



THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION
www.huo.org

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38th Okinawan Festival Cancelled

By Patrick Miyashiro, HUOA President-Elect

It was a very difficult decision to cancel our 38th Annual Okinawan Festival. The Executive Council and Board of Directors held special meetings to thoroughly review all considerations and impacts of canceling the festival. Ultimately, the decision to cancel the 2020 Okinawan Festival at the Hawaii Convention Center was due to the health, safety, and financial concerns related to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Currently, planning is underway for a 2020 Virtual Okinawan Experience. The four major components to be incorporated into the virtual experience are: 1. Performing Arts, 2. Food, 3. Online Marketplace, and 4. Education.

Lynn Miyahira and her Virtual Okinawan Experience committee have established preliminary ideas and timetables. HUOA clubs are invited to provide additional ideas and participants to develop this exciting new project. We are looking for expertise in the following areas: 1. Web Developers, 2. Graphic designers, 3. AV technicians, 4. Sound technicians. Once we have developed our general plan, we will be seeking assistance from HUOA clubs to help with manpower and supporting exciting pop-up events featuring such popular products as andagi and andadog. STAY TUNED! ☺



Central Pacific Bank Foundation Supports Virtual Experience

Mahalo to Central Pacific Bank Foundation for supporting the HUOA's virtual Okinawan celebration with a donation of \$25,000! As a long-time sponsor of the Okinawan Festival, CPB Foundation wanted to continue to support HUOA even during these tough times. Special thanks to Paul Yonamine (Nakagusuku), executive chairman of CPB and Catherine Ngo, president and CEO of CPB.



(L-R): Norman Nakasone, CPB senior vice president/manager and HUOA treasurer; Lynn Miyahira, HUOA president; Courtney Takara, HUOA assistant treasurer; and Jon Itomura, HUOA executive director.

2020 VIRTUAL OKINAWAN EXPERIENCE

We are looking for volunteers with expertise in the following areas:

- 1. Web Developers
- 2. Graphic designers
- 3. AV technicians
- 4. Sound technicians

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact Lynn Miyahira at info@huoa.org.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

38 th Okinawan Festival Cancelled	Page 1
President's Message	Page 2
Zoom Meetings—Part of the New Norm	Page 4
Executive Director's Message	Page 5
Ikuyu Madin	Page 6
Preserving Our Legacy/HOP Tenant Feature: DA Acupuncture Clinic	Page 7
Yuntaku Live!	Page 9
HUOA Masks4All	Page 10
Club News/Okinawan Proverb/Uchinaaguchi	Page 11
HUOA Schedule of Events/HOT Schedule	Page 12





President's Message

By Lynn Miyahira



As COVID-19 continues to reshape our everyday lives, we are also taking this opportunity to rethink how we connect with our HUOA community. For about three months now, we haven't been able to hold any in-person meetings or events, and for a community like ours that thrives on social interaction, this has been tough. But in the midst of this global pandemic, we have learned that we are resilient, adaptable and we will survive.

A great example of finding new ways to connect with our community has been our weekly "Yuntaku Live!" series that we started on April 14. The intent was to share live Okinawan music and performing arts with people during the stay-at-home orders using Facebook and YouTube.

Our first video was announced via email and Facebook less than 24 hours before it started and to our surprise, we had over 6,300 views, 3,868 engagements and over 85 shares. That initial video has now been viewed over 12,000 times by from people all over the world, including the U.S. Mainland, Japan, Philippines, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, Canada, India, the UK and Singapore, among many others. This new "Yuntaku Live!" show has extended our reach to include an international audience as well as kept our local community engaged and socially connected.

While we have started new programs, we have also had to cancel others. In early May we made the tough decision to cancel our biggest event of the year – the Okinawan Festival. While it was a difficult decision, we knew that it was in the best interest for the health and safety of our volunteers and attendees, as well as for the financial health of our organization. There were just too many uncertainties this year to proceed with such a large-scale event. We had an out-pouring of support when we made the announcement to cancel the festival and we appreciate the understanding from the community. We have now begun planning a new virtual experience to celebrate all things Okinawan and other alternatives for sharing our Okinawan culture with the wider community. Stay tuned for more details!

This is truly a year of hard decisions and uncharted territory. But the one thing I've learned is that adaptability and flexibility are key aspects that will help our community survive. As my karate teacher in Okinawa, Katsuo Shiroma sensei, used to say, karate is a combination of hard and soft: "You cannot go hard, hard, hard all the time... you have to know when to be soft and flexible, too." The lessons from karate (especially the deep breathing exercises) have definitely come in handy during stressful moments. I'm grateful for the foundation that my Okinawan culture gives me to handle difficult situations.

As we continue to face uncertainty about the future, please be on the lookout for more updates on how we are pivoting to meet the needs of our community. The quickest updates will be on our HUOA.org website, Facebook, Instagram pages as well as and our Purple Blast email news (sign up on the HUOA website).

Umanchu chimu awachi chibarayana!

All of us must put our hearts together and let's try our best!

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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. Uchinanchu reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

HUOA President Lynn Miyahira
Executive Director Jon Itomura
Editorial/Production Services MBFT Media: Arnold Hiura, Eloise Hiura and Hilma Fujimoto

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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.

Uchinanchu Donors March 1 to April 30, 2020.

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Please Kokua

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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Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ Home Tel: _____

Please make check payable to HUOA (memo: Newsletter Fund)
Include this form with your donation and send to:
HUOA, 94-587 Ukee St., Waipahu, HI 96797

2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The year at a glance!

Events are subject to change.

- June 22 Irei no Hi Remembrance (Online)
- July 11 Wachimugukuru Katayabira (Kenton Odo's Dokuen Kai postponed to 7/12/2021. For more info, visit <https://www.afusochiochikaiusa.com/>)
- Sep 5 & 6 Virtual Okinawan Experience (TBD)
- Sep 19 Autumn Matsuri, HOC (TBD)
- Oct 29 Uchinanchu no Hi Celebration, HOC (TBD)
- Nov 28-29 Winter Craft Fair, HOC
- Dec 9 An Evening in Waipio Craft Fair, HOC

Yuntaku Live! See page 9

Check HUOA website - www.huoa.org for more information.

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until further
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"Colleen's experience with the Federal, State and City levels of government offers Honolulu the most qualified person as Mayor."

MASA HIRAYAMA & KAREN SHISHIDO



"We feel assured that with Colleen as Mayor our children will have a better choice of returning home to comparable job opportunities, affordable housing, and safe communities."

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GRANT MASANDUU MURATA

"I chose to serve as Colleen's Honorary Campaign Chair because with her experience, leadership and decisiveness, she is the best candidate for Honolulu's Mayor."

ANN KOBAYASHI



"Colleen is a candidate of integrity, experience, and leadership. She has a love for our community and the people of Honolulu."

RANDY KUBA



"I am impressed by Colleen's ideas for our city. She has the qualities that will allow Honolulu to face future challenges and has the leadership to accomplish them."

DOROTHY SHIROMA HOE



"Colleen works closely, believes, and listens to the millennials as we will be the leaders of tomorrow."

DAZZMAN TOGUCHI



"During these unprecedented times, we need a Mayor we can trust, someone who knows how to navigate the State and Federal level, can maximize support for Honolulu, and lead us on a path to recovery. Only one candidate has that experience – Colleen Hanabusa."

JILL TOKUDA



"As a lifetime educator and loyal supporter of culture and the arts, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that Colleen has a teaching certificate in Japanese ikebana, plays the koto, performs tea ceremonies and is a great chef."

MARION ARAKAKI



"Colleen, a Yonsei, was born and raised in Waianae with both grandfathers' being interned at Honouliuli and New Mexico after the war. Colleen's involvement with the Japanese community, and our nation, has always been loyal, committed and patriotic."

JANE TAMANAHA AU



Zoom Meetings – Part of the ‘New Norm’

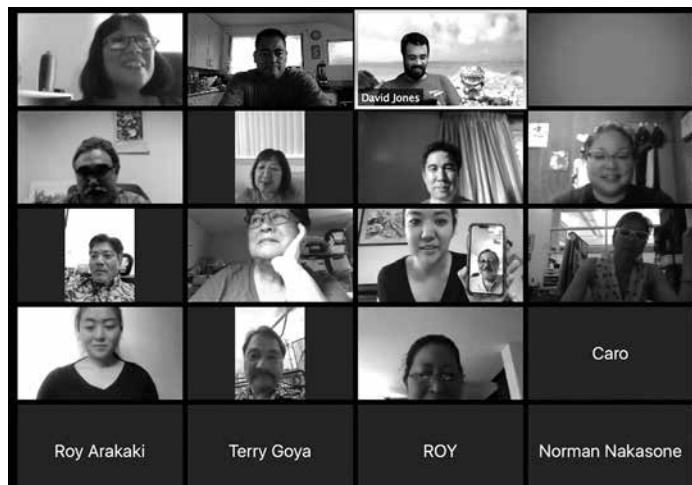
By Courtney Takara

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted how we live our daily lives. Towards the end of March, most of Hawaii was under a stay-at-home order, which meant not leaving the house, except for conducting essential business, such as buying toilet paper from Costco or dropping off two weeks' worth of groceries to grandma and grandpa's house. Many employees began working from home, as non-essential businesses were closed to the public, including the Hawaii Okinawa Center (HOC). This also meant cancelling all meetings and classes scheduled at HOC. As a result of these changes, HUOA leadership embraced technology and went virtual!

A Board of Directors' (Board) meeting had already been scheduled for March 25, 2020. Instead of cancelling, President Lynn Miyahira suggested using Zoom, an online video conferencing tool that she had begun utilizing at work. The week before the Board meeting, the Executive Council (EC) did a test run. EC members received an email containing a link to join the Zoom meeting using their desktop or laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones. A phone number was also provided for those who could only dial-in. We all quickly learned how to use Zoom, especially to unmute while talking, and enjoyed the “face-to-face” interaction that was now possible.

Club Representative and Ginoza Sonjin Kai President David Shinsato shared some helpful tips and tricks for using Zoom. As a professor at Honolulu Community College, it had become his new virtual classroom. David also took time to teach Club Representative and Hui O Laulima President Audrey Gibo and her officers how to use Zoom. Now, Hui O Laulima could conduct their own club meetings virtually.

On March 25, 2020, Lynn called the virtual Board meeting to order. There were over 40 participants at the Zoom meeting! While some could only dial-in, many others used a device with a camera allowing us to see their smiling faces. A few club presidents were nervous about being able to use Zoom, so they asked a representative from their club to attend, too, just in case. Mel Horimoto, President of Yomitan Club, had some technical dif-



HUOA Executive Council uses Zoom to meet virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ficulties; so, he quickly called the club's Vice President, Lea Ann Kakimoto, and she joined the Zoom meeting on his behalf while keeping Mel on the phone throughout the duration of the meeting.

After the Board meeting concluded, a few of us remained on Zoom to yuntaku (talk story). Lynn looked relieved and said, “I’m incredibly proud of our [HUOA] Board of Directors for participating in the first ever online Board meeting!” She shared her initial concern that many of our HUOA club presidents are in their 60s and 70s, so many were not familiar with this kind of technology. She had worried that it might be impossible to conduct our Board meeting online. “But they proved me wrong! Almost all of them figured out how to connect with very few problems. Many asked family or friends for help and I was happy to see our younger generations step up to assist,” explained Lynn.

A silver lining in all of this is the convenience of Zoom meetings! HUOA leaders can join from practically anywhere, making it especially easier for



our neighbor island clubs to attend meetings. Robert Kaneshiro, President of Hui Okinawa in Hilo, has joined us for every virtual Board meeting. And, we hope to continue utilizing technology to connect with all our neighbor island clubs going forward. Zoom has proved to be a useful tool that helps everyone stay socially connected while remaining physically distant. We look forward to being able to meet in person, but until then, we will continue to be flexible and adapt to the “new norm” of Zoom meetings. 🌟

The 120th Anniversary of Immigration: A Message from Oshiro Tatsuhiko

By Masato Ishida (Director, Center for Okinawan Studies, UHM)



Oshiro Tatsuhiko continues to be a widely respected writer and intellectual in Okinawa today. He was born in Okinawa in 1925 and has had a distinguished career as a novelist and playwright. In 1967, he became the first Okinawan to be awarded the Akutagawa Prize for his novella *The Cocktail Party*, the most prestigious prize in Japanese literature. In celebration of the 120th Anniversary of Immigration from Okinawa to Hawaii, Oshiro has a special message to the *Uchinanchu* community in Hawaii:

“Okinawan immigration to Hawaii started in 1900, or Meiji 33 if we go by the Japanese calendar. Since then, Okinawans in Hawaii have passed on their tradition generation after generation, leading to such prosperous success, which not only pleases me but makes me feel very thankful. I respect their hard, wonderful work. I am sure that in Hawaii interest in Okinawa remains high, and that more Okinawans will direct their interest to Hawaii, too. It is my hope that we flourish on both sides and continue to communicate with each other.”

Oshiro’s wide-ranging works illuminate the intricate geopolitical and cultural positioning of Okinawa and the Ryukyus, especially in modern times. His most famous novella *The Cocktail Party* was later adapted for the stage and was performed in English translation at the Hawaii Okinawa Center and the University of Hawaii at Manoa in October 2011. “The invitation to Hawaii for the play in 2011 was a great honor for me,”

he recollects. From 1983 to 1986, Oshiro also served as the Director of the Okinawa Prefectural Museum.

The Cocktail Party (1967, original plot): An Okinawan man, the protagonist, returns from a cocktail party at his American friend’s home on a U. S. base, not knowing that his daughter had been raped by an American serviceman who was renting a room from him. He struggles to sue the serviceman, who is protected by American law, while his Chinese friend, whose support he sought, reminds him of the wartime violence of Japanese colonialism against the people of China. Although discouraged on multiple fronts, the protagonist eventually resolves to sue the serviceman and watches his daughter participate in the police investigation. 🌟

Reflections: Irei no Hi in Hawaii

By Naomi Oshiro

“*Irei no Hi*,” known as Okinawa’s Memorial Day, is commemorated on June 23 each year in Okinawa. It is a time when individuals remember and honor the over 240,000 people, both military and civilians, who lost their lives in the Battle of Okinawa. The battle changed the destiny of the Island and her people forever.

In Hawaii, we commemorate this day on June 22. This year’s HUOA theme, “*Ukaji Deebiru*,” means, “With deep gratitude, I am what I am because of you.” It reflects how much those who have gone before us have left an everlasting impression on our lives today. This will be a virtual online event broadcast live on Facebook and YouTube.

The memorial will include a prayer by Reverend Nishiyama of Jikoen Hongwanji Temple. We will have live music performed by Grant Masanduu Murata, Kyoshi Shihan of Ryukyu Koten Afuso-ryu Ongaku Kenkyu Choichi Kai USA, and Brandon Ing. We will feature video clips of past events and stories from those who had experienced the battle.

Please join us online. Search for “Hawaii United Okinawa Association” on Facebook or YouTube to find the HUOA page. 🌟

Executive Director's Message

By Jon Itomura

Haisai Gusuyoo Chuuganabira, Ichariba Choodee! ("Once we meet and talk, we are family." I have heard, shared and lived this Okinawa proverb with pride. Going forward, however, the "new normal" will require us to wear masks, stand six feet apart, and limit the size of our gatherings! Our new normal includes new words like social distancing, pandemic, quarantine, asymptomatic, N-95, essential, and "YUNTAKU LIVE!"

The effects of the pandemic have created a harsh reality where no individual or entity is spared. Businesses are slowly reopening and the Hawaii Okinawa Center plans to reopen on Wednesday, July 1... but there will be changes. To address pandemic guidelines, all visitors will be screened and surveyed. They must wear masks and maintain social distance, and, until further guidance, no groups in excess of 10 people will be allowed to gather in the Higa building, Serikaku Chaya, and Teruya Legacy Hall.

The indiscriminate impacts of COVID-19 have created serious financial losses that will require a reevaluation of HUOA operations for the near term. During this pandemic, HUOA staff will be impacted, however, words cannot express my gratitude to staff for continuing to work from home and at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. In addition, a sincere and warm Mahalo for all the volun-

teers continually working to sustain the Hawaii Okinawa Center. I respectfully and humbly call upon HUOA supporters and friends to visit our website and consider the opportunities to contribute to the HUOA Annual Legacy Fund drive. Your support will help us work through the challenges that we will face in the coming months.

We will be focusing efforts on creating a virtual Okinawa experience with participation from our talented HUOA clubs, dedicated HUOA volunteers, and Okinawan performing art schools and individuals. The HUOA Monday Crafters are keeping busy creating beautiful Hawaiian and Okinawan themed protective face masks which will be featured on the HUOA website. Currently, plans are in the works to schedule *andagi* pop-ups!

Okinawa has also suffered the brunt of the pandemic as visitors to Okinawa dropped 91 percent in the month of April compared to 2019, although Okinawa has been able to keep unemployment rates below 4 percent versus Honolulu's 20 percent and the State of Hawaii's 23.5 percent.

Ippee Nihwee Deebiru for your continued support to enable HUOA to continue to preserve, perpetuate and promote the *Uchinanchu* community here in Hawaii. We must all endure a new normal, but we will succeed because we are and will always be "FAMILY." *Chibarayaa!* (Together we will not give up!) 



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.



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March 1 - April 30, 2020

HUOA sends a sincere *ippee nifee deebiru* to the following donors:

- David & Elaine Johnston
- Emmaline S. Kaneshiro
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Bridging from Generation to Generation - For Our Children!

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 \$6,215. 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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 In memory of Jane Serikaku
 In memory of Lillian Takata by Nago Club
 In memory of Sandra Tanabe by Nago Club





Preserving Our Legacy

Ippée Nifee Deebiru to the many supporters, friends and businesses who have responded to our 2019/2020 annual giving campaign. With your generous contributions we have raised \$127,554.15.

Due to the unprecedented impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, all of our HUOA fundraising events for the first three quarters of this year have been canceled or postponed. HUOA, like so many others in our community, will be facing many difficult decisions in the immediate future. Your contributions are appreciated and will be needed to enable HUOA to maintain our home, the Hawaii Okinawa Center, and continue to preserve, perpetuate and promote our heritage here in Hawaii. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and the confidence you have shown in us during this difficult time.

The following list of donors reflects contributions from March 1 to April 30, 2020.

GOLD (\$1000 - \$2499)

In honor of Derek, Elise, Jeannine Miura by Nancy Miura
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Mr. & Mrs. Uchima

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Yasuichi Oshiro
In memory of Shigeru & Soyo Serikaku by Ellen Ujimori
In memory of Judith Teruya by Norman & Betty Teruya
Anonymous

FRIEND (\$99 AND BELOW)

Janet and John. K. Oshiro
Lowell & Myrtle Terada
Kwynn Uyehara
Susan Ventura
In memory of James Katsumi Asato by June Miller

Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Tenant Feature: DA Acupuncture Clinic

With the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza completely leased out to tenants Dr. Allison P. Tran, DDS; State Farm agent Jeremy Dunaway; US Renal Care; Edward Jones; and acupuncturist Derek Asato; we will periodically share a little information about our tenants.

In this issue, we are featuring DA Acupuncture Clinic, owned and operated by Derek Asato. Derek is a third generation Uchinanchu, born in Tokyo, Japan, and raised in Hawaii. His paternal grandparents emigrated to Hawaii from Kitanakagusuku Mura. His grandfather, Eitai Asato, came from Aza Ogido, and his grandmother, Tsuruyo Asato (née Oshiro), from Aza Atsuta. Grandmother Asato was only 14 when she came to work in the sugar-cane fields of Mountain View on the Big Island of Hawaii and was nicknamed "Japan Small" by the Portuguese bosses there.

Derek grew up in Mililani, attended high school at Hawaii Baptist Academy, and earned an Oceanography degree from the University of Washington. After graduating from college, he conducted research on pearl oysters, clams, and shrimp at the Natural Energy Laboratory at Keahole Point in Kona. While living on the Big Island, he also played music professionally at various Kohala Coast hotels.

After 11 years on the Big Island, Derek moved home to Oahu to be closer to his relatives, who were getting on in age. In 2010, after a stint working on concert production for King Michel Concerts, he went back to school at the Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine and obtained his Master of Science in Oriental Medicine, Acupuncture, and Herbs. His acupuncture education included externships at the Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, and the Tianjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. At the latter, he became certified in the Xing Nao Kai Qiao technique for stroke rehabilitation developed by the renowned Dr. Shi Xue Min.

In addition to running his own acupuncture clinic, on the first and third Tuesdays of every month, Derek teaches the Hawaii United Okinawan Association (HUOA) *Ichi-go Ichi-e* class in the Chaya at the Hawaii Okinawan Center. The *ichi-go ichi-e* is a musical instrument conceptualized and donated to the HUOA by the music group Begin and built by Japanese guitar builder, K. Yairi Guitars. It is a hybrid instrument, combining aspects of the Okinawan sanshin and the modern-day guitar. Derek also serves as co-vice president of Kitanakagusuku Sonjin Kai.

Acupuncture works well to keep people healthy, prevent disease and regulate neurotransmitters. It can also be used to treat injuries, pain, PMS, menopause, shingles, anxiety, hypertension and many other dis-



orders. If you have questions about whether acupuncture can help you, please call the clinic to inquire.

DA Acupuncture is currently open and available by appointment, Monday through Saturday (closed Sunday). For safety, patients are temperature checked and screened for COVID-19 symptoms before entering treatment rooms, and rooms are routinely disinfected between patients. The clinic offers a treatment to modulate immunity to prevent the cytokine storm associated with COVID-19, and herbal formulas used in Wuhan, China for COVID-19 treatment are available for purchase. Most insurance plans are accepted (including HMAA, HMAA, UHA, Kaiser, Tri West, United Healthcare, Auto, and Workman's Comp), and discounts are offered for HUOA members. To make an appointment, call (808) 888-4409.



DA Acupuncture Clinic

Now open at the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza

Derek Asato | Licensed Acupuncturist
94-1042 Ka Uka Blvd Suite 203 | Ph: 808.888.4409

Acupuncture can help to treat

Anxiety	Hypertension
Arthritis	Insomnia
Bell's Palsy	Lower back pain
Carpal tunnel	Menopause symptoms
Common cold	Musculoskeletal disorders
Constipation	Plantar fasciitis
Chronic & acute pain	PMS
Drug Addiction	Stroke recovery
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Headache	...and MORE (call to inquire)

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leadership now more than ever.
Please vote for Mufi.**



Mayor Mufi attended and spoke on behalf of the Hawaii delegation at the 4th Taikai Festival. He was named Naha Honorary Citizen of Goodwill by then-Mayor Takeshi Onaga (pictured in photo) and the Naha City Council.

Yuntaku Live!

By David Jones

This year has turned out to be an unprecedented year with COVID-19 changing the world and shutting down events. It started with the cancellation of the Honolulu Festival in which HUOA was participating, cultural arts lessons ceased, club *Shinnen Enkais*, the 120th Anniversary of Okinawan Immigration event in May, and then the Okinawan Festival. During the stay-at-home order, we socially distanced ourselves, yet we found new ways to stay social and stay connected with each other.

The inspiration for *Yuntaku Live!* came from watching local artists like Alx Kawakami and Jake Shimabukuro performing live on social media from their own homes. Watching them play was really soothing and brought joy during these times of unrest. Since we are blessed to have so many passionate Okinawan cultural practitioners, we thought why not create an online platform for our Okinawa artists to share their art and joy with our community? Hence, *Yuntaku Live* was born and broadcasted our first live episode on Tuesday, April 14, 2020. We have been broadcasting weekly since then!

Yuntaku is an Okinawan word meaning to talk story or chat. The concept of *Yuntaku Live!* is like having a video chat by remotely patching in hosts and guests using their laptop cameras. The theme is also very casual to give our viewers the impression that we are all sitting in our living rooms and talking story. In addition, live viewers can post questions and comments in which the hosts can respond in real-time bringing a new level of interaction and engagement with our audience! For the audience, it really is like being at a virtual live event!

Kenton Odo Sensei of Ryukyu Koten Afuso Ryu Ongaku Kenkyu Choichi Kai USA was our first guest. He created a memorable first episode and set the tone of *Yuntaku Live!* In addition to getting to know him, he



Episode 7, featuring Frances Nakachi Kuba Sensei.

HUOA YouTube page. Click on the red "Subscribe" button and support HUOA at no cost.

so please tune in weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm! Also, past *Yuntaku Live!* shows are now being broadcast on Olelo Channel 53 as part of the Hawaii Okinawa Today Special. You can go to our HUOA Facebook page or website to get the latest schedule.



Episode 8, featuring Allison Yanagi Sensei.

How do you watch *Yuntaku Live?* There are two ways to watch the show live. On the day and time of the show, you can go to [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search "Hawaii United Okinawa Association" and look for our *Youtube Page*. Important: Once you go there, please make sure to hit the red "Subscribe" button which will support our HUOA *Youtube page*. There is no cost to subscribe. You can also view all the *Yuntaku Live!* past episodes there. The other option is to go to [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com), search "Hawaii United Okinawa Association" and look for "Upcoming Live Videos", but you won't be able to watch live without an account. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at our next *Yuntaku Live!*

WHEN: Tuesdays Weekly at 7:00 PM

WHERE: Hawaii United Okinawa Association *Youtube* and *Facebook* Page (search "Hawaii United Okinawa Association" on the respective website)

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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Kuba
awamori soju

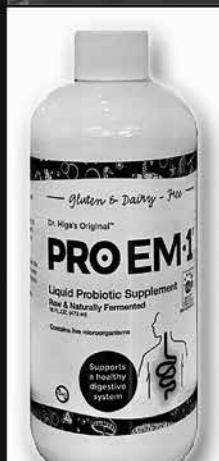
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WINNER:
S.F. World Spirits
Competition
2013 Bronze
Medal



Aloha Awamori and Kuba Awamori is available at these fine locations: Marukai Dillingham, Don Quijote (Kaheka, Pearl City, Waipahu), Tamura's Fine Wine & Spirits (Waialae, Aikahi, Aiea, Restaurant Row, Wailuku), Neiman Marcus Ala Moana, Tamura's Superette (Waianae, Wahiawa), JNJ Aiea, Times Supermarkets (all locations), Kauai Big Save Stores (all locations), Kauai Ishihara Market Waimea, Alan Wong's, Roy's, Chef Chai, Mud Hen Water, 53 by the Sea, MW, Tango, Panya, Pig and the Lady, Viagios, Arancinos (Kahala, Town), Pagoda Floating Restaurant, Kalapawai (Kailua, Kapolei), and Halekulani Hotel.

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HUOA Masks4All!



Kay Yonamine Tamashiro from Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club made over 40 masks. This is Laurie Libarios and her family wearing Kay's masks.



Beverly Taira and her husband from Oroku Azajin Club model the masks she made using fabric from Okinawa.



Donne Soga from Chatan Kadena Club made 400-plus masks for her family, her friends at One Kalakaua, and her Medicare clients.



Valerie Schmidt from Hui O Laulima (left), pictured with University of Hawaii Soccer Coach Michele Nagamine. After she gave masks to doctors, nurses, therapists, and seniors over 90, Val made masks for the University of Hawaii Wahine Basketball and Soccer Coaching staffs.



Kin Garden Volunteers Emi Kuniyoshi, Lynn Nakada, Yoshiko Kumura and Shige Toyama with masks sewn by Lynn.



VOTING DATES

July 9: Deadline to register to vote by mail at <https://olvr.hawaii.gov/>

July 21: Ballots begin to arrive in mailboxes

August 8: Primary Election

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GAMEMIYA
MAYOR 20/20

Aloha!

This is a momentous year celebrating 120 years of Okinawan immigration to Hawai'i. I'm very sorry that we can't come together at the Okinawan Festival or the summer picnics that bring so much joy and pride.

But we know the culture and traditions will remain strong thanks to the generations of families and elders committed to sharing your history, stories, dance, music, and food.

My name is Keith Amemiya and I'm running for Honolulu Mayor. After serving O'ahu as a lawyer, nonprofit leader, and business executive for 30 years, I'm running for political office for the first time because I want to make sure our kids can have a good life for generations to come.

As Mayor, my focus will be helping our economy recover while keeping residents safe and healthy, meaningfully reducing homelessness, and building more affordable housing. **I believe when we come together as one, we can solve anything.**

I humbly ask for your support and your vote.

**Ippee Nifee Deebiru!
Keith Amemiya**



Hui O Laulima 'giving a helping hand'

Hui O Laulima is ZOOMing! Believe it or not Hui O Laulima has entered the computer age. On June 6, Hui O Laulima held its first ZOOM Video Conference Board of Directors Meeting. Coordinated by President Audrey Gibo, 22 members of their Board were able to participate in the live virtual meeting. It was an exciting and historic day for the Laulima ladies, considering one-fourth of their 300-plus members have no email address. Can you imagine the possibilities for Laulima with this application? For now, they are looking ahead and considering a ZOOM General Membership meeting.

Unfortunately, like HUOA and our other member clubs, HOL had to cancel or put on hold their planning for 2020. It has been disheartening informing everyone about the cancellation of events "due to COVID-19." However, Laulima was able to have their New Members Tea on March 14 at Honey's



Laulima in session. Please note, photo on the top row, 2nd photo is Historian Cynthia Uza capturing this historic event for Hui O Laulima.



New Members with Audrey: Jeannene Oshiro, Kathy Wauke, Caroldine Lum, Audrey, Stella Tamashiro, Jackie Toma and Cynthia Pang

in Kaneohe (pre-COVID lockdown), and will continue its participation in the State of Hawaii History Day and their Cultural Grants program this year.

In 2019, HOL established with Hawaii Council for the Humanities the HOL Lorraine Toma Award to honor the memory of Charter Member Lorraine Toma. Supported by a generous donation from the Toma Family, the grant is awarded at the State of Hawaii History Day to the most outstanding project in Okinawan History.

This year, History Day was held virtually. Laulima is proud to announce

Okinawan Proverb

Chosen by Brandon Ufugusuku Ing

Kaagee kaa du yaru, chimugukuru deeichi.

English:

*Appearance is only skin-deep, the heart matters the most.
What is essential is invisible to the eye.*

Source: *Kugani Kutuba. Uchinanchu ga tsutaeru kotowaza 200 hen.*
Edited by Yuko Nakamura, Published by Ryukyu Shimpo.

Uchinaa-guchi

(Okinawan language)

Word of the Month

May

Kaagi, n. 1 Looks; appearance. 2 Shade

June

Chura-kaagi, , n. Beauty.

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

the 2020 recipient is a student from Mililani High School, Armaan Needles. Needles won for his play *"Racism in the Honouliuli Internment Camp,"* entered in the Senior Performance category. Laulima is especially excited as this project was selected to compete in the virtual National History Day. In addition, with the grant, Laulima presented Armaan, his teacher and school library a copy of their cultural/ cookbook *"Chimugukuru."*

Oroku Azajin Picnic Cancelled

In accordance with the decisions made by HUOA and guidance from the City regarding Ala Moana Beach Park, the Oroku Azajin Club's board of directors has decided to cancel the annual summer picnic, originally scheduled for July 19, 2020. But... mark your calendars! Sunday, February 28, 2021 is the next annual Shinnen Enkai luncheon at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club Update

By Greg Kuwazaki

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a lot of disruption to our daily way of life. Now, working from home and social distancing is the new norm. The Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club was one of the few HUOA clubs fortunate enough to hold its annual *Shinnen Enkai* before coronavirus guidelines came into effect.

Nevertheless, with many restrictions still in place, the club's board of directors agreed that the upcoming annual summer picnic scheduled for July 12 should be cancelled. It will be disappointing not playing games, eating watermelon, and seeing fellow members enjoy the laid-back and relaxed atmosphere, but this decision was one that had to be made. The health and safety of each and every member was the driving factor. Stay safe and we'll see you next year.

Speaking of next year, keep Sunday February 21, 2021 open. That's the day of our *Shinnen Enkai*. As usual, it will be a luncheon held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

Finally, as we navigate through this difficult time, we'd like to encourage everyone to keep in touch with their *utusui* – senior citizens. Give them a phone call and offer them a hand, pick up their medicine or groceries. They might just need someone to listen to their feelings of sadness, uncertainty or perhaps loneliness. Let's all work together, follow the guidelines set by our state authorities and we will overcome this pandemic.

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HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar!

Important notes for our July-August calendar entries:

*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

July 2020

- 7/7 Yuntaku Live! Episode 13
- 7/8 EC Meeting
- 7/14 Yuntaku Live! Episode 14
- 7/21 Yuntaku Live! Episode 15
- 7/22 BOD Meeting
- 7/28 Yuntaku Live! Episode 16

August

- 8/4 Yuntaku Live! Episode 17
- 8/11 Yuntaku Live! Episode 18
- 8/12 EC Meeting
- 8/18 Yuntaku Live! Episode 19
- 8/25 Yuntaku Live! Episode 20

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 meetings
- Uchinaaguchi

*for more information, please call 676-5400

**Subject to Change (entries as of 6/3/20)

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 'Ōlelo Community Media Channel NATV 53. No Hawaii Okinawa Today (HOT) show is aired on the fifth Thursday of a month. All of our shows are submitted in high definition (HD) format. 'Ōlelo currently offers HD programming on Hawaiian Telcom's channels 1049 and 1053.

All 'Ōlelo shows are streamed on the Internet at www.olelo.org. Our latest shows are available on-demand on the same 'Ōlelo website at: What's on; OleloNet Video On demand; then search for keyword "Okinawa". The HUOA website 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.

Jul 4, Sat 7 pm, Jul 09 & 16 Thurs 5 pm - 2019 Okinawan Festival (Show Five) held at the Hawaii Convention Center on Labor Day weekend (Aug 31 & Sept 1). This episode features (1) Jimpu Kai USA Kin Ryosho Ryukyu Geino Kenkyusho, (2) Matsukawa Ikuko Chorus Group (Okinawa) and (3) Shorin-Ryu Hawaii Seibukan.

Jul 18, Sat 7 pm, Jul 23 Thurs 5 pm - Mirukuyu Nu Kaji - On the Wings of Peace and Aloha (Show 2). Fusako Shida benefit concert for the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Oct 27, 2018. [NOTE: There is No HOT show on the fifth Thursday of the month, Jul 30.]

Aug 1, Sat 7 pm, Aug 6 & 13 Thurs 5 pm - 2019 Okinawan Festival (Show Six) held at the Hawaii Convention Center on Labor Day weekend (Aug 31 & Sept 1). This episode features Ryukyu Koten Afuso Ryu Ongaku Kenkyuu Choichi Kai Hawaii and Kachashi.

Aug 15, Sat 7 pm, Aug 20, 27 & Sep 3 Thurs 5 pm - Show One of Hui Makaala's 50th Annual Scholarship Fund Luncheon and Fashion Show. The event was held on July 21, 2019 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. Show One features Okinawan performances by Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii, Hawaii Okinawan Creative Arts, and Dazzman Toguchi. Also featured in this episode is Ho'ololi, the fashion designs and jewelry by kumu hula Sonny Ching.



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