



# UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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## Diverse Crowd of 70,000 Enjoys 30<sup>th</sup> Okinawan Festival



**E**very year, thousands of Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart celebrate all things Okinawan at the Okinawan Festival at Kapiolani Park. As part of the grant requirement from the HTA Cultural Product Enrichment Program, the Okinawan Festival conducts a survey of attendees during the event. It's always helpful and interesting to get feedback that we can use to help us improve the Festival.

An estimated crowd of over 70,000 attended this year. The boost in attendance can be credited in part to it being a milestone (30th) year, a large contingent from Okinawa, and from high participation locally.

Although the majority of attendees were from Oahu, we've met visitors not only from Okinawa, but from Japan, Korea, Phillipines, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and New Zealand as well. As a matter of fact, one of our photo contest winners lives in Germany with family ties in Hawaii. Attendees from California, Arizona, Florida, Montana, Ohio, Oregon Virginia and Washington also enjoyed the Festival.

Most attendees came with family and friends, and, interestingly, the majority of attendees were first timers who were delighted to be introduced to Okinawan music, food, dance, history and culture.

When asked, "What is your favorite part of the Okinawan Festival?" the top responses were food (particularly andagi and andadog), the live entertainment, and the Saturday evening bon dance. A foodie highlight of the bon dance evening—AndaPop, a scrumptious pair of andagi dipped in melting chocolate—was mentioned many times.

With local favorites joined by special guests from Okinawa like Keiko Kina & Family, Mamoru Miyagi & Yoko Hizuki, Ikeda Suguru, Radio Okinawa's Kouta Itoh, Naha Daiko, and Haeburu Shishimai Troupe, the free performances at the Kapiolani Park Bandstand delighted old timers and introduced many others to beautiful, soulful and unique performances throughout the day.

We hope you've made your own special memories and enjoyed the 30th Okinawan Festival! 🍡

### Looking better then ever...

**T**he appeal of the 2012 Okinawan Festival was enhanced by the inaugural Booth and Tent Decorating Contest, as tents dressed in Japanese paper lanterns, fresh flowers, flags and teru teru bozos greeted our guests this year.

It is always a challenge to dress up a 100-square-foot tent or a square wooden food booth, but this year the booths were decorated with beautifully painted flowers, witty sayings, and chili peppers (taco rice). For anyone that missed this year's Festival: "What do you call an



Heiwa Dori Booth and Tent Decorating Contest Winner.

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## President's Message By Cyrus Tamashiro



*Nourish Your Spirit!*

### Embracing the Arts

This is an especially enriching year for those who love Okinawan performing arts. At the 30th Okinawan Festival, 25 Hawaii-based music and dance groups shared the Kapiolani Park Bandstand stage with artists from Japan, including Mamoru Miyagi, Yoko Hizuki, the Keiko Kina Ohana, Naha Daiko, Suguru Ikeda, the Miyahira Shishimai Hozon Kai from Haebaru, Radio Okinawa's Miuta Taisho Kouta Itoh who was accompanied by Keiko Higa, the Miyakojima Dynamic Calligraphy team and others.

We have had extravaganzas like the Eisa Drum Festival at KCC featuring Daiichi and Yoko Hirata from Okinawa, the Maui Okinawan Festival at the Maui Mall, and the 10th Anniversary Celebration of Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko at the Palace Theatre. We have had recitals and concerts including programs by Tamagusuku Ryu Senjukai Hawaii - Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo at Orvis Auditorium, Jimpu Kai Maui and Maui Okinawa Taiko at the Baldwin High Auditorium, Naha Daiko and Chinagu Eisa Hawaii with Suguru Ikeda at Mamiya Theatre, and coming soon, Hooge Ryu Hana Nuuzi no Kai - Nakasone Dance Academy's "Ryujin ni Mau" at the NBC Concert Hall on Oct. 20, Okinawa Minyo Kyokai Hawaii - Wakugawa Dojo - Derek Ichiro Shiroma Kenkyusho's Nabiraki, "Uta Gukuru" at Hawaii Okinawa Center on Oct. 28th, and Ryukyuu Koten Ongaku Afuso-ryu Gensei Kai Hawaii Shibu's "Tobe! Uta Sanshin - Hawaii to the World" at Mamiya Theatre on Dec. 1. These are just some of the many opportunities we have had and will have to enjoy high level music and dance artistry in 2012.

Over the years, my appreciation for the artists who dedicate themselves to their crafts has grown greatly. Many Hawaii musicians and dancers have diligently practiced at home, and then journeyed to Okinawa for very intensive training by sensei who speak little or no English. The training is demanding, and even more difficult if you can't understand Japanese. Some students are brought to tears. But they persevere, and then test themselves against Japanese competition at *Konkuuru* for the coveted award of *Shinjinshoo*. This summer, *Shinjinshoo* was achieved by Tamagusuku Ryu Senjukai's Eric Kobayashi in odori, and Afuso-ryu Gensei Kai's Bob Yonahara of Maui in *uta-sanshin*. The next step above *Shinjinshoo* is *Yuushuushoo*, and Toma Toyo Sokyoku Kai's Kinuko Tamashiro successfully achieved this award in *koto*. In *uta-sanshin*, Seiichi Yagi received the *Yuushuushoo* Award in the *Tansui* style. Chikako Igei merited the highest recognition of *Saikooshoo* in *koto*.

Okinawan culture is thriving in Hawaii due to the sensei who convey their passion for their art form to their students. Afuso-ryu Gensei Kai Hawaii Shibu will showcase three new certified *sensei* who received their *Kyo(o)shi Menkyo* this year, Sean Sadaoka, Chikako Shimamura and Melissa Uyeunten, at their Dec. 1 concert.

Chikako and Melissa are also award-winning dancers for Frances Nakachi's Tamagusuku Ryu Senjukai studio. Additionally, three Ryukyuu Sokyoku Koyo Kai Hawaii Chapter members recently received their *kyooshi* certification. They are Kazuko Reed, Kinuko Tamashiro and Clara Nakachi.

Early this year, Mitsuko Toguchi Nakasone Sensei was presented with the Nihon Bunka Shinkou Kai's highest cultural award, the International Academy Award in Tokyo. In October, Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone Sensei will travel to Washington, D.C. to receive the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Award, which is modeled after the Japanese "National Living Treasures" concept. I mention these people because of the admiration I have for their accomplishments, but I also respect other sensei and artists who may not have been mentioned in this article. In my view, every award for a Hawaii performing artist is an award for our entire *geino(o)* community, and I believe many others feel this way. Particularly heartwarming is how the *sensei* of the schools have supported each other, inviting one another to their kickoff parties, recitals and concerts, and encouraging audience members to attend the performances of the other schools. *Yuimaaruu*. People working together to promote and perpetuate Okinawan cultural arts.

I am awed by musicians and dancers who have practiced their art for three or more decades. Others I have talked to began at a late age and have danced only for a few years, but still find great joy in performing. Dancers and musicians pour their hearts into their crafts, and when the audience responds to a strong performance, it is so gratifying. I have seen the eyes of performers and audience members become moist, and their faces glow with satisfaction. When you see or hear something great, cheer loudly! The artists appreciate it!

Please continue your support of Okinawan performing arts by attending as many concerts and recitals as you can. You will nourish your 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 *ippée nifée deebiru* to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

*Uchinanchu* Donors July 16 to September 30, 2012.

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# UCHINANCHU SPOTLIGHT

## Spotlight: Vince Watabu



It's the bottom of the ninth, the bases are loaded, there are two outs, and victory or defeat is up to the next batter. All eyes turn to the dugout and the coach calls out, "Watabu, you're up!" Confidently, he strides to the plate and taps his cleats with his bat. Looking the pitcher straight in his face, he raises his bat, bends his knees, and waits for the pitch. Here it comes and a reverberating sound fills the stadium as Watabu hits the ball squarely. You know it's a good one and every man on base is on the run. Everyone's eyes are fixed on the ball flying through the air and its going, going, gone! Hooray!

As in baseball, the work of HUOA is a team effort and depends on the individual effort of each player. One works cooperatively with the other team members while putting forth his or her best effort to get the job done. In a way, it's the *yuimaaruu* concept in action. That is why we're spotlighting Vince Watabu in this issue.

Vince's involvement with the HUOA began about a dozen years ago when he first served on the centennial commemorative booklet committee. Since those early years of Vince's participation in HUOA activities, he has given our organization 110 percent of his time and efforts to get the job done to perfection. As a printing specialist with Obun Hawaii, he has come to our rescue innumerable times so that we could have that commemorative program booklet ready for a banquet or performance.

For the past several years, Vince has also taken on the position as president of his own Ginoza Sonjin Kai. With the cooperation and support of wife, Karen, daughters, Shelene and Shawn, and other seasoned club members, Ginoza continues to enjoy their *shinnen enkaï* and summer picnics.

Additionally, unbeknownst to most people, Vince is like a ninja who darts in and out of hotels in congested Waikiki to distribute our Okinawan Festival posters and flyers. His chariot driver on these missions is either Karen or their daughters. Festival duties go way beyond poster distribution. On Saturday, you could see Vince and Karen helping out in the Information and Manpower Booth and, on

"Since those early years of Vince's participation in HUOA activities, he has given our organization 110 percent of his time and efforts to get the job done to perfection."

Sunday, he and his club members manned the Yakitori Booth all day.

Still more, Vince has served as an HUOA Advisor or Club Representative on the Executive Council since 2010. The "newer" members of the Council turn to Vince for his wisdom and experience in the organization and community. Vince was once advised that he should not just join a club for the sake of his business. Rather, it is more important to participate and fulfill responsibilities in the club he joins. The HUOA is so fortunate that Vince has taken this advice to heart and enthusiastically involves himself with the clubs and committees he belongs to.

Vince says that he is familiar with his father's Hiroshima side of the family, but, now, Vince is driven to find out more about his Okinawan roots—especially for the sake of his own grandchildren, Brenden and Shayanne. He and his Ginoza Board members have brainstormed ideas for their

membership... something(s) to look forward to.

Vince's spirit of volunteerism is what makes the HUOA shine. He's a homerun hitter and we are so grateful for his leadership and example. *Ippée nifée deebiru*, Vince Watabu!

## 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 huoa@huoa.org. Uchinanchu reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

HUOA President ..... Cyrus Tamashiro  
 Executive Director ..... Jane F. Serikaku  
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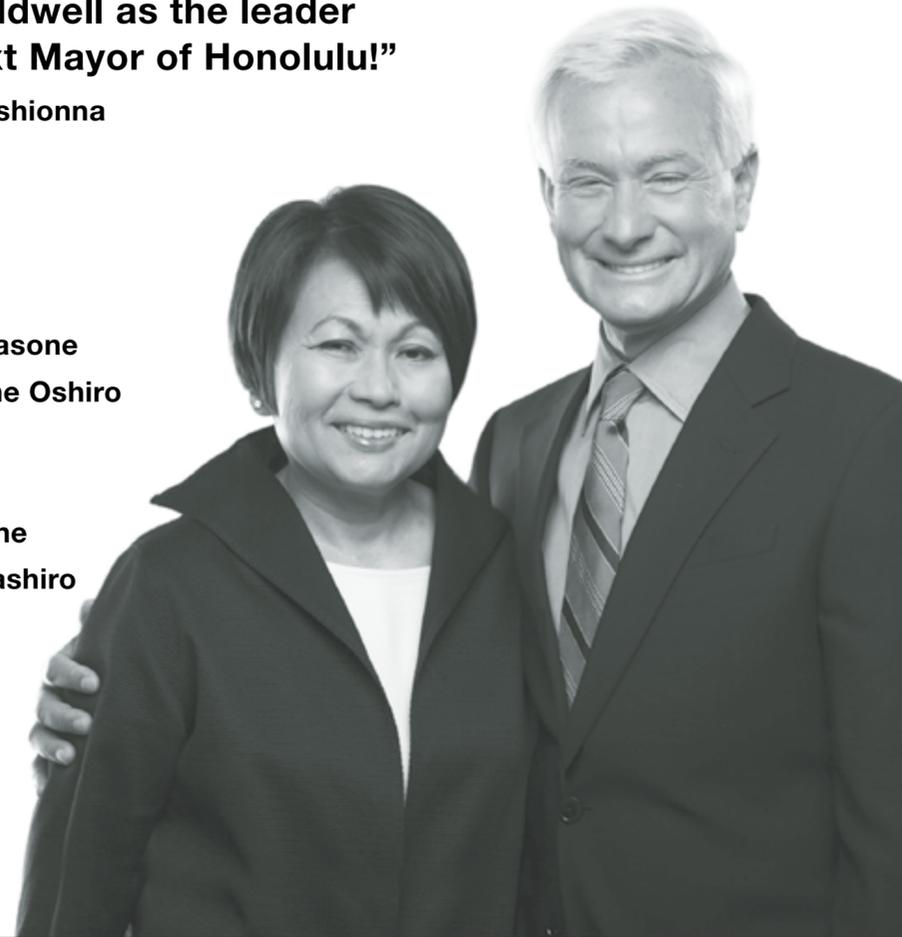
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# 6th ANNUAL OKINAWAN FESTIVAL SHARING UCHINANCHU ALOHA PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Okinawan Festival Photo Contest! We want to thank the talented photographers who submitted over 150 entries! To view all of the entries in color, visit the Okinawan Festival website at [www.okinawanfestival.com](http://www.okinawanfestival.com).

### GRAND PRIZE WINNER - \$100 Prize

Title: Side Stage Anticipation

Description: Group of performers. Photograph by: Jimmy Lee Kelly



### OHANA CATEGORY PRIZE WINNER - \$50 Prize

Title: Watching the other dancers

Description: After their performance, the little ones gathered to watch the older kids perform. Photograph by: Kris Stanton

### FOOD CATEGORY PRIZE WINNER - \$50 Prize

Title: Tacorice

Description: Layers of flavor enjoyed on a beautiful day at the Okinawa Festival 2012  
Photograph by: Aubree Minakami



### CULTURE & HISTORY CATEGORY PRIZE WINNER - \$50 Prize

Title: Spirit

Description: This guy's performance was full of spirit.  
Photograph by: Jeffrey Sato



### CULTURE & HISTORY CATEGORY HONORABLE MENTION

Title: Young Performers

Description: Young dancers from the Nakasone Dance Academy wait for the start of their performance.  
Photograph by: Erin Carter



### FOOD CATEGORY HONORABLE MENTION

Title: Golden Delicious

Description: Golden, ready-to-eat andagi happily bobbing in a bubbly bath. They reminded me of bobbing for apples. Photograph by: Clinton Mikami



### OHANA CATEGORY HONORABLE MENTION

Title: OBON in the Park

Description: This was the scene Friday evening, six to eight people deep dancing together—every age across generations come to Obon! Photograph by: Elaine Nishime

# 2012 Legacy Awards Honorees

Through the course of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's (HUOA) first 60 years, special individuals have made significant contributions to the Uchinanchu and Hawaii communities. In 2003, the HUOA Legacy Award was established to recognize those individuals that by fulfilling their own dreams and goals they also made a positive impact for our community.

Our Legacy Honor Roll includes: 2003 - Seian Hokama, Kikue Kaneshiro, Shinsuke Nakamine, Harry Seisho Nakasone, Akira Sakima, Albert Teruya, and Yasuo Uezu; 2005 - Zenpan and Tsuru Arakawa, Charles and Francis Higa, Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone, Yoshino Majikina Nakasone, and Wallace Takeshi Teruya; 2007 - Violet Ogawa, Katsumi Shinsato, Maurice Yamasato, Wally Yonamine, and Reverend Chikai Yosemori; and in 2009 - Kiyoshi Kinjo, Ronald K. Migita, James Serikaku, and Victor Yamashiroya. Legacy Award recipients inspire us to achievement and affirm the importance of the preservation of Okinawan culture in Hawaii.

Please join us on November 4 at the Sheraton Waikiki Ballroom and help us honor our 2012 HUOA Legacy Award honorees. They are: Terry Higa, Sensei of Hawaii Taiko Kai; Mike McCartney former State Senator and President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority; Mitsuko Toguchi Nakasone, Director of Ryusei Honryu Ryuko Kai; Stanley Masaaki Takamine, HUOA President in 1979-1980; and Mark Teruya, Chairman and CEO of Armstrong Produce.

A special luncheon and silent auction is planned. Individual or Table Reservations can be made by calling the HUOA Office at 676-5400 or via email at [jsarikaku@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jsarikaku@hawaii.rr.com). Proceeds raised through this Legacy Award luncheon helps us to maintain the Hawaii Okinawa Center and allows the HUOA to continue its mission to promote Okinawan culture in Hawaii.

### 2012 Legacy Award Recipients

Terry Higa is the Sensei of Hawaii Taiko Kai - a classical Okinawan taiko organization, specializing in Mitsufumi Ryu Taiko. Sensei continues to promote interest in the Okinawan culture and heritage by performing in numerous festivals, concerts, nursing and retirement communities and conducting informational lectures. Sensei is the only certified instructor of Mitsufumi Ryu Taiko in Hawaii. He received his certification in 1994 in Okinawa from the late Shimabukuro Mitsufumi, Iemoto of the Mitsufumi Taiko No Kai. Higa Sensei is married to Joleen Fukumoto and has two children and a granddaughter.



Mike McCartney is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority. A leader in our community, former State Senator Mike McCartney has held many key government and private sector positions including President and CEO of PBS Hawaii, Executive Director of the Hawaii State Teachers Assn., and Chairman of the Democratic Party. Born and raised in Kahaluu, McCartney is a graduate of Pacific University where he earned a Bachelor of Science. He is married to Dr. Candace Furubayashi and has three children.

Yuziri  
2012 Legacy Award  
November 4, 2012 Sunday  
Luncheon & Silent Auction  
Sheraton Waikiki Ballrooms  
9:30 a.m. Reception & Silent Auction, 11 a.m. Lunch

Sensei Mitsuko Toguchi Nakasone is the Director of Ryusei Honryu Ryuko Kai, a multi-generational Okinawan Dance school. Sensei has performed internationally and is known for her countless charity concerts that benefited the HUOA. In addition to her classes in her studio, she also directs students from senior organizations, the neighbor islands and California. Recently Sensei received the International Academy Award from Nihon Bunka Shinkou Kai (Japan Culture Promoting Assn.) in Tokyo. Sensei began her training in 1979, under Fumiko Nakasone of the Ryusei Honryu Yanagi no Kai. She is a member of Okinawa City Goeku Son and Hui O Laulima and has four children.



Continued on page 7

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# Hui Okinawa's 2012 Haari Boat Festival

By Margaret Torigoe

The 2012 Haari Boat Festival, held August 16-18 at the Palace Theater and Wailoa State Park & River, was a successful event for the Big Island community. Sponsored by Hui Okinawa, the event kicked off on August 16 with the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko at the historic Palace Theater in downtown Hilo.

On Saturday, August 18, Race Day started with a short parade led by Tadashi, the *shishimai*, and two mayors from Okinawa. Race teams marched in with original banners which were judged in Most Creative, Most Green and Most Uchinanchu categories. The parade was followed by an Opening Ceremony and the main feature of the Festival—the Races!

The event utilizes three authentic sabani boats, a gift to the County of Hawaii from Nago City, Hilo's Sister City. During the Race, an Open Market featuring Okinawan and local foods, logo T-shirts, and a Country Store provided a variety of items to shop for. An Okinawan Cultural Display showed the histories of Hui Okinawa and the Haari Boats. A live karate demonstration was featured on the lawn. An After-Race Party was enjoyed by more than 200 people.

Traveling from Okinawa were the mayors of the County of Hawaii's

City Sisters: Mayor Susumu Inamine of Nago City and Mayor Choko Taira of Kumejima. The Nago City Mayor brought a team to compete in the Races. Ryukyu Dragons from Okinawa made their third trip to Hilo to compete. Other dignitaries joining the festivities were Hawaii County Mayor Billy Kenoi and Hawaii United Okinawa Association President Cyrus Tamashiro.

Twenty-eight Race teams competed in three divisions: Open Division with three teams: two teams from Okinawa and one from Hilo; the Novice Division included 14 teams all from East Hawaii; the Okinawan Division included eight teams from Oahu and three from Hilo.

Teams from Oahu were Hui O Laulima 1 and 2 - Karen Kuba-Hori, captain;



(L-R): Nago City Mayor Susumu Inamine, Councilman Donald Ikeda, and Kumejima Mayor Choko Taira.

Nago Dragons and Nago Kijimura - Loretta Tokuda, contact; Hui Makaala - Dennis Shimabukuro, captain; Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko - Bryce Watanabe, captain; HUOA Renshin - Cyrus Tamashiro, captain; Haneji - Chris Shimabukuro, captain.

Race results: Open Division - 1st place: Ryukyu Dragons; 2nd place - Nago City Okinawa; 3rd place: Kaniku Kiyuna. Novice Division - 1st place: Friends of Billy Kenoi; 2nd place: Wakarimasen; 3rd place - Conen's Freight #1. Okinawan Division - 1st place - Nago Dragons; 2nd place - Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai-Champuru; 3rd place - Haneji Club.

Banner Contest winners were Most Green: Laulima Red; Most Creative: Huff 'N



Nago Dragons, Okinawan Club Division winners.

Puff; Most Uchinanchu (Okinawan): Circle K International at UHH.

The After-Race Party featured participation by local talent as well as visitors. Clyde Oshiro and group from Kona provided musical entertainment during dinner; BJ Soriano and Patti Taira-Tokuuke played the ukulele and sang; Megan and

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Continued from page 5

# 2012 Legacy Awards Honorees



Stanley Masaaki Takamine has served many roles for the HUOA and the Okinawan community. A few of his positions with the HUOA have been President from April 1979 to March 1980, Chairman of the first Okinawan Festival in 1982, and in 1986 he co-chaired the United Okinawa Assn. Bunka Kaikan Foundation, the organization responsible for the building of the Hawaii Okinawa Center. He is very active with Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club and East Manoa Lions Club. He is married to Betty Nakachi and has three children, five grandchildren and one grandchild.



Mark Teruya is the Chairman and CEO of Armstrong Produce, the leading produce wholesaler in Hawaii with distribution centers in Honolulu, Maui and Kona. Mark is the grandson of Yoken and Ushi Teruya who started as truck farmers in the 1920s and later became produce wholesalers. Mark's father Harold bought Armstrong Produce in 1979 and led its early growth. Mark recalls his father saying "Remember our roots and support the local growers, take care of our employees, our customers and our community." These values keep Armstrong in the forefront of the produce industry and explain

Mark's generous support of many non-profit organizations like the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

Continued from page 6

# Haari Boat Festival

Taylor Escalona did graceful hula renditions. Visiting HUOA officials did a routine to "Hataraki Man" with the ladies of Hui O Laulima joining in. Line dancing was a lively time with even the Mayors from Okinawa joining in the dancing.

For a slide show of the Festival, go to the website: www.haariboatfestival.com. A video by Big Island Video News can be seen on YouTube and at: <http://bigislandvideonews.com/2012/08/22/video-2012-haari-boat-festival-draws-international-interest/>

Continued from page 1

# Looking better then ever...

Okinawan that doesn't drink? - Okinawan Soba." Even our Shuttle Bus Booth had mini lights!

The purpose of the Booth and Tent Decorating Contest was to make the event more festive and fun for our volunteers and participants. The booths were judged on: a) how inviting they were, b) if their signage was attractive and clear, and, c) their "Okinawan-ness."

Congratulations to Heiwa Dori and Okinawan Soba for their exceptional design work this year. Their prize was a huge basket filled with cookies and andagi, an award medalion, and bragging rights for one year!

The winning clubs were: Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai and Gushikawa Shijin Kai for Okinawan Soba; and Nago Club, Kita Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai, Kuba Rosei Kai and Gushichan Sonjin Kai for Heiwa Dori.

We can't wait to see what creative ideas will be expressed next year!



Okinawan Soba Booth and Tent Decorating Contest Winner.

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AFUSO RYU GENSEI KAI HAWAII SHIBU

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2012**  
2:00 PM

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# Ikuu Madin

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The Hawaii United Okinawa Association would like to acknowledge the individuals, families, organizations and companies who have donated or pledged to our Capital Campaign. We are grateful for your support and the confidence you have displayed through your generous donation. *Magukuru kara ippee nifee deebiru* – from our hearts, thank you very much.

Donations listed below were received from August 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012.

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All donations processed online will support the HUCA General Fund. Online donations are currently not accepted for the Capital Campaign at this time. If you would like to help preserve and perpetuate our Okinawan culture, please help us and donate online! *Ippee Nifee Deebiru!*



## Preserving Our Legacy

2011 TO 2012-ANNUAL FUND DRIVE



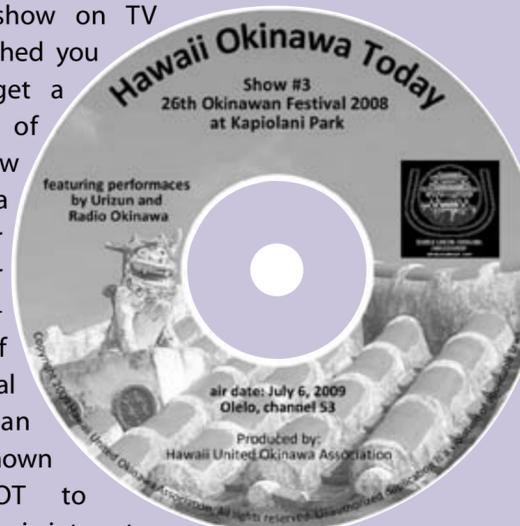
The Hawaii United Okinawa Association would like to acknowledge all the individuals, families, organizations and companies who have donated towards our annual fund drive. Our campaign, launched on October 29, has raised contributions totaling \$130,572.00. Our total represents a 142 percent increase in the amount contributed to our campaign and an increase of 350 additional donors from last year. To our 1,057 donors this year, thank you for your contributions and display of confidence in HUCA. We are truly grateful to your commitment to our culture. *Ippee Nifee Deebiru!*

Our list of donors below reflects contributions received from July 16, 2012, to September 30, 2012.

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July 16 To Sept 15, 2012

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9:30 am - Registration  
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\$35 per person

Purchase tickets from your Club President

# A New Lion and New Fellowship

By Jon Itomura

On May 11, 2012, a new lion ("Shisa") was blessed by Rev. Shindo Nishiyama at the Jikoen Hongwanji Temple. The creation of the lion was a true reflection of fellowship of many individuals, the culmination of tireless efforts which spanned many hours, days, and months, and the realization of yet another unique and special bond between friends and also between Okinawa and Hawaii.

Over the years, I have been searching for an opportunity to either bring a lion from Okinawa or construct a lion here in Hawaii in order to continue sharing the comprehensive experience of "Shishimai" with new and older generations here in Hawaii. With the generous donation from my mom, Eleanor Itomura, and the assistance of Daiichi Hirata, Director of Culture and Recreation for Okinawa Prefecture, I was able to obtain the head of the shisa during my trip to Okinawa for the 5th Worldwide Okinawa Festival in October 2011.

If anyone attempts to purchase a fully constructed Shisa from Okinawa, currently, it would cost approximately \$12,000 or more. Therefore, only the head was purchased and this presented me the opportunity to design a lion which could represent a traditional yet contemporary perspective.

Many towns and villages in Okinawa have traditional lions made from *basa* (banana) fiber or similar natural fibers. Contemporary Okinawa performance groups often have lions which are constructed using all different types of synthetic material in many different colors as the fur for the Shisa. We decided to use natural raffia along with some additional earth tone color raffia to highlight portions of the Shisa and portray the combination and synergy of strength and beauty.

Lions are not typically given names but it seemed appropriate that this lion not only be given a new spirit but its own identity and name. The underlying thought was to capture and convey the efforts of so many who worked on constructing this lion. The name should represent the fellowship and camaraderie that extended well beyond the laborious tasks of endless cutting and tying. Thus, the name *Shinkanucha* was chosen as it relates the feeling of fellowship toward a common goal. This name was also appropriate because of a special connection with Daiichi Hirata. He contacted the shaper and owner/*shishimai* performer of the original lion that was used as the form or mold for *Shinkanucha*.

Isao Higa shaped the original lion head and created the new mold. Reknowned *shishimai* dancer Tadatashi Teruya, formerly affiliated with Ryukyu Matsuri Daiko before establishing the very popular performance group "Requios," who recently performed for Ryukyu Matsuri Daiko's 15th Anniversary at the Neil Blaisdell Arena and also at the 5th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival Closing Ceremony finale, gave his permission to allow the mold for *Shinkanucha* to be made. Teruya-san has since retired the original lion and no one was allowed to make of mold of the original shisa. Teruya-san and Higa-san, however, made personal exceptions for Daiichi Hirata and to promote the relationship between Okinawa and Hawaii.

Daiichi Hirata's additional connection to *Shinkanucha* is the fact that he co-wrote the song titled "*Shinkanucha*" along with Kazufumi Miyazawa and Yoriko Ganeko. The idea for this song was originally created by Miyazawa and Alberto



Shiroma, leader of the popular Okinawa-Latin band *Diamantes. Shinkanucha* was the theme song of the 1st Worldwide Eisa Festival, which was part of the 5th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival in October, 2011. When describing the song *Shinkanucha*, Alberto Shiroma said, "We wanted to create a song that could turn people's feelings to the future." Kazufumi Miyazawa added, "All those people around the world who love Okinawa through music and performing arts are part of *Shinkanucha*."

*Shinkanucha's* contemporary strength and beauty also represents the establishment of a new group to be known as Hawaii Okinawa Creative Arts. The intent of this group is to evolve and flow with time with the purpose of continuing to harness the energy and interests of the young generation by providing a venue to pursue their attraction to contemporary aspects of Okinawa's cultural arts and ultimately leading to the pursuit of education involving the perpetuation of traditional practices and performances in Okinawa.

It would be very difficult to name all those involved in creating *Shinkanucha* but here are few that come to mind...Eric-Michele-Amanda-Travis Nitta, Darlene-Dane-Joel Itomura, Shari Tamashiro, Lois Nakagawa, Eileen Sakai, Fred-Elaine Higa, Val Higa, Carolyn Tanoue, Kim Kalawaia and family, Lok Beth Eguchi, Derek-Kaeo Shiroma, Travis Oshiro, Kris-Stan Higa, the Shisa kidz - Jacob Higa, Shaney-boy and Liko Kalawaia, and Cheyne-Chaz-Chanel Tanoue...and many more.

Through their efforts, their spirit of *Shinkanucha* instilled in this new lion, all who witness *Shinkanucha's* performance will also be part of *Shinkanucha*.



## News From Ginowan Shijin Kai

By Jane Nakamura

Ginowan Shijin Kai has been celebrating its 100th anniversary year with gusto! The Urasoe Shijin Kai joined us in a memorable New Year's celebration in March. On July 22, 2012, over 130 families got together for our annual picnic at Ala Moana Park. The aza's planning this picnic were Aragusuku, Ganeku and Oyama. Involved were Ellen Higa, Robbie Umeno, Sandy Nishimoto, Christine Higa, Joy Schoonover. Sharlene Shimada and her family of Aza Kakazu planned innovative and fun games for young and old, especially the "fish" game! Guy Miyashiro and Pat Miyashiro of Kakazu, John Tasato of Futenma, Alan Kunihisa of Uchidomari and many others helped to make a fun picnic.



The third big event the club worked on was the annual Okinawan Festival. David Funakoshi and his safety committee worked diligently ensuring the general safety and especially safety of volunteers working in hazardous areas. Ginowan Club volunteers cooked *andagi* on Saturday and Sunday, and mixed *andagi* batter early Sunday morning. Sandra Nishimoto did a tremendous job of recruiting volunteers for all the tasks involved in cooking and batter mixing.

In addition to local volunteers, Dr. Shigehiko Shiramizu annually brings a class of university students from Tokyo to learn some of the cultural aspects of Hawaii. This year there were 17 students and their services were shared by Ginowan Club and Oroku Club in *andagi* cooking and mixing.

Ginowan club is one of three involved in planning for the Winter Craft Fair. Call President Ellen Higa if you are available to help on December.

## Eisa on Uukui in Hawaii...

By David Jones

This has been a milestone year for the Young Okinawans as they have performed their first *Michijune Eisa* on *Uukui* (the third day of Okinawan Obon). You might be asking yourself...what is *Michijune Eisa*?

One of the main goals of the Young Okinawans of Hawaii (YOH) is to perpetuate the culture of Okinawa here in Hawaii. One way YOH accomplishes this is by continuing the tradition of honoring the ancestors through *Eisa*, the performance of chants, drumming, and dance.

In Okinawa, *Eisa* is traditionally performed on *Uukui* to entertain and honor our ancestors before they return back to their spiritual homes. You will see a group of young village members pick up their *sanshin*, *Taiko* drums, and *yukatas* and hit the streets to passionately perform *Eisa* in memory of their ancestors. This is called *Michijune Eisa*. *Michijune* is one of many spectacular cultural events that can be seen every year in Okinawa.

In Hawaii, YOH along with other *Eisa* groups perform a *chanpuru* style traditional *Eisa*, where components of Japanese Obon and local Hawaiian cultural elements have been mixed. *Eisa* is performed around a *yagura* at various temples instead of on the streets and performed throughout the summer instead of once a year on *Uukui*. Nevertheless, the traditional meaning of *Eisa* is kept alive as we still perform to honor of our ancestors.

On September 2, 2012, YOH accomplished a milestone by performing traditional *Michijune Eisa* on *Uukui* for one of the first time (known) here in Hawaii. YOH had a total of four performances that night, with the first being the opener for the Okinawan Festival Bon Dance, followed by *Michijune Eisa* performance at three different homes.

YOH had the honor of being invited by three different families to perform *Eisa* in front of their homes. The first *Michijune* performance was very touching as it was our first one ever and we had no idea what to expect. A table holding several pictures of the family's ancestors was set up in front the family home. One of the many comments shared within our group was how "chickenskin" we felt all over to see the emotions of



Continued on Page 13

## HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIRS

This holiday season the Hawaii United Okinawa Association will again host two of Hawaii's premier Craft Fairs.

On November 24th - 25th, the Hawaii Okinawa Center will open its doors for the thousands of anxious shoppers trying to find that special holiday gift and don't forget to reserve December 12th for our "An Evening in Waipio Craft Fair."

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A special *mahalo* to organizing clubs *Bito*, *Chatan-Kadena*, *Club Motobu*, and the Young Okinawans of Hawaii for the Winter Craft Fair and *Gaza Yonagusuku*, *Ginowan* and *Ginoza* for the Evening Craft Fair.

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# Kansha: Okinawa To Hawaii No Kizuna

By Lisa Tamashiro, President

## Chinagu Eisa Hawaii

An unforgettable experience! At times in our lives, we come across experiences that sweep us off our feet and soar through the skies. On September 8, 2012, at Saint Louis' Mamiya Theater, "Kansha: Okinawa to Hawaii no Kizuna, a Joint Concert Between Two Sister Cities: Honolulu and Naha City" was one of those experiences.

Naha Daiko's producer, Takemitsu Nosoko first brought up the idea of the concert. As we were coordinating plans for the 2012 Okinawa Festival, Nosoko-san mentioned his dream of having a concert in Hawaii. He wanted to give back to the local Okinawa community for all the aloha received over the past years through the production. Naha Daiko has performed in Hawaii for the Okinawan Festival five times including this year but never once put on a private show. Chinagu Eisa Hawaii was formed in 2008 and we were very fortunate to be a part of such an amazing production.

The official planning started in July, two months before the concert. There were many nights of on-line video sessions, emails and local meetings held amongst our club members. Being that this was our first concert, Chinagu members were pushed to the limit of a practice load that felt too heavy to lift at times. However, we knew that we had to give all of our hearts and bodies since Naha Daiko members were practicing even harder.

We hit the ground running from the moment Naha Daiko arrived the Saturday of the Okinawa Festival weekend. Filled with excitement and enthusiasm, the festival flew by us. Practices were held every night the week of the concert. With roughly 50 drummers off and on stage, you can imagine the confusion and chaos running through the minds of the performers. Yet, each and every one of the performers held themselves and each other accountable and no one was ever left behind.

The day of the concert was a whirlwind of emotions. Speaking for myself, the real-

ity of the concert did not hit me until it was time for the door to open for the first show. By the time I knew it, the second show was over and we were outside greeting guests exiting the theater.

The concert was a success! *Bachis* were dropped, uniforms fell off, and mistakes during dances were made. However, we could not feel more connected to each other and our love for *eisa*. I'm so thankful and grateful to have wonderful club members who are unconditionally supportive and talented in every way. I cannot thank Naha



Daiko enough for providing this unforgettable experience that I will forever carry in my heart. But, most of all, I want to thank all those who supported the production. It could not have been done without you. I am so proud to be *Uchinanchu* and part of a loving and energetic community! *Ippee Niffee Deebiru and Korekaramo Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu!*

# Uchinanchu Talk Story At East West Center

By Ed Kuba

On Labor Day, 106 Okinawans and Okinawans-at-heart met at the East-West Center to talk story about *Uchinanchu: The Next Generation, "Diversity & Identity."* Attendees came from Hawaii, North and South America, Okinawa, Japan and elsewhere.

The conference brought together youngsters and some oldsters to discuss the legacy for Uchinanchu throughout the globe and address the questions about media influences on entertainers, sports, politics and economics. How would you build and improve your Okinawan community in a diverse society and face the future challenges of identity?

The keynote speaker was Shinichi Maehara, the Okinawa television reporter, director and producer of the acclaimed documentary series, "Uchinanchu Worldwide." The award-winning shows presented 210 interviews of Okinawans from 1987-2004. For his exemplary work, last December Maehara was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Hawaii, the first Okinawan to receive that degree.

The successful conference ended with a call to action for attendees to attain the goals expressed by the younger Uchinanchu generation.



# Haeburu Students Explore Hawaii



Vice Mayor Shinsyo Kuniyoshi of Haeburu Town join 10 junior high school students and chaperones on their visit to the Hawaii Okinawa Center, before beginning their English Explorations in Hawaii. Dr. Yoshinobu Oshiro and many faithful Haeburu Cho members are involved in making the students visit to Hawaii a memorable experience.

# Jr. High Students From Yaese Town



Surrounded by 11 other students from Yaese Town, Kanon Uechi, a student of Gushikami Middle School, celebrated her birthday at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on the day of their arrival. Superintendent of Education at Yaese, Mr. Takao Kinjo (far right), escorted students from Kochinda Middle, Gushikami Middle and Showa Pharmaceutical University Junior High School.

All students from Haeburu and Yaese attended school for three days at Washington Middle School. Our heartfelt thanks go to Principal Mr. Michael Harano and his teachers for hosting our students from Okinawa.

# Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Reflections

By Brianne Yamada

This summer, Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko (RMD) Okinawa, our club's headquarters, celebrated their 30th Anniversary. All of the RMD chapters around the world were invited to participate in their recital. Kerry Yamauchi of RMD Kauai, Akemi Martin Sensei, our regional director and advisor, and I were fortunate to go to Okinawa to represent RMD Hawaii.

It was Akemi-sensei's dream for our club to develop a travel fund to spread Okinawan culture and build friendships between Hawaii, Okinawa and around the world. This year, her dream finally became a reality and our club established the Akatsuki Fund. A portion of the money our club receives through donations and fundraisers goes to support this fund. I was very privileged to be selected as the first member of RMD Hawaii to be sponsored by the Akatsuki Fund to travel to Okinawa.

Kerry and I were a little nervous when we found out that Akemi-sensei would be traveling ahead and we would be flying internationally without an adult, but going through customs by ourselves in Narita turned out to be a great learning experience. Akemi-sensei met us at the Naha airport and we were astonished to see my Okinawan relatives and a group of drummers from RMD Okinawa waiting to greet us with a colorful *mensore* sign and huge smiles on their faces!

Our trip was perfectly timed so we could perform at the wedding of our long time RMD Hawaii supporter, Aki. Several years ago when he was a student at UH Manoa, Aki led the flag holders for our performance at Okinawan Festival. It was such a good feeling to see him again and help celebrate his wedding. The RMD Okinawa performers gave it their all and their *chibariyo* spirit inspired me to work hard throughout the trip.

Preparing for the 30th Anniversary Recital was a great experience. We had the chance to meet other RMD members from around the world. Although we couldn't speak the same language, we could still dance together. I will never forget the feeling of performing with the passion, intensity and power of *Eisa* exploding all around me. Kerry and I were so proud to represent RMD Hawaii in such an immense produc-



tion. When I looked out into the audience, and saw my Okinawan family members and Akemi-sensei, I knew it was an experience I would never forget.

I think the best part of my trip was getting to spend time with the Miya side of my family. I first met them in 2003 when I went to Okinawa with my

grandma, aunty and uncle. On that trip, my grandma was reunited with her sisters and brother after not seeing them for 49 years. Although it was nine years since the last time I saw them, I immediately felt at home and welcomed by all of my family members. Akemi-sensei helped us arrange a family dinner where we talked for hours about their childhood in Naha City and reminisced about my last trip to Okinawa. They all reminded me so much of my grandma back in Kauai.

The RMD members in Okinawa were so generous and welcoming. Every day, someone took time to teach and practice with us. Hiromi-san even stayed over at our hotel, to take us under her wing and make the most out of the time we had. We were grateful and excited to learn new songs to teach our members back in Hawaii to perform at Okinawan Festival and the upcoming RMD Kauai recital in May. Throughout my trip, I was reminded of the importance of always working hard with a positive attitude and how lucky I am to be part of RMD's international family.

My trip was an amazing experience. I learned so much, met so many new friends, reconnected with my family, and matured a lot. It was wonderful to have the chance to go to Okinawa through the Akatsuki Fund and I am grateful for the love and support of Akemi-sensei and RMD Hawaii. I look forward to continuing to share what I learned with all of the members here.

Continued from Page 11

# Eisa on Uukui



the families and feeling as if the ancestors were indeed watching us. The second house had over 100 spectators arriving from all over the neighborhood to watch the performance. At the third house, many of the YOH members had an opportunity to see the rest of the *Uukui* traditions of offering food and burning of

paper money (not real!)

Performing *Michijune Eisa on Uukui* was a huge honor for YOH and something the club would like to continue for years to come. YOH hopes the ancestors of the families were able to return home happily to see that we continue to honor them here in Hawaii. We would like to give a big mahalo to Ukwanshin Kabudan group for providing the live music, guidance on traditional *Eisa*, and support. Also, a big thank you to our passionate members in the YOH *Uukui* Committee for making this happens.

# Interested In Hosting An Okinawan High School Student?

Twenty-five high school students will be arriving from Okinawa on February 23, 2013, to participate in a two-week student exchange program. In June, our Hawaii students will have the opportunity to spend two weeks in Okinawa living with host families like the Okinawa students do when they visit Hawaii. Friendships that are developed when the students spend time with families and go to high schools here are further nurtured when our Hawaii students are hosted by the same students in Okinawa.

This is a wonderful opportunity for any high school student. Please encourage your child or grandchild to participate in this Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program. For more information, call Jane Serikaku at 676-5400 or email: [edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com) or check our website: [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org)

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## Youth Spotlight: Troy Sakihara

By David Jones

In Hilo, it is not unusual to hear the beating of Okinawan taiko drums or festive shouts as the crowd cheers on the local Dragon Boat race. The Okinawan community in Hilo is ever vibrant with their active Hui Okinawa club, amazing events like the International Haari Boat Festival, and a variety of performing arts classes. As you take part in Hilo Okinawan activities, you are bound to find yourself meeting a very passionate and active young member of the community named Troy Sakihara.

Troy, 30, is the son of Gregg and Sandra Sakihara and a graduate of Waiakea High School in Hilo. Troy not only dedicates himself to the Okinawan community, but also to his career in Earth conservation. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marine Sciences and is about to complete his Masters of Science Degree in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science. Troy also works at the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Aquatic Resources Division.

Troy is currently the 2nd Vice President of Hui Okinawa, part of the Hui Shishimai, chaired the recent Haari Boat Festival, and was a huge contributor to the recent Children's Day Camp. According to the current Hui Okinawa President, Roy Hokama, Troy is a very hard-working guy who involves himself in most of Hui Okinawa's activities. Roy explained that Troy was not only the Chair for this year's successful Haari Boat Festival, but also raced with four different teams on the same day! That in itself paints a picture in your mind of the dedication Troy has for the Okinawan community.

Troy's passion for Okinawa all started 10 years ago. He was familiar with his Okinawan heritage, importance of family, and customs. However, Troy explained that he did not appreciate the beauty and uniqueness of Okinawa until his involvement with Kobudo Taiko and Hui Okinawa. The hard work and the dedication of the elder members of the group inspired him to grow his own Uchinanchu Spirit and help build a better community.

In January of 2002, Milton Yafuso invited Ryukyuu Kobudo Taiko Hawaii Shibu along with their leader, Calvin Nakama Sensei, for a Taiko workshop in Hilo. Troy was one of the attendees and was completely mesmerized with the art. The workshop was a success and a practice session ensued where Troy was asked to lead with literally only a couple hours of experience. Soon after, Troy along with his counterpart, Preston Chibana, helped create the group, Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko. Troy has been the group leader since the club's inception, a role he has full heartedly embraced.

Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko celebrated their anniversary with a sold-out crowd at their 10th Anniversary Celebration Concert earlier in August of this year. In his time with Kobudo Taiko, he has had the opportunity to open at different concerts around the world for San Jose Taiko, Shakuhaichi Grandmaster Riley Lee, and joint performance with the Shamisen Master Yukio Koma. In addition, his club has taken first prize twice in the much esteemed Merrie Monarch Festival Royal Parade Float Division.

Troy has had the opportunity to visit Okinawa several times, including once on the HUOA Leadership Tour. Traveling and experiencing Okinawa was one of the most eye-opening experiences for him. One of his most memorable experiences while in Okinawa was paddling in the Nago City Mayor's Cup Race. Nago City shares a sister-city relationship with Hilo. Through that relationship, Nago City donated several boats and introduced them to the Dragon Boat Racing in 1990. The Haari Boat Festival is one of the biggest and most festive events in Hilo. Therefore, it was a huge honor for him to be able to race in Nago City. Troy also had the opportunity to connect with his family in Okinawa, which was a once in a lifetime experience for him and something he is very grateful of.

As with Oahu and elsewhere, there is always a concern for the younger generation and the future of the Okinawan community. I asked Troy what would it take to get the younger generation interested in their Okinawan identity. To him, visiting Okinawa had the biggest impact on him. He believes the younger generation should take the opportunity to join the HUOA Leadership Study Tour, take part in the JET program, study abroad, or just go for a visit. He explains that many wonderful experiences, new friendships, and a newfound passion for Okinawan culture will likely sprout.

Troy plans to continue to perpetuate and promote the Okinawan culture in Hilo through his leadership at Kobudo Taiko and involvement with Hui Okinawa. He



believes this is his way of saying "Thank you" to the elders who have worked so hard and sacrificed for all we have today. He also hopes to inspire more of the younger generation to get involved and become more in tune with their Okinawan identity. It is his wish that the Okinawan culture thrives and continues to live alongside with the diversity of other cultures that make up Hawaii.

It is so great to see a young face amongst the leadership and making a difference in the community. Troy, we thank you very much for your passion, hard work, and dedication to the Okinawan community.

## Omedetoo gozaimasu! Kinuko Tamashiro and Eric Kobayashi

Great job! The HUOA heartily congratulates our 2012 "with love from Lorraine" (w/lf) awardees, Kinuko Tamashiro (koto) and Eric Kobayashi (buyo). Both Kinuko and Eric traveled to Okinawa and competed in the *Ryukyuu Shimpo Newspaper Company's Performing Arts Konkuruu* and successfully attained their *Yuushuushoo* and *Shinjinshoo*, respectively.

The HUOA offers its sincerest apologies to Eric Kobayashi, his Sensei, fellow dojo members, family and friends in the last issue of Uchinanchu for misidentifying him in our article on him. We hope all of you will accept our apology in the spirit that it is made.

Meanwhile, the HUOA extends its best wishes for their continued success in all of Kinuko and Eric's future endeavors. Here are thoughts from Eric Kobayashi on his *konkuuru* experience:

My trip to Okinawa for konkuru was truly a wonderful experience. Much of my time was spent practicing dance. I was lucky to have had the opportunity to train under two of the grandmasters of Okinawan dance, Yoshiko Tanita Sensei and Mieko Kinjo Sensei. This experience helped me grow in my dance abilities and made me more appreciative of the art. One other thing I really enjoyed about my journey to Okinawa was being able to meet and dance with other *Senjukai* students from Okinawa and mainland Japan. I was touched by the hospitality shown by everyone, especially towards the people from Hawaii. I truly felt like it was a big family; laughing together, eating together, and especially dancing together. I came back to Hawaii with a deeper interest in Okinawan dance and a desire to improve my skills.



Eric Kobayashi

## Nago City Mayor Susumu Inamine Hosts HUOA Officers



HUOA President Cyrus Tamashiro and President-elect George Bartels, Jr., were feted at Yamazakura Izakaya by Nago City's Mayor Susumu Inamine and some of his staff who were in Hilo for the recent Hui Okinawa's Haari Boat Festival. Tamashiro and Bartels, Jr. spent two nights in the Nago - Motobu area with the HUOA Study Tour group.

## Courtesy Visit with Naha City Mayor Takeshi Onaga



(L-R): Mr. Satoru Chinen, HUOA President Cyrus Tamashiro, Mayor Takeshi Onaga, President-elect George Bartels, Jr., President of Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai Mr. Choko Takayama, and Vice President of Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai Mr. Asami Ginoza.

## Certification and *Konkuuru*—2012 and 2011

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association congratulates the following members of our community who received teaching and licensing certificates from their respective performing arts organization headquarters in Okinawa as well as those who entered the annual performing arts *konkuuru*\* competitions which are sponsored by various independent organizations or Okinawa's newspaper companies, the *Ryukyuu Shimpo* and *Okinawa Times*. Following is a list of those who passed and excelled in their respective art and category of award (*Shoo*).

### Teaching and Licensing Certificates

Ryukyuu Sookyoku Hozon Kai (2011)

Shihan Certificate (koto): Sarina Udd

Ryukyuu Sookyoku Koyo Kai (2012)

Kyooshi Certificate (koto): Kazuko Reed, Kinuko Tamashiro and Clara Nakachi

Ryukyuu Sookyoku Koyo Kai (2011)

Shihan Certificate (koto): Lisa Wakasugi Sadaoka

Kyooshi Certificate (koto): Chikako Igei, Sadayo Tamaki, Kazumi Iho, Roberta Umeno and Emiko Tamayose Yonemoto

### Konkuuru Awards (competition sponsored by newspaper companies)

Okinawa Times Newspaper Company

Koto (Ryukyuu Sookyoku Hozon Kai)

Yuushuu Shoo (Award of Distinction; 2012): Chihiro Oshiro Harper

Yuushuu Shoo (Award of Distinction; 2011): Chisato Sakaguchi

Shinjin Shoo (Newcomer Award; 2012): Nobutaka Ueno

Ryukyuu Shimpo Newspaper Company

Uta-sanshin (Nomura Style)

Yuushuu Shoo (Award of Distinction, 2012): Brandon Ing

Uta-sanshin (Afuso Style)

Shinjin Shoo (Newcomer Award, 2012): Bob Yonahara

Koto (Ryukyuu Sokyoku Koyo Kai):

Saikoo Shoo (Supreme/Excellence Award, 2012): Chikako Igei

Yuushuu Shoo (Award of Distinction, 2012): Kinuko Tamashiro

Shinjin Shoo (Newcomer Award, 2012): Diane Kawamoto

Buyoo (Classical Dance; Tamagusuku Style)

Shinjin Shoo (Newcomer Award, 2012): Eric Kobayashi

**Konkuuru Awards** (competition sponsored by independent organizations)

Uta-sanshin (Tansui Style; Ryukyuu Koten Ongaku Tansui-ryu Hozon Kai):

Yuushuu Shoo (Award of Distinction, 2012): Seiichi Yagi

Uta-sanshin (Shima-uta; Ryukyuu Ongaku Kyokai; Members of Nidaime Teishin Kai Hawaii Shibu)

A special session of *konkuuru* was held in Hawaii with judges (Sadao China & Takeshi Yamauchi) from Okinawa and (Ryosei Oshiro) from Hawaii:

**Yuushuu Shoo** (Award of Distinction, 2011):

Keiko Kayo  
Wallace Onuma  
Dexter Teruya  
Eric Iha  
Warren Kotani  
Sakiko Young  
Asako Beal

**Shinjin Shoo** (Newcomer Award, 2011):

Misae Onuma  
Keiko Johnson  
Miyoko Iha  
Ronald Kaneshiro  
Mervin Anguay

The HUOA congratulates each certificate holder, award recipient and their respective instructors for their efforts and sterling achievements. We extend our best wishes for your continued success in carrying on the legacy of our Okinawan community. You are truly our bright hope for the preservation and perpetuation of the Okinawan culture in Hawaii and you've made all of us very proud!

\**geinoo*; performing arts

*konkuuru*; Romanization for and Japanese pronunciation of the French word, 'conours', which means 'a musical competition or contest'

## Okinawan Proverb

*Selected by the HUOA Uchinaaguchi Class Members*

### Kutubaa Jin Jikee

くとうばー じん じけー

**English equivalent:** Words are valuable like money to be used wisely.

言葉は お金づかい (のよようにたいせつ)。

**Meaning:** Words are precious like money; use them wisely and effectively.

## Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language)

### Word of the Month

#### September

**katajiki-in**, *vt.* [katazukeru] 1 To put (things) in order; tidy up (a room); clean up. 2 To clear away; put away; stow away; put back. 3 To dispose of; deal with; bring (a matter) to a conclusion; solve (a problem). 4 To give one's daughter in marriage.

#### October

**ufu-ninju**, *n.* [oo + ninzu] A great many people; a multitude; a mass of people.

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

## Awamori Fest! Benefit Fundraiser for the Tamagusuku Ryu Senjukai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo

The Awamori Fest will be held on Thursday, November 29, 2012, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Pagoda Restaurant's 1st Floor Ballroom. The event is held annually to raise funds for Tamagusuku Ryu Senjukai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo Okinawan Dance School. Proceeds from the event will help fund future recitals, purchase costumes, and, most of all, provide scholarships to students to further their skills by taking the certification test in Okinawa.

The event will feature Awamori drinks and mouthwatering cuisine, a Silent Auction and other exciting activities. Of course the entertainment will include great Okinawan music and dance.

Tickets for Awamori Fest are \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door (no refunds for no shows or cancellation). Checks payable to Senjukai Hawaii must accompany ticket orders and payment received by November 22.

*For more information, contact Randy at 780-3440 or [www.senjukaihawaii.com](http://www.senjukaihawaii.com) or [info@senjukaihawaii.com](mailto:info@senjukaihawaii.com).*

# HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Mark Your Calendar!*

# HOT

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

## November

- 4 Legacy Awards Ceremony & Banquet, Sheraton Waikiki Hotel
- 7 Club Development & Member Sustainment Com meeting, 7pm
- 13 Executive Council meeting, 7pm
- 15 No Sanshin class
- 19 Communications & Information Committee meeting, 7pm
- 24 Winter Craft Fair, HOC 9am-3pm
- 25 Winter Craft Fair, HOC 9am-2pm
- 27 Board of Directors meeting, 7pm
- 28 Administration Committee meeting, 7pm

## December

- 1 Afuso-ryu *Tobe! Uta-sanshin Hawaii to the World Concert*, Mamiya Theatre, 2pm
- 4 Executive Council meeting, 7pm
- 5 Club Development & Member Sustainment Com meeting, 7pm
- 12 Evening in Waipio Craft Fair, HOC, 5:30pm-9pm
- 17 Communications & Information Committee meeting, 7pm
- 19 Administration Committee meeting, 7pm

## January 2013

- 12 63<sup>rd</sup> HUOA Installation Luncheon & Uchinanchu of the Year Ceremony, HOC

### Classes • Other Meetings at Hawaii Okinawa Center:

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

\*for more information, please call 676-5400

\*\*Subject to Change\*\* (entries as of 10/8/12)

PLEASE NOTE: CURRENT OLELO POLICY LIMITS US TO SHOW ONLY OUR LAST PREMIERED SHOW IN OUR WEEKLY SATURDAY TIME SLOT. WE CAN NO LONGER SHOW PREVIOUSLY AIRED EPISODES IN THAT TIME SLOT. THEREFORE, YOU WILL HAVE THREE OR FOUR OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE OUR PREMIERE SHOWS.

Our premiere shows are aired on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7p.m. Our weekly time slot is every Saturday at 5p.m. You can view our shows on Oceanic Channel 53, as well as streaming on the Internet from the Olelo Website ([www.olelo.org](http://www.olelo.org)). Some of the latest HOT shows are available "on demand" on that same Website on OleloNet On Demand.

Nov 3, Sat, 5pm - Show 10 of the 29th Okinawan Festival 2011 at Kapiolani Park, September 3 & 4, featuring Kiyoko Toma Family Minyo Group from Okinawa; Majikina Honryu Buyo Dojo; and Shinsato Shosei Kai.

Nov 5, Mon, 7pm (PREMIERE SHOW), Nov 10, Sat, 5pm, & Nov 17, Sat, 5pm - Show 11 of the 29th Okinawan Festival 2011 at Kapiolani Park, September 3 & 4, featuring Mamoru Miyagi and Yoko Hizuki from Okinawa.

Nov 19, Mon, 7pm (PREMIERE SHOW), Nov 24, Sat, 5pm, & Dec 1, Sat, 5pm - Part One of the Second Annual Hawaii Eisa Drum Festival held at The Great Lawn of Kapiolani Community College on Saturday, May 12, 2012, featuring the Okinawa Minyo Kyokai Hawaii/Urizun Minyo Group, Young Okinawans of Hawaii, Paranku Clubs of Hawaii, and Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai.

Dec 3, Mon, 7pm (PREMIERE SHOW), Dec 8, Sat, 5pm, & Dec 14, Fri, 2:30pm - Part Two of the Second Annual Hawaii Eisa Drum Festival held at The Great Lawn of Kapiolani Community College on Saturday, May 12, 2012, featuring Kawika Napoleon, Daiichi and Yoko Hirata from Okinawa, Chinagu Eisa Hawaii, and Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii.

Dec 17, Mon 7pm (PREMIERE SHOW), Dec 22, Sat, 5pm, & Dec 29, Sat, 5pm - Part One of "The Cocktail Party," a play by Tatsuhiro Oshiro, presented at the Hawaii Okinawa Center by the Manoa Readers/Theatre Ensemble on October 26, 2011.

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