



# UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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## Jon Itomura Hired as New HUOA Executive Director



The Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) is pleased to announce that Jon Itomura has been selected to serve as its executive director effective July 1, 2019.

Jon is a sansei (third generation) Uchinanchu who has actively served in the HUOA over the past 20 years. He has been a Club Representative on the Executive Council, Fund Development Chair, Okinawan Festival Program Chair, Okinawan Festival Chair, Vice President and President-Elect before becoming the HUOA President in 2008. He has also served as President

for both the Young Okinawans of Hawaii in 2000 and President of his ancestral home club, Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai, in 2002-03 and in 2012.

In 2016, Jon was selected by the Okinawa Prefecture to be an Okinawa Goodwill Ambassador. He is currently Co-Director for the Hawaii Okinawa Creative Arts, Secretary for the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza, and an active member of the Okinawa Minyo Kyokai, Wakugawa Akira Dojo-Derek Ichiro Shiroma Kenkyusho. He has attended four Worldwide Okinawa festivals as a participant and tour leader and also conducts annual tours to Okinawa. He provides Okinawan history and culture lessons for the Honolulu Junior

Japanese Chamber of Commerce Cherry Blossom Festival contestants and hosts Hawaii Okinawa tours for Peace Boat world cruise passengers. Jon has emceed numerous cultural performances from Okinawa and Hawaii in addition to HUOA events. One of Jon's favorite hobbies is to capture special moments and memories with his camera and video equipment to help highlight and preserve various cultural events.



Jon, co-director of Hawaii Okinawa Creative Arts, with "Miyahira," a shishi from Haeburu Town.



The Itomura family (L-R): Eldest son Dane, wife Darlene, younger son Joel, and Jon.

"The opportunity to contribute towards the success of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the Hawaii Uchinanchu community will bring many challenges but, most importantly, will be filled with treasured memories of moments with family and friends near and far," Jon said in response to his new job.

Jon will be ending his 25 years of State service as the Supervising Attorney for the Division of Consumer Advocacy, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, where he provided legal counsel and appeared on behalf of the State of Hawaii utility consumers in administrative proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission along with testifying before the legislature.

**"The opportunity to contribute towards the success of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the Hawaii Uchinanchu community will bring many challenges but, most importantly, will be filled with treasured memories of moments with family and friends near and far." — Jon Itomura**

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# President's Message

By Jocelyn Ige



REFLECTION:  
Look to the Past  
to  
Create the Future

*Ashibi nu chura sa ya - ninju nu sunawai.* (The more participants there are, the more enjoyable the gathering becomes.)

**H**aitai! Time flies by so quickly, and here we are at summertime! HUAOA has had several activities since the last issue, as the HUAOA continues to promote, perpetuate and preserve (the three P's) the Okinawan culture. So many of the coordinators and chairpersons contributed much time and effort to ensure that these events would be successful. The volunteers who come out to support these events are appreciated for their assistance in every way imaginable. These activities could not happen without them. These are the key people who help to make HUAOA a strong organization. *Ippee Niffee Deebiru.*

A very special thank you to Gwen Fujie, who filled the position of executive director in the beginning of the year. She brought much energy and effort to HUAOA and HOC. In doing so, she brought in new volunteers, staged a significant fundraiser, and introduced many great ideas that will be used to continue the success of the association. Gwen's passion for the sharing of the culture and service of Okinawans is greatly appreciated and we wish her all the best. *Ippee Niffee Deebiru.*

We welcome Jon Itomura, the new executive director, who has been appointed by the Board of Directors. Jon has many skills and talents that will benefit the HUAOA and HOC as he embarks on this new assignment. Jon will begin his work with HUAOA/HOC on July 1. *Ippee Niffee Deebiru.*

### Rock, Pebbles, and Sand Story: How's your 2019 going?

Select a large empty jar and fill it to the top with large rocks. Does it look full? Add small pebbles to the jar. Does it still look full? Finally add sand to the jar. Is it still full?

The jar represents everything that is in one's life. The **rocks** are equivalent to the **most important projects** and things you have going on, such as spending time with your family and maintaining proper health. This means that if the pebbles and the sand were lost, the jar would still be full and your life would still have meaning.

The **pebbles** represent the things in your life that matter, but that you could live without. The pebbles are certainly things that give your life meaning (such as your job, house, hobbies, and friendships), but they are not critical for you to have a meaningful life. These things often come and go, and are not permanent or essential to your overall wellbeing.

Finally, the **sand** represents the remaining filler things in your life, and material possessions. This could be small things such as watching television or running errands. These things don't mean much to your life as a whole, and are likely only done to waste time or get small tasks accomplished.

The metaphor here is that if you start by putting sand into the jar, you will not have room for rocks or pebbles. This holds true with the things you let into your life. If you spend all of your time on the small and insignificant things, you will run out of room for the things that are actually important.

In order to have a more effective and efficient life, pay attention to the "rocks," because they are critical to your long-term wellbeing.

- Pay close attention to your health
- Spend time with your family
- Exercise
- Keep in touch with relatives that live far away

While you can always find time to work or do chores, it is important to manage the things that really matter first. The rocks are your priorities, while the other things in your life are represented by pebbles and sand.

May you have a fulfilling summer and take care of your health and family!

## An Open Letter from Gwen Fujie to members of HUAOA

*As you know by now, I have resigned from the post of executive director of the HUAOA, and, at the time of this newsletter release, Jon Itomura has stepped up to be our new Executive Director. Congratulations, Jon, and thank you!*

*Many of you honored me in January with your high hopes and enthusiasm, which I so appreciated. Please allow me to tell you how difficult a decision it was to resign. I was very excited, honored and determined to do a great job. However, as time went by, I was unable to fulfill the job as required, to the best of my abilities, and it became clear that I needed to step down. I can only ask for your understanding and compassion. Now, with Jon at the helm, we are in great hands!*

*May I encourage your continued support of President Jo Ige, her officers, directors, our staff at HOC, and our newly appointed Executive Director, Jon Itomura, in moving the organization forward. I will continue as a volunteer chairing Irei no Hi again on June 22 and look forward to another fundraising Professional Development Seminar. Please join me with great anticipation for a successful future for HUAOA. It is in my prayers, as are all of you.*

*Ippee niffee deebiru and until we meet again, I am,  
In gratitude,  
Gwen Fujie*



# 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*. HUAOA sends a sincere *ippee niffee deebiru* to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

### *Uchinanchu Donors March 1 to April 30, 2019.*

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| Kimiko Ishiki   | anonymous        | Walter Wauke          |
| Elaine Kishida  |                  | Tsuneo Yamashiro      |

## 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



The year at a glance!



- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| July 21       | Hui Makaala Fashion Show Luncheon, Hilton Hawaiian Village |
| July 25       | Yuntaku, Artistry in Kakaako                               |
| Aug 30-Sept 1 | Okinawan Festival, Hawaii Convention Center                |
| Sept 2        | Aloha Party, HOC   |
| Sept 14       | Autumn Matsuri, HOC  |
| Oct 3-14      | Study Tour to Okinawa                                      |
| Oct 29        | Uchinanchu No Hi Celebration, HOC                          |
| Nov 2         | Legacy Banquet, Hilton Hawaiian Village                    |
| Nov 30-Dec 1  | Winter Craft Fair, HOC                                     |
| Dec 11        | An Evening in Waipio Craft Fair, HOC                       |

*Check HUAOA website – www.huoa.org for more information.*

### UCHINANCHU

Uchinanchu is the newsletter of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. Although subject to change, issues will be published bi-monthly. Volunteer writers are welcome. Send your name, address and telephone number to Uchinanchu Newsletter, Hawaii United Okinawa Association, 94-587 Ukee St., Waipahu, Hawaii 96797. E-mail articles to huoa@huoa.org. Uchinanchu reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

HUAOA President ..... Jo Ige  
Interim Executive Director ..... Ford Chinen  
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

### 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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# The 37<sup>th</sup> Okinawan Festival Is Coming!

## August 31 & September 1, 2019 at the Hawaii Convention Center

\*Admission \$2 per person (cash only) Children 12 and under, Seniors 65+ are free.

No admission charge for volunteers and performers.



### August 31 (Saturday) 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

- Live entertainment and activities: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
- Bon Dance: 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm (select food booths open)
- Convention Center parking open from 7:00 am
- Additional parking at McKinley High School; Shuttle begins at 7:00 am
- Convention Center doors open at 9:00 am: Center closes at 10:00 pm

### September 1 (Sunday) 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

- Live entertainment and activities: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm
- Convention Center parking open from 7:00 am
- Additional parking at McKinley High School; Shuttle begins at 7:00 am
- Convention Center doors open at 9:00 am: Center closes at 10:00 pm

#### Special Hotel Rates Available – Visit our Festival website for details

- Ala Moana Hotel
- Prince Waikiki
- Pagoda Hotel

#### Social Media

- Website: [www.okinawanfestival.com](http://www.okinawanfestival.com)
- Facebook: Okinawan Festival
- Instagram: @okinawanfestival
- Hashtag: #okifest2019

### ‘Sharing Uchinanchu Aloha’

Okinawan Festival Shares our Culture with the Wider Community  
Your support of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) goes toward:

- **Hawaii Okinawa Center (HOC) cultural classes and programs** – Our home for many different groups to practice cultural arts, hold classes, meetings, host events, and much more etc. The HOC is a legacy left by our Issei (first generation) to preserve, perpetuate and promote the Okinawa culture and community and is a gathering place for the community.
- **Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program** – Longest running high school exchange program between Hawaii and Japan. Over the past 30 years, 1,500 students in Hawaii and Okinawa have experienced two-week homestay visits and established long-term relationships through this program.
- **HUOA Senior Fair** – Helping seniors, their families and caregivers by connecting them to resources and support services. Workshops and demonstrations for safety, health and group interactions are held during this half day event.
- **HUOA Children’s Day Camp** – A summer day camp for children 8-12 years old to learn and participate in Okinawan culture, performance, music, cooking, language, and history. This program is run by adult volunteers and junior leaders who come out to share their expertise, knowledge and “chimugukuru” (Okinawan heart and spirit). The camp is held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, in Kohala, Kona, Kauai and Maui.
- **HUOA Community Service Picnic** – A picnic to share our culture with people outside of the Okinawan community and to provide some fun for children in need. This picnic has most recently been held at a transitional homeless shelter. We provide the games, prizes, entertainment and food, and the residents get to experience an Okinawan style summer picnic!
- **Okinawan Festival** – The largest ethnic festival in Hawaii, the festival is a chance for Okinawans and Okinawans-at-heart to gather and celebrate all things Okinawan. 🇺🇸

#### Check the Festival website for updates and more details to follow in the next Uchinanchu Newsletter.

\* Proceeds from the Okinawan Festival benefit a myriad of programs, including cultural classes and programs held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program, Children’s Cultural Day Camp, Senior Health & Wellness Fair, and the Community Service Outreach Picnic. 🇺🇸

HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

## 2019 Legacy Award

Art & Lorraine Kaneshiro

George Tamashiro

Chef Roy Yamaguchi

Asami Ginoza

Akira Makiya

Zenki Nakazato

Choko Takayama

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 2, 2019

Hilton Hawaiian Village,

Coral Ballroom

9am - Reception & Silent Auction

10am - Doors Open

More information to follow



# Sharing Uchinanchu Aloha in Waianae

Summer arrived early for the residents of Ohana Ola O Kahumana, a transitional housing for families on the Waianae Coast. On May 11, 2019, approximately 50-75 children and adults joined 60 HUOA volunteers from various HUOA member clubs to enjoy a summer picnic. The purpose of this picnic is to share our culture with people outside our Okinawan community and provide a typical Okinawan style summer picnic experience for the families.



Laughter and cheers could be heard as the children and adults participated in various games. Everyone was a winner and received prizes for participating. Constant lines formed at the shave ice stand, a big hit on a hot



day! Volunteers helped children make simple Mother's Day gifts. Families helped themselves to gently used toys, puzzles, books, household items, and clothing.



The sounds of live *sanshin* music and rhythmic drumming caught everyone's attention as the members of Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai formed a bon dance circle. Residents were encouraged to join the circle and dance with them. For many, it was their introduction to Okinawan music and dance.

Residents and volunteers sat down to a lunch of vegetable salad, chili and rice. Freshly cooked hot dogs and *andagi* supplemented the meal.



Homemade brownies and energy bars were also served.

The picnic was made possible because of the generosity of many people. A big *IPPEE NIFEE DEEBIRU* to those who donated prizes and



gently used items. Your monetary donations

funded the lunch and additional prizes. A big *MAHALO* to all the volunteers who helped with pre-picnic preparations and volunteers who gave up their Saturday to be at the picnic. 🙏

## Documenting and Celebrating Our Okinawan Heritage

When asked the question, "What does your *Uchinanchu* heritage mean to you?" we can expect a variety of responses. To some, the connection may run deep and they might describe all kinds of sentiments and examples. There may be others who have not really had the opportunity to explore what their *Uchinanchu* heritage is about and will make connections to some of the food they eat or perhaps going to the Okinawan Festival. Still there maybe others who perhaps give it no thought at all. All of these responses are valid and interesting to know. After all, this is a self-identifying matter and personal.

However, we have a project with the theme of celebrating our Okinawan heritage in Hawaii and we would like for people to share their thoughts and expressions about being Okinawan in Hawaii. This project is partially funded by the Hui O Laulima Cultural Grant and commemorates the upcoming 120th anniversary of the arrival of the first Okinawans in Hawaii in the year 2020.

We are currently collecting original works/expressions relating to our heritage and the submissions will be compiled into a collection that will be ready sometime in 2020. This project is unique in that it is not limited to written works. People may also send images of their original artwork or recordings of their performances of song or dance.

As the *yonsei*, *gosei*, and so on become more blended in their ethnicities and experiences, it becomes easier to lose our connections to our original Okinawan traditions and values. Therefore, there is an urgency today to hold on to our cultural stories and practices. In doing this project, we remember and honor our ancestors who made it possible for our community to be where it is today, document our community as it is today, and leave something for our future generations on which to look back. This may also be a good opportunity for a family project, as some families might document how they celebrate their Okinawan heritage in their various family rituals or traditions.

Submissions do not need to be only written works. They could also be drawings/paintings, photographs, computer graphics, ceramics, music, dance...anything. This collection will be only as creative as the materials that people share. We do ask that you please include a brief explanation of what you are submitting and how it relates to the theme (Okinawan heritage in Hawaii). Submissions may be sent to: [hi.uchinanchu1900@gmail.com](mailto:hi.uchinanchu1900@gmail.com).

### Call for Original Works

**Theme:** Celebrating Our Okinawan Heritage in Hawaii

Share your experiences, expressions/symbols of what Okinawan heritage means to you.

**Submission Period:** Accepting submissions of works from now until June 30, 2019. If unable to submit by June 30, please contact [hi.uchinanchu1900@gmail.com](mailto:hi.uchinanchu1900@gmail.com).

**Written works:** no more than 5,000 words (10 pages, single-spaced). Short stories, essays, poetry, oral histories can also include recorded readings of original works by authors.

**Fine arts:** Drawings/paintings, computer graphics, photographs, ceramics, sculpture

**Performing arts (traditional or modern)**

**Multiple submissions are welcome;** however, editors reserve the right to select as space permits. Thank you!

**Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/HawaiiUchinanchu2020/>  
**Any questions? Email:** [hi.uchinanchu1900@gmail.com](mailto:hi.uchinanchu1900@gmail.com) **Ph:** (808) 295-3828

**SUBMIT WORKS to:** [hi.uchinanchu1900@gmail.com](mailto:hi.uchinanchu1900@gmail.com) 🙏

# Put On Your 'Thinking Caps'

HUOA hosted a Leadership Workshop for current and future leaders on April 22, 2019. About 50 leaders attended the workshop, which was coordinated as an activity under the Club Development and Sustainment Committee. Leaders received a Club Handbook containing useful information, such as HUOA administrative forms, sample lists of duties for club officers, and how to's for club events.



There were a number of speakers, including Gwen Fujie, who presented a condensed version of *Tongue Fu*, and Shinka President Kurt Nagamine sharing how they attract young members. Leaders split into teams and put on their "thinking caps" to brainstorm and share with one another. Here is what a few attendees had to say about their experience at the workshop:

Pat Nagy (Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai member)

*The best take away from Gwen's workshop for me was - changing the "I have to" attitude to "I get to" - love it!! We are all being challenged with keeping our clubs active and alive so it was great to share and exchange ideas/activities with other clubs - great idea!*

Jeannene Oshiro (Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai President)

*From a person with very little experience and involvement in HUOA, I found the workshop to be very beneficial. This workshop was a great way to connect the names with the faces at the administrative level as well as other board members. It also helped to see what other clubs do for their Shinnen Enkai and annual picnics. I also learned that we as an organization have many dedicated people and our members have a lot to be proud of!*



Brianne Yamada (Hawaii-Shuri Naha Club and Shinka member)

*I had a wonderful time at the 2019 HUOA Leadership Workshop meeting individuals from different clubs who share same passion for the Okinawan culture. We kicked off the night with a great Tongue-Fu workshop with Gwen Fujie and learned the importance of perception. Our breakout session then gave us the opportunity to brainstorm ideas of how to perpetuate the Uchinanchu spirit within our clubs and to the younger generation.*



Otsukaresama to Vice President Robbie Umeno and her committee members - Laura Ajimine, Gainor Miyashiro, Beverly Taira, and Sandy Yanagi. Thank you also to Laura for all the food and those who donated refreshments, Gwen Fujie for the *Tongue Fu* presentation, Clayton Uza and Gary Jitchaku for setting up the room, and Stan and Chris Higa for the club display. Most importantly, a big *Ippe Nifee Deebiru* to all the leaders for putting on their "thinking caps" and their willingness to share.

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# Tribute to Derek Ichiro Shiroma

**D**erek Ichiro Shiroma was a remarkable *sanshin sensei* and it showed through the growth of his school, Okinawa Minyo Kyokai Hawaii. He welcomed students of all ages (3-65+) who enjoyed learning how to play the *sanshin*, and even brought a handful of them to take their *Shinjin sho* and *Yushusho* tests in Okinawa.



There was no such thing as too young or too old to start learning. Practices were always filled with love and laughter because of his genuine charm, personality and passion radiating through his teaching. He connected with many people around the world, including Okinawa, Nevada and even Australia. He also collaborated with them to play with the Urizun Minyo Group at various performances. His passing was a loss that was truly felt worldwide.

Derek Ichiro Shiroma was more than just someone who taught us to play *sanshin*. His guidance, support and the tremendous amount of opportunities he brought to us, molded us into the adults we are today. When we first joined Okinawa Minyo Kyokai and Urizun Minyo Group as teenagers, he recognized that we all had different passions. Kaeo's passion was playing the ukulele and guitar, Chantel's passion was singing; Shelby's passion was dancing hula; Travis's passion was playing the *sanshin*; and

Daniel's passion was playing the saxophone. He always highlighted all of our unique interests and showcased them in the music that we played. He also took us on an incredible ride of countless performances, amazing experiences, and creating lifelong friendships with amazing people we would have never met if it weren't for him, his effort and dedication.

His meaningful words of encouragement, sincere acts of kindness, and endless generosity to the Okinawan community impacted all of us. He saw the importance of investing in the younger generation and taught us that we need to give back to the community that has taken care of us, and to also take care of the older generations who gave us a wonderful life here in Hawaii. Like the song *Tinsagu Nu Hana* says, like the stars in the sky, his teachings were countless. There will never be enough words to explain the gratitude and appreciation we have for him. Thank you for everything *Sensei*, you will truly be missed. Until we meet again.

*Ukaaji Deebiru,*

Students of Okinawa Minyo Kyokai and members of the Urizun Minyo Group



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# Bridging from Generation to Generation - For Our Children!

## *Ikuyu Madin*

REFLECTION:  
Look to the Past  
to  
Create the Future



### 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 \$30,115.57, including a large donation from Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai and club pledge donations from Haneji Club, Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club, Nago Club, and Oroku Azajin Club. We are humbled by the support and the confidence you have displayed through your generous donations. The Hawaii Okinawa Plaza will be our testament to the future of Okinawan culture in Hawaii. *Magukuru Kara Ippee Niffee Deebiru* – from our hearts, thank you very much.

### IKUYU MADIN KAI 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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# Preserving Our Legacy

2018 TO 2019-ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN



Thank you to the many members, friends and businesses that have responded to our 2018/2019 annual giving campaign. We are deeply grateful for the confidence you have shown in us by sharing your donation dollars. As we begin this new year, HUOA looks forward to new promises and challenges. President Jocelyn Ige reminds us that we must look at the past to create the future, "reflection."

We are in our seventh-month in our Annual Giving Campaign, and we are pleased to report that we have received 697 donations, representing \$115,607.52. We truly appreciate your support and hope for your continued support. *Ippee Niffee Deebiru!*

The following list of donors reflects contributions from March 1, 2019 to April 30, 2019.

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March 1 - April 30, 2019

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

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In Memory of Hiroshi Yamashiro by Eleanor H. Husnick 

## HAWAII OKINAWA PLAZA UPDATE: ONE STEP CLOSER TO BUILDING OPENING!

The Hawaii Okinawa Plaza building was completed last year and tenants have been hard at work designing and constructing their individual spaces. We are happy to announce our tenants publically for the first time. They are US Renal Care, Dr. Allison Tran, D.D.S., Derek Asato (Acupuncturist), and State Farm agent, Jeremy Dunaway. If you are in need of any of the services that our tenants provide, we hope you will consider their professional services. In addition, we are finalizing a lease to secure our final tenant for the remaining 1,100 sq. ft.

The completion of the construction phase of the project was a big step, the securing of tenants another milestone, and now we are working to open up the building for business. To help us with this process, we have hired the property management services of Marcus & Associates, Inc., which has been instrumental in researching and securing all of the maintenance services needed to open and maintain a commercial property. We thank Clayton Uza and Karen Kuba-Hori who helped to do much of the maintenance work and coordination required prior to Marcus & Associates, Inc. coming on board. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and helped to save money for the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza.

In addition, we thank the over 1,200 donors who helped to raise over \$2.4 million for this project. Without the help and financial support of donors both in Hawaii and Okinawa, we would not be where we are today, which is one step away from opening the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza. From what was once just an ambitious vision from our HUOA leaders 10 years ago, here we are today close to finally opening our doors for business. The goal has always been to provide HUOA with an annual income in support of its many wonderful programs and we are one major step closer to accomplishing that goal.

The building is complete, tenants have been secured, but our fundraising efforts continue. The total construction cost of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza was approximately \$5.4 million and the HUOA has done well to raise funds in support of this project, but we can still benefit from your support. We would like to ask for your kokua and financial support to help support this important project. Your gift today will pay dividends for our generation as well as for future generations. Thank you for your consideration and support. *Ippee Niffee Deebiru!* 

# Master Artists Celebrate Auspicious Anniversary

By Terry Higa Sensei

On April 14, 2019, a historic concert was held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. The concert, which was sponsored by the Hawaii Taiko Kai, celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mitsufumi Ryu Taiko Hozon Kai, an organization dedicated to preserving and continuing the style of *koten* Ryukyuan *taiko* developed by the late Iemoto, Mitsufumi Shimabukuro.

This concert brought together almost 40 members of the Mitsufumi Ryu Taiko Hozon Kai and 16 members of the Hawaii Taiko Kai. The concert included numbers going back to the Ryukyu Kingdom Era, other classical and folk songs and dances, as well as adaptations of contemporary songs. It was a fine example of how classical music stylings can maintain their relevance for today's audiences.

The opening number had over 30 *taiko* players and musicians in traditional Ryukyuan court costumes. As if using a time machine, the audience was next treated to a recent Okinawan pop song accompanied on the *taikos* by members of the Hawaii Taiko Kai. During the course of the program, the audience was treated to an adaptation of a popular scene from a *Kumi-Udui* play (Okinawan opera). The rest of the program included dynamic *taiko* adaptations of classical and folk songs, classical numbers, a dance choreographed for the concert, as well as an arrangement to a



## Echoes of Uchina De-ku in Hawaii

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Mitsufumi Ryu Taiko Hozon Kai

April 14, 2019 - Hawaii Okinawa Center



Hawaiian song presented by the Hawaii Taiko Kai. The finale included over 10 excerpts of popular folk songs and dances.

The talent pool for the concert included 16 *Shihan* (Master Instructors) and 10 *Kyoshi* (Instructors). Individuals such as Morikatsu Kishaba, President of Mitsufumi Ryu Taiko Hozon Kai; Satoshi Higa, National Living Treasure in



Taiko; Toru Yonaha, an accomplished Okinawan musician and composer; and other individuals who are accomplished dance and music instructors participated.

In a surprise ceremony, Terry Higa, instructor for the Hawaii Taiko Kai, was presented with a *Shihan* certification during the concert. An Aloha Party following the concert allowed the approximately 60 visitors from Okinawa to renew or establish new contacts with local individuals.



## Toyopet Okinawa



Employees of Toyopet Okinawa visit HOC (tours coordinated by OTS).

Continued on page 11

# How Do You Get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, Practice, Practice!

For months, members of Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai Hawaii dedicated countless hours to practicing *Uta Sanshin*. Everyone was determined to do their best for what would be their biggest performance to date. What started as just a dream for Grand Master Choichi Terukina Sensei was now just weeks away from becoming a reality – performing at Carnegie Hall in New York City.



On March 28, 2019, the Hawaii members held a special preview concert at the Hawaii Okinawa Center to share their musical talents with the local community and give members unable to go on tour an opportunity to perform. The hall was packed and during the performance of “*Shimanchu Nu Takara*,” the audience gave the loudest “*Hi-Ya-Sa-Sa*” ever heard! At the end of the concert, all performers took to the stage while dancing to “*New York, New York*” mimicking the iconic kick line of the Rockettes.

While the preview performance was a huge success, there was still much more practicing to be done. There were only two weeks left before the group was scheduled to leave. Grand Master Terukina Sensei arrived in Honolulu and the final rehearsal was held at Hawaii Okinawa Center the night before flying out to the east coast.

Lead by Regal Travel, the tour group of about 125 performers and tagalongs left Hawaii on April 11, making its first stop in Washington D.C. On April 13, a small group of Afuso Ryu members performed at the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage. The performance drew in a large crowd including friends from Okinawa Kenjin Kai in the neighboring areas. The highlight of the concert was Grand Master Terukina Sensei’s performance of “*Nakafu Bushi*.” To watch the hour-long concert, visit: <http://www.kennedy-center.org/video/index/M68662>.



After a few days of sightseeing in D.C., the tour group headed to New York City. The tour bus drove past Carnegie Hall where the colorful banner with Grand Master Terukina Sensei’s photo was displayed advertising the concert. Everyone’s excitement and anxiety continued to build until the big day on April 18.



From early morning, performers started dressing in traditional *kimono*, while a few went to Carnegie Hall to set up and coordinate with the staff.

For the opening set, all 76 performers from Ryukyu Koten Afuso Ryu Ongaku Kenkyuu Choichi Kai USA, representing Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Los Angeles and New York, took to the stage. Grand Master Terukina Sensei entered the stage with a



special procession representing an enactment called *Chojanu Ufushu*. This was in honor of Terukina Sensei’s 88th birthday and his wish to celebrate the wondrous milestone with all his *sanshin* family. The second part of the program featured a performance by the Japan Afuso Ryu members from Okinawa, Kanto and Kansai, a solo by Grant “Masandu” Murata Sensei and Ryukyu Buyo.

Finally, the group closed with “*Akebono Sound*,” a collection of contemporary songs merging the traditional sound of *sanshin* and *taiko* with electric guitar, keyboard and bass. This included original works by Terukina Sensei like “*Mensore*,” “*Atcha Bushi*” and “*Chibariyo*.”



Grand Master Terukina Sensei returned to the stage to sing “*Shukwe Bushi*” and lead us in *Kachashi*. The smile on Grand Master Terukina Sensei’s face was priceless and his students were just as thrilled to make his dream come true. On their last night in New York City, the group

held a birthday party for Grand Master Terukina Sensei with over 200 people in attendance. It was the perfect ending to their long journey.

Afuso Ryu would like to extend its thanks and gratitude to everyone for attending the Artistry fundraiser and preview performance, the generous donations, constant support and well wishes. We could not have made it to Carnegie Hall without you! A special mahalo to Kenton Odo Sensei (co-chair), Isaac Hokama (co-chair), advisors Grant “Masandu” Murata Sensei, Amy Higa and Karleen Chinen, and the core committee (Jodie Ching, Elyse Farley, Renette Nakasone, Kris Odo, Loreen Okamura, Lisa Sadaoka, Sean Sadaoka, Courtney Takara, Melissa Uyeunten and Greg Yamashiro) for all their hard work and sleepless nights in making these concerts a success! *Otsukaresamadeshita.*



Continued from page 10



## Gushikawa High School



It’s always a pleasure to greet the energetic students from Gushikawa High School.

## Okinawa Energy Industry



Yoh Kawanami of Hawaiian Electric Co., Inc (far right) brought visitors from Okinawa’s energy industry to HOC (L-R): Ryoji Sueyoshi (Okinawa Enetech Co., Inc), Mayumi Moromi (Okinawa Enetech Co., Inc), Shogo Tobaru (Okinawa Enetech Co., Inc), Naomitsu Urasaki (Univ. of the Ryukyus), Osamu Nakao (Okinawa Enetech Co., Inc), Tetsu Yokoda (Okinawa Electric Power Co., Inc), and Osamu Ashimine (Okinawa Prefectural Government).

# CLUB NEWS

our clubs, our future

## Ginowan Mayor Visits Hawaii

On May 16, Mayor Masanori Matsugawa and his party of four were warmly greeted by Ginowan Shijin Kai Vice President Joy Schoonover and 23 Ginowan club members at a dinner held in his honor at the Maple Garden Chinese Restaurant.

Mayor Matsugawa was on his way home to Okinawa from meetings in Washington, D.C. to discuss the Futenma Air Force Base situation. Accompanying him were Koji Suzuki, Director, Military Base Department; Jun Yoshimura, Section Chief, Military Base Affairs Section; Akihiro Uechi,



Section Chief, Secretariat and Public Affairs Section; and Noriko Ogawa, interpreter. Their stay in Hawaii included meetings at Marine Corps Base Hawaii and dinner with Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell.

On behalf of HUOA, Interim Executive Director Ford Chinen presented gift bags to Mayor Matsugawa and his party. The gift bags contained an assortment of HUOA publications. To celebrate Mayor Matsugawa's first official visit to Hawaii, Ginowan Shijin Kai presented him with a blue aloha shirt. The Mayor and his party also received Hawaiian candies, coffee, micro-fiber towels, honey and cookies in a Hawaiian print gift bag sewn by Jane Nakamura.

Ginowan Club received from the Mayor a beautiful scroll depicting the angel Hagoromo, the "Feather Rose." It will be displayed at the club's Shinnen Enkai on March 8, 2020.

The highlight of the night was John Tasato's slide show presentation of Ginowan Club activities from the past. It was delightful to see a young Rodney Kohagura, Pat Miyashiro, Joy Schoonover and many others.

We ended the night with kachashi. Mayor Matsugawa gave us an impromptu lesson. With our arms extended above our heads, he instructed us to move our hands like we are sliding a window to the right to open then sliding the window to the left to close. A wonderful evening was had by all.

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Email would be better, we would reply you back within 24 hours

## Haebaru Keeps HOC Clean

Energetic Haebaru Club members cleaned, scrubbed and swept the Hawaii Okinawa Center facilities on April 28. Club members (L-R): Shigeiko, Paul and Morris Oshiro, Lynn and Thomas Otaguro, Jr., Dr. Yoshinobu Oshiro, Orrin and Ann Wong, Samuel and Kathy Wakai, and Stuart Lee.



## Oroku Azajin Club Cleans Up



First Row (L-R): Clarisse Kobashigawa, Howard Takara, and Jane Takara. Second Row (L-R): Ethel Teruya, Rosemarie Love, Val Teruya, and Alex Teruya. Third Row (L-R): Beverly Taira, Alice Masutani, Courtney Takara, Galen Teruya, and Dexter Teruya. Fourth Row (L-R): Nathan Taira, Betsy Ebesu, Corinne Takara, and Natalie Teruya. Fifth Row: Dustin Ebesu, Alison Ebesu, and Bruce Yokochi. Sixth Row (L-R): Dan Taira, Darren Chun, and Jason Takara. Missing from photo: Lorri Kajikawa, Vernon Kajikawa, and Lily Kumura.

### Today's Forecast



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## Order Your UCHINANCHU 2018 Today!

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) is pleased to announce the publication of Uchinanchu 2018, an annual compilation of vibrant, full-color photos from this past year's activities such as: installation, Uchinanchu of the Year, shinnen enkai



parties, Okinawan Festival, summer picnics, music and dance performances, Legacy Awards, Hawaii Okinawa Plaza, and much, much more.

Like a family album, Uchinanchu 2018 is a keepsake that will help to preserve the many memorable moments that our members have shared in our six regular issues of our Uchinanchu newsletter in 2018.

Priced at \$10 per book, clubs ordering 20 or more copies will be charged a discounted price of \$7 per book. Thanks to the support of numerous advertising sponsors, all proceeds from the sale of Uchinanchu 2018 will benefit the HUOA.

For information on advertising or book orders, email: edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com or call (808) 676-5400.

**MORE CLUB NEWS**

# 2019 HUOA MIXED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

## League winner and Open Division Champions: Nakagusuku



## A Division Champions: Osato



## B Division Champions: Urasoe 2



## C Division Champions: Kin



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**50th Annual  
Scholarship Luncheon  
& Fashion Show**

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2019  
HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE  
CORAL BALLROOM

FEATURING:

**Kanna  
Yamauchi**



&

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**YOKANG**




YOKANG, an Okinawan design house, supports a more flamboyant persona of yourself by mixing a concept of "clothes to emphasize pride" and the traditional hand-dyeing technique known as *bingata*. YOKANG deals in both casual and formal garments that brighten the wearer's presence through a simple and vibrant design.

Kanna Yamauchi was born in 1973 in Naha city, Okinawa, Japan; being raised with the artistic influences from her mother, Mitsuko Yamauchi, who is the pioneer of introducing the traditional Okinawan "Bingata" dyeing technique into western-style clothing designs. After one year of studying in France and learning dress-making in Okinawa, Kanna has received numerous grand prizes at both Okinawan and nation-wide designing contests. Previously a featured designer at the 2007 and 2009 Fashion Shows, Hui Makaala is pleased to welcome back by popular demand, YOKANG and the spectacular designs of Kanna Yamauchi.





**RESERVATION FORM**

Reservation Deadline: July 5, 2019

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# 49th Annual Hawaii Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament Results



*Thank you to all of the golfers who came out to the Pali Golf Course and a big mahalo to tournament co-chairs Neal Takara and Joey Itagaki and all of our volunteers. Please join us next year to celebrate our 50th Anniversary Tournament over the Memorial Day weekend!*

**Winners**

Tournament Grand Champion:  
Nick Matsushima

Overall Low Net:  
Kristine Lindstrom

Senior Flight Champion:  
Paul H. Uyehara

Highest Net Scores ("T" = Tie)

**Champion Flight**

- T1) David Miyashiro 141
- T1) Sheldon Tokuda 141
- 3) Sean Sadaoka 143
- 4) Norman Shinno 144
- T5) Nick Matsushima 145
- T5) Kent Tamashiro 145

**A-Flight**

- 1) Troy Tanaka 140
- 2) Blaine Tajiri 144
- 3) Jason Zakimi 147
- 4) Daryn Arakaki 148
- 5) Mark Fukeda 154

**B-Flight**

- 1) Hilton Lau 134
- 2) Lester Higa 151
- 3) Elton Doi 158
- 4) Calvin Nakama 160
- 5) Lloyd Higa 192

**Senior Flight**

- 1) Paul H. Uyehara 130
- 2) Bob Tanaka 143
- T3) Merl Miyashiro 146
- T3) Melvin Oshiro 146
- 5) Roy Kaneshiro 147

**Women's Flight**

- 1) Kristine Lindstrom 125
- 2) Katrina Higa 135
- 3) Shirlyn Ogata 138
- 4) Gladys Tokunaga-Asao 146
- 5) Susan Shimotsu 173

**Super Senior Flight (Round 2 only)**

- 1) Paul T. Uyehara 69
- 2) Kaz Yamada 70
- 3) Katsumi Ogura 71
- 4) Mats Okamoto 73
- 5) Harold Takayama 74

**Guest Flight**

- T1) James Frizzell 138
- T1) Tyler Ota 138
- 3) Keith Nakamura 142
- T4) Marcus Lake 143
- T4) James Oshiro 143



Jo Ige represented Governor David Ige to present the Governor's Tournament Grand Champion Bowl to Nick Matsushima.



Jacob Pritchard (left) and Nick Matsushima (right) were tied with the lowest two-day gross score resulting in a tournament playoff. Congrats to Nick for winning this year's Grand Championship.



Lynn Miyahira represented Mayor Kirk Caldwell to present the Mayor's Bowl for Overall Low Net to Kristine Lindstrom. Kristine was also the Women's Flight Champ.



Kent Tamashiro, son of the late David Tamashiro, presented Senior Flight Champ Paul H. Uyehara with the David Tamashiro Memorial Trophy.



Congrats to all our "Closest to the Hole" winners!  
A big Ippe Nifee Deebiru to Bob Tanaka for donating these prizes every year.



Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai defended its title for the coveted Inamine Cup. Eight golfers represented the club in the tournament and they celebrated with fellow Nakagusuku members at the banquet.

# Hawaii Students Arrive in Okinawa



Fifteen high school students left for Okinawa to start their two-week experience on the Hawaii Okinawa Student Exchange Program. Joining them are chaperones Stacy Kawamura and Tom Yamamoto.



The Hawaii students were warmly greeted by many of our Okinawan friends when they arrived at the Naha Airport on June 8. More coverage in the next issue of the Uchinanchu newsletter.

## 2020 ANNIVERSARIES Save the Dates!

2020 will be a significant year for HUOA, full of many special anniversaries. Please save these dates - more information to follow.

**JANUARY 18, 2020 – UOY AND INSTALLATION BANQUET**

**FEBRUARY 2020 – 30TH ANNIVERSARY HAWAII OKINAWA STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

**MAY 16-17, 2020 – CELEBRATION FOR 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF OKINAWA IMMIGRATION & 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOC**

**MAY 23-24, 2020 – 50TH ANNUAL HAWAII OKINAWAN INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

### OKINAWAN PROVERBS (Kugani Kutuba)

Uya yushi, kkwa yushi

うや ゆし、くわ ゆし (親諭し、子諭し)

Meaning & Interpretation:

*Parents teach, children teach.*

(Whenever parents teach children, children also teach parents. They teach and learn from one another.)

### Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language)

Word of the Month

May

ji-yuu, *n.* [jiyuu] Freedom; liberty; as desired.

June

moo-ashibi, *n.* Outdoor get-together with music and dancing traditionally held at night after work in rural areas.

(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

## July 2019

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY-HOC Office Closed
- 10 Executive Council meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 24 Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 31 Okinawan Festival General meeting, 7pm, HOC

## August 2019

- 14 Executive Council meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 20 Okinawan Festival General meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 31 37<sup>th</sup> Okinawan Festival, Hawaii Convention Center

## September 2019

- 1 37<sup>th</sup> Okinawan Festival, Hawaii Convention Center
- 2 Okinawan Festival – Aloha Party, HOC

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

- HUOA Sanshin: every Thursday, 7pm\*
- Ichigo Ichi E: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7pm\*
- Ikebana: 1st Wednesday, 7pm\*
- Karaoke nite: 4th Tuesday, 6:30pm\*
- Monday Crafters: every Monday, 9am\*
- Okinawan Genealogical Society mtg: 3rd Saturday, 9am\*
- Uchinaaguchi: every 2nd Tuesday, 1pm\*; every 4th Thursday, 7pm\*

\*for more information, please call 676-5400

\*\*Subject to Change\*\* (entries as of 5/24/19)

Our new episodes premiere on the first and third Saturday of the month at 7 pm and repeat the following Thursdays at 5 pm on 'Olelo Community Media Channel NATV 53, except no HOC show is aired on the fifth Thursday of a month.

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

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

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

July 6, Sat, 7 pm, July 11 & 18, Thurs, 5 pm Show One of the Natsumero Charity Concert commemorating the completion of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza. Held on September 4, 2018 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. This episode presents the Mitsuko Yamauchi Variety Show.

July 20, Sat, 7 pm, July 25 & August 1, Thurs, 5 pm Show Two of the Natsumero Charity Concert commemorating the completion of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza. Held on September 4, 2018 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. This episode continues the Natsumero Singing Concert.

August 3, Sat, 7 pm, August 8 & 15, Thurs, 5 pm Show Three of the Natsumero Charity Concert commemorating the completion of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza. Held on September 4, 2018 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. This episode concludes the Natsumero Singing Concert.

August 17, Sat, 7 pm, August 22 & September 5, Thurs, 5 pm 2018 Okinawan Festival (Show Four), held in September at the Hawaii Convention Center in Waikiki. Featured in this episode are two performing groups - Hooge Ryu Hana Nuuzi No Kai and Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko. [Note: No HOC show on the fifth Thurs of the month, August 29.]



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