



# UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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## Annual Event Celebrates Change, Affirms Continuity

By Arnold Hiura

Installation photos on page 1 by David Shimabukuro

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association's 62<sup>nd</sup> Installation and Uchinanchu of the Year Celebration was held on January 14 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. The annual affair was carried out with typically impressive HUOA efficiency, starting with registration and seating as the event's 830 attendees filled the ballroom. At 10 a.m., mistress of ceremonies, past president Laverne Higa, kicked off a program packed with entertainment, speeches, installation ceremony, awards presentation, and lunch buffet.

At first glance, this year's program might appear a lot like past programs—a slate of dedicated officers and advisors were sworn in by the Honorable Herbert Shimabukuro, 42 highly deserving Uchinanchu of the Year honorees were each recognized with warm ovations for their service, and Grant "Sandaa" Murata Sensei again led a group of talented musicians providing live musical accompaniment throughout the day. Sports awards were handed to the victors, and speeches delivered by a distinguished guest list of public officials, including Gov. Neil Abercrombie, Honolulu Managing Director Douglas Chin representing Mayor Peter Carlisle, and Consul General Yoshihiko Kamo. *Karii* (toasts) from and to the guests were offered by United Japanese Society President David



Arakawa and past HUOA president Edward Kuba, respectively.

While the program tends to follow a tried and true blueprint refined over time, the magical thing about the HUOA's Installation and Uchinanchu of the Year Celebration is that it always manages to be delightfully different, inspiring and filled with surprises. The popular saying goes, "The more things change, the more they stay the same," but in the case of this event it might be more accurate to say, "The more things stay the same, the more they change..."

Take the opening "call to celebration," for example. While we have seen a wide variety of Okinawan dance and taiko numbers performed before, the *meekata* presented by the Young Okinawans of Hawaii set a much different tone. Not unlike a male hula kahiko, a phalanx of unsmiling Okinawan warriors bearing staffs projected a sense of how truly formidable this culture could be in the face of adversity. The *meekata* was followed by an exuberant, playful and highly athletic shishimai perfor-



mance choreographed and performed by Jon Itomura and Eric Nitta. And, still later in the day, classical form and restraint were demonstrated in the dance movements of Sensei Frances Nakachi Kuba.

The program varies from year to year, demonstrating time and again the richness, variety and high artistic standards of Okinawan cultural practitioners in Hawaii. Organizers deftly contrasted youthful energy—including tiny dancers and taiko drummers barely larger than their drums—with the dignity and strength that only comes with age and experience. Ample doses of humor balance more contemplative—

even sad or somber—moments.

Variety is also mirrored in the faces of the Uchinanchu of the Year honorees. They inevitably reflect an even mix of men and women, young, old and in-between; some are Uchinanchu by birth, others at heart.

Each year, however, the program is most influenced by the spirit and personality of the incoming president, who places his or her unique stamp on the proceedings and sets the tone and direction for the year to come.



2012 HUOA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: (Seated, L-R): Japanese Language Secretary Kumiko Yabe Domingo, Executive Secretary Terry Goya, President-elect George Bartels, Jr., President Cyrus Tamashiro, Vice Presidents Janyce Miyashiro and David Jones, Asst. Exec. Secretary Sandra Yanagi. (Standing, L-R): Treasurer Steven Miyashiro, Asst. Treasurer Ron Tomasa, Immediate Past President Norman Nakasone, Advisors - David Arakawa, Lynn Miyahira, Mark Higa, Chris Shimabukuro, Paul Komeiji. Missing: Vice President Gail Haraguchi, Advisor Ford Chinen

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# President's Message By Cyrus Tamashiro



*Nourish Your Spirit!*

On Jan. 14, 2012, we honored 42 men and women from HUOA member clubs as Uchinanchu of the Year for 2011. Their backgrounds are as diverse as their ages. Some are in their thirties, while the most senior honoree is 94. They include teachers, health care professionals, bankers, government workers, attorneys, a contractor, a koto sensei and more. They help their clubs to run Shinnen Enkai, picnics and sports teams, actively support HUOA activities, and do volunteer work. They are living examples of individuals who demonstrate their Uchinanchu Spirit. Congratulations to all of the Uchinanchu of the Year and thank you for your unselfish dedication.

Let us also acknowledge and thank 2011 HUOA President Norman Nakasone for the superior work he and his Executive Council did for our organization of 49 member clubs. Norman is respected for his humility and sincerity, but he is also an excellent communicator with a keen financial mind. *Ippee nifee deebiru*, Norman, for your outstanding leadership and service.

Many of the initiatives began during Norman's term as President will continue this year, such as the installation of photo-voltaic solar panels on the roof of the Teruya Building for energy efficiency, preparing for the replacement of the central air conditioning chiller, repair of the air handling unit, waterproofing and other necessary projects. We will keep you informed of the progress of the work being done.

The HUOA theme for the year is Nourish Your Spirit! There will be many opportunities for all of us to do this in 2012. On March 4, join members of other HUOA clubs in the Honolulu Festival Parade in Waikiki. You may recall that at the 5th Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai in Okinawa, images of HUOA club banners were splashed in the Ryukyu Shimpo newspaper, on the Taikai website, and in YouTube videos. Be a part of the excitement of a parade in Honolulu by carrying a colorful banner, striking a paranku, or performing Eisa. Visit [www.HonoluluFestival.com](http://www.HonoluluFestival.com) or look at the announcement in this issue of Uchinanchu for more information.

On June 16, travel to Kahului for the annual Maui Okinawan Festival at the Maui Mall. It pays to be in line early for their pig's feet soup because the demand for this delicacy is very strong, even on sunny days. The Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai does a great job sharing Okinawan culture on the Valley Isle, with educational workshops and seminars following many of the live entertainment performances.

Hui Okinawa will be staging their biennial Haari Boat Festival on August 17 and 18 at Wailoa State Park in Hilo. HUOA club members are encouraged to see their club officers about putting together a crew of paddlers and enter the club competition. It's great fun, an excellent activity for club member bonding, and a significant cultural event. Experience is not necessary and age is not a factor as even men and women in their sixties have fun competing. On the web, visit [www.HaariBoatFestival.com](http://www.HaariBoatFestival.com).

The 30th Okinawan Festival will be held on Sept. 1 and 2 at Kapiolani Park, offering two days of continuous entertainment and activities for all ages. Young people love festivals, so this is a great way to build your membership by recruiting young adults to volunteer in various tents. Andagi, andadog, champuru, Okinawan soba... and where else in Hawaii can you get an Oki Dog? On the web, visit [www.OkinawanFestival.com](http://www.OkinawanFestival.com).

To really nourish your spirit, travel to Okinawa in October with the HUOA Study Tour. Participate in the giant tsunahiki contest at the Naha Matsuri, visit many important historical sites, immerse yourself in the magnificent culture of Okinawa. Details will be available soon by going to the HUOA website, [www.HUOA.org](http://www.HUOA.org).

Your 2012 HUOA officers, advisors and club representatives are an energetic and enthusiastic group. We are excited about the events ahead and look forward to having you join us in every adventure. Let's Nourish Our Spirit!



# 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 *ipppee nifee deebiru* to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

*Uchinanchu Donors November 16 to January 31, 2012.*

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**“The HUOA theme for the year is Nourish Your Spirit!”**

## 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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## 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 [huaa@huaa.org](mailto:huaa@huaa.org). Uchinanchu reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

- |                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
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| Executive Director .....            | Jane F. Serikaku |
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# UCHINANCHU SPOTLIGHT

## Spotlight: Robert Kishaba

Pages of documents are laid out on the table. Sheets of delicate rice paper are filled with magnificent calligraphy on them. There is a red seal imprinted on a corner. What are in these writings? Do they contain a secret message? These pages seemed to have been preciously tucked away in the corner of an old *tansu*.

What are these mysterious papers some of you have? *Koseki toubon*? *Chikudun Peechin*? *Kakeizu*? *Toshu*? *Chounan*? Most descendants of the first generation pioneers from Okinawa cannot read or know the significance of these pages. Perhaps they heard a story or two from their *Jiji* or *Baba*, or they could recognize their surname amongst the sea of brushwork. However, most inheritors of these documents have no idea as to what they are or their significance.

Our staff at the Hawaii Okinawa Center is well aware of this predicament because calls for help from the community to our office have not abated for these past 21-plus years.

Since the Center opened in June 1990, we have had diligent volunteers—many who are members of the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii (OGSH)—who regularly assemble at the Center to conduct research and assist callers with their inquiries. Our Spotlight for this issue shines brightly on Robert C. Kishaba, one of these volunteers.

Kishaba-san began his volunteer work at the Hawaii Okinawa Center in 2004. His fascinating personal story and work career are unique and would be a voluminous collection of experiences that would surely be a valuable resource for researchers during the early Showa years through the Battle of Okinawa, post war and reversion periods of Okinawa's history.

In 2002, after a long employment with various branches of the U.S. military in Okinawa, Kishaba-san and wife, Yoko, decided to retire in Hawaii. Both he and his lovely wife were originally from old families in Shuri, the ancient capital of the Ryukyuan Kingdom.

In 1930, just six months after his birth in Okinawa, Kishaba-san's mother and two brothers returned to California to join his father. Kishaba-san was left in the care of his maternal grandparents, Chooko and Tsuru Kawahira, and later single-hand-



edly raised by his grandmother. He attended the elite school of the time, Okinawa Kenritsu Dai-ichi Chuugakko, and was conscripted into the Japanese Army with his fellow classmates during the Battle of Okinawa. He survived the war and left Okinawa at the age 18 in 1948 to join the rest of his family in California.

Kishaba-san credits his grandmother for his command of the Okinawan language and knowledge of traditional customs and observances. Grandmother Tsuru could only communicate in *Suikutuba*, the ancient and complicated language of Shuri, and she kept watch over her precious grandson by having him accompany and participate with her in all of the traditional customs she upheld.

Asked why he became involved with the activities in our community and the Center, Kishaba-san replied that while he decided to retire in Hawaii, he had no relatives and few friends here. Therefore, he felt the best way to meet other Uchinaanchu was to join the kenjinkai. Since the HUOA does not currently accept individual memberships, Kishaba-san joined the Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club and the OGS. He found his niche to help our community through his volunteer and research endeavors at the Center.

In addition to his volunteer work in assisting members of the community, Kishaba-san uses his extensive knowledge of the Japanese language to review the Okinawa Times and, until recently, the *Ryukyu Shimpo* newspapers to find and translate articles relevant to Hawaii. He has assisted our office tremendously in translating official documents from Okinawa as well as our correspondences that require formal translations into Japanese.

Kishaba-san says that he is proud to be associated with the HUOA and the direction our organization continues to take in preserving, perpetuating and promoting the culture of Okinawa. He is concerned that with each succeeding generation of Uchinaanchu, if there is no external support and opportunities of the culture to be recognized, then the Okinawan culture, its history and language would dissipate and our identity would be lost forever. Kishaba-san feels that the HUOA and its leaders are on the right path to ensure continuity, which is the reason for his strong advocacy of the HUOA's Hawaii Okinawa Plaza project.

It would be impossible to tally the valuable time and efforts Kishaba-san has made as a volunteer to the HUOA. However, we hope Kishaba-san will continue to shine his brilliant illumination onto the HUOA. We also express our appreciation to Mrs. Yoko Kishaba and their children and grandchildren for sharing Kishaba-san with our organization. *Ippee Niffee Deebiru*, Robert C. Kishaba!

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Senjukai Hawaii students www.senjukaihawaii.com



"Hataraki Man" by HUAO leaders: George Bartels, Jr. Chris Shimabukuro, Cyrus Tamashiro, Norman Nakasone & Paul Komeiji



Continued from Page 1

## Annual Event Celebrates Change

Installation photos on this page by David Shimabukuro, Alan Isara, and Eloise Hiura

This year's event left no doubt in anyone's mind that Cyrus Tamashiro is very well-equipped to lead the HUAO's 49 active member clubs with a combined membership of more than 40,000 people.

In fact, some in attendance observed that Cyrus' term as HUAO president is long overdue. After all, he was one of the young Okinawans—mainly sansei—who participated in the seminal Young Leadership Tour to Okinawa sponsored by the Okinawan government in 1980. While many who participated in that tour have already served terms as HUAO president, Cyrus has patiently awaited his turn, raising his family, running his business, and serving the Okinawan community by taking leadership roles with the Nago Club, Young Okinawans of Hawaii, Hui Makaala, Okinawan Festival, and emceeding numerous events. Thus, while the demands of HUAO president are great, one gets the sense that Cyrus has already been there and done that, so to speak.

Cyrus delivered an inspirational speech based largely on his theme, "Nourish Your Spirit." He also showed he "no shame"—leading a hilarious dance number to the rousing *Hataraki Man*, complete with a "flash mob" sequence in which members of the audience appeared to spontaneously leap to their feet to join in the dance. And, last but not least, singing an inspired rendition of *Shimanchu Nu Takara*.

The day's program wrapped up some four hours after it began with the entire crowd dancing *Kachashi*. HUAO Executive Director Jane Serikaku could not help but beam with satisfaction when asked what her thoughts were on the day's proceedings. "We've been very, very fortunate to have had a string of great young leaders step up, immerse themselves in the Uchinanchu culture and take responsibility," she said, with a nod towards the stage. Without naming names, Jane was referring to recent past presidents Norman Nakasone, Paul Komeiji, Jon Itomura, Ford Chinen, Dave Arakawa and Laverne Higa, amongst others. "Cyrus will also be a great president," she concluded.

Indeed, Cyrus' theme of "Nourish your Spirit" is a fitting one for an organization that has worked so hard for so long—and still faces many more challenges ahead. For those who attended, the Installation and Uchinanchu of the Year Celebration did exactly that!





HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

*2011 Uchinanchu of the Year Honorees*

For a listing on the website, visit [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org)

- ☺ Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai ..... Abraham Tengan
- ☺ Aza Yogi Doshi Kai ..... Earl and Sue Shimabukuro
- ☺ Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai..... Jo Ann Takamiyashiro
- ☺ Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai ..... Tavia Shiroma-Oshiro
- ☺ Ginowan Shijin Kai..... Jane Nakamura
- ☺ Ginoza Sonjin Kai ..... Karen Watabu
- ☺ Gushichan Sonjin Kai ..... Earlyn Koizumi
- ☺ Haebaru Club ..... Natsue Oshiro and Faith Hamano
- ☺ Haneji Club ..... Herbert and Lillian Shimabukuro
- ☺ Hawaii Sashiki Chinen Doshi Kai ..... Hatsuko Gushiken
- ☺ Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club ..... Gayle Takamine Lau
- ☺ Hui Alu, Inc..... Susan and Harold Uyeda
- ☺ Hui O Laulima ..... Diane Kawakami and Thelma Lam
- ☺ Itoman Shijin Kai ..... David Uyehara
- ☺ Kin Chojin Kai ..... Jocelyn Ige
- ☺ Kita Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai ..... Stanley Higa
- ☺ Kochinda Chojin Kai..... Joy Yamauchi
- ☺ Kuba Rosei Kai ..... Edward and Dorothy Higa
- ☺ Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai..... Betty and Henry Yamashiro
- ☺ Nago Club..... Jane and Rod Martin
- ☺ Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai..... Clara Goto
- ☺ Nishihara Chojin Kai..... Mildred Kobashikawa
- ☺ Okinawa City-Goeku Son..... Pat Simmons
- ☺ Okinawa Genealogical Society of Hawaii ..... Steve Miyashiro
- ☺ Oroku Azajin Kai..... Pamela Webb
- ☺ Tamagusuku Club..... Ann Tshako
- ☺ Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai..... Cheryl Kaneshiro
- ☺ Urasoe Shijin Kai ..... Kameko Higa
- ☺ Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai ..... Valerie Kubota
- ☺ Yomitan Club..... Clayton and Ronlynn Arakaki
- ☺ Yonabaru Chojin Kai ..... Leroy and Marcia Taira
- ☺ Yonashiro Chojin Kai ..... Therese Nakadomari

# Lunar New Year Okinawa Fair at Shirokiya

By Janyce Miyashiro, HUOA Vice President

The long-awaited Lunar New Year Okinawa Fair was celebrated at Shirokiya in the Ala Moana Center from January 17-30, 2012. The two-week event featured products from Tomigusuku City, Okinawa. More than a hundred volunteers from many of the HUOA clubs signed up to help promote and sell the merchandise at the Fair.

The Okinawa Fair was first for Shirokiya in promoting the sale of products from Tomigusuku. HUOA partnered with Antenna Co., Ltd., which was commissioned by Tomigusuku City to provide international business support with two missions: (1) to make Tomigusuku City a more foreigner friendly place by providing information in English and Chinese and provide language classes to local businesses; and (2) to help local businesses expand abroad by taking their products overseas and promoting them.

A wide assortment of unique Okinawan goods were sold, such as "Ujizome" - sugar cane dyed products; "Sangozome" - a method of dyeing using coral to create beautiful patterned shawls, tapestries, and hand towels; beautifully handcrafted Hotal "Firefly" glass jewelry; Okinawan sweets; soba noodles; and Okinawan CDs and DVDs.



Larry and Masako Nishihara from Urasoe Shijin Kai volunteer at Okinawa Fair at Shirokiya.

Live uta san-shin performances were provided by Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai led by Sensei Grant Sandaa Murata on Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings to bring in shoppers during the two weekends of the Fair.



Grant "Sandaa" Murata cheerfully creates Okinawa Soba bowls for eager customers!

Sandaa Sensei also ran a concession serving delicious Okinawan soba and soki soba that were enjoyed by the many that patronized his booth.

HUOA would like to thank all of the volunteers that came out and helped in the spirit of Yuimaruu to

make the Fair a huge success. Ippe Niffee Deebiru!

## Have you seen the new chairs at HOC?

For those of you who attended the Installation Banquet in January, did you notice anything different about the ballroom chairs? Our group was one of the first to use the newly arrived chairs at HOC! In conjunction with A Catered Experience, 900 new maroon stackable chairs were purchased to replace the original chairs that we've used for over 20 years!

What happened to the old chairs? HUOA donated 400 of the old pink chairs to Jikoen Hongwanji Mission Hall and stored 300. Others were sold to various church groups and individuals.

About 100 chairs remain and for \$5 you can have your own piece of HOC at your home. If you are interested or know of any group needing inexpensive chairs in fair condition, please have them contact us at 676-5400 or huoa@huoa.org.

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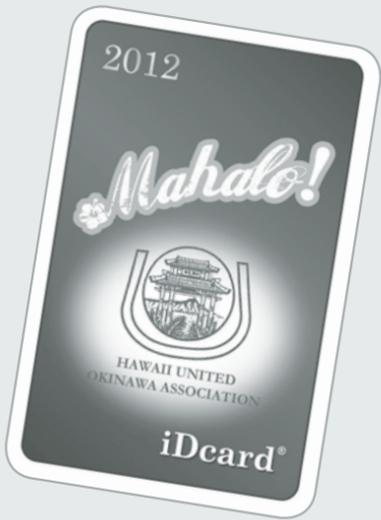
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For complete list of discounts, visit [www.islediscount.com](http://www.islediscount.com)

## SENIOR Health & Awareness FAIR

Hawaii Okinawa Center

Friday, June 22, 2012

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

The HUOA welcomes everyone to its annual Senior Fair at the Hawaii Okinawa Center in Waipio. For baby boomers, 50-plus seniors and their family caregivers, this FREE event is for you!

Join other seniors to learn more about what services and products are available to them at our Senior Fair.

**Want to be a part of the Senior Fair?**

Contact HUOA at 676-5400 or email [seniorfair@huoa.org](mailto:seniorfair@huoa.org)

Sponsored by Hawaii United Okinawa Association



# Save the Date!

**Second Eisa Drum Festival**  
**Saturday, May 12, 2012**

**Great Lawn of Kapiolani  
 Community College**

**5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Special guest performer:  
 Daiichi Hirata**

## Event is Free!



### Banner Carriers! Parade Marchers! Let's show our Uchinanchu Pride!

Hawaii United Okinawa Association  
 is invited to participate in the JTB Honolulu Festival Grand Parade!

**PARADE INFORMATION**

Date: Sun, March 4  
 Assembly Time: 3:30pm  
 Staging Area: Ft. DeRussey

Parade Start Time: 4:30pm  
 Parade Route: Kalakaua Avenue,  
 ends at Kapiolani Park



**WHAT TO WEAR**

Long black pants or black Bermuda shorts (length right above the knee) and any HUOA logo or your Club t-shirt. HUOA vests (*uchikake*) and purple sashes will be provided for banner carriers and marchers on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't forget to wear comfortable shoes and apply sunscreen!

**BUS SERVICE**

Free Bus Service to and from the parade courtesy of the Honolulu Festival. Schedule as follows:

Leaves Hawaii Okinawa Center	2:30pm
Leaves Pearl City Recreation Center	2:45pm
Leaves Jikoen Temple	2:50pm
Leaves Waikiki	6:30pm

**New special event this year: Nagaoka Peace Fireworks Show** following parade at Waikiki Beach. Those staying for the fireworks show must find their own return transportation.

**To participate and to ride the bus,**  
**please contact the HUOA Office at 676-5400 by Feb 24.**  
*Ippee Nifee Deebiru - Mahalo Nui Loa!*

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**TICKETS**

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# Bridging from Generation to Generation - For Our Children!

## *Ikuu Madin*

### A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

#### Hearsay ... She Say

By Jon Itomura

As 2012 unfolds, we enter into the sixth year of the Capital Campaign project and the big questions that always make their way through conversations include and are not limited to the following: ...”What is the current status? How far along is this project? How much more do we need to keep fundraising?” The primary concern for inquiring members being, understandably, “how much longer do we need to fundraise?” Typically, the easy answer would be to say “until we reach our goal,” however, that answer is not a good one. Tough fiscal conditions throughout the world and especially here in our local island economy has made it challenging to make ends meet for businesses, families, and especially non-profit organizations like our own HUOA. HUOA is especially challenged as we depend so heavily on those very same struggling businesses, individuals and families to keep us viable. But as time does not stop for anyone, bills need to be paid and likewise, money needs to be raised. HUOA’s sole dependence upon the continued generosity of members and businesses is no longer a feasible plan that can sustain the Hawaii Okinawa Center and HUOA services and programs into the near future.

So where does this leave the Capital Campaign? My answer...the success or failure lies in the palms or lays at the feet of the HUOA members and individuals within the local community who want to see the icon of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association remain a visual, symbolic and active representation of the Uchinanchu/Shimanchu community here in Hawaii. In order to be successful as a cohesive group, however, we must be sure to strive to seek out true and accurate information at all times. For good or for bad, there are usually very few individuals who are intimately familiar with such information and supporting data. Many others may have perspectives and opinions but everyone should always be cautious not to easily accept any particular opinion as the truth of the matter. Simply put, it should not come down to “he said, she said.” In order to think collectively and act cohesively, we must also speak with one voice if we want to see the dream of the Okinawa Plaza or any viable alternative.

What is critically necessary is to provide sufficient and consistent revenues to sustain the Hawaii Okinawa Center in lieu of a heavy and critical dependence on individual and business contributions as well as tireless volunteer efforts of many for various fundraising activities.

It has been a relatively quick five years and it is probably a good time as any to step back in time and confirm everyone’s recollection of the events in years gone by. On January 10, 2005, the HUOA Board of Directors (“BoD”) voted to authorize the Land Acquisition Committee (“LAC”) to be responsible for the land acquisition negotiations and coordinating a capital fundraising effort toward the purchase and improvement of the Ukee Street property (“Property”) across from the HOC; and for a budget allocation, authorizing the expenditure of up to \$300,000 to conduct due diligence and other matters for the purchase of the Property. Then, on May 30, 2006, the HUOA BoD voted in favor, by a very narrow margin, to purchase the subject property and continue the work on development of the Hawaii Okinawa Business Plaza opportunities.

Fast forward four years and we have experienced the following notable milestones despite the economic recession:

Land was acquired in July 2006 for \$3.63 M.

A \$3.5 M low interest loan to purchase land was received from U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Hawaii State Legislature appropriated \$1.6 M for the project.

Current balance of loan is now approximately \$1.7M

Land use zoning was changed from I-2 to IMX on May 6, 2010.

Total revenues received from fundraising efforts here and in Okinawa through individual and business contributions, annual events, special events and rental income are approximately \$9.6 M over the past five years. Total expenses for planning, construction, taxes, fees and administrative costs were approximately \$8.1 M over the past five years. The estimated market value of land is now approximately \$5.5M.

The immediate goal is to pay off the USDA loan. The 2010 and 2012 Donor Wall projects will hope to achieve that goal. The 2010 Donor Wall was a success and raised approximately \$800,000. The goal of the 2012 Donor Wall is to raise sufficient funds beyond \$500,000 of the remaining \$1.7 M needed to pay off the USDA loan and also allow some reserves for fees, taxes and maintenance costs. The capital campaign account balance is currently at approximately \$1.5 M so another \$1 M will allow us to pay off the USDA loan with a reserve. The Capital Campaign Committee will present a 3 – 5 year strategic plan to the BoD in 2012 to provide a proposed timetable which will consider the projected status of the fundraising effort and specifically reflect actual dates for the BoD to consider the alternatives noted back in 2006.

During the recent October 2011 trip to Okinawa for the Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai, leaders of the Okinawa-Hawaii Kyokai were adamant that we, here in Hawaii, renew our efforts to build the Okinawa Plaza. They want to support our efforts by initiating and coordinating efforts to raise private funds in Okinawa. They have been and still remain strong supporters of the dream to allow HUOA to be self-sufficient and to not become another victim to the fiscal crisis facing so many other non-profit organizations, but more importantly, they want to help Hawaii keep the doors of the Hawaii Okinawa Center open for many generations to come.

Therefore, I must repeat my prior message to all HUOA members. The mission going forward is to “Reinvigorate the Capital Campaign” project by instilling the spirit of “YUIMARU” (Coming Together) to breathe new life into the Land Acquisition fundraising effort. This can only be done by involving the HUOA club leadership at the most basic levels so that knowledge is open and shared. The “Clubs” must take ownership and responsibility in this effort to bring financial stability and support for HUOA. The concept is simple... one spirit-one mind. The clubs are HUOA...HUOA is a collective group of club members, there is no line of separation between “HUOA” and the forty-eight member clubs.

Going forward, we must remain united. The purpose of pursuing this dream is to relieve members and future generations of the constant burden to financially support the Hawaii Okinawa Center and HUOA programs. This is not a luxury add-on, this is an issue of survival. The Hawaii Okinawa Center arose 22 years ago as a result of a tremendous collective effort. We need that effort once again. Please join me and many others as we “Reinvigorate” this effort by having Clubs educate and support each other and develop a strategy to spur participation from others. If you would like to volunteer your expertise and time to assist with one of various committees, please contact the HUOA at 676-5400.

Keep in mind that how we work together as a community and what we do should reflect what we want to say. Do not let “hearsay” affect what we do. With One Spirit – One Mind, we can accomplish anything.

# Preserving Our Legacy

2011 TO 2012-ANNUAL FUND DRIVE



The Hawaii United Okinawa Association would like to acknowledge the following individuals, families, organizations and companies who have donated towards our annual fund drive. Our campaign, launched on October 29, has raised contributions totaling over \$119,000, representing over 980 contributors. We are truly grateful for your commitment to our culture and Association. *Ippee Niffee Deebiru!*

*Our list of donors below reflect contributions received from November 16, 2011 to January 30, 2012.*

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*Continued on Page 10*

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*Continued from Page 8*



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*Donations listed below were received from November 16, 2011 to January 30, 2012.*

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# Preserving Our Legacy

2011 TO 2012-ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Continued from Page 9



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Continued on Page 11



# CLUB SHINNEN ENKAI CALENDAR



The following contains information from HUOA clubs as of February 1, 2012.

Member Club	Date	Day	Shinnen Enkai Time	Location
Awase Doshi Kai	3/4/12	Sun	5:30-9:00pm	Pagoda Hotel
Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai	1/28/12	Sat	5:30pm	Jikoan Social Hall
Aza Yogi Doshi Kai	3/11/12	Sun	4:30pm-Registration 6pm-Dinner	Masa's Cafeteria
Bito Doshi Kai w/Osato Doshi Kai	3/17/12	Sat	11:00am-2:00pm	Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai	3/10/12	Sat	5:00pm	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Club Motobu	3/25/12	Sun	10:30am	Treetops Restaurant
Gaza-Yonagusuku Doshi Kai	3/10/12	Sat	5:00pm	Masa's Cafeteria
Ginowan Shijin Kai w/Urasoe Shijin Kai	3/24/12	Sat	5:00pm	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Ginoza Sonjin Kai	2/26/12	Sun	5:00pm	Ige's Restaurant & 19th Puka
Gushichan Sonjin Kai	2/25/12	Sat	6:00pm	Masa's Cafeteria
Gushikawa Shijin Kai	1/28/12	Sat	5:00pm	Masa's Cafeteria
Haebaru Club	2/19/12	Sun	10:00am	Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
Haneji Club	2/19/12	Sun	5:30pm-Dinner	Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai	3/25/12	Sun	10:00am	Masa's Cafeteria
Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club	2/26/12	Sun	10:00am-2:00pm	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Hui Alu	2/26/12	Sun	11:30am	Kauai Veterans Center
Hui Okinawa	1/22/12	Sun	11:30am	Anty Sally's Luau Hale
Hui Uruma	3/10/12	Sat	11:30am	Honokaa Hongwanji Hall
Ishikawa Shijin Kai w/Onna Sonjin Kai	2/18/12	Sat	5:00pm	Pearl Country Club
Itoman Shijin Kai	3/3/12	Sat	5:00pm	Masa's Cafeteria
Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai	2/12/12	Sun	4:00pm	Masa's Cafeteria
Kin Chojin Kai	2/4/12	Sat	5pm-Social Hour 6pm-Dinner	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Kitanakagusuku Sonjin Kai	2/19/12	Sun	5:00pm	Masa's Cafeteria
Kochinda Chojin Kai	3/31/12	Sat	5:00-10:00pm	Natsunoya Teahouse
Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai	2/25/12	Sat	4:30pm-cocktails 6pm-Dinner	Hawi Jodo Mission Hall
Kona Okinawa Kenjin Kai	2/12/12	Sun	10:30a-2:00pm	Teshima Restaurant (Kona)
Kuba-Rosei Kai	3/18/12	Sun	10:30am	Masa's Cafeteria
Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai	3/10/12	Sat	11am-2pm	Maui Okinawa Cultural Center
Nago Club	3/11/12	Sun	10:00am	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai	2/12/12	Sun	10:00am-2:00pm	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Nishihara Chojin Kai	2/4/12	Sat	4:30pm	Masa's Cafeteria
Okinawa City-Goeku	2/25/12	Sat	5:00-10:00pm	Natsunoya Teahouse
Onna Sonjin Kai w/ Ishikawa Shijin Kai	2/18/12	Sat	5:00pm	Pearl Country Club
Oroku Azajin Kai	3/4/12	Sun	10:00am	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Osato Doshi Kai w/Bito Doshi Kai	3/17/12	Sat	11:00am-2:00pm	Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
Tamagusuku Club	3/4/12	Sun	5:30pm-Dinner	Masa's Cafeteria
Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai	2/26/12	Sun	6:00pm	Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
Urasoe Shijin Kai w/Ginowan Shijin Kai	3/24/12	Sat	5:00pm	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Wahiawa Kyo Yu Kai	2/26/12	Sun	11:00am-2:00pm	Dot's In Wahiawa
Yomitan Club	2/18/12	Sat	5:00pm	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Yonabaru Chojin Kai	2/26/12	Sun	5:30-9:00pm	Masa's Cafeteria
Yonashiro Doshi Kai	2/18/12	Sat	5:00pm-Social Hour 6:00pm-Dinner	Masa's Cafeteria
Young Okinawans of Hawaii	2/4/12	Sat	6:30pm	Treetops Restaurant

\* "information provided by HUOA Member Clubs as of February 1, 2012"

## Preserving Our Legacy

2011 TO 2012-ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Continued from Page 10



Bert S. Yamanuha  
 Yoshiko Yano  
 Eleanor Yonesaki  
 Lawrence K. Yoshida  
 Wendy N. Yoshimoto  
 In Memory of Alice S. Afuso by Jane Afuso Matsui  
 In Memory of Larry Koei Afuso by Greg Afuso  
 In Memory of Richard & Katherine Ajimine by Harriet Ajimine  
 In Memory of Bushi & Uto Gibo Akamine by Takemitsu & Tomeko Akamine  
 In Memory of Doris K. Ginoza by Judy Ota  
 In Memory of Betty Hasegawa by Cheryl T. Kurashige  
 In Memory of Charles M. Higa by Wayne & Karen Higa  
 In Memory of Lois S. Higa by Wallace S. Higa  
 In Memory of Norma S. Higa by Agnes Yamaguchi  
 In Memory of Takehachi & Kiyoko Higa by Herbert & Elaine Higa  
 In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ushi Higa by Harry K. Higa

In Memory of Richard & Agnes Iha by Tod & Dianne Morimoto  
 In Memory of Yoshi Ige Ikehara by David Y. Ikehara  
 In Memory of Wataru & Nancy T. Isa by Kaaren Takara  
 In Memory of Chozen & Tsuruko Kameya by Katherine Sasaki  
 In Memory of Kamaji Kaneshiro by Masao Kaneshiro  
 In Memory of Fred Kishaba by Karen Tagawa  
 In Memory of Mrs. Kamado Kiyabu by Harry S. Kiyabu  
 In Memory of Stanley & Ethel Kogachi by Donald & Ramona Kogachi  
 In Memory of Kamado Koza & Helen Koza by Sue Miller  
 In Memory of Yoshinobu Kuwaye by Michie M. Kuwaye  
 In Memory of Noboru Miyashiro by Kimie Miyashiro  
 In Memory of Keo Nakama by Representative Barbara Marumoto  
 In Memory of Ryoetsu & Chiyoko Nakama by Janice Nakama

In Memory of Masayo Oshiro by Audrey Cordeiro  
 In Memory of Ushi & Kama Oshiro by Aileen Kawabe  
 In Memory of Stanley Osamu Owan by Mitchell Owan  
 In Memory of Shoyei & Uta Shimabukuro by Hiroshi Shima  
 In Memory of Teitsu & Yoshiko Shirota by Mr. & Mrs. Jackie K. Guillermo  
 In Memory of Chomei & Haruko Takara by Karen Takara  
 In Memory of Nancy Takasaki by Wilfred & Mae Ogomori  
 In Memory of Chiyeko Takushi by John G. Tamashiro  
 In Memory of Anne Taomae by Steve Taomae  
 In Memory of Shoichi & Lester Tengan by Doris Tengan  
 In Memory of Yukichi Teruya by Randal Mita & Iris Teruya-Mita  
 In Memory of Henry N. Tomisato by Ellen C. Tomisato  
 In Memory of Ayako Tomita by Isao Tomita

In Memory of Kenneth & Hazel Uehara by Keith & Tammy Yoshimoto  
 In Honor of Shizuko & Lionel Kaneshiro by Bernice Ishida  
 In Honor of Hanako Saito's 97th Birthday by John & Megan Koike  
 In Honor of Harriet & Charles Tamayori by Dean T. Tamayori

**OTHER**

George Agena  
 Sumiko Chinen  
 Masanobu Gusukuma  
 Nancy Hayashida & Gail Kaminaka  
 Alison Kane  
 Jane T. Kaneshiro  
 Gerald & Diane Kosaki  
 Peggy Okamoto  
 Amy Oshiro  
 Nancy Oshiro  
 Takashi & Keiko Oshiro  
 David U. & Lili M. Sakai  
 Kiyoshi & Irene Sakima  
 Jean Shimabukuro  
 Eric Shiotani  
 Mildred Tagami

# CLUB NEWS

*Our Clubs, Our Future*

## Ginowan Shijin Kai News

By Sachiko J. Nakamura

The Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai was held in Naha Oct. 13-16, 2011. Forty-seven Ginowan club members from Hawaii attended. Several months have passed but the connections with our ancestral home and the joy of meeting relatives are still etched deep in our hearts. The Taikai ceremonies and exhibits were awesome. Ginowan City held a welcoming reception for Ginowan emigrants and descendants from all parts of the world. There were people from Argentina, Peru, Brazil, the mainland U.S., Hawaii and elsewhere. Deputy Mayor Seiei Komesu presented gifts to Representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Hawaii. President Ellen



Hawaii Ginowan Shijinkai president Ellen Higa presents a gift to Deputy Mayor Seiei Komesu, with representatives from Argentina, Brazil and Peru in the background.

Higa presented Deputy Mayor Komesu with a gift from Hawaii. The Leinani Group of Ginowan danced a very beautiful hula in addition to the traditional Okinawan entertainment. Meeting other "Ginowanchu" from other parts of the world, the entire event is a night to remember.

The Ginowan Shijin Kai centennial anniversary and shinnen enkai will be celebrated together on Saturday, March, 24, 2012, at 5 p.m. at the Hawaii Okinawa



ProBowl volunteers. Kneeling: Lauren Suekawa, Christine Higa, Belinda Morton, Elaine Vega, Joy Schoonover, Lynette Logan, John Tasato, Leann Quarto, Janyce Miyashiro and Rodney Kobagura. Standing: Melvin Tasato, Ross Komagome, Sandy Nishimoto (chair), Michael Schoonover, Alan Kunihisa, Chad Wong, Wilma Ogimi, Steven Miyashiro, Gayle Wong, Patrick Miyashiro, Robin Miyahira, Karen Asato, Keith Tasato, George Bartels, Austin Tasato, Case Miyahira, Lily Miyahira, Kawehi Bartels and Doreen Bartels. Not pictured: Max and Shad Shinkawa.

Center. The Urasoe club has been invited to join us. Ginowan and Urasoe began as one in 1912. The clubs later separated. Janyce Miyashiro, general chair for the event, and her committees have been busily preparing for this significant event. Flyers have been sent out to members. If you did not receive yours, please contact your aza representative.

Claire Matsumoto and Wilma Ogimi undertook the awesome task of collecting recipes and family photos from members to create the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary memento cookbook. Copies will be available at the dinner. A feature of the entertainment program is a special anniversary slide show of Ginowan's past to the present. Families can gather for free family photos. Dances, taiko entertainment are also planned.

Sandra Nishimoto led a committee of hard-working volunteers to work for Happy



Three generations of the Owen Iha family (Iha and Campbell) attended the Taikai. Pictured at the legendary Morinokawa Hagoromo Pond in Ginowan are: mother Roxanne Campbell, next to daughter Briana with hands on shoulder of son Declan, youngest Liam. Father, Paul, is in center back, Eamon on extreme right next to grandparents Owen and Helen Iha. Others: John Tasato, Ellen Higa, Janyce Miyashiro, Julie Miyashiro, Shannon Higa, Larry Morisako, Tom Tasato and Alice Morisako.

Shirts and Progressive Marketing selling Pro Bowl souvenirs on January 29, 2012.

Vice President: Roberta Umeno is newly elected Vice President of the Ginowan Shijin Kai.

Other: Ginowan Shijin Kai members are involved in various aspects of HUOA activities. You may have seen Chris Higa and Ellen Higa busily working at the Shirokiya Okinawa Fair.

HUOA Installation: George Bartels, a Ginowan member, was installed as President-Elect at the Installation Banquet on January 14. Janyce Miyashiro, former president of our Ginowan Club, was installed as a Vice President and husband, Steven Miyashiro, Treasurer. Our members are undertaking heavy tasks as leaders in the HUOA and we will continue to support HUOA activities. The club needs the involvement of all members!

If you haven't participated in recent events, come to the centennial celebration and rekindle contacts. Transportation will be arranged if you indicate on the flyers. Thank you for the honor of being nominated Member of the Year 2011.

## Kin Chojin Kai Holds Shinnen Enkai

Kin Town's Vice Mayor Tatsuhiko Igei and his wife, Reiko, flew from Okinawa to attend Kin Chojin Kai's Shinnen enkai to honor Kin's Kajimaya (97-year-old celebrity), Tatsuo Ikehara, and 100 year old Jack Afuso.



Congratulations to Kin's 100-year-old Jack Afuso!



Kin Town's Vice Mayor Tatsuhiko Igei and his wife Reiko with Kajimaya celebrity, 97 year old Tatsuo Ikehara who is surrounded by daughter, Florence Ohnishi and son, Stanley Ikehara.

**MORE CLUB NEWS**

# 2012 Hui O Laulima Cultural Grant Awardees

By Karen Fuse

Hui O Laulima (HOL) is pleased to announce the 2012 Cultural Grant recipients. HOL, a non-profit women's organization, offers grants to individuals and organizations that promote and perpetuate the unique culture of Okinawa in our island communities. Each awardee demonstrated potential to promote and expand the influence of our vibrant and colorful Okinawan culture. A total of \$8,000 was awarded to 10 organizations and individuals. We congratulate and extend our best wishes to each of the following recipients for a successful year.



**1. Afuso Ryu Choichi Kai Maui** – Grant award to offset travel expenses for instructors coming from Oahu. Afuso Ryu began in January 2009 with six students studying Afuso style of Okinawan sanshin under the direction of Kenton Odo, sensei of Afuso Ryu Choichi Kai Hawaii. Currently, the school has grown to 15 students and have performed in Okinawa, HUOA's Okinawan Festival, and various venues on Maui. Each month, instructors Kenton Odo and Sean Sadaoka from Oahu travel to Maui to train this dedicated group.

**2. Chikako Igei** – Grant award to offset travel to Okinawa to take the Saikosho exam in koto. Chikako is a student of Yasuko Arakawa Sensei, director of Aki no Kai. She has performed at many concerts and festivals, including the HUOA Okinawan Festival and *Aki no Kai Nabiraki* recital. In 2009, she received her *Yushusho* certification in koto. An active member of Kin Chojin Kai, it has been her dream to be the first person in Hawaii to achieve the highest ranking *Saikosho* level in uta-koto.

**3. Eric Kobayashi** – Grant award to offset travel to Okinawa to take the Konkuuru (first level) certification test in Okinawa in August 2012. Eric is a student of Tamagusuku-Ryu Senju Kai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo. He hopes to develop skills as a dancer and someday become an instructor. He has performed in many community events, including Okinawan Festival, shinnen enkais, and dance recital "*Udui Kabuu*." Eric is a member of Kin Chojin Kai and teaches math at Farrington High School.

**4. Hooqe Ryu Hana Nuuzi no Kai (Nakasone Dance Academy)** – Grant award to offset expenses for their 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recital in Oct. 6, 2012. The Nakasone Dance Academy under the direction of Grand Master Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone has performed over 1,000 goodwill performances in the State of Hawaii. Sensei Nakasone was recognized by the State of Hawaii in 2006 for her many community performances and the HUOA as a Legacy awardee in 2005.

**5. Kin Ryosho Performing Arts Academy of the Ryukyu-Hilo** – Grant to offset travel expenses of instructor travelling from Oahu. Kin Ryosho was established 25 years ago by Earl Ikeda Sensei. They have performed in many venues throughout Hawaii over the years. Last year Sensei Ikeda moved to Oahu and Cheryl Nakasone Sensei from Oahu has been traveling to Hilo to continue the school's instruction. Both Sensei Ikeda and Nakasone trained under Master Ryosho Kin in Okinawa. The students wish to continue they training by learning *Kumi udui* – classical Okinawan dance-drama, of

which Nakasone sensei is the only certified instructor outside of Japan.

**6. Maui Okinawa Taiko** – Grant award to assist in the replacement and repair of the school's taiko drums and stands required for their upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary recital. Maui Okinawa Taiko (MOT) began in 1997 as part of Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai. They currently have 13 active members and have performed in numerous venues throughout Maui and the Okinawan Festival. MOT practices *kumi-daiko* style under their parent group, Mukaito Daiko of Kitanakagusuku, Okinawa.

**7. Nomura Ryu Ongaku Kyo Kai Hawaii Shibu** – Grant award to offset travel expenses for instructors from Oahu to teach Nomura Ryu uta-sanshin on the Big Island. Nomura Ryu was founded 45 years ago, to preserve and perpetuate the Nomura style of Okinawan classical music. Currently Keith Nakaganeku Sensei and Norman Kaneshiro Sensei instruct a Maui class on a monthly basis. Funding will be used to help them to teach on the island of Hawaii.

**8. Okinawa Minyo Kyokai Hawaii** – Grant to offset travel expenses for Sensei Wakugawa Akira from Okinawa to prepare Okinawan Minyo Kyokai Hawaii students for their upcoming recital and to train them for their next level of *uta-sanshin* certification. Okinawa Minyo has 39 members, ages 5 to 92 years old. On Oct. 28, 2012, they will hold their Nabiraki recital at the Hawaii Okinawa Center and is a branch of the Okinawa Minyo Wakugawa Akira Dojo and is directed by Derek Ichiro Shiroma Sensei.

**9. Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Kohala** – Grant to offset travel expenses to bring instructors from Oahu. RMD Kohala was established in 2008 under the leadership of Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai President Kathy Matsuda and RMD Director Akemi Martin. The group has 20 members and classes are provided free, four times a week. Performing eisa style drumming, they perform throughout the island and have performed at the Okinawan Festival.

**10. Shari Tamashiro** – Grant to offset costs to produce Kapiolani Community College, 2<sup>nd</sup> Eisa Drum Festival on May 12, 2012. Purpose of the Eisa Drum Festival is to highlight and introduce Eisa drumming to the community and to bring together performers from different performing disciplines to work together in the spirit of "*ichariba chode* – once we meet and talk even by chance, we are brothers and sisters forever." Eisa Festival 2011, attracted over 3,000 guests to the campus and highlighted over 100 performers.

Hui O Laulima is an active member of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

## Interested in Okinawan Eisa?

By David Jones, Young Okinawans of Hawaii

*Haisai Gusuyo!* It's a new year and Bon Dance season is not too far away! For over 30 years, it's been a mission of Young Okinawans of Hawaii (YOH) to bring traditional Okinawan *Eisa* to Hawaii Obon or Bon Dances to honor our ancestors and our community. In a nutshell, Okinawan *Eisa* is a form of performance filled with traditional chants, Okinawan *taiko* (drums), dance and music. The purpose of *Eisa* is to welcome and entertain our ancestors who are believed to have come back during the three-day Okinawa Obon.

You will see YOH along with live musical accompaniment from Ukwanshin Kabudan and Okinawa Minyo Kyokai Hawaii performing at various Bon Dances including the Okinawan Festival. We do our best to bring exciting drum beats, dance, loud *Eisa* chants, and heartwarming traditional Okinawan music to liven up the Bon Dances and while entertaining our ancestors. *Eisa* is really such a honor, fun, and educational experience for our members. We would like to share that experience with you!

We will be starting our weekly practices in March and are always looking for young and young-at-heart who are interested in Okinawan *Eisa*, drumming, dancing, music and culture. Our practices are usually held on Friday or Saturday evenings at Jikoen Hongwanji Mission Hall or Kilauea District Park. For more information, please contact us via email: [info@youngokinawans.org](mailto:info@youngokinawans.org). You can also find out more about our club and updated schedule on our website at [www.YoungOkinawans.org](http://www.YoungOkinawans.org). *Ipee Nifee Deibiru* for checking us out!

## Hui Okinawa Celebrates Kajimaya Honoree



A special Kajimaya celebration took place at Hui Okinawa's Shinnen enkai: 97-year-old kajimaya celebrity, Masako Uehara, enjoys the party with daughter, Kathy Okunami, and her husband, Tashiro Okunami. Mrs. Uehara is surrounded by her great-grandsons Kyle (left) and Koby Kosaki. Extending their congratulations are Yoshihiko Kamo, Consul General of Japan, and Cyrus Tamashiro, HUOA President.



**This is Your Newsletter**

Please send us your club news items and photos.

Email us at [info@huoa.org](mailto:info@huoa.org) Mahalo!



# SPORTS CORNER

## HUOA Invitational 14" Softball League Begins!

By Vaughn Arakaki

HUOA Softball League players are anxiously awaiting their first game scheduled for Sunday, March 4, at Halawa District Park. They will first be engaged in a field clean up day on Sunday, February 26, at 9 a.m.

There are 13 teams signed up to play this season: Aza Gushikawa, Gushichan, Gushikawa/Yomitan, Gushikawa Blue, Haneji, Hui Makaala, Itoman, Nakagusuku, Nishihara, Okinawa City-Goeku, Oroku/Kochinda, Tomigusuku and Urasoe.

Of course, all teams are going to do their best to beat last year's champs - Haneji. If you want to see our teams in action, spend your Sundays at Halawa District Park, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Check out our website for the schedule: [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org).

## Calling All Club Golf Teams!

By Ed Kuba, Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club

HUOA's Memorial Day Weekend golf tourney is set for Saturday-Sunday, May 26-27, Pali Golf Course. Winning the Jimmy Inamine Cup is the goal.

Last year, the Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club just managed to derail Nakagusuku Club's quest for its 14<sup>th</sup> straight club championship. If Shuri-Naha can win against the stellar Nakagusuku team, your club can, too!

The competition is based on the club golfers' five lowest net scores over two days, so you will need at least five players on your team, men and women included.

Applications should be coming out in March and can be obtained from HOC (676-5400, [bonnie-huoa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:bonnie-huoa@hawaii.rr.com)).



(L-R): Nelson Tamashiro received the award on behalf of HUOA Invitational Golf Champion, Mark Gaza; Ed Kuba proudly holds the coveted Inamine Cup won by Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club; Germaine Kiyomoto-Isara, HUOA Mixed Handicap Bowling League Champs - Katsuren Chojin Kai; John Kaneshiro, HUOA Softball League Championship - Haneji Club; and Larry Nishihara received HUOA Volleyball Champ trophy for Urasoe Shijin Kai.

### HUOA DONATIONS

November 16, 2011 to January 31, 2012

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



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Bev Dawson & R. Higa Ahrens                   | In Memory of Amy Y. Saito by Layton Saito       |
| Hawn Telcom's Ho-olaulima Volunteer Incentive | Larry S. & Nancy F. Yogi                        |
| Program for Doreen Miyasato                   | Young Okinawans of Hawaii                       |
| Jerry Higa                                    | Student Exchange Program                        |
| Clara Kajiwara                                | Hawn Telcom's Hoolaulima                        |
| Bruce & Monica Lortz                          | Volunteer Incentive Program for Doreen Miyasato |
| Stephen & Stephanie Lortz                     | Doreen Miyasato                                 |
| Lillian Wong & Sueko Hasama                   | Myron & Earlyn Koizumi                          |

**Kokua In Kind**  
Mark & Pamela Miyashiro



## Golfers - Save The Date!



### 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Hawaii Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament and Banquet

Pali Municipal Golf Course

Saturday, May 26, 2012 & Sunday, May 27, 2012

Awards & Banquet

Jikoan Temple

Sunday, May 27, 2012, 5:30 pm

Open to all members and guests

of the Hawaii United Okinawa

Association and affiliated

Okinawan clubs.

Golf applications available from March 15 at Hawaii Okinawa Center, [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org), public golf courses

Sponsored by Hawaii United Okinawa Association



# Let's sing Uchinaaguchi!

By Brandon Ing

I've been working as an AET (Assistant English Teacher) at Kanagusuku Elementary School in Naha City for about two years now. Recently, I wrote what I thought could be used as a children's song called "Let's Sing Uchinaaguchi!" I tried to create an Okinawan-sounding melody by using the sanshin, and the song lyrics includes basic Uchinaaguchi (Okinawan language) expressions such as *chuu uganabira* (hello) and *kwatchii sabira* (let's eat), with explanations of their meanings in English. My original plan was just to play around with the students during English class while teaching them some Okinawan words at the same time. However, after posting the song on the internet, it has gotten quite a bit of attention from family and friends at home in Hawaii as well as overseas in places like Brazil, and also here in Okinawa. (The two major newspapers here did stories about it, and I was also on a one-hour radio program to talk about it).



Brandon Ing (far right) with sixth grade students and teacher (second row, far left).

(check out [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org) for Brandon's song)

I finished the song last November, and when I first played it for the students, some got pretty excited, saying things like, "My grandma says stuff like that!" I'm really happy that the kids enjoy it. A couple of times, I've even seen one or two of the students start moving their hands to the rhythm as if dancing atchamee.

I started learning sanshin in Hawai'i (I'm 4<sup>th</sup> generation Okinawan on my mother's side), and I came to Okinawa to study Okinawan music and performing arts at the prefectural arts university in 2009. When my one-year program ended, I started teaching English at a public elementary school. Talking to other teachers, I realized that quite a few of them would also like to see Uchinaaguchi taught in the schools, but the most common excuse is that "there's no time." If that's the case, I thought, then I'll make time, even if it's only five minutes out of the English period. Kind of surprisingly for me, the other teachers also got really excited, some of them telling me I should make more songs as follow-up "lessons"—and that this is what Okinawa needs right now (so the language doesn't disappear). I've also heard some of the students say, "if this was on a CD, I'd buy it!" Cute yeah?

One day, when a 6<sup>th</sup> grader jokingly asked me for some money I told her, "*Neerandoo* (I don't have any)," but she had absolutely no clue what I was saying, even when I tried to use hand gestures. I bet if I answered her in English, I would have had a better chance of getting through. Why is it that their own language is so foreign to them? When we have the English lesson of "Where are you from?" pretty much all the kids answer, "I'm from Japan." Why is it that no one seems to have pride in being from Okinawa, in being Uchinaanchu?

Since small-kid time, my grandparents would always teach us that Okinawan is different from Japanese. In 2005, when I took the sanshin class at the University of Hawaii, through the song lyrics, for one thing, that's when it really hit me that Okinawa has a rich culture and deep history, as well as a beautiful language of its own. For me, this reemphasized how important it is to be aware, and proud of who we are.

After sending the song to some family members in Hawaii, my cousin apparently talked to our grandma about it, reciting some of the vocabulary she learned from the song. This made me, and also my grandma really happy. Up until now, she pretty much only spoke English to me, but now we try to use Uchinaaguchi with each other if possible, even if it's something as small as a greeting.

Thinking it would be nice to also have some visual images to go with the song, I asked my friend in Brazil, Shin (a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Uchinaanchu who was at the art university in Okinawa same time as me) if he could make an animation for it. He happily did so, with help of another friend, and that made the song even more

enjoyable for the keiki.

By request, and as sort of a way to thank my Brazil friends who helped me with the project, I recorded another version of the song using Portuguese instead of English. I've also recently finished a song for "Lesson 2", and my friends are excited to make an animation for that one too. (To be honest, at first I had no intention of making more than one song, but when Shin made the animation, he decided on his own to write "Lesson 1" in the title, asking me later, "There's going to be a 'Lesson 2' right?").

My hope is that these songs will make Okinawans everywhere, especially here in Okinawa, more aware of their roots, starting with the language. "*Nmari jima nu kutuba washin nee, kunin washiyun.*" (If we forget and lose the language of our home, we will also lose our home)--Okinawan proverb. 🇺🇵

## 25 High School Students Arrive from Okinawa

Led by Okinawa's Deputy Superintendent of Education, Mr. Kiyoshi Yamazato, 25 participants in the Phase I portion of the Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program will arrive in Hawaii on Saturday, February 25. Accompanying the students are: teachers' consultant Jun Shimada and English teachers Hiromi Niizato and Haruki Shimabukuro.

The visiting students hail from many different high schools in Okinawa and come from hometowns in Chatan, Ginowan, Kadena, Kunigami, Itoman, Miyakojima, Nago, Naha, Nanjo City, Okinawa City, Urasoe, Yomitan and Yonabaru. If any club members are interested in making contact or inviting students from your ancestral hometown for dinner or other activities, please call HUOA at 676-5400 or email [huoa@huoa.org](mailto:huoa@huoa.org).

The students will live with their host student and families from February 25-March 7. They will be visiting the Big Island March 7-9 and returning to Oahu for their last night—a sleepover at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. George Bartels, Jr., and Ford Chinen will be cooking breakfast for our guests on Saturday morning before they depart back to their homeland.

This is the second year that HUOA is responsible for the planning, execution and financing of the Student Exchange program. We thank those of you who have offered assistance and would appreciate any contributions to help us finance this program.

The second phase of this Exchange Program will involve Hawaii students traveling to Okinawa, where they will be hosted by the Okinawa Prefectural Government Board of Education and host families. 🇺🇵

## Junior Study Tour Program To Okinawa

Since 2001, the Okinawa Prefectural Government (OPG) has had over 300 participants in its Junior Study Tour program. We have received OPG's recruitment announcement for Year 2012. OPG is seeking overseas applications for 13 students ranging in age from 13 to 18 to join 15 other students for this great program to learn about Okinawa. A new addition this year is the selection of one (1) young leader from the pool of former Junior Study Tour students.

An important part of this program is a period of homestay with an Okinawan family (student's relative or acquaintance) from July 14-23. The actual tour will start on July 24 and conclude on July 30. The students and youth leader will return to their respective host families for their last night in Okinawa and leave their ancestral homeland on July 31.

Due to severe economic conditions in Okinawa, all overseas participants will be required to pay a maximum participation of ¥5,000 if selected to participate in the program. However, the OPG will cover the cost of a round trip ticket to Okinawa, all attraction and entrance fees during the tour. The host families will cover the lodging and meals while the students are in their care.

It's a wonderful program and HUOA is being invited to make recommendations for participants from our community. Please contact the HUOA at 676-5400 for more information. HUOA deadline: March 6. 🇺🇵

## Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language) Word of the Month

### January

**dari-yami, n.** An evening drink; sake drink accompanying dinner; a night-cap.

### February

**eeki, n.** 1 Richness; wealth; a fortune; opulence; affluence. 2 Member of the landed rich in rural areas. Also 'weeki.

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

## This is *Your* Newsletter

Please send us your club news items and photos.

Email us at [info@huoa.org](mailto:info@huoa.org) Mahalo!

# HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Mark Your Calendar!*

March 2012

- 4 Honolulu Festival Parade, 4:30 p.m.  
Followed by Nagaoka Fireworks off the shores of Waikiki
- 6 Executive Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- 7 Club Development & Member Sustainment Com meeting, 7 p.m.
- 9 Student Exchange Aloha Party/Sleepover
- 10 Okinawa Students Leave Honolulu
- 13 Programs Com meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14 Festival Com meeting, 7 p.m.
- 19 Communications & Information Com meeting, 7 p.m.
- 20-25 President Tamashiro & Capital Campaign Chair Itomura to Okinawa Aisatsu trip
- 27 Board of Directors meeting, 7 p.m.
- 28 Administration Com meeting, 7 p.m.

April

- 3 Executive Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- 4 Club Development & Member Sustainment Com meeting, 7 p.m.
- 10 Programs Com meeting, 7 p.m.
- 11 Okinawan Festival meeting, 7 p.m.
- 12 Taste of Marukai
- 16 Communications & Information Com meeting, 7 p.m.
- 25 Administration Com meeting, 7 p.m.

Classes · Other Meetings at Hawaii Okinawa Center:

- HUOA Sanshin: every Thursday, 7 p.m.\*
- Ichigo Ichi E: 1st & 3rd Thursday, 8-9 p.m.\*
- Ikebana: 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.\*
- Karaoke nite: 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.\*
- Kobudo Taiko: every Monday, 7 p.m., contact Calvin Nakama 224-7374
- Monday Crafters: every Monday, 9 a.m.\*
- Okinawan Genealogical Society mtg: 3rd Saturday, 9 a.m.\*
- Uchinaaguchi: every 4th Thursday, 7 p.m.\*

\*for more information, please call 676-5400

\*\*Subject to Change\*\* (entries as of 1/31/12)

# HOT

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

NOTE: Time slots on Olelo remain the same time in 2012 as last year. The regular airtime for our HOTA shows is on every Saturday at 5 p.m. In addition to this time slot, we also premiere new shows on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. These premiere shows are also shown on the Saturday of the same week. Our shows can be viewed on Oceanic Channel 53, as well as streaming on the Internet from the Olelo Web site. Some of the latest HOTA shows are available on the Internet on OleloNet On Demand.

Mar 3, Sat, 5 p.m. — Part Two of "Hokori"- A special performance by Hooge Kai, Nakasone Dance Academy at the Okinawa Prefectural Dance Theater in Naha, Okinawa, on June 15, 2001, in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Reversion of Okinawa to Japan.

Mar 5, Mon, 7 p.m. (Premiere) & Mar 10, Sat, 5 p.m. — Part One of Churasa, a group of Okinawan drum dance artists. A performance hosted by Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai in the Manoa Grand Ballroom at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii on Friday, March 11, 2011.

Mar 17, Sat, 5 p.m. — Part One of "Umanchu Suruti Utati Uduyabira," presented by Taiko Tae no Kai Zukeran Kaoru Kenkyusho at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on November 7, 2004.

Mar 19, Mon, 7 p.m. (Premiere) & Mar 24, Sat, 5 p.m. — Part One of the HUOA 62nd Installation & Uchinanchu of the Year Celebration, held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on January 14, 2012.

Mar 31, Sat, 5 p.m. — Part Two of "Umanchu Suruti Utati Uduyabira," presented by Taiko Tae no Kai Zukeran Kaoru Kenkyusho at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on November 7, 2004.

Apr 2, Mon, 7 p.m. (Premiere) & Apr 7, Sat, 5 p.m. — Part Two of "Miruku Yu Nu Nauri" -Blossoming Petals of Peace; presented by Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai - Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall on November 2, 2003.

Apr 14, Sat, 5 p.m. — Show #1 of the HUOA 2005 Legacy Awards Luncheon at the Waikiki Sheraton Hotel on August 21, 2005. This episode features honorees Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone and Wallace Takeshi Teruya.

Apr 16, Mon, 7 p.m. (Premiere) & Apr 21, Sat, 5 p.m. — Part Two of the HUOA 62nd Installation & Uchinanchu of the Year Celebration, held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on January 14, 2012.

Apr 28, Sat, 5 p.m. — Show #2 of the HUOA 2005 Legacy Awards Luncheon at the Waikiki Sheraton Hotel on August 21, 2005. This episode features honorees Zempun and Tsuru Arakawa Family, Charles and Francis Higa, and Yoshino Majikina Nakasone.

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