



UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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67th Installation & Uchinanchu of the Year Celebration *Muteei Sakeei* (Thriving – Prosperity)

By Arnold Hiura

Each year, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association kicks off its jam-packed annual calendar with the Installation and Uchinanchu of the Year Celebration. Each year, the event is greeted with great enthusiasm and anticipation, as it brings a sense of closure to the year that was and sets the tone for the year to come. This year's celebration was no exception, as a capacity crowd of 900 HUOA members and guests packed the Hawaii Okinawa Center's Legacy Ballroom on January 21.



Outgoing President Tom Yamamoto passes the gavel to Vince Watabu.

There was much to reflect on in 2016, including the shared experiences of the more than 1,800 people from Hawaii who attended the 6th Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai in Okinawa and the cancellation of the 34th Okinawan Festival at Kapiolani Park due to the threat of Hurricane Lester.

As HUOA's president-elect last year, Vince Watabu also bore the broad responsibilities of Festival Chair and was called upon to publicly announce the cancellation of the Festival to the media. Following his installation as president, Watabu was able

to make light of the difficult circumstances. "Some people started calling me 'EK,'" he quipped, "...for 'Event Killer.'"

Resilience in the face of adversity is clearly one of the HUOA's (and Watabu's) attributes, as he alluded to the HUOA's ability to "make lemonade out of lemons." In the wake of having to cancel the Festival—the organization's single largest activity—the HUOA and its supporters rose up to transform the potentially disastrous blow into a powerful demonstration of grit and perseverance. Some quickly organized a series of events, such as two mini festivals, andagi sales, and t-shirt sales, while others donated their scrip receipts (see page 10), key sponsors forgave debts, and so forth.



2017 Executive Council

1st Row (L-R): Treasurer Stephanie Katayama, Secretaries – Japanese Language, Kumiko Yabe Domingo, Executive Assistant, Terry Goya, Executive Secretary Sandra Yanagi, 2016 President Tom Yamamoto, 2017 President Vince Watabu, President-elect Courtney Takara, Vice Presidents – Marc Hirai, Jocelyn Ige, and Kent Yamauchi.
2nd row (L-R): Asst. Treasurer Norman Nakasone, Advisors: Mark Hiqa, Lynn Miyahira Krupa, David Arakawa, Ford Chinen, Grant "Sandaa" Murata, Paul Komeiji, Cyrus Tamashiro; Club Representatives: Gainor Miyashiro, Kent Billings; Executive Director Jane Serikaku (missing from photo: Club representative Denise Liu)

Photos by David Shimabukuro, One Moment in Time Photography.



Wearing his magical "karaoke hat," Vince Watabu wows the crowd with his highly original versions of "I Left My Heart in Okinawa" and "Uchinanchu."

At the Installation and UOY Celebration, a series of VIP speakers all made reference to the HUOA's unique strengths in their remarks, including 2016 HUOA President Tom Yamamoto, Hawaii Gov. David Ige, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Consul General of Japan in Honolulu Yasushi Misawa, Ginoza Mayor Atsushi Toma, and United Japanese Society of Hawaii President Dean Asahina.

Outgoing 2016 officers and advisors were recognized and thanked for their unselfish service, and First Circuit Court Judge Karen Nakasone swore in the 2017 slate of officers and advisors.

One of the highlights of the event is always the heartfelt recognition given to the Uchinanchu of the Year,

UCHINANCHU OF THE YEAR—SEE PAGE 5
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President's Message

By Vince Watabu



*Muteei Sakeei –
Thriving Prosperity*

Happy New Year!

The 2017 Installation Banquet took months to plan and, like so many other Okinawan events, I am always amazed as to how everything all manages to come together. I remember being installed as president elect and now I am president—where did the time go? I cannot believe that we are already in the second month of the year, as 2017 zips by.

First, I would like to recognize Tom Yamamoto for his strong leadership through an up-and-down year. The Uchinanchu Taikai and the Pau Hana Concert were certainly “ups” while the cancellation of the Okinawan Festival was a downer for us. In true Uchinanchu spirit, however, we rose from the cancellation of the festival and created two smaller events. Tom’s theme of “Itsi Madin-Laulima” rang loud and clear as members of the HUOA came together to show everyone the meaning of being Uchinanchu.

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the 2017 Installation Banquet a memorable one. Thanks to Kristen Watabu for chairing the event and bringing the Ginoza Sonjin Kai and all the other volunteers together.

I would like to congratulate all 50 Uchinanchu of the Year honorees from all of the participating clubs. You truly inspire all of us with your hard work and dedication to your clubs and to the HUOA.

Special thanks to Mayor Atsushi Touma of Ginoza Village for attending the installation and for supporting our Hawaii Okinawa Plaza. Thank you to Chinagu Eisa, Ryukyu Koten Afuso-Ryu Gensei Kai Hawaii Shibu, Cool Aina and all of the Ginoza performers.

I would like to thank Jane Serikaku and her staff for helping with the installation banquet and for overseeing all of our HUOA programs and activities. The connection with Okinawa seems stronger than ever and with this comes more coordination and communication with our brothers and sisters from our homeland.

These connections are also strengthened by Gov. David Ige, who has very graciously accommodated Okinawa’s various requests to the best of his ability, while working cooperatively the HUOA. The HUOA staff wears many hats and we should all thank them and help them whenever we can.

I am looking forward to meeting as many people as I can when I visit member club’s Shinnen Enkai gatherings. It is usually one of a few times that everyone comes out to see each other and have a fun time reminiscing about the previous year and even about the good old times—especially with our beloved *kupunas*. Talking stories with everyone is something we should all treasure. I am trying to attend as many events as I can and hope you will understand if I cannot make it to your New Year’s gathering.

Thank you to Clarence Nakasone for helping me come up with this year’s theme, “*Muteei Sakeei – Thriving Prosperity*.” It is said that “if you want a future, we must create it in our minds and our hearts. In a caring organization, we must do it together with everyone being involved in the process. We know that there is nothing more powerfully motivating than a deeply shared vision.”

Themes in the past referred to those key relationships that make our organization strong. *Ukazi Deebiru...Because of You!, Surii Jyurii...Working Together in Harmony, and Itsi Madin- Laulima...Forever Working Together*. I wanted this year’s theme to look to the future, which is directly tied to the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza.

Construction on the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza will begin soon. It will provide an income stream that will help us to maintain or even expand our programs and to make sure we can maintain our beloved Okinawan Center. I would like to thank all of you who have supported this project, not only here in Hawaii but in Okinawa

as well. The support we have received in Okinawa has been tremendous. I have witnessed how hard the Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai and the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Fund Raising Committee have pushed to help us when I went on my first trip to Okinawa last March.

Finally, I humbly ask for your help and support as we move forward through 2017. I am anxiously awaiting the 2017 Okinawan Festival, the annual Legacy Luncheon, and of course the start of construction of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza.

Ippee Niffee Deebiru!



UCHINANCHU

Ippee Niffee Deebiru... Mahalo!

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

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

Uchinanchu Donors November 21 to January 31, 2017.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



The HUOA is seeking an energetic and motivated individual to serve as an Assistant to the Executive Director of HUOA. The general duties are: 1) providing administrative support to the Executive Director; 2) coordinating publicity for various HUOA events; 3) managing HUOA’s electronic media programs including the HUOA website and social media pages; 4) serving as property manager for facilities and grounds of the Hawaii Okinawa Center; 5) assist in supervision of HUOA staff and volunteers.

For more information, contact the Executive Director at: jserikaku@hawaii.rr.com

If interested in applying, please send an application letter and your resume to the email address provided above.

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 Ukeo 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 Vince Watabu
 Executive Director Jane F. Serikaku
 Editorial/Production Services MBFT Media: Arnold Hiura, Eloise Hiura and Hilma Fujimoto

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Uchinanchu reaches over 9,700 households. For advertising rates and more information, contact us at: Tel: (808) 676-5400 – Email: huoa@huoa.org – www.huoa.org

Winter and Evening Craft Fair

By Karen Kuba-Hori, Coordinator

“God Bless Everyone!” So says Tiny Tim in his memorable and iconic statement in “The Christmas Carol”? This phrase also truly captures our appreciation of the many individuals that helped plan, work and clean for the 2016 Winter and “Evening in Waipio” Craft Fair. On November 25-26 and December 7, HUOA sponsored two highly successful fundraisers, in the form of a “craft fair.”



Thousands of people came to the Hawaii Okinawa Center to spend their hard-earned money, hoping to find that special holiday gift for a loved one. Our Winter Fair has been a staple holiday shopping venue for 24 years and would not have reached its popularity without good planning and the support of our community.

It takes many people to pull off a successful fair, and HUOA can rely on its club members to organize the fairs. Yonabaru Chojin Kai, Yonashiro Chojin Kai, Young Okinawans of Hawaii and Awase Doshi Kai handled the Winter Fair and Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai, Aza Yogi Doshi Kai and Gushikawa Shijin Kai



managed the Evening in Waipio Craft Fair. We also have clubs that have volunteered for almost every craft fair: Ginowan, Oroku Aza, Urasoe, Chatan-Kadena, Wahiawa, and Paranku Clubs of Hawaii are our andagi specialists; Hui O Laulima handles the doors and strollers; Hawaii Shuri-Naha handles drop-off; and our Festival Safety crew takes care of the andagi burners. There are others who help when called upon, including Eleanor Miyasaki, our safety organizer; Fred Shinsato, our Okinawan Santa (who took over watching over children for two fairs when Evening Santa Cornell Also retired); and David Nakasone, our tent specialist.

This year we had “special angels” helping us: First Hawaiian Bank allowed us to use one of their properties for additional parking; Sonny and Momi Bradley and Rick and Crystal Rose Towill helped clear the property to get it ready for parking; Aloha Tofu donated 100 tofu snacks for us to sell at the Evening Fair; Gushikawa Shijin Kai came in at the last minute to replace a club that had to pull out from the planning group; and Myles Nakasone from Aza Yogi chaired the Evening Fair.

Yes, “God bless Everyone” is a very appropriate thank you to all. *Ippe nifee deebiru.* If I inadvertently missed anyone, I am claiming “new year’s fog” and please accept my sincere apology.

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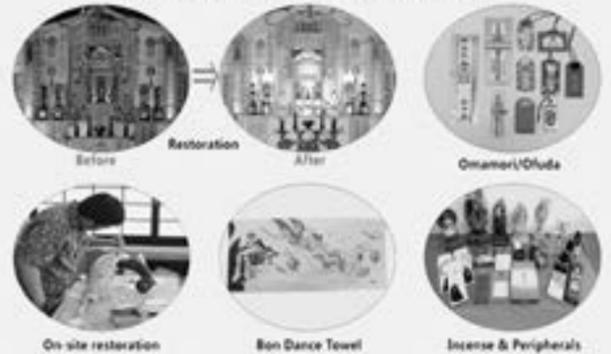


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67th Installation *continued from page 1*



Outgoing HUOA President Tom Yamamoto and incoming President Vince Watabu flank honorees who received special recognition by Governor Onaga and the Okinawa Prefectural Government: Hawaii's Young Achiever, Mark Higa; Distinguished Contributor, Yoshinobu Oshiro; and two New Uchinaa Ambassadors, Jon Itomura and Grant "Sandaa" Murata.



(L-R): Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Ginoza Mayor Atsushi Toma, HUOA President Vince Watabu, First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige, Governor David Ige, and 2016 HUOA President Tom Yamamoto.

MUTEEI SAKEEI

Thriving Prosperity



selected by their respective clubs. (See page 5)

New Uchinaa Ambassadors Jon Itomura and Grant Sandaa Murata were recognized, as were Dr. Yoshinobu Oshiro, Distinguished Contributor Award recipient, and Mark Higa, Future Generation Representative Award recipient.

Luncheon entertainment was provided by the Cool Aina trio. Okinawan dance numbers were performed by Emily and Miley Tome, Dazzman Toguchi, Linda Asato and Judy Tome. *Jiutee*, the live musical accompaniment, was provided as always by Ryukyu Koten Afuso-Ryu Gensei Kai Hawaii Shibu under the direction of Grant S. Murata.

As is often the case, however, much of the audience's curiosity was focused on what sort of performance the incoming president would present. The ever-rising expectations, Watabu admitted, posed a huge concern for him in the weeks and months leading up to the installation. He explained to the crowd how overwhelmed he felt as he pondered the high standards set by recent incoming presidents who have wowed the crowd with their show-stopping performances

of either Okinawan or Hawaiian songs, dances, or their instrumental prowess.

With absolutely no experience or training in any type of performing arts, Watabu won the crowd over in his role as Everyman, representing the scores of Average Joe's in the audience who year-after-year can only sit and marvel at the amazing talent demonstrated by past HUOA presidents.

"I only sang karaoke once in my life," Watabu confided with the crowd. That one time happened to be on a recent trip to Okinawa, when pressure on him as the incoming HUOA president finally forced him to do a rendition of "I Left My Heart in San Francisco." It went well enough that he parlayed that experience into writing his own set of lyrics to that crooner's classic.

As he worked to lower the crowd's expectations, Watabu pointed to a special black "karaoke hat" that his friend promised would help his performance. "It will make 'terrible' sound 'not bad,'" Watabu explained. "Not bad' would become 'pretty good,' and it could turn a 'pretty good' singer into a 'STAR'..."

Then, right on cue, Watabu donned the magical hat and brought the house down with his rendition of "I Left My Heart in Okinawa." Then, joined by members of the Executive Council, he obliged the crowd's call for a "hana hou" with another original number titled, "U-chi-nan-chu" (sung to the tune of "Sweet Caroline"). The

audience was beside itself.

All was not just fun and games, however, as Watabu also paused in his speech to explain that his theme, "Muteei Sakeei (Thriving – Prosperity)" referred to the need to create an income stream that would support—and possibly even expand—the work of the HUOA in perpetuating Okinawan culture and community in Hawaii in a sustainable manner. Fittingly, the longest and loudest cheer of the day was reserved for Watabu's announcement that construction of the long-anticipated Hawaii Okinawa Plaza would begin "very soon."

So, if one of the HUOA's proven strengths is indeed its ability to make lemonade from lemons, Watabu and others throughout the organization appear ready and willing to keep it flowing in 2017!



Consul General Yasushi Misawa and his wife Yoko receive a special gift from Ginoza Son's Mayor Atsushi Toma.



Mayor Atsushi Toma of Ginoza Village presents Vince Watabu with a check for 1 Million Yen for Hawaii Okinawa Plaza.



In honor of President Vince Watabu, all of the featured dancers were members of his Ginoza Sonjin Kai club. (Above-Left) Emily and Miley Tome; (Above-Middle) Linda Asato and Judy Tome; (Above-Right) Dazzman Toguchi. Photos by Eloise Hiura



Photo by David Shimabukuro, One Moment in Time Photography.

2016 Uchinanchu of the Year Honorees

Club Name	Honoree(s)
* Awase Doshi Kai	Nelly S. Toyama Baduria
* Awase Doshi Kai	Candyce Narimatsu
* Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai	Kenyu Tokuda
* Aza Yogi Doshi Kai	Sumi Ortanes
* Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai	Aaron Y. Uyema
* Club Motobu	Gavin and Miriam Nakamura
* Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai	Betty H. Kegley
* Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai	Karen K. Tamanaha
* Ginowan Shijin Kai	Carl T. Nakamura
* Ginoza Sonjin Kai	Kazuo Ishikawa
* Ginoza Sonjin Kai	Shigeru Ishikawa
* Gushichan Sonjin Kai	Stacey S.S. Chi
* Gushikawa Shijin Kai	Hidenobu Hiyane
* Gushikawa Shijin Kai	Jean Kawakone
* Haeburu Club	Barbara Yamada
* Haeburu Club	Denise Hirano
* Haneji Club	Gerald (Bolo) and Eileen (Nuha) Soneda & Family
* Hawaii Sashiki - Chinen Doshi Kai	Lynn and Frances Nakamura
* Hawaii Shuri - Naha Club	Frances Nakachi-Kuba
* Hui Alu	Gary Towner
* Hui Alu	Scott Taba
* Hui Makaala	Cynthia Uza
* Hui O Laulima	Audrey Gibo
* Hui O Laulima	Irene Kanetake
* Hui Okinawa	Kaye Nagamine
* Itoman Shijin Kai	Nicole Yamashiro
* Kin Chojin Kai	Shige Toyama
* Kitanakagusuku Sonjin Kai	Steven Kim
* Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai	Kathy and Ted Matsuda
* Kona Okinawa Kenjin Kai	Cheryl Kurashige
* Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai	Wendy Tamashiro
* Nago Club	Kathy Ginoza Arakaki
* Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai	Michelle Isa-Atta
* Nishihara Chojin Kai	Hazel Tokuda
* Okinawa City - Goeku Son	Milton Shigeru Higa
* Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii	Terry Masateru Shinsato
* Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii	Pearl Toma
* Oroku Azajin Club	Galen Teruya
* Osato Doshi Kai	Linda Yuriko Gushikuma
* Shinka	Lisa Tamashiro
* Tamagusuku Club	Betsy Tsuhako
* Urasoe Shijin Kai	Ronald Oshiro
* Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai	Lori Ann Tamanaha Kunioka
* Yomitan Club	Roxanne Yoshida
* Yonashiro Chojin Kai	Muriel Toma Donnan
* Young Okinawans of Hawaii	David Miyashiro

2016 Legacy Awards Banquet

On December 4, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association held its Legacy Awards Banquet at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. At the event, HUOA honored five Legacy Award recipients who were selected for their outstanding achievements in their respective fields of work and for making significant contributions to our local, national and international communities.

This year's Legacy Awards honorees were: MIS Veteran and educator Dr. Yoshinobu Oshiro; entertainment creator and entrepreneur Roy Tokujo; celebrated artist and community minded Seikichi "Chick" Takara; community leader and Hui Makaala co-founder, the late Tokuichi "Dynamite" Takushi; and National Living Treasure of Japan, Sanshin Grand Master Choichi Terukina Sensei.

This year's celebration was filled with heartwarming testimonials from the honorees' families and friends, fantastic entertainment personally selected by the honorees, excellent food, and lots of great silent auction items in time for holiday shopping. The 2016 Legacy Awards Banquet was a fitting celebration of our Uchinanchu community visionaries and role models!

Photos by Jon Itomura.



Family of the late Tokuichi "Dynamite" Takushi



Choichi Terukina Sensei and Family



Seikichi "Chick" Takara and Family



Roy Tokujo and Family



Dr. Yoshinobu Oshiro and Family

The Pride and Passion of a Young Achiever

By Tom Yamamoto

It is always inspiring to witness individuals within the Okinawan community demonstrating our organization's beliefs and values of perpetuating the *Uchinanchu* spirit and culture through various means, such as volunteering at community events, spearheading activities, or engaging in the cultural arts. One of these individuals is Lisa Tamashiro, a prominent member of the HUOA who dedicates much of her life proudly and passionately upholding the Okinawan traditions and customs as the immediate past president of Shinka Club and leader of the performing arts group, Chinagu Eisa Hawaii.



Lisa Tamashiro is congratulated by HUOA president Vince Watabu and Immediate past president Tom Yamamoto.

On January 14, the United Japanese Society of Hawaii (UJSH) recognized and honored the 2016-2017 Kenjin Kai Young Achievers at their annual Shinnen

Enkai Banquet, where Lisa represented the HUOA as one of seven honorees who have contributed greatly to their *kenjin kai* and the Japanese community in Hawaii. She spoke on behalf of the Young Achievers and shared how her motivation to perpetuate traditions and culture was attributed to her upbringing of having a sense of pride "*hokori*" and passion "*jonetsu*" as a Japanese Okinawan.

Under Lisa's leadership, Shinka (HUOA's newest club) has grown rapidly due to the combined effort of her and co-founders who promote cultural and social interaction through the club activities, service projects, and other events.

As president and lead instructor of Chinagu Eisa Hawaii, Lisa has showcased her multi-generational group of Okinawan drummers in front of audiences in Hawaii and abroad.

The outstanding efforts of Lisa Tamashiro truly epitomizes the *Uchinanchu* Spirit of Aloha through her work as a distinguished leader, her ability to build capacity within a community, and the many efforts she makes to share her talents and preserve the rich heritage of Okinawa!

As Lisa concluded in her speech at the UJSH Shinnen Enkai, she encourages the younger generation "... to soar through their pride and passion, embrace any challenge and make a difference in our community. Let us learn from those before us and let us, create the future..."

Congratulations to HUOA's Young Achiever, Lisa Tamashiro!

Jikoen Starts Its Largest Improvement Project in 50 Years

By Pieper Toyama, Jikoen Advisor

Ukajidebiru is an Okinawan expression of gratitude to those who make our lives possible. Guided by this theme, Jikoen embarks on a fundraising campaign to improve its facilities to serve current and future generations.

Yuimaaru is a benefit concert featuring members of the Urizun Minyo Group and other performers on Sunday, March 26, at 2:30 p.m. at Jikoen Hongwanji Mission. Tickets are \$25 presale, \$30 at the door; available at Jikoen Hongwanji.

Background:

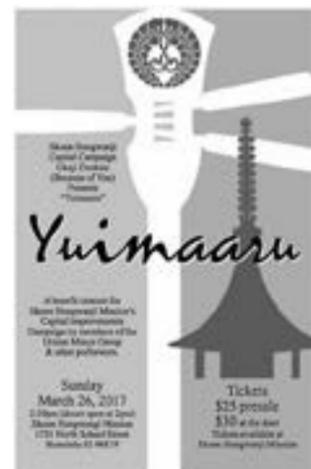
The first temple was built in 1938 on Houghtailing Street. From the start, the *Uchinanchu* spirit of openness, acceptance and an enthusiasm for life in each unrepeatable moment became the hallmark of Jikoen.

The current temple and the Okinawa Memorial Hall were completed in 1964. As the facilities aged, a number of small improvement and maintenance projects were completed but no major projects were undertaken.

The Campaign

The goal of the Jikoen Improvement Project is to raise \$1 million to address concerns that will make the facilities safe and accessible so it continues to serve the community for another 50 years. The critical projects include the installation of an elevator, parking lot improvements, and repair of deteriorating walls surrounding the property. Other projects focus on expanding and improving the bathrooms and kitchen facilities, adding office space, and air conditioning the Okinawa Memorial Hall.

Out of a deep sense of gratitude, we wish to continue Jikoen's legacy of connecting members of the community one to another. Please join us.



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	Aloha Party: \$ 25

Bridging from Generation to Generation - For Our Children!

Ikuu Madin

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association would like to acknowledge the following individuals, families, organizations and companies who have donated or pledged to our Campaign. Since our last report we received over \$105,606.10 in gifts for the building of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza this period. The amount includes very generous donations from Charlotte & Russell Mukai, Daniel Tengan, Rodney & Carole Kohagura, ALA Hawaii, Karen Sugikawa, Shinichi & Utome Okuhama, and the Estate of Melvin K. Iha.

Our 200 FOR 2M CAMPAIGN continues to grow, we currently have 76 committed members. We would like to welcome HUOA members from Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai and Kin Chojin Kai to our family of twelve member clubs. The HUOA is truly grateful for your support and the confidence you have displayed through your generous donations and humbly ask for your continued support.

Magukuru Kara Ippee Niffee Deebiru – from our hearts, thank you very much. Donations listed below were received from December 1, 2016 to January 31, 2017.

Our Supporters



HAWAII OKINAWA PLAZA CLUB MEMBERS OF THE 200 FOR 2M CAMPAIGN

(Listed Members have either donated or pledged \$10,000 or more to our current campaign starting July 1, 2014.)

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Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshikai (HSCD)

A large, supportive group of HSCD members turned out to honor husband-wife couple, Lynn and Frances Nakamura as their Uchinaanchu of the Year at the recent HUOA Installation Banquet on January 21. As long-time members of HSCD, Lynn and Frances have been a constant presence at the many club activities and events evidenced by their willingness and gener-



HSCD executive board members include Dick Ardon, Vice-President; Eileen Tonaki, Secretary; Doreen Yamashiro, Assistant Secretary; Kate Ardon, Treasurer; and Stanley Nakamura, Assistant Treasurer.

osity to assist in all capacities.

“Hard-hitting” Lynn has also “stepped up to the plate” and will serve as the newest HSCD president, succeeding the hard-working Joanie Gushiken. Lynn and his 2017 team were introduced at their own Installation banquet on November 13, 2016 at Natsunoya Teahouse.

From a comparatively small club (issei from both tiny Okinawan villages of



HOL Presidents Ruth Yabiku Chun (2017), Jean Yabiku Tsuda (2012), and Kate Maeshiro Ardon (2016) follow in the footsteps of their nisei fathers who held leadership positions in the Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshikai.



Lynn and Frances Nakamura

Sashiki and Chinen got together to form one club), HSCD has produced a robust number of leaders.

At its December 18, 2016 Installation celebration, Hui O Lailima (HOL), the women’s organization, saw 2016 President Kate Maeshiro Ardon pass the president’s gavel to newly selected Ruth Yabiku Chun as their 2017 President. Both women are HSCD members as well as Jean Yabiku Tsuda, HOL 2012 President.

Something to Crow About: Longevity and the Year of the Rooster

By Troy Sakihara, Hui Okinawa President

Many of us firmly believe that the true value of one’s life is how we live it, and not how many birthday candles we blow out. As one American Baptist minister once said, “The quality, not the longevity, of one’s life is what is important”—Martin Luther King Jr. But what if we could have both? Can we have our cake and eat it too? For Okinawans, this seems to be more common than we realize.

Through the cyclical nature of Okinawan culture, we celebrate the return to youthful innocence of those that reach the venerable age of 97—*kajimaya*. This year, Hui Okinawa celebrated and honored five of its members with this notable distinction—Seijin Hokama, Toshiyasu



Kajimaya Jimmy Mento, Hanako Kuwaye, Toshiyasu Kishimoto, Seijin Hokama, and Seisho Oshiro.

Kishimoto, Hanako Kuwaye, Jimmy Mento and Seisho Oshiro—all of whom celebrated the day with seemingly everlasting vitality and *chimuquru*. Perhaps, for them, youthfulness isn’t fleeting but rather is a perpetual part of life.

On January 29 at Aunty Sally’s Luau Hale in Hilo, Hui Okinawa welcomed over 300 members, *koreisha*, special guests and entertainers to its *Shinnenkai* and *Keirokai*, and to celebrate the beginning of what looks to be another eventful and fun-filled year.



Vince Watabu with Kajimaya Jimmy Mento, Toshiyasu Kishimoto, and Seisho Oshiro.

Young and old alike enjoyed a delightful spread of food and desserts, and stellar local Okinawan entertainment by Soshin Kai, Kin Ryosho, Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko, Ukwanshin Kabudan Uta Sanshin Hilo group, Hilo Okinawan Cultural Club and Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko.

And, as a special surprise, the celebration was capped off by an extraordinary karaoke performance by HUOA President Vince Watabu, who wowed the crowd with “I Left My Heart in Okinawa” and “Uchinaanchu (Sweet Caroline)” with his unrivaled golden voice.

Hui Okinawa extends its sincerest gratitude and appreciation to all that made the *Shinnenkai* and *Keirokai* a wonderful success. We honor all of our *koreisha* and especially congratulate those celebrating *kajimaya* throughout the State. Here is wishing everyone a safe, happy and prosperous Year of the Rooster. *Yutasarugutu unigeesabira.*

Preserving Our Legacy

2016 TO 2017—ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Continued from Page 9



In Memory of Kamado Uyehara by Alice Masutani
 In Memory of George Yamamoto by Sueko Yamamoto
 In Memory of Jiro & Kama Yamauchi by Harold Yamauchi
 In Memory of Edith S. Yogi by Seitei Yogi
 In Honor of Big Aunty, Reverend Yoshiko Shimabukuro 105Years Young Birthday by Bert S. & Hisako Hazel Maedo

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 Randy Uyehara
 Nancy Miyashiro West
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 Ann Wong
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Yoshiko Yano
 In Memory of William & Alice Afuso by Jane Afuso Matsui
 In Memory of Ryoan & Naye Arakaki by Gloria & Harry Takahashi
 In Memory of Richard & Kama Asato by Ethel Asato
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 In Memory of Wayne Miyahira by Augusto Miyahira
 In Memory of Masei & Kama Miyasato by George & Eleanor Hoshide
 In Memory of Teiji Miyashiro by Toyoko Miyashiro
 In Memory of Masako Nakaishi by Calvin K. Nakaishi
 In Memory of William Y. Nakamatsu by Leila O. Nakamatsu
 In Memory of Norma H. Nakamura by Michele Sekimoto
 In Memory of Daniel Onaga by Annette Masutani
 In Memory of Patrick Shaw by Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Shaw
 In Memory of Fukusei & Teruko Shimabukuro by Joy Shimabukuro
 In Memory of Harry Y. Tome by Jo Ann O. Tome
 In Honor of Yoko Abe by David Abe



CLUB NEWS

our clubs, our future

Ginowan News

By Jane Sachiko Nakamura

The 6th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival in Okinawa will be long remembered by the Hawaii Ginowan Club members who attended—the Parade, Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and the many symposiums, activities, and meetings with friends and relatives. Rodney Kohagura, as a Genealogy Club member, presided over one of the symposiums.

Ginowan City held a “welcome home” reception for returning *Jinonchu* at the Laguna Garden Hotel outdoor poolside area on October 29, 2016. Since the 36 Ginowan Club members from Hawaii attending the *Taikai* were housed at different hotels and were on different schedules, the reception was an opportunity to meet each other and visitors from other countries.

Mayor Atsushi Sakima presented hospitality gifts to the South American representative and to Hawaii. Leann and Edgar Quarto presented Hawaii's gift to the Mayor, a koa clock made by Edgar Quarto. Hawaii also gave leis to Mayor and Mrs. Sakima and Seikou Komesu.



Rodney Kohagura, Leann Quarto, Mayor Atsushi Sakima, and Edgar Quarto.

Seikou Komesu spoke as a representative of the Ginowan citizenry. Mr. Komesu related his story of winning a pig in the lottery when pigs arrived in Okinawa with Hawaii's help after the war. He credited his success today as a result of winning one of those pigs and his endeavor to succeed with this gift. Mr. Komesu wrote a song in gratitude and gave everyone a CD.

It was a very enjoyable evening with *Kachimba* music, *hula* performed by Okinawans, good food and time to meet others. 🍻



Seikou Komesu

Ginoza News

Ginoza Son was featured on GKZOO Radio. (L-R): HUOA President Vince Watabu; David Shinsato, a *Kenshyusei* who spent three months at Ginoza Village in Okinawa; General Manager Tetsuyuki Shimozato; and Mayor Atsushi Toma from Ginoza Village in Okinawa. 🍻



2017 Hui O Laulima Cultural Grant Awardees

Hui O Laulima (HOL) is pleased to announce the 2017 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 \$9,400 was awarded to 14 individuals and organizations. We congratulate and extend our best wishes to each of the following recipients for a successful year. Hui O Laulima is an active member of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

1. Allison Yanagi (Azama Honryu HI Buyo Kenkyujo) - To assist with airfare to bring Azama Akemi Sensei to Hawaii to teach local students and introduce the Azama style of dance to Hawaii
2. Allison Yanagi (Nomura Ryu Dento Ongaku Kyokai HI Shibu) - To help subsidize airfare to accompany her student Yukiko Pierce to Okinawa to take the Shinjinsho test in *kucho*
3. Yukiko Pierce - To help subsidize airfare to Okinawa to take her Shinjinsho test in *kucho*
4. Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko - To assist with airfare for their participation in the HUOA's 35th Okinawan Festival
5. Jimpu Kai Maui - To help provide funding for Cheryl Nakasone Sensei's air travel to Maui for monthly classes
6. Jimpu Kai USA Kin Ryosho Ryukyu Geino Kenkyusho HI Shibu - To help with airfare for guest artists from Okinawa and California for a Hilo event (part of Jimpu Kai's 40th Anniversary celebration)
7. Kauai Sanshin Club - To help strengthen the club by assisting with airfare for sensei from Oahu to teach monthly classes
8. Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai - To help with airfare for Ukwanshin Kabudan and Young Okinawans to travel to Kohala to provide music/drumming for the Hawi Jodo Mission obon
9. Kona Okinawa Kenjin Kai - To help with airfare for three board members to attend the Loochoo Identity Conference in Honolulu in March 10. Maui Okinawa Sanshin - To provide funding for Keith Nakaganeku Sensei's airfare for monthly lessons on Maui
11. Maui Ryukyu Culture Group - To assist with airfare cost for two certified instructors to travel from Oahu for formal and informal lessons in Okinawan music, dance, and other cultural areas
12. Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Kohala/Waimea - To provide financial aid to bring Oahu instructors to the Big Island or send their instructors to Oahu learn new songs
13. Sally Sakaitani - To provide funding for monthly round-trip airfare from Oahu to Kona for Keith Nakaganeku Sensei to teach classes in *uta-sanshin* and *shimakutuba*
14. Ukwanshin Kabudan - To provide funding to continue offering Loochoo Studies, a series of workshops on Okinawan culture in Hilo, while continuing to build a self-sufficient community of cultural practitioners 🍻

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER

Please send us your club news items and photos.

Email us at info@huoa.org Mahalo!



HUOA DONATIONS

November 21 To January 31, 2017

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



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Bob Yonahara
In Memory of Masako Arakaki by Masaichi & Toshiko Tasaka
IN Memory of Masako Arakaki by Grace Kohatsu & Moshiko Tasaka
In Memory of Matt Arashiro by Anonymous
In Memory of Raymond I. Isa by Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai
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In Memory of Joe Tibayan by Hui O Laulima

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Okinawa Prefectural Museum



Ginoza Mayor Toma



What an honor for Vince Watabu to have Mayor Atsushi Toma of Ginoza Village fly all the way from Okinawa to participate in his installation!



Exploring sites for possible exhibitions are Yukari Owan, Head Curator Ken Sonohara from the Okinawa Prefectural Museum, and Nana Miyagi from the Okinawa Churashima Foundation.



OTS (Okinawa Travel Service) arranges tours to Hawaii and our Hawaii Okinawa Center almost every other month. This visit to HOC turned into a joyous and memorable visit for a Nakagusuku family who met their unknown relative - Karen Takara!

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MORE CLUB NEWS

HUOA Sports Awards

2016 HUOA President Tom Yamamoto; Club Motobu President Kent Billings (accepting Goodwill Golf Tournament Champion award for Shawn Sakoda; Haneji Club President Alan Miyashiro accepts



Inamine Golf Cup; past Mixed Bowling Handicap League's President Tomomi Shimabukuro accepts the league championship award for Onna Sonjin Kai; Haneji Club's slow-pitch softball league manager, Chris Shimabukuro, accepts the championship trophy for Haneji Club.

HOC Chair Repair Gang

A true demonstration of *Uchinanchu Spirit*: Tables and chairs needed to be repaired in time for the Installation Banquet and nine people showed up on the Martin Luther King Holiday to get the task done. Mahalo to Sandy Yanagi, Gainor Miyashiro, Gary Jitchaku, Tom Yamamoto, Eric Nitta, Jon Itomura, Norman Nakasone, Jo-jo Ige and her son Chris "Kiki" (unfortunately missing from photo).



Continued from Page 10

Mahalo

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kenneth Tome | Henry Wada |
| May Tome | Elnora Wakasugi |
| Sarah Tome | Thad Wakasugi |
| Robert Tominaga | Katsue Walker |
| Margaret Torigoe | Wesley Waniya |
| James Toyama | Hideko Watanabe |
| Lori Toyama | Marian Wauke |
| Nelly Toyama-Baduria | Veronica Winegarner |
| Jean Tsuda | Janise Wong |
| Sally Tsuda | Karen Wright |
| Keiji Tsuchiko | Blake Yafuso |
| Amy Tsuru | Keith & Celeste Yamaguchi |
| Virginia Tully | Lynne Yamamoto |
| Alvin & Allyson Uchimura | Jean Yamanaka |
| Ruby Ueda | Jennifer Yamanuha |
| Alan Uehara | Milton Yamanuha |
| Gary Uehara | Cindy Yamauchi |
| Marjorie Uehara | Harold Yamauchi |
| Neal Uehara | Kent & Esther Yamauchi |
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| Helen Uruu | Nancy Yogi |
| Janet Uyehara | Betty Yoshida |
| JoAnn Uyehara | Joyce Yoshida |
| Roderick Uyehara | Tammy Yoshimoto |
| Ronald Uyehara | Wendy Yoshimoto |
| Roy Uyehara | Lynn Yoshitsugu |
| Aaron Uyema | Patrick Zukemura |
| Glenn & Nancy Uyeshiro | Trudy Zukemura |
| Jane Uyeshiro | Morris Zukeran |
| Melissa Uyeunten | Myrtle Zukeran |
| Cynthia Uza | |

Kin Chojin Kai Landscapes Issei Garden

Hardworking Kin Chojin Kai members wielded picks and shovels to dig and level the ground around the 18-ton rock located in HOC's Issei Garden. They prepared the ground and planted beautiful purple plants to enhance the landscape. Front Row: Mamo Kuniyoshi, Craig Yasunaga, and Rachel Yasunaga. Back Row: Richard Maeda, Wayne Toyama, Lily Toyama, Bronson Lee, Robert Lee, Carol Ige, Judy Ota, Arlene Kuniyoshi, Shige Toyama, and Stanley Ige.



Nidaime Teshinkai Rebuilds Bench

The popular picnic table and benches located right outside of the Teruya Building finally collapsed after 26 years of people sitting there enjoying eating, drinking and talking stories, so members of Nidaime Teishin Kai,



Hawaii Shibu, came to the rescue. They purchased new thick boards and rebuilt the picnic table and benches for everyone to enjoy. Mahalo to Harold Higa, Carl Yanagi, Director and Sensei Ryosei Oshiro, Sensei Harris Shiroma and Bob Mayeshiro.

Brazil Oroku/Tabaru Centennial Tour

The Hawaii Oroku Azajin Club is organizing a tour to Brazil to participate in the 100th anniversary of Okinawan Immigration to Brazil from the Aza Oroku and Aza Tabaru regions. The two-day celebration is set for

Continued on Page 15



Toast to Uchinanchu Aloha at the luncheon hosted by Oroku Azajin for Brazillian-Okinawans traveling to the Worldwide Taikai.

Genealogy Networking with Okinawa

By Sally (Kamiya) Tsuda

The Okinawa Prefectural Government Library (OPL), Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii (OGSH), and the University of Hawaii at Manoa Library (UHML) have embarked on a project to coordinate activities and share designated resources related to genealogy. A Skype conference was held on January 19 (Hawaii)/January 20 (Okinawa) to get acquainted with individuals and organizations, and to explore areas of mutual interests as well as priorities of needs.

OPL participants included: Iha-san, Honcho of Library Section, Hiroaki Hara, Genealogy Library, and Colin Sewake, volunteer with Okinawa Hawai'i Kyokai who coordinated the Skype conference.

OGSH was represented by Rodney Kohagura, Steve Miyashiro, Sally Tsuda, Donna Nakamura, and Allen Toma. Jane Serikaku was present as Executive Director of HUOA. UHML's participant was Sachiko Iwabushi, librarian for the Asia Collections, which includes Okinawan Studies. The project will be headed by Hiroaki Hara and Steve Miyashiro; Sachiko Iwabushi emphasized the need for her to serve as a volunteer and not representing UHM while Colin Sewake expressed his willingness to continue assisting OPL in a volunteer.

The conference lasted over two hours, filled with a non-stop exchange of ideas and comments. Specific tasks were assigned to individuals to undertake and disseminate to others via emails. Tasks included exchange of book/reference lists and sharing of data base information and other information most useful in genealogy research activities. Genealogy issues discussed (but not limited to) included:

- ◇ OPL's need for more information on 2nd, 3rd, etc. generation information of issei immigrants;
- ◇ OGSH's need for obtaining information on relatives (great grandparents, etc.) prior to the 1900 period;
- ◇ Identifying ways to improve genealogy search services for individuals;
- ◇ Overcoming the barrier/obstacle of Japanese versus English communication (reading, written, spoken); and
- ◇ Identifying strategies to increase public awareness of genealogy search services which are available from OPL and OGSH.

It is expected that future Skype sessions will be needed to plan, organize and carry out action plans for targeted priorities. The spectrum of this project is as broad and expansive as the visions of this group as we strive to maintain Okinawan identity through history, cultural traditions, and families.

Continued from Page 14.

Brazil Oroku/Tabaru Centennial Tour

August 26 and 27, 2017, in Sao Paulo, Brazil by their community of over 5,000 persons.

The Hawaii tour will leave Honolulu on August 20 and return on August 30 in order to rest and be ready for the annual Okinawan Festival opening on September 2. The eight days in Brazil include the two-day Centennial Celebration, a full day each in Rio De Janeiro, Santos, and Tozan Farm (Town), and a couple of days to visit family and friends and shop. The total cost is estimated at \$4,050 for single occupancy and \$4,150 (per person) for twin occupancy in a 4 Star Hotel.

All Oroku members will be signed up on a first-come first-served basis up to some 25 to 30 people. If open slots remain, interested non-members can sign up on a wait list in order of their request. To register or for more information, please call Howard Takara at 988-3201 or Dexter Teruya at 988-5808.



In Search of POW Remains

In the fierce Battle of Okinawa, an estimated 3,000 Okinawans were deported to Hawaii and detained as Prisoners of War (POWs) at Honouliuli, Sand Island, and other camps on Oahu and the Big Island. Unfortunately, 12 men from Okinawa died in Hawaii and their remains were never taken back to their grieving families in Okinawa. We are now assisting in the search for the remains of these 12 POWs.

At the age of 90, former POW from Okinawa Hikoshin Toguchi has been searching for his friends' remains for many years. Toguchi-san, families and friends of the 12 POWs, and members of the Okinawa-Hawaii Kyokai will be traveling to Hawaii to visit sites that were significant to the POWs and to participate in *Iresai*—a memorial service for the 12 POWs—at Jikoen Hongwanji Temple on June 4, 2017, at 3 p.m.

If you would like to participate, please call Hawaii Okinawa Center at 676-5400. We will also be holding a reception at the Pagoda International Ballroom on June 4 at 6 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person. Both events are open to anyone who is interested. Reservations are necessary, so please call us.

Okinawan Proverb of the Month

Chosen by the Uchinaaguchi Class Members

A Proverb of the month:

Chu ya byoobu nu magariwaru tatchuru.

ちゅや びょーぶぬ まがりわる たっちゆる。

Meaning: Like the angled panels which allow dividers to stand upright, we must be flexible to changes and be successful in life.

Uchinaa-guchi

(Okinawan language)

Word of the Month

January

kutuba, n. [kotoba] A dialect; local accent; language; expression.

February

u-kaji, n. [okage] 1 Patronage; (non-monetary) indebtedness; favor; grace; help; support; backing. 2 A perquisite; an emolument; a privilege.

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

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HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar!

HOT

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

March 2017

- 2 Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Aloha Dinner, HOC
- 3 Gushikawa Commercial High School (39) students to HOC
- 5-11 Aisatsu trip to Okinawa
- 12 Honolulu Festival Parade, Kalakaua Avenue
- 15 Executive Council meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 22 Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, HOC

April 2017

- 2 Oroku Azajin Club – HOC clean up day, 7:00am
Special meeting of Geino Community leaders, 2:30 –4:30pm
- 12 Executive Council meeting, HOC, 7pm
- 23 Haebaru Club – HOC clean up day, 7:00am

Classes • Other Meetings at Hawaii Okinawa Center:

- HUOA Sanshin: every Thursday, 7pm* (no April 6th class; pls call HOC for update)
- Ichigo Ichi E: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7pm* (no April 4th class; pls call HOC for update)
- Ikebana: 1st Wednesday, 7pm* (no April 5th class; pls call HOC for update)
- Karaoke nite: 4th Tuesday, 6:30pm*
- Kobudo Taiko: every Monday, 7pm, (classes on hold; pls call HOC in July for update)
- Monday Crafters: every Monday, 9am*
- Okinawan Genealogical Society meeting: 3rd Saturday, 9am* (March meeting moved to March 25)
- Uchinaaguchi: every 2nd Tuesday, 1pm*; every 4th Thursday, 7pm*

*for more information, please call 676-5400

Subject to Change (entries as of 1/27/17)

Our new episodes will premiere on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 7 p.m. and repeat the following Thursdays at 5 p.m. on 'Olelo Community Media Channel NATV 53. No shows are aired on the fifth Thursday of a month.

All our shows will be submitted in high definition format. 'Olelo currently offers HD channels on Hawaiian Telcom's 1049 and 1053.

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

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

Mar 4, Sat, 7 pm, Mar 9 & 16, Thurs, 5 pm - Show Nine of the 33rd HUOA Okinawan Festival held on Labor Day weekend (September 5 & 6, 2015) at Kapiolani Park in Waikiki. This episode features Okinawa Yuibuyo Suishin Kyogikai, and Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo.

Mar 18, Sat, 7 pm, Mar 23, Thurs, 5 pm - Part One of the 67th Installation Banquet & Uchinanchu of the Year Celebration held on January 21, 2017 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Installed as HUOA President was Vince Watabu whose theme for the year is "Muteei Sakeei," Thriving Prosperity. [Note: No airing on the fifth Thursday (Mar 30) of the month.]

Apr 1, Sat 7 pm, Apr 6 & 13, Thurs, 5 pm - Show Ten of the 33rd HUOA Okinawan Festival held on Labor Day weekend (September 5 & 6, 2015) at Kapiolani Park in Waikiki. This episode features Kaneshiro Dance Studio & Hui O Lailima Churakaagi Angwataa, and Nidaime Teishin Kai Hawaii Shibu & HUOA Sanshin Class.

Apr 15, Sat, 7 pm, Apr 20 & 27 & May 4, Thurs, 5 pm - Part Two of the 67th Installation Banquet & Uchinanchu of the Year Celebration held on January 21, 2017 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Installed as HUOA President was Vince Watabu whose theme for the year is "Muteei Sakeei," Thriving Prosperity.

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