sure. Okinawans are a resilient people. We are stronger than we know. So, I ask that we remember to be kind to one another – especially to those in your own home who you may be spending more time with than usual. Let's do our best to share the spirit of *yuimaaru* to help everyone in need. We are all in this together. *Chibariyo!*

## #Masks4All - see story on page 6



Former HUOA President Tom Yamamoto and family used their aloha shirts from the last Uchinanchu Taikai to make their masks.



# UCHINANCHU

*Ippee Niffee 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 niffee deebiru* to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

### Uchinanchu Donors January 1 to February 29, 2020.

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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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# 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



The year at a glance!



**Any event not already cancelled or postponed will be subject to change given the unforeseen actions to be taken by the State and County.**

- June 12 Senior Health & Wellness Fair, HOC (TBD)
- June 22 Irei no Hi Remembrance, HOC (TBD)
- July 11 Wachimugukuru Katayabira (Kenton Odo's Dokuen Kai), Pearl City Cultural Center
- Sept 5-6 38th OKINAWAN FESTIVAL, Hawaii Convention Center
- Sept 7 Aloha Party, HOC
- Sept 19 Autumn Matsuri, HOC
- Oct 18 Legacy Awards Banquet, Hilton Hawaiian Village
- Oct 29 Uchinanchu no Hi Celebration, HOC
- Nov 28-29 Winter Craft Fair, HOC
- Dec 9 An Evening in Waipio Craft Fair, HOC

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



**H**aisai Gusuyo, Chuuganabira! So much has happened in just a few weeks. Just two months ago, Lynn Miyahira, Pat Miyashiro and I were in Okinawa to meet with government and business leaders. At that time, Okinawa was concerned about Shuri Castle restoration. We were concerned with inviting everyone to HUOA's 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Immigration celebration. With the assistance of numerous clubs, organizations and individuals,



Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai New Year's Meeting

and friends were excited about traveling to Hawaii to join us to celebrate the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, including Daiichi Hirata and Alberto Shiroma.

At the time, Okinawa had only three reported cases of the coronavirus. "Corona" was still just a brand of beer. The term "corona" (Latin root meaning crown or ring of light) is now more famous for the shape of the virus under a microscope.

Everyone was wearing masks in Okinawa and all the hotels and restaurants were very empty, but as of April 14, Okinawa had 76 cases and total cases of COVID-19 (corona virus disease 2019 or SARS-CoV-2) is nearing 8,000 in Japan.

Our Uchinanchu community thrives on interpersonal relationships and working together toward common goals, "Shinkanucha." Thus, it was very disappointing to see so many annual events cancelled. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hawaii Okinawa Student Exchange program will be postponed

raised over \$100,000 and presented this donation directly to Governor Tamaki. Many officials, companies, family

to 2021. Our 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala will be rescheduled. The Okinawa Children's Day camps on all islands have been cancelled.

The Hawaii Okinawa Center closed its doors to all activities and meetings following Governor Ige's proclamation to shut down all non-essential businesses. Even though our doors are closed, your HUOA employees and volunteers are hard at work. Clayton Uza and Gary Jitchaku continue to oversee necessary maintenance and repairs of the facility on a daily basis. Bonnie Miyashiro, Caro Higa and awesome volunteer Janice Kawachi are constantly busy on their keyboards from home. Elaine Johnston and Kaaren Takara continue to process donations, deposits and necessary financial transactions on an amended schedule. Our treasured gardeners are "essential" and cannot bring themselves to neglect upkeep of the HOC grounds and have continued their landscaping efforts but adjusted their schedules and have maintained social distancing practices.

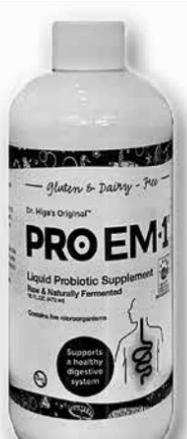
Good news! Upon learning about the proposal from the federal government to offer loans/grants to assist small businesses and non-profits through the Payment Protection Program ("PPP"), documents were prepared and submitted on the first day of the program.

We can only hope that normalcy returns sooner than later and, for now, planning will continue for Senior Fair and the Okinawan Festival. Many have learned to have fun participating in video conference meetings on ZOOM. Many participants probably cleaned their rooms and planned their video conference outfits carefully. COVID-19 has reminded us of the age-old lesson of appreciating what we have because we miss it when it is taken away. But, did you ever think you could walk into a bank with a mask on? *Minasama*, hang in there, keep safe, stay healthy...*Chibariyo!*

**"Even though our doors are closed, your HUOA employees and volunteers are hard at work."**

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## CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF OKINAWAN IMMIGRATION

### HONORING THOSE WHO PAVED THE WAY

Here's to our pioneering ancestors who immigrated to this country, seeking the American dream. With only their family name and the shirt on their back, they did what they had to do, so that we, their descendants, can do what we want to do today.

Each one of us has a story to tell about our family history ... and every story has a message. The one theme that runs through each of our stories, including that of the Kuba family, is that with resilience, grit, and determination our forefathers provided for their children a better life than their own.

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

Thus, the name "Kuba awamori" pays tribute to all immigrant pioneers who came before us, seeking a better life.

They were living examples of sacrifice, hard work, and never giving up in the face of adversities.

Each generation shoulders the responsibility to see the next succeed.

**Enjoy Kuba awamori with family, friends, and colleagues. Connect ... Share ... Build Rapport ... Heart to Heart!**

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# Aisatsu 2020



Governor Denny Tamaki presenting omiyage to Lynn Miyahira



Lynn presents HUAOA updates.



Visit to NHK



Pat and Lynn doing weather report at NHK



Seminar by Paul Yonamine



Article in the Ryukyu Shimpo newspaper: Hawaii's donation for Shuri Castle Reconstruction



## 'Warabi Ashibi' Summer Day Camps for Children Cancelled

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the cancellation of HUAOA's popular "Warabi Ashibi" cultural summer programs for children. Each of the planned camps – Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Hilo, and Kona (Kohala had decided to rest this year even prior to the announcement of COVID-19) based their decision on assessments made by their respective organizing teams.

Each camp's decision was not an easy one to make, especially considering the uncertainty of COVID-19 in the coming months. According to the program's statewide director, Karen Kuba-Hori, "Our camps understand its importance to our community. This program allows us to reach out to children and introduce them to our Okinawan and plantation culture. Our foremost concern will always be for the safety of our campers and volunteers. We ask everyone for their understanding and support. I would like to thank all the clubs and their camp staff for their commitment and contributions to our Children's Camp program. We wouldn't be able to celebrate our 25th year without you. On behalf of our Children Camp personnel, please take care and be safe. We hope to see you next year."

For additional information, please visit the HUAOA website at [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org), call the HUAOA office at 676-5400, or email at [occ@huoa.org](mailto:occ@huoa.org).

If you have questions about individual camps, please contact:

**Hawaii – Hilo**  
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[kurashige808@hotmail.com](mailto:kurashige808@hotmail.com)



# Be Counted, There's Still Time

April 1, 2020 was Census Day – a day that only comes around once every 100 years in the United States! And now, more than ever, we see the importance of the census. The data gathered helps to make key decisions on how federal funding is allocated to communities, including welfare programs, infrastructure and services like hospitals and schools. All households should have received an invitation and/or paper questionnaire to complete the 2020 Census. If you have not yet responded, there is still time! Be counted!

Did you know that old census data is available through the National Archives and can aid in genealogical research? U.S. census records are confidential for 72 years, including your 2020 submission, to protect the

reported on the latest data available from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2011-2015 American Community Survey. The article stated "Okinawans, with a strong network here in the islands, are at the top for socioeconomic well-being with the lowest poverty and unemployment rates at 3.2 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively, and highest median household income at \$87,938." It also reported that Okinawans were one of three ethnic groups with homeownership above the national average.

Responding to the 2020 Census will help us to obtain this kind of data and more importantly, help us count the number of Uchinanchu in Hawaii. When completing the questionnaire, you will be asked questions pertaining to race. To self-identify, select "Other Asian" and write in "Okinawan".



## How can I complete the 2020 Census?

Online, visit [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov)

- \* By mail – return the completed questionnaire in the envelope provided, or
- \* By phone – for English call: 844-330-2020, for Japanese call: 844-460-2020.

respondent's privacy. However, once 72 years have passed, you can search through individual census records from 1790 (the very first census) through 1940. The records are maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration. Visit <https://1940census.archives.gov/> to search through the 1940 Census records.

Besides aiding in genealogical research, census data can also provide valuable insight as to different groups of individuals in a community, including our own Hawaii Uchinanchu community. In an article, Marshallese in Hawaii struggling with poverty, according to new report, published by the Honolulu Star-Advertiser on March 31, 2018, author Kristen Consillio

## How has the 2020 Census plans changed due to COVID-19?

- For some households who do not receive mail at their physical residence, the Census Bureau plans to drop off materials at your front door as soon as possible, if you have not already received it. This will help ensure the best count of your community.
- Door-to-door interviews and follow-ups have also been delayed and will commence once it is safe to do so.
- College students who are temporarily home due to COVID-19 should be counted where they ordinarily would be living as of April 1, 2020.



For more information, visit [www.hawaiicounts.org](http://www.hawaiicounts.org) or [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov)

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# NUCHIBANA: 2020 LooChoo Identity Summit

By D. Yamagusiku

Using the *nuchibana* as the symbol of connections, the theme of the Sixth Annual LooChoo Identity Summit perfectly illustrated how relationships are intertwined. Connecting to our Okinawan heritage was explored from many different perspectives at the recent summit held at Windward Community College March 6-8.

Workshops and presentations that revealed our connections to our culture and ancestors; connections to place as a formation of our identity; and the benefits of connections to our community were some of the highlights of the summit.

We also learned how memories and stories can reawaken and reconnect us to special people and places, while also learning how the younger generation is reinventing connections through technology which allows us to connect to others in a very different way.

The summit provided all participants opportunities to engage in animated discussions often resulting in discovering connections to each other. People found connections to distant relatives, school alumni, co-workers, common friends and acquaintances. When sharing information about themselves, they were often interrupted with someone asking, "Oh, you know so-and so?" Or "My ba-ban did the same thing!" These connections generated much warm feelings, laughter, and a deeper appreciation of our shared identity as "*LooChoo nu Kwa*" - Children of Ryukyu.

The impressive presenters and workshop leaders – homegrown in the local Okinawan community – were Norman Kaneshiro, Eric Wada, and Keith Nakaganeku, co-directors of *Ukwanshin Kabudan*, which sponsored



Workshop discussion on "Connecting to Our Ancestors"

the generous sponsorship of local organizations and individuals. They constantly remarked on how impressed they were by the interest and knowledge that Hawaii people had about Okinawa; in many ways, much more than what

they learned in their own island home. These students became very energized to be advocates of their own culture and to perpetuate the beauty of the language, express gratitude to their ancestors, and show respect for their history and ancestral lands.



Musical concert by Ukwanshin Kabudan closed another successful summit.

The summit closed with a deeply moving

music concert by *Ukwanshin Kabudan*. Selected songs and narrative prelude of the story and meaning behind the songs shared by Eric Wada and Norman Kaneshiro served to connect the audience to the history and the thoughts and feelings of the Okinawan people as they experienced different events in their lives.

The *LooChoo* Identity Summit is usually held in mid-March. It is a unique experience that affects participants in many different and personal ways. The *LooChoo* Identity Summit proves that "to know who you are, you need to know where you come from."



Summit participants string together a *nuchibana* that represents the many connections we have to our community.

this summit; women of Hui O Laulima Wendy Yoshimoto, Jean Tsuda, and Gloria Kishi (also an OGS member), and Young Okinawans of Hawaii President Brandon Ufugusuku Ing and Vice-President Collin Hoo. Just as outstanding was guest speaker Kyle Kajihira, who led a very creative workshop to the delight of the participants.

Thirteen college students from Okinawa attended the summit through

Continued from Page 2

## #Masks4All – Show Us Your Homemade Masks!

What started as a call for help from its local community in the Czech Republic due to a major mask shortage has grown into an international movement for population-wide use of homemade masks

as a critical part in the fight against COVID-19. People around the world have stepped up to make homemade masks for themselves, family, friends, neighbors, essential workers and others in their communities.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), wearing a homemade mask can help slow the spread of the virus and help people who may unknowingly have the virus from transmitting it to others. It also helps to ensure that the critical supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are reserved for healthcare workers and first responders.

Many in Hawaii are also joining the effort to make homemade masks, so HUOA wants to track the number of homemade masks that our members have made. We know we have a lot of talented and creative Uchinanchu out there!

Here's how you can help:

- 1) Take photos of you or your family wearing your homemade mask;
- 2) Count how many masks you have made and give them to your family, friends, neighbors or coworkers;
- 3) Email the photos and number of masks you have made to us at [masks4all@huoa.org](mailto:masks4all@huoa.org). Please include your first name, last name and HUOA club.

If you received or purchased a mask from someone, feel free to just send us a photo of you sporting your mask. We will be sharing some of the photos on HUOA's social media pages. Continue to stay safe and healthy and let's make sure we have #Masks4All.



Kaaren Takara, HOC staff, used an old Okinawan Festival t-shirt for her mask.



Shelby Oshiro, member of Urizun Minyo Group, received a homemade mask from a family friend that was made from *bingata* fabric.

# Okinawan Genealogical Society's New Okinawan Immigrant Database

It has been almost 120 years since the first Okinawans arrived in Hawaii. For many, the familial bonds between their descendants here in Hawaii and their families in Okinawa have declined or vanished. Through the generations, many in Hawaii have forgotten or lost contact with their relatives from their homeland.

The Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii's (OGSH) mission statement is to "Promote, Preserve and Perpetuate our Okinawa family heritage through Education, Research and Networking."

To enable *Uchinanchus* here in Hawaii to discover their *Issei* forbears who emigrated here and beyond, a painstaking effort was begun in 2000 to translate official Okinawan government emigration publications, "Okinawa Kenshiro 1900-1911" and "Okinawa Kenshi Shirohen 1912-1926." The six-volume set contains emigration records of some 50,000 Okinawans who ventured out to over 29 countries around the world at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

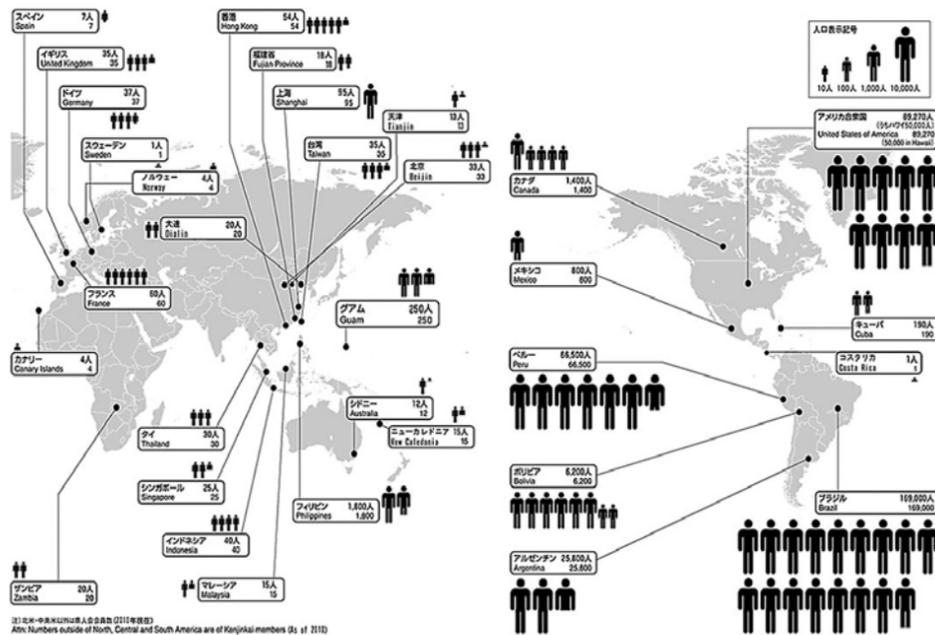
The initial task to translate only those who emigrated to Hawaii was spearheaded by June Arakawa and Nobu Takeno, with Ron Miyashiro developing the database which in 2005 contained about 4,000 entries. In 2005, Nancy Tome and Bob Kishaba continued the translation task with Sally Tsuda performing data entry into a new database developed by Steve Miyashiro which in 2011 had grown to 15,000 entries. With help of Carol Chun and Ryoko Yamamoto, the translation and data entry efforts continued. In May of 2017, the 17-year project was completed with the database containing 16,500 records of those who emigrated to Hawaii.

In 2018, Hiroaki Hara on sabbatical leave from the Okinawa Prefectural Library (OPL) in Naha arrived in Hawaii to enroll in the Master of Library

birth dates, passport numbers and dates, travel dates, the reason they emigrated, their home addresses in Okinawa and their destination countries. The effort was complicated by the fact that in a written Japanese name, there is no delineation (i.e. space) between the last name and first name – just a series of *kanji* and *kana* characters! Also, the vagaries of



OGSH database: Typical immigrant family. Used with permission from the Okinawa Prefectural Library.



OGSH database: Graphic shows where people immigrated to. Used with permission from the Okinawa Prefectural Library.

Science program at University of Hawaii, Manoa. In his possession was a computer file of the two publications noted above as well as additional emigre data. However, like the publications, this valuable digital resource was completely in *kanji*!

The challenge was how to translate this huge dataset of 50,000 records with each record containing 30 fields of information, such as their names,

Okinawan names with its multiple readings and subjective interpretations made the task challenging. In addition to people's names, city, town and village names had to be translated, some which do not exist today.

Building on the database framework of Steve Miyashiro and the translation efforts by Shigeru Yoshimoto, the new database was created by Al Toma using computer algorithms to separate the last and first names and to automate the translation process. Now, for the first time, this database is online and open to the public for anyone to discover their *issei* who went to seek their fortune in faraway lands.

What sets this database apart is that it contains both the original *kanji* and the *romaji* translation, so native Okinawans will be able to identify their *kanji* names even though the *romaji* readings are in question. Additionally, it can be searched in both *romaji* and *kanji* and it tries to direct search efforts by offering a list of names to select from. It can be accessed by going to the Hawaii United Okinawan Association (HUOA) website: <https://huoa.org/nuuzi/index.html>.

Looking at the statistics on the database, the Territory of Hawaii had the most immigrants (16,905), followed by Peru (9,955), Philippines (8,974) and Brazil (6,557). As well as South America and the South Pacific, they also emigrated to United States, Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Russia and China. Most were between 16 and 25 years old when they left home. The number of emigres peaked in the years 1906-1907 and 1917-1918.

And (no surprise here), the most common last names are Higa 比嘉 and Oshiro 大城. So if your *issei* relative was named Kame Higa, be prepared to peruse through 161 Kame Higas who went to eight countries or only 64 who came to Hawaii!

Now if your Bachan was Ushi Higa, the numbers aren't any better! 135 and 69. You may be also dismayed to learn that both men and women took on the names of Kame and Ushi!

So, if you are curious about the *Issei* whose hard work and sacrifice enabled us to enjoy the lives we live today, get on your computer or cell phone and join us in discovering our roots! Good Luck! 🍀

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# Ikuyu Madin

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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 \$5,925. 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.

### IKUYU MADIN KAI – 200 FOR 2M CAMPAIGN

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**T**hank you to the many members, friends and businesses that have responded to our 2019/2020 annual giving campaign. We are deeply grateful for the confidence you have shown in us by your donation dollars. Your donation allows us to create a bright future for the HUOA and Hawaii Okinawa Center. The new campaign received 652 donations, representing \$123,454.15. Together, our future will only be limited by our imagination. It is through your continued contributions that we are able to have successful cultural programs and upkeep our home, the Hawaii Okinawa Center. *Ippee Niffee Deebiru!*

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**Corrections to Issue #184 (Jan/Feb 2020)  
 "Preserving our Legacy"**

We received 641 donations, representing \$119,929.15, not 1,353 donations, representing \$249,781.97, as printed. We apologize for this error.



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# CLUB NEWS

*our clubs, our future*

## Kita Nakagusuku Shinnen Enkai

Kita Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai held its 2020 Shinnen Enkai luncheon at Masa's Cafeteria on Sunday, February 16. Over 100 members, students, children, friends, and performing artists got up early Sunday morning to attend the club's New Year's celebration.

David Arakawa served as emcee and did a fantastic job navigating a fun-



filled, high-spirited party. Special recognition was given to sisters, Brenda Pereira and Esther Zukeran – 2019 Uchinanchus-of-the-year, for their dedication and support over many years. Two new members – Derek Asato and Jean (Higa) Kop – were welcomed to the club. *Mensooree!*

Longtime dedicated Kita member Harold Yamauchi welcomed everyone and delivered a short prayer to bless the bountiful food prepared by Masa's. During lunch, club members and musicians Brandon Ing and Rich Kiyabu performed a repertoire of songs with guitar and ukulele.

Following lunch, HUOA President-Elect Patrick Miyashiro greeted fel-

## Hawaii Shuri Naha Club's Shinnen Enkai

To celebrate the Year of the Rat, the Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club held its 47<sup>th</sup> annual *Shinnen Enkai* on February 23 with a luncheon at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Over 100 family, friends and guests celebrated the New Year with fun-filled activities, appetizing food and first-rate entertainment.

Getting the party started with a bang was an *eisa* drum performance by Chinagu Eisa. Highlighting the morning portion of the program was the honoring of three members: club president Greg Kuwazaki received *Uchinanchu* of the Year; Pearl Wong, celebrating her 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday, accepted the Koki No Iwai Award; and Doris Arakaki received the club's inaugural Chimugukuru Award, which goes to the club member who embodies the Okinawan heart and spirit.



Doris Arakaki and Greg Kuwazaki.



Pearl Wong and Greg Kuwazaki.

Sensei Frances Nakachi Kuba performed the beautiful dance *Kajyadefu*, which was followed by her students performing *Hatomabushi*. Grand Master Kauzuko Sakuma, an expert teacher of poem recitation and song, executed an impressive rendition of *Hakuun No Shiro* and *Ningen Moyou*, and, keeping it in the family, son Atau sang *Katateni Sanshin*.

The *Akisamiyo!* Rock'N'Roll Band, a lively group led by Mid-Pacific Institute teacher Harry Masuda and four University of Hawaii students from Okinawa, passionately sang and danced the *hula* to an Okinawan medley. They even coaxed Ed Kuba to the stage to join in singing "My Way."

The party ended with the *Akisamiyo!* Rock'N'Roll Band bringing everyone to their feet with the customary, energetic *kachashi*. Another grand time was had by all. 🍷



low Kita members and guests and gave a highlight of HUOA activities in 2020. Club President Stan Higa was introduced next and thanked everyone who helped to plan the gathering. He encouraged everyone to continue their support of the club

and the HUOA, and urged them to get their children and grandchildren involved for the sake of the club's future.

Special recognition was given to the most senior female and male members in attendance: Yukie Oshiro, 94 years young and Mr. Roy Higa, 92 years young. Each was presented with a gift card from Zippy's Restaurant. Past President and Club Advisor Milton Higa gave the traditional "KARII" (toast) and wished everyone well in the new year.



The entertainment program featured Frances Nakachi Kuba Sensei of Tamagusuku Ryubu Dojo who performed a delightful repertoire of Okinawan *odori* backed by Afuso Ryu *Gensekai* - Senseis Shihan Grant Masandu Murata and, Shihan Kenton Odo on the *sanshin*, and Shihan June Nakama on the *taiko*. To top off the evening, Frances Sensei led everyone to *kachashi*.

**Reminder:** Kita's 2021 Shinnen Enkai Luncheon will again be held at Masa's Cafeteria on Sunday, February 21, 2021. It will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kita Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai, so mark your calendars to attend what is sure to be a special celebration. 🍷

## Yonashiro Chojin Kai Shinnen Enkai

Approximately 100 members, guests, family and friends of the Yonashiro Chojin Kai attended the 2020 *Shinnen Enkai* held at Masa's Cafeteria on Saturday, February 15. The club proudly honored and recognized all of the 80-plus year old seniors and expressed its appreciation for their attendance each year. One of the club's members donated a photo booth, which generated a lot of laughs, giggles and fun at the party. A good time was had by all! 🍷





# CLUB NEWS

*Our Clubs, Our Future*

## Tamagusuku Club Shinnen Enkai

### The Last Shinnen Enkai

The pandemic COVID-19 has changed so many aspects of our lives, including some of the longest held traditions of our Okinawan culture. Tamagusuku Club gathered at Masa's Cafeteria on Sunday, March 8, 2020. For us, it was a typical *Shinnen Enkai* with lucky numbers, a Chinese

auction (raffle), silent auction items, a bazaar including plants, vegetables, jewelry, household items and the greatest assortment of homemade desserts, pickles and preserves.

After club updates were given, David Jones, VP for Programs, provided the doings and plans for the HUOA. "DJ" then served as an impromptu emcee for the performances by students of Sensei Frances Nakachi's Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai. The great performances were followed-up by *kachashi*.

This was one of the best and most enjoyable *Shinnen Enkai* gatherings in recent memory. It's sad to think that the Tamagusuku Club's *Shinnen Enkai* may have been the last such celebration for member clubs of the HUOA in 2020, with the all the emphasis on social distancing and stay at home orders. It is also sad to think of the other programs and events that must be postponed or cancelled. Hopefully, this is a temporary condition and we'll be able to gather as a community soon. Please take care. 🙏



Tamagusuku's New Year's party was held at Masa's Cafeteria.

## Oroku Azajin Club Shinnen Enkai

Aloha from the Oroku Azajin Club! We had our 97<sup>th</sup> annual *Shinnen Enkai* in March. Along with the normal festivities and ono dessert spread, we hosted several guests from Aza Oroku and Aza Tabaru in

Okinawa. We were so lucky to be able to do all that before stay-at-home and visitor quarantines began, yeah?! I hope everyone is washing their hands and practicing social distancing... but still managing to stay connected. 🙏



Oroku's Keirokai members



Scott Arakaki and Clarisse Kobashigawa kachashi



Homegrown Oroku dancers perform!



Uchinanchu of the Year Fred Takara and Clarisse Kobashigawa

# CLUB NEWS

*Our Clubs, Our Future*

## Kin Chojin Kai Shinnen Enkai



Members of Yuhi Daiko in Kin Town performed at the Kin Town- Honolulu Friendship City Ceremony and at the Kin Chojin Kai Shinnen Enkai.

## Gushichan Sonjin Kai Shinnen Enkai

By Gail Watanabe

Members of Gushichan Sonjin Kai came together on February 22, 2020 to celebrate the New Year at their annual *Shinnen Enkai* at Masa's Cafeteria in Mapunapuna.

The evening began with the club's "Play for Beer Band" providing the music. 1st Vice-President Derek Uesato served as MC and greeted everyone. After indulging in the delicious New Year's menu prepared by Masa's, an assortment of desserts provided by members was enjoyed by everyone. President Gail Watanabe thanked everyone for their continued support and



discussed club business. The members voted to accept Gushichan's Revised By-Laws.

Gushichan was honored to have HUOA President Lynn Miyahira and HOC Executive Director Jon Itomura as guests. Lynn shared her message and discussed upcoming HUOA events. Jon Itomura shared updates on HOC and HOP. Derek Uesato was honored as Gushichan's 2019 Uchinanchu of the Year. Three 70-year-old honorees were recognized as well. A slide show looking back at the past year was created by Ken Watanabe and shared



Above: Kin members Misayo Nishimura, Keiko Nakata, Patsy and Harold Afuso celebrate their Kajimaya birthday with Mayor Nakama. Alex Hino holds Grandma Nakata's framed certificate from the Mayor.



Left: Toshiko Oki, 92, traveled from Maui to perform a number on the harmonica in honor of her brother Harold Afuso who celebrates 97 years!

Below: Jeannett Asada, Elsie Nakama, Alma Miyashiro, Alice Shimabukuro and Junko Ige also celebrated with the Kajimaya birthday honorees and members of HOCA.



with everyone.

Entertainment was provided by members and friends. Performing lively *sanshin* music and songs were Cassie Nakagawa, Naomi Oshiro and Mindy Oumi. Sisters Linda Hirokawa and Jenny Sakauye mesmerized the audience with their authentic Okinawan dancing.



For the past several years, Neil and Cassie Nakagawa have organized a craft activity for the children during the *Shinnen Enkai*. This year, the children made their own pinwheels with an Okinawan theme. Later in the evening, the children were invited to parade on stage with their pinwheels, much to the delight of their parents.

Another activity was taking a family photo with a Shuri Castle background built by Neil. Also, for a second year in a row, a silent auction was

*Continued on Page 13*

# CLUB NEWS

*our clubs, our future*

## Ginoza Shinnen Enkai 2020 and Kenshusei Visit

Ginoza Sonjin Kai held its annual *Shinnen Enkai* on Sunday, January 26, 2020, at the Pagoda Floating Restaurant. We started with a short business meeting to discuss the current state of the club with members. Next, Naomi Oshiro, one of the 2020 HUOA VPs, addressed our club regarding HUOA matters and installed Ginoza Club's 2020 officers. We then enjoyed a slideshow with highlights of last year's events, graciously put together by Rene Nakama, before the "main event" – lunch.



80-plus-year-old Ginoza Sonjin Kai members.

After lunch, per tradition, we honored our 80 years and over members. We then had presentations from three *kenshusei* – our Hawaii *kenshusei* from 2019, and two visitors from Ginoza. Our 2019 Hawaii *kenshusei* was Chelsea Shimabukuro, daughter of Sean and Linda Shimabukuro. She shared her experiences during the three months she spent in Ginoza Village learning about language and culture while reconnecting with her Okinawan roots.

*Continued from Page 12*

## Gushichan Sonjin Kai Shinnen Enkai



held. Items such as handmade jewelry, tissue covers, gift baskets, sake and printed bags with Gushichan's logo were some of the items donated by members. All of the proceeds received are used by the club to cover operating expenses. Before the evening ended, Jon Itomura was presented with a



cash donation of \$750, which was collected from the members that evening for the Shuri Castle Restoration Fund.



Ginoza Kenshusei Mugen Nakayoshi and Yuka Shinzato from Ginoza presenting gifts for the club to Ginoza Sonjin Kai President, David Shinsato.

Next, we had presentations from our two visiting Ginoza *kenshusei*, Mugen Nakayoshi and Yuka Shinzato. The two of them spent roughly a week in Hawaii on their way back from South America after visiting Ginoza clubs in Argentina, Peru, and Brazil. They performed an Okinawan dance, *Shiki Kuduchi*, before giving speeches and presenting gifts to our club. The party continued with games, door prizes, and a raffle game! Thank you to everyone who came out to our event and helped to take our *kenshusei* visitors around.



Ginoza members born in the year of the rat.

## Oroku Aza Jin Clean Up



1st Row (L-R): Alice Masutani, Ethel Teruya, (kneeling) Howard Takara, Valerie Teruya, Lorri Kajikawa, Clarisse Kobashigawa, Dustin Ebesu; 2nd Row: (black shirt) Rosemarie Love, Kim Chun, Jane Takara, Last Row: Nathan Taira, Darren Chun, Dexter Teruya, Bruce Yokochi, Brennen Tamashiro, Jason Takara, and Eileen Tamashiro. Missing: Thomas Kaaiai, Vernon Kajikawa, and Alison Ebesu.

## Ginowan Shinnen Enkai

Braving the emerging COVID-19 threat, more than 150 Ginowan Club members, extended family and friends attended the club's annual *Shinnen Enkai* on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center Legacy Ballroom.

Most people arrived well before the scheduled 11 a.m. luncheon. Morris Umeno's club display, Jay Higa's genealogy project, Christine Higa's Keiki Corner, calculating chances of winning a desired door prize, signing up for the 2021 Uchinanchu Taikai in Okinawa, buying t-shirts, socializing and snacking on pupus kept everyone busy while waiting for lunch service to begin. Everyone then gathered for a group photo before partaking in the delicious Hawaiian food prepared by A Catered Experience.

After lunch, emcee Ellen Higa began the formal program by introducing special guests and the Ginowan Board of Directors. A moment of silence was observed in memory of members who passed away in 2019. Ginowan President Sandy Nishimoto and HUOA President-Elect Patrick Miyashiro updated everyone on Ginowan Club and current HUOA happenings. Special recognition was given to Robbie Umeno, Ginowan's Uchinanchu of the Year, two 70 year olds, twenty-four 80-89 year olds and eight 90-plus year

*Continued on Page 14*



Nagoya University's School of Global Governance and Collaboration



visited HOC on February 25, 2020

Continued from Page 13

Ginowan Shinnen Enkai

olds. Stanley Higa and George Bartels closed the formal program by leading everyone in a hearty *Karii*.

A mix of traditional and contemporary entertainment followed. Corey Zukeran and Charlene Gima from Jimpu Kai USA Kin Ryosho Geino Kenkyusho, Hawaii Shibu performed four Okinawan dances. Their last dance, *Honen Ondo*, was originally created by Cheryl Nakasone Sensei for the HUOA Children's Day Camp in 2010. In this piece, the dancers carried *shiiisaa* puppets. Ginowan members Joy Schoonover played the guitar and sang *Uchinaa* and *Hana*, George Bartels sang *Nee Fai Yu*. A hilarious round of *Uchina Janken* and *Asadoya Yunta* sing along with Rimi Natsukawa rounded out the entertainment.

Lucky door prize winners were announced, potted orchid plant centerpieces were awarded to the most senior person on the table, and everyone was encouraged to *kachashii*.

Thank you to the *Shinnen Enkai* Committee from Aza's Aragusuku and Ganeku, Ellen Higa, Christine Higa, Garrett, Susan and Preston Iha, Kenneth Konishi (Konishi Farms), Lynette Logan, Sandy Nishimoto, Betsy Miyahira, Dean Oshiro, Joy and Mike Schoonover, Robbie and Morris Umeno and A Catered Experience (ACE).



80-99 year olds, Row 1, (L-R): Tom Tasato, Hatsue Momohara, Shirley Miyashiro, Owen Iha, Helen Iha, Harriet Chinen, Lorraine Funakoshi, Irene Ishiyama, Ethel Milner, Jane Nakamura, Alice Morisako, David Funakoshi, Helen Isono, Edna Oshiro, Betsy Miyahira, Nancy Arizumi, Judy Momohara, Matsuo Momohara, and Seihan Tamashiro. Row 2, (L-R): Daniel Zukemura, Stanley Higa, Shigeo Momohara, Hiroo Momohara, Janet Momohara, Carl Nakamura, Betsy Tamanaha, Thomas Tamanaha, and Janet Umemoto.

Two kenshusei from Ginoza Village visited HOC on January 28, 2020



Pictured (L-R): Jon Itomura, Mugen Nakayoshi, Yuka Shinzato, and Bonnie Miyashiro.

Gushikawa Commercial High School



visited HOC on March 5, 2020

Uchinaa-guchi

(Okinawan language)

Word of the Month

March

**chikaji•chun**, *vi.* [chikazuku] 1 To approach; get near; come [walk] up to; draw close to. 2 To get acquainted with; associate with; come in contact with.

April

**hisa-manchi**, *n.* [hizamazuku] Sitting straight; sitting square with one's legs folded underneath. **-sun**, *v.* To sit in a formal position with one's legs folded underneath.

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



## HUI MAKAALA FASHION SHOW CANCELLED, SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

*Haisai!* Due to the uncertain extent and duration of the global COVID-19 crisis, Hui Makaala has decided to cancel its Fashion Show Fundraiser scheduled for July 26, 2020, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom. Cancellation of this event was necessary to ensure the safety of our members and guests.

We will, however, proceed with our Scholarship Awards Program. The application and submission information can be found at [www.huimakaala.org](http://www.huimakaala.org). Applications must be postmarked no later than May 31, 2020. *Ippee Niffee Debiru!*

## Okinawan Proverb

Chosen by Brandon Ufugusuku Ing

### Awatiiru Naaka Utichiki.

English:

*Stay calm even when you are in a hurry.*

(Things turn out better when you don't rush; haste makes waste).

Source: *Kugani Kutuba. Uchinanchu ga tsutaeru kotowaza 200 hen*

Edited by Yuko Nakamura, Published by Ryukyu Shimpo

## 2021 Hui O Laulima Cultural Grant Applications

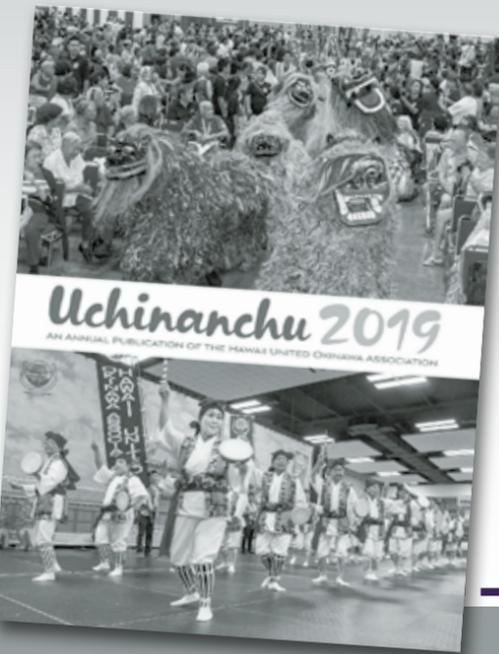
Hui O Laulima is pleased to announce that applications for the 2021 HOL Cultural Grant are being accepted. Grants and scholarships have been awarded by HOL since 1984 and total more than \$210,000. Hui O Laulima is a women's organization promoting Okinawan culture and true to its spirit of "giving a helping hand," has continued to perpetuate and preserve its culture by awarding grants to individuals and groups who share the same desire.

A few of the criteria for selection include:

- Interest in the study, perpetuation and promotion, including goodwill projects of Okinawan culture (music, dance, art, or other forms of artistic expressions), language and history;
- Leadership ability;
- Community service;
- Financial need;
- Overall potential for success;
- Clarity of goal(s);
- Two letters of recommendation from individuals other than relatives.

All prospective grant projects/activities should take place from January through December, 2021. Deadline for submission is July 31, 2020. The 2021 Cultural Grant application contains the complete list of the criteria for selection. Please direct inquiries and/or requests for application to Karen Fuse, Committee Chairperson, Phone: (808) 735-4523 Email: [kcfuse@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kcfuse@hawaii.rr.com)

## ORDER YOUR UCHINANCHU 2019 TODAY!



The Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) is pleased to announce the publication of Uchinanchu 2019, an annual compilation of vibrant, full-color photos from this past year's activities starting with the Installation and Uchinanchu of the Year celebration, lively Shinnen Enkai club parties, annual summer picnics, music and dance concerts and recitals, to name a few, not to mention the prestigious Legacy Awards, one-of-a-kind Okinawan Festival, newly completed Hawaii Okinawa Plaza, and much more!

Nothing captures the spirit and accomplishments of the HUOA quite like Uchinanchu 2019 a treasured keepsake that will help to preserve the many memorable moments that we shared in 2019 for generations to come.

The price is \$10 per book + \$5 shipping and handling. Clubs ordering 20 or more copies will qualify for a discounted price of \$7 per book. Arrangements can be made for books to be picked up from HOC once it reopens. Please send a check to HUOA (memo: "Uchinanchu Annual 2019").

## UCHINANCHU 2019 ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email or Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of copies *Uchinanchu 2019* \_\_\_\_\_ (@ regular price of \$10)

Club Orders: Please mail \_\_\_\_\_ (@ \$7 per copy) or Will Pick-up at HOC \_\_\_\_\_

(For HUOA office records, Do Not Fill.)

Rec'd Pmt: Y or N      Cash      Check #      Mail or Pick up      Processed by:

# HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Mark Your Calendar!*

\*Any event not already cancelled 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 2020 EC and BoD meetings will be conducted on ZOOM video conference until further notice.

## May 2020

- 5/26 Okinawan Festival General Meeting, Zoom, 7pm
- 5/13 Executive Council Meeting, Zoom, 7pm
- 5/26 Okinawan Festival General Meeting, Zoom, 7pm
- 5/27 Board of Directors Meeting, Zoom, 7pm

## June 2020

- 6/10 Executive Council Meeting, Zoom, 7pm
- 6/12 Senior Fair, HOC - TBD
- 6/22 Irei no Hi, HOC - TBD
- 6/27 UJSH Installation - Frances Nakachi Kuba (Pres)
- 6/30 Okinawan Festival General Meeting, Zoom, 7pm

### Classes • Other Meetings at Hawaii Okinawa Center

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

- HUOA Sanshin
- Ichi Go Ichi E
- Ikebana
- Karaoke nite
- Monday Crafters
- Okinawan Genealogical Society meetings
- Uchinaaguchi

Subject to Change (entries as of 4/5/20)

# HOT

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

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. All our 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: What's on; 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.

May 2, Sat 7 pm, May 7 & 14 Thurs 5 pm - Legacy Award Luncheon (Show 2) held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballrooms on Nov 2, 2019. Award honorees were Zenki Nakazato, Akira Makiya, Choko Takayama, Asami Ginoza, Arthur "Art" & Lorraine Kaneshiro, George Tamashiro and Roy Yamaguchi.

May 16, Sat 7 pm, May 21, 28 & June 4 Thurs 5 pm - Geijutsu Performance and potluck dinner featuring performances by Okinawa Geijutsu Cultural Exchange and Training Program students held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Feb 4, 2019.

Jun 6, Sat 7 pm, Jun 11 & 18 Thurs 5pm - 2019 Okinawan Festival (Show Four) held at the Hawaii Convention Center on Labor Day weekend (Aug 31 & Sept 1). This episode features (1) Hooge Ryu Hana Nuuzi No Kai Nakasone Dance Academy and (2) Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko.

Jun 20, Sat 7 pm, Jun 25 & Jul 2 Thurs 5 pm - Mirukuyu Nu Kaji - On the Wings of Peace and Aloha (Show 1). Fusako Shida benefit concert for the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Oct 27, 2018.



# Celebrate in 2020 with A Catered Experience

As the exclusive caterers to the Legacy Ballroom at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, we enhance the beauty of the venue with a diverse menu for your guests to enjoy.



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