



# UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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## It's a Wrap—Another Successful Okinawan Festival in the Books!

By Lynn Miyahira, 2019 Okinawan Festival Chair

We can all breathe a sigh of relief now that our biggest event of the year, the Okinawan Festival, is done—and was a huge success! As only our second year at the Hawaii Convention Center, we have already made some great strides in improving many of the processes for putting together an event of this magnitude. With an estimated 50,000 attendees, we should all give ourselves a big pat on the back for successfully completing the largest ethnic festival in Hawaii! But there are always things we need to improve on, and we are already busily putting together notes and suggestions for next year.

I want to give a big *IPPEE NIHEI DEEBIRU* to all our volunteers, booth captains, and core committee team! Without you, we would not have been able to accomplish anything! We have approximately 120 booth captains and

they are the heart and soul of the festival. As they represent their various HUOA clubs, many are experts in their particular booth or room and are in charge of recruiting all of their volunteers, coordinating shifts, making sure that the layouts are submitted on time, and so much more. We found that it's best if each HUOA club has a team of two to four booth captains since there is so much work to go around. Booth captains also attend monthly Okinawan Festival meetings and need to convey all the information to their respective club members – no small task! So, thank you to all of our booth captains who continue to work hard to make the Okinawan Festival a success.

Our Festival core committee is made up of about 20 leaders who are in charge of aspects that affect many areas of the Festival like parking, security,

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Photo by Greg Yamamoto

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# President's Message

By Jocelyn Ige



REFLECTION:  
Look to the Past  
to  
Create the Future

*Ippee Nifee Deebiru* to all our 3,500-plus volunteers who helped to make the 37<sup>th</sup> Okinawan Festival successful! Over the past year, committees and members met to ensure that improvements would be made so attendees could enjoy themselves. New activities and demonstrations by our creative clubs emphasized the theme, "Sharing Uchinanchu Aloha." As always, reconnecting with friends and hanging out with family is considered one of the best things about the festival. May the photos from the festival bring you joyful and happy memories!

There is such a wealth of knowledge, experience and personal pride within the HUOA. You can see it at the festival. Watching the booths over the years—whether it be at Kapiolani Park or at the Convention Center—each booth captain runs the shifts with ease and confidence. The camaraderie between the club members always makes the shift time go by quickly.

*Andagi* measuring and mixing has been perfected over the years. "Dropping *andagi* " by hand is a technique passed on from the experts; seasoning the *champuru*, *yakisoba* and soup broths in the huge woks, pots and tilting skillets; putting on *kimonos* and makeup hours in advance; setting up the *taiko*, and tuning the *sanshin* and *koto*; performing as one voice, one movement—so many of these skills involve careful watching, listening, practice and sometimes scolding, to be successful. Thank goodness for the individuals who took the time to teach it well. As volunteers of all ages and skill levels come together, in or out of the booths, somewhere during those two days of hard work, we come to understand the true meaning of "Sharing Uchinanchu Aloha."

*Yuimaaru*—we build the community of *Uchinanchu* by being a mentor, a nurturer, a learner and a leader. Be HUOA Strong! Take your place! Learn by watching, listening and doing. Gently share your knowledge. Take the time to hear the stories from the past, the stories that tell of the history, listen to the language that can tell of life and character, and listen to the ones who care. Look out for one another; see what good things can be passed on to the future. Festival 2020 is only 11 months away. *Chibariyo! Makahana ke 'ke*: Only when one actually does the work can one come to know and understand the process – (Kilohana Silva, *Midweek*, September 18, 2019, describing the care taken for the *lauhala* mat over four generations).

*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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 HUOA Newsletter Fund, 94-587 Ukee Street, Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Uchinanchu of the Year and 70<sup>th</sup> Installation Banquet

Please mark January 18, 2020, on your calendars and join us for HUOA's Uchinanchu of the Year & 70<sup>th</sup> Installation Banquet.

Come and support your club's Uchinanchu of the Year, meet your incoming officers and advisors, and say thanks to this year's officers and advisors for their hard work! This is always an entertaining and memorable event.

## SEE YOU THERE!



# UCHINANCHU

*Ippee Nifee Deebiru... Mahalo!*

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

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

**Uchinanchu Donors July 1 to August 30, 2019.**

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## 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



The year at a glance!



- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Oct 27       | Deigo Club's 70th Anniversary Celebration, HOC                          |
| Oct 29       | Uchinanchu No Hi Celebration, HOC                                       |
| Nov 2        | Legacy Banquet, Hilton Hawaiian Village                                 |
| Nov 22       | Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Hawaii - Cultural Fusion, Manoa Grand Ballroom |
| Nov 24       | Uchinamun Family Variety Show, HOC                                      |
| Nov 30-Dec 1 | Winter Craft Fair, HOC  |
| Dec 11       | An Evening in Waipio Craft Fair, HOC                                    |

Check HUOA website – [www.huoa.org](http://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](mailto:huoa@huoa.org). Uchinanchu reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

HUOA President ..... Jo Ige  
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#### ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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### It's a Wrap... continued from Page 1

layouts, delivery, supplies, food production and ordering, entertainment, finance, signage, line management, volunteer coordination, information booth, VIPs and coordination with the Hawaii Convention Center. It's truly a team effort to manage all these moving pieces and we are incredibly fortunate to have volunteers who are willing to take on such important tasks – this is a true testament of our *Uchinanchu* spirit! Mahalo to all of you who have put in countless hours to make the Okinawan Festival a success!

I would like to share a heart-warming story from long-time volunteer Lyn Uesato who runs the Heiwa Dori room. Last year during the Friday setup of the Heiwa Dori room, she met one of the HCC custodial staff. He was admiring the products and she asked if he was planning to attend the Festival. He said that he could not because he was working on both days. He then mentioned that his mom was from Okinawa, but they had never been active. She let him sample one of the snacks, just so he could get a taste. During the weekend, she saw him a couple of times, emptying the rubbish cans throughout the day, and he would come by to see how things were going. This year, she saw him again around 6 p.m. on Sunday cleaning the back of the concessions and she had a funny conversation with him.

Lyn: "Hey, I remember you from last year - nice to see you again!"  
 Him: "Next year, you won't see me here."  
 Lyn: "Why, are you going retire!?"  
 Him: "No, next year I'm volunteering for the Festival!"

This story reminded me that we touch way more people than we think through the Okinawan Festival. The pride and joy that we all feel in our heri-

Continued on Page 3

*It's a Wrap... continued from Page 2*

tage is a genuine reflection of our strong sense of community – or *yuimaaru* – and this festival is an opportunity for us to share that with the rest of the world.

Our guests from Okinawa – including performers from the Ikuko Matsukawa Choral Group, the Yomitan Tokeshi Shishimai Hozonkai, the Champuryu Geino-Dan, and many other special guests and dignitaries – are always in awe of the power of the Okinawan community in Hawaii. We are fortunate to have such high-caliber performers come to Hawaii for the Festival (by the way, did you know that everyone pays their own way to come from Okinawa?). By celebrating things that are unique to the Hawaii-Okinawa experience – like *Andadog* or learning about the Hawaii Okinawa Restaurant Project in the Yuimaaru Room – the Okinawan Festival continues to be a bridge between cultures.

The two major goals we set in the beginning were to make the food production and food lines more efficient and generate more income overall. I am happy to report that we were able to accomplish both goals! Part of the plan to reach the goals was to charge a \$2 admission for people ages 13 to 64 to help cover the expenses incurred by being at the Hawaii Convention Center. It was the first time we ever charged admission to the festival, so we were



Photo by Greg Yamamoto



Photo by Greg Yamamoto

a little anxious about how it would be received. However, most people felt it was a fair cost considering all the things we offer at the Festival – plus the clean restrooms and air conditioning were well worth it! We also made sure that everyone understood that proceeds from the festival support all the various programs of the HUUOA, like our High School Student Exchange Program, Children's Day Camp, Senior Fair, Community Service Picnic, and various cultural classes and workshops help at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

A big mahalo this year goes to the HCC kitchen staff for giving us a lot of help with the entire food planning process. One of the biggest improvements this year was the efficiency of the food production and all of the HCC kitchen staff played a big role in those improvements. Many of our volunteers commented that they were delighted to see the new Executive Chef Hans Lentz walking around the food booths so that he could see everything with his own eyes. We got a lot of help from the Convention Center staff and they were on-the-ground with us throughout all of the setup, cleanup and everything in between.

Continued on Page 4

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# Capturing an Okinawan Festival Moment – Photo Contest Winners

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association encourages documentation of the Okinawan Festival by sponsoring a photo contest. Our goal is to gather and archive photos from the Festival to preserve the rich history of Okinawan culture in Hawaii.

A total of three prizes were awarded: a winner for each theme (Culture, Ohana), and a Grand Prize winner for the best overall photo. Images are also posted online at [www.okinawanfestival.com](http://www.okinawanfestival.com). A big mahalo to all of the photographers who submitted entries for this year's photo contest.

## Grand Prize Winner (\$100):

### Photographer's

**Name: Collette Arakawa**

Name of Photo: My Uncle & Me

Photo Description: Aiden and Uncle Eric on their way to the Bon Dance.



## Culture Winner (\$50):

**Photographer's Name: Stan Sakai**

Name of Photo: Sensei Allison and her three young students

Photo Description: Okinawan culture is perpetuated through dance, song, and other traditions.

## It's a Wrap... continued from Page 3

I would also like to acknowledge our presenting sponsor Zippy's for going above and beyond with helping us in many different aspects from marketing, special menus, food ordering and deliveries. Our relationship with Zippy's goes back many years we are fortunate to have them as a partner. We are also grateful to have strong partnerships with our gold sponsors Central Pacific Bank, Sun Noodle, and Island Insurance. Their support goes beyond just money and they send volunteers to the festival too! Our



Photo by Chad Gibo

newest sponsor this year was JTB and we look forward to developing a strong relationship with them too. We also had special kokua from the City & County of Honolulu as well as from the Hawaii Tourism Authority through their Community Enrichment Program. The Okinawan Festival truly celebrates the unique multicultural heritage of Hawaii and it is wonderful that the Okinawan community's importance is recognized by our local State and City governments.

I say this often because I truly believe it – there is no other organization that can do what we do and I am incredibly PROUD of our HUOA family for being able to put on the Okinawan Festival year

after year. Other festivals have come and gone, but we have been able to carry on this tradition for over 37 years. However, we should not take for granted that the Festival will always be around – this can only continue if our different



## Ohana Winner (\$50):

**Photographer's Name: Cora Hiranaka**

Name of Photo: Hajichi Tattoos

Photo Description: Friends excited about sharing what Okinawan tattoos on the back of the hands look like.

generations continue to work together to make sure that the Festival keeps going. Older generations must be mindful to pass down their knowledge and younger generations need to step up and take leadership roles. But the strength of our *Uchinanchu* community is our ability to work together regardless of age, so I'm confident that we will continue to see lots of multi-generational leaders at our Okinawan Festival. Our Okinawan community continues to amaze me with our generosity and willingness to help each other out and I feel incredibly privileged to be a part of it! *Chibariyo!*

# Rocking Out At Yuntaku 2019

By Starla Takahara

“We will, we will, YUNTAKU!” sang Shinka’s performers and the audience as they clapped their hands and danced to their *yokyo* (performance for celebrations) inspired by Queen’s Freddy Mercury. *Yuntaku* was in full swing on July 25 at Artistry Honolulu.



*Yuntaku Committee members dressed up as Freddy Mercury and took to the stage for a special dance performance that got the entire crowd clapping and singing to the hits from the band Queen.*

“Yuntaku” means to “talk-story” or “chat” in *Uchinaaguchi*. Attendees had the opportunity to talk-story with one another as they searched for individuals to help them complete their *Yuntaku* bingo card. They further chatted with five cultural booths: Hawaii United Okinawa Association, Young Okinawans of Hawaii, Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai, Chinagu Eisa and Shinka, to complete their cultural booths passport. Through *Yuntaku*, Okinawans and Okinawans-at-heart could connect with one another and the *Uchinanchu* culture.

Entertainment throughout the night featured performances by Hawaii Okinawa



*Yuntaku attendees participated in the world famous Uchinaa Janken game, an Okinawan version of jan-ken-po.*

Creative Arts, Urizun, and Dazzman Toguchi. In addition, games such as Uchinaa Janken, Chubby Bunny Andagi, and Alphabet Soup added even more fun to the atmosphere. Attendees also had an opportunity to win a Yeti Cooler, a 43” flat screen television, and a variety of prizes – thank you to the 67<sup>th</sup> Cherry Blossom Court of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce for assisting with the lucky drawings.

On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank HUAO volunteers and the numerous donors and supporters who made the event possible. Planning such an event is not possible without the hard work of committee members from Shinka: Hanae Higa, Kurt Nagamine, Ike Nagamine, Todd Gusihken, Jessie Nakamoto, Brianne Yamada, Scott Motobu, Lisa Tamashiro and advisor Mark Higa.

Shinka is the 50<sup>th</sup> HUAO member club whose common mission is to perpetuate the Okinawan culture and connect individuals to the Okinawan identity through social and cultural interactions. Shinka is aimed at individuals between the ages of 21-39. Interested in joining? Visit [shinkahawaii.org](http://shinkahawaii.org) or contact us at [shinkahawaii@gmail.com](mailto:shinkahawaii@gmail.com) for more information.

*Photos courtesy of Brandon Miyagi*



*Urizun Minyo Group and Brandon Ing delighted the crowd with their beautiful music at Yuntaku.*

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# Children's Day Camp Photos

Children's Day Camp activities were held in May and June on Oahu, Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii Island. On the Big Island, camps were held in Hilo, Kona and Kohala. Children ages 7 to 13 were introduced to activities promoting Okinawan history, dance, language, drumming, martial arts, crafts, flower arrangement, cooking and plantation games. Projects varied from camp to camp.



## Akatsuki Study Tour 2019

Submitted by Kathy Matsuda

Fourteen members of Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Kohala/Waimea and Kauai had the privilege of attending the Akatsuki Study Tour 2019 from June 14-24. We were excited to visit our roots and meet Takeo Medoruma, the founder of Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko. We learned four new songs including *Nada Sou Sou*, which featured choreography made especially for Hawaii, and we performed it at the Okinawan Festival. We value the opportunity that was given to us to learn from these instructors and create lasting friendships.



We visited the Mayor of Urasoe, Mr. Tetsuji Matsumoto. Hawaii boy Shea Yamaguchi, Coordinator for International Relations, was our tour guide. The Mayor was very welcoming and we got to sit in his meeting room and talk story with him. They presented us with a gift bag of places and activities in Urasoe.

The food in Okinawa was amazing. We ate at the Hateruma Dinner Theatre and got to see our friends Ayumi Yonaha and Atsushi Yamashiro perform. Ayumi and Atsushi performed at RMD Kohala/Waimea's 10th anniversary and Ko Ryukyu concert in July 2018. They performed Keali'i Reichel's *Ka Nohona Pili kai*, which is the Hawaiian version to *Nada Sou Sou*. It was special to have them sing in Hawaii and then to hear them again in Okinawa.

We worked on our new *shishi*, Kanai (wishes come true) Kahukoa (Brave Protector). His head was made in Okinawa, and the body will be made from hau from Hawaii Island. Kanai Kahukoa will join you at the 2020 Okinawan Festival. Mahalo to Hui O Iaulima for the grant we received to bring two instructors from Okinawa to help us work on our *shishi* after our trip. Mahalo also to North Kohala Community Resource Center and the Atherton Family Foundation for assisting with funding.



Mahalo to our Sensei Akemi Martin for organizing the Akatsuki Study Tour 2019. This was a very memorable trip that took a lot of us back to our Okinawan roots. This trip also prepared us for Okinawan Festival as we got to share with you the songs we learned and performed for the very first time.

# Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai's 'Cultural Fusion'

On Friday, November 22, Senjukai Hawaii Okinawan dance studio will present its Cultural Fusion fundraiser at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's Manoa Grand Ballroom from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The annual event, which is in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, raises funds to help in the group's mission of perpetuating Okinawan culture and dance in Hawaii.



In particular, Senjukai Hawaii provides scholarships to its students to assist with expenses associated with attending the *Konkuru* certification testing held annually in Okinawa. To date, Senjukai Hawaii has provided over \$10,000 in scholarships, allowing more than 10 students to become certified, with two completing all levels of the *Konkuru* testing.

The Cultural Fusion event will be filled with live cultural performances by Senjukai Hawaii members, delicious food, and original cocktails and beverages. The silent auction will feature a wide range of items perfect for kicking-



off holiday shopping. They will also feature a Wall of Wonder where participants can purchase a mystery bottle for a chance at valuable bottles of wine, sake, soju, and of course, awamori. The always popular Kachashi Contest will be held again where a new Kachashi Champion will be crowned. Senjukai

Hawaii invites everyone to join in on an evening of fun!

It is through the generosity of supporters and community members that Senjukai is able to further its commitment to enriching lives and bringing joy and happiness to the community through Okinawan dance.

Tickets are \$70 (\$75 after November 1) and will call is available. For more information on Cultural Fusion or to order tickets, email [senjukaihawaii@gmail.com](mailto:senjukaihawaii@gmail.com) or call 808-754-8828.



Join the Hawaii United Okinawa Association in celebrating,

## Uchinanchu no Hi 2019

(世界のウチナーンチュの日)

**Date:** Tuesday October 29, 2019  
**Time:** 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Hawaii Okinawa Center, Legacy Ballroom I  
 94-587 Ukee Street Waipahu, HI 96797



2016 Taikai Mascot  
"Kasamaru"

**What to expect: Potluck Dinner, Games, Entertainment, Fellowship, Musical "Playshops" (try out an Okinawan instrument), and more!**

**Musical "Playshops" by:**  
*Sanba* – Allison Yanagi  
*Taiko* – Hawaii Taiko Kai  
*Ichi Go Ichi E* – HUOA Ichi Go Ichi E Class  
*Paranku* – Paranku Club of Hawaii

**Sanshin entertainment by:**  
*Nidaime Teishin Kai Hawaii Shibu*

"Let us celebrate the fact that we are all Uchinanchu. Let us celebrate and establish today, October 29<sup>th</sup> (HST) World Uchinanchu Day, and let us engrave it with pride on our Uchinanchu souls"  
 – Taikai 2016

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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 \$27,965, including two large donations from the Wahiawa Nakasone Family Reunion & Golf Tournament, who we welcome to the Ikuyu Madin Capital Campaign ohana, and Hui Makaala. 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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2018 TO 2019-ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

*Preserving Our Legacy* 

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.

It was nice seeing a lot of you at our Okinawan Festival and the Autumn Dance Festival. It is because of your continued support that we are able to organize such events to share and enjoy our culture.

We are in our 11th month in our Annual Giving Campaign and we are pleased to report that we received 730 donations, representing \$130,689.67. We truly appreciate your continued support to the Hawaii Okinawa Center. *Ippee Nifee Deebiru!*

The following list of donors reflect contributions from July 1, 2019 to August 30, 2019:

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In Memory of Holly Emi Takara by Howard & Jane Takara

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**July 1 - August 30, 2019**

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**In Memory of Mrs. Nora Natsuko Shiroma**

**by Amy T. Shiroma **

**HAWAII OKINAWA PLAZA NOW 100 PERCENT LEASED OUT AND OPEN FOR BUSINESS!**

*Haisai!*

We are happy to announce that the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza is now completely leased out with the signing of our fifth tenant, Edward Jones, in late September. We are also excited to report that two of our tenants have opened for business! Dr. Allison P. Tran, DDS, a periodontist, and Mr. Derek Asato, an acupuncturist, have been seeing patients in their brand new beautiful offices. If you are in need of their professional services, please give them a call. In addition, other tenants—US Renal Care and State Farm—are working on their interior design and construction.

The opening of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza is a huge milestone and it took the vision, hard work, sacrifice and perseverance of many people to get to this point. The Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza owe a debt of gratitude to the early visionaries and leaders of the project, George Tamashiro, Ric Higashionna, Maurice Yamasato, Alan Chinen, Ron Tomasa, Keiko Ura, the late Jane Serikaku, and to the leaders and drivers of the project in Okinawa: Asami Ginoza (Executive Director of the Okinawa Fund Raising Promotion Committee in support of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Project), Zenki Nakazato (former Vice Governor of Okinawa Prefecture Government), Akira Makiya (Chairman of the Okinawa Fund Raising Promotion Committee in support of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Project and former president of Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai), and Choko Takayama (former president of Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai).

In addition, great appreciation goes out to HUOA Presidents Rodney Kohagura, Laverne Higa, David Arakawa, Jon Itomura, Ford Chinen, Paul Komeiji, Norman Nakasone, Cyrus Tamashiro, George Bartels, Jr., Mark Higa, Tom Yamamoto, Vince Watabu, Courtney Takara, and Jocelyn Ige who since 2005 all did their part to move the project forward during their year as president. Without their leadership this project would never have succeeded.

A big mahalo to the current HOP Board Members George Tamashiro, Mark Higa, Bob Shiroma, Norman Nakasone, past Board Member, Jon Itomura, and committee volunteer, Gary Miyashiro, for their dedication and invaluable guidance.

In addition to all the amazing individuals that volunteered their time and energy to this project, we were blessed to partner with YFH Architects, Bank of Hawaii, S & M Sakamoto, CBI, Inc., and Marcus & Associates, LLC that helped to design, finance, build, lease and now manage the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza. Without their help and expertise, we would not be where we are today.

There is a saying that it takes a village to raise a child. In our case, it took 50 villages or 50 HUOA member clubs and the support of our friends in Okinawa to build a building. We need to thank all the clubs for their support. We also need to thank the 93 donors who gave \$10,000 or more as well as all the donors who made gifts of any amount to support this project. We hope that you will all take pride in knowing that you all played an important role in making this building possible.

We also hope that you will help us honor five of the early HOP leaders, George Tamashiro, Asami Ginoza, Zenki Nakazato, Akira Makiya, and Choko Takayama at this year's Legacy Awards Banquet on Saturday, November 2 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. It will be a wonderful luncheon event where we will be able to say thank you to these amazing individuals.

Again, to all of you who helped to support a project that will provide much needed funds to sustain the Hawaii United Okinawa Association for our children and future generations. We are forever grateful.

*Ippee Nifee Deebiru,*

Chris Shimabukuro

President, Hawaii Okinawa Plaza 

# Mensore

welcome!



## Mensore OHK, Matsukawa Chorus & Yomitan Tokeshi Shishimai Hozonkai



Representatives from the Matsukawa Chorus Group, Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai and Yomitan Tokeshi Shishimai Hozonkai met with Governor David Ige during their visit to Hawaii for the 37th Annual Okinawan Festival.

## OPG Department of Commerce, Industry and Labor



(L-R): Hiroshi Ikehara (Supervisor, Asian Economic Strategy Division), Noboru Kakazu (Director General), Arleen Kamita (Kin Chojin Kai Officer/Maiko's cousin) and Maiko Higashimori (Asian Economic Strategy Division).

## Mensore Peace Boat Participants



38 visitors from the Peace Boat Cruise visited HOC to learn about Okinawan culture, including sanshin, shishimai and had an opportunity to make andagi.

## Mensore Izumizaki Hatagashira Hozon Kai



HUOA President Jo Ige with members of Izumizaki Hatagashira Hozon Kai and the Hatagashira they made and donated to us last year.

## Mensore Ryudai Students



## Mensore Yaese Students



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

# CLUB NEWS

*our clubs, our future*

## 2019 Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai Summer Picnic

By Alton Uyema

Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai held its annual summer picnic on August 3 at Ala Moana Beach Park. The picnic was hosted by the families of the late Shiki and Yeitoku Uyema.

Despite the forecast of inclement weather that weekend, the day turned out to be a beautiful one, complete with sunshine, tradewinds and blue skies, which made a perfect setting for the day's festivities. There was a great turnout of club members, friends and special guests, including over 30 exchange students visiting from Okinawa.

The day was filled with fun and exciting games ranging from foot races for the children, to the traditional two-man geta relay and tug-o-war competition. The host families did a great job in providing a plethora of prizes, including school supplies for the kids, candies, snacks, toys, canned goods and toiletries. The games concluded with a well-supplied vegetable pick-up for the seniors.

Lunchtime entertainment was provided by the exchange students, which included everything from traditional dance, hip-hop, and karate demonstrations.

The families of the late Shiki and Yeitoku Uyema are appreciative of the support from the officers of Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai, the generosity of Aloun Farms, and Ron Tomasa, CPA, for the donation of recyclable gift bags.

All in all, the picnic was a wonderful celebration of the esprit-de-corps that continues to run strong in the Uchinanchu community. At the end of the day, all had a great time and went home with more fond memories to be cherished for years to come.

## 2019 Hui Makaala Scholarship Recipients

Hui Makaala recognized its eight scholarship recipients at their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show that was held on July 21, 2019 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom. Hui Makaala awarded a total of \$45,000 in scholarships this year.



David-John Fernandez



Samantha Harada



Megan Higa



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~ MEMBER OF AZA YOGI DOSHI KAI ~

# CLUB NEWS

*our clubs, our future*

## Orokin Azajin Club News

**A**loha *Urukunchuns!* We've had a busy summer, haven't we? We had a great picnic and I hope everyone got to enjoy the Festival too! Thank you to the Oroku Club board members who organize the picnic and all of the volunteers who show up really early to setup, bang pots and pans, and clean up. I hope everyone has as much fun sharing the various picnic duties as it is to participate in the games! And thank you to all our *andagi* volunteers. It was fun hanging out. The *andagi* was soo yummy!



*Andagi cookers for Festival*



*Andagi batter ladies for Festival*



*Prize volunteers at the picnic*



*Get ready, get set, go!*



*Kiddie Oroku Band*

## Ginowan Club Cleans HOC

*Submitted by Jane Nakamura*

**W**ilma Ogimi organized an energetic team of 34 Ginowan families and friends to clean the Hawaii Okinawa Center on July 28, 2019. Scrubbing, sweeping, and bathroom cleaning are not ordinary fun things but with many hands and enthusiasm, it was a "little fun" and we were done much earlier than expected. HUOA staff member Clayton Uza had tasks clearly noted and provided necessary supplies.



Leigh Morisako, Randy Morisako, Trevor Tamashiro, Eileen Tamashiro, Brennan Tamashiro, Sean Tamashiro, Sandy Nishimoto, Robbie Umeno, Ellen Higa, Joy Schoonover, Randen Morisako, Wilma Ogimi, Mike Schoonover, Linda Kunihisa, Rodney Kohagura, Gayle Terayama, Jay Higa, Lauren Suekawa, and Tom Ogimi.



Bottom row: Daven Pila, Madison Miyashiro, Makayla Miyashiro, Kyra Pila, John Tasato. Top row: Jane Nakamura, Matthew Pila, Chris Santomauro, Kylie Canubida, Pam Miyashiro, Kaitlyn Canubida, Mark Miyashiro, Marni Canubida, Kelly Pila, David Pila, and Pat Miyashiro.

## 2019 HUOA SOFTBALL LEAGUE RESULTS

**Congratulations to Itoman Shijin Kai - 2019 HUOA Softball Championship Bracket Champions.**

**Congratulations to Wahiawa Okinawa Kyo Yu Kai - 2019 HUOA Softball Consolation Bracket Champion.**

*Good season to Gushichan, Aza Gushikawa, Gushikawa, Gushikawa Blue, Haneji, Hui Makaala, Itoman, Nakagusuku, Nishihara, Urasoe, and Wahiawa!*

**The HUOA Softball League will start up again in March 2020, details to follow.**

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

The HUOA Mixed Handicap League is in need of new bowlers and substitutes for the next season.

We are projected to start on January 12, 2020.

Our start time is 1 p.m. at Leeward Bowl. Each team consists of four bowlers. For more information, call Germaine Kiyomoto-Isara at (808) 284-0148 or Mary Miyashiro (808) 221-2594.

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## Family Variety Show

Presented by  
Nomura Ryu Dento Ongaku Kyokai Hawaii Shibu  
Azama Honryu Hawaii Shibu

Featuring  
Hatoma Family from Ishigaki Island, Yaeyama

Hawaii Okinawa Center  
94-587 Uke'e Street  
Waipahu, HI 96797  
Sunday, November 24, 2019 at 2:00PM

\$35.00 Concert  
\$25.00 Aloha Party

For ticket information  
Contact (808) 295-3828 (Please leave a message) or  
email [uchinamun808@gmail.com](mailto:uchinamun808@gmail.com)



# Uchinamun Family Variety Show

By Allison Yanagi

In 2013, the Hatoma Family made their first appearance in Hawaii. They used their family vacation as an opportunity to present Yaeyama *minyō* (folk music) to the people of Hawaii. An intimate and very informal live show generated nearly \$3,000 for the HOC. More importantly, the Hatoma Family had so much fun during their trip that for more than five years, they have been reminiscing over their time in Hawaii and how they wished they had more time to interact and perform for the people of Hawaii.

Then, in August 2018, I was sitting with Hatoma Kanako, the talented daughter of the family who was discovered by China Sadao as a perky high-schooler and later had three albums produced by him. We were in a tiny tea shop, drinking lemon iced tea and eating thick pieces of toast made of Japanese bread, making so much noise, talking and laughing, that one of the other customers walked by to tell



us to be more quiet. As it turned out, it was Kanako's famous friend, Shimabukuro Masaru, the guitarist from BEGIN, who is a fellow Ishigaki Island native that made it big in the J-pop and O-pop music world. The owner of the tea shop said that he was a regular customer who dropped by whenever he was in Naha, and he was about to leave for Tokyo the next day. The turn of events just made us talk and laugh louder, making us comment on a what small world we live in!

That coincidence once again brought up the possibility of the Hatoma Family coming to Hawaii to perform. And that began a series of events that has resulted in our presentation, called Uchinamun Family Variety Show. The show will fea-

ture the musical stylings of the Hatoma Family, from Ishigaki Island in Yaeyama. Interestingly enough, Hatoma Takashi, Kanako's father, is originally from Hatoma Island, his namesake. Her mother, Chiyoko, is from Yonaguni Island. Kanako and her brother, Yoshiaki, grew up on Hatoma Island to help keep the school open, but later attended high school in Ishigaki. Kanako's brother currently runs a B&B on Hatoma Island and welcomes visitors from all over the world. Although Yoshiaki will not be able to join the family for the concert, Kanako's husband, Shunsuke, who is a professional guitarist, will perform and round out the family group. The Hatoma Family will be featured in the second half of the performance.

The first half of the show will feature the Hawaii members of Azama Honryu—namely Allison Yanagi, Dazzman Toguchi, and others, as well as members of the Hawaii Chapter of Nomura Ryu Dento Ongaku Kyokai. As a special treat, the head of Azama Honryu, Azama Akemi Iemoto, will join Allison and Dazzman, who are her students. She, along with other dancers from her studio in Okinawa will perform in Hawaii with Allison and Dazzman for the first time. This inaugural concert of Azama Honryu in Hawaii is going to be highlighted by dances that are unique to Azama Honryu and will be introduced to a Hawaii audience for the first time.

The special combination of so many groups and styles of performing arts from Okinawa Prefecture makes this show truly a variety show. As my Grandma Haruko used to refer to all things Okinawan as "*Uchinamun*," we are very happy to present our Uchinamun Family Variety Show on November 24, 2019, and hope that you will join us in having a good time!

For more information, please contact (808) 295-3828 or email us at [uchinamun808@gmail.com](mailto:uchinamun808@gmail.com).



## Hawaii Okinawa Center Holiday Craft Fairs

This holiday season the Hawaii United Okinawa Association will again host two of Hawaii's premier Craft Fairs. On November 30th to December 1st, the Hawaii Okinawa Center will open its doors for the thousands of anxious shoppers trying to find that special holiday gift and don't forget to reserve December 11th for our "An Evening in Waipio Craft Fair." Both fairs are open to the public, with no admission fee.

**2019 Winter Craft Fair**  
 November 30th - December 1st  
 Saturday - 9am to 3pm  
 Sunday - 9am to 2pm

**Hawaii Okinawa Center**  
 94-587 Ukee St. - Waipio Gentry  
 Parking available at the Center &  
 across the street at the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza

Early Entry!!! A donation of \$5.00 or more will entitle you to enter the banquet hall thirty minutes before the general public. We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for Hawaii Foodbank at the Winter Craft Fair.  
 (Donor to receive a coupon for one free andagi, one coupon per person - per day)



*joy*

**"An Evening in Waipio"**  
 December 11th - Wednesday  
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**Great Shopping**  
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**Santa - Silent Auction**

# CLUB NEWS

*Our Clubs, Our Future*

## Ginowan Club at the Festival

Submitted by Jane Nakamura

Over 130 *Ginowanchus* volunteered to work at the 2019 Okinawa Festival. *Andagi* cooking was a major undertaking for the club and Sandy Nishimoto, president and volunteer recruiter, did a great job signing up volunteers. Ginowan Club was assigned four cooking shifts on Saturday and Sunday and batter mixing early Sunday morning. The volume of *andagi* needed required two "clubs" cooking together in one tent.



Three to a wok: Sharon Shinkawa, Sharlene Shimada, and a Friendly Hand from Ige's.

Ige's was Ginowan Club's cooking partner on Saturday and extended much appreciated helping hands. Wilma Ogimi, Sandy Nishimoto, Keli Ann Meya, and June Zakimi served as cooking group captains, and Patrick Miyashiro headed the 6 a.m. batter mixing crew. One hundred twenty six volunteers were enlisted for the *andagi* project. Several members covered more



*Ginowan Sunday Festival Andagi Mixing Crew.* Alphabetical listing: Saydie Arakaki, Arilyn Au, Alexa Coutts, Jay Higa, Lori Higashi, Cedric Joaquin, Gloria Iwata, Elaine Koike, Ken Koike, Donna Komagome, Linda Kunihisa, Steven Kunihisa, Lynette Logan, Spencer Müller, Mark Miyashiro, Pam Miyashiro, Pat Miyashiro, Micah Mizumoto, Tessie Mizumoto, Leigh Morisako, Randall Morisako, Robin Murayama, Carl Nakamura, Jane Nakamura, Wilma Ogimi, Laurie Ordonez, Emi Oshiro, Daven Pila, David Pila, Kelly Pila, Matthew Pila, Leann Quarto, Glenn Sakima, Liliko Sakima, Chris Santomaro, Shigehiko Shiramizu, Dustin Suekawa, Lauren Suekawa, Jamie Tanimoto, Nao Totsuta, Korey Tsubota, Don Yamashita, Dave Higa and Noreen Higa.

than one shift. Sharon Shinkawa worked four shifts and her sister Sharlene Shimada committed to three shifts. Camaraderie and pride that our *andagi* are popular made cooking in a hot, dusty tent miles away from the Hawaii Convention Center a fun experience.

Many *Ginowanchus* served in additional capacities. Robbie Umeno had duties as HUOA vice president, Morris Umeno set up an attractive display of Ginowan Club activities in the "We are HUOA" room. Rodney Kohagura, Jay Higa and Joy Schoonover volunteered with the Genealogical Society, John

## Gushikawa Shijin Kai Picnic

By Drake Akiyoshi

On July 28, Gushikawa Shijin Kai celebrated its annual picnic at Ala Moana Beach Park. It was a beautiful Sunday morning with the waves crashing against the seashore, birds chirping, and the sun rising against the blue sky. Gushikawa Shijin Kai's officers and volunteers helped to set up the sound equipment, tents, and game area. Then, we were off to a great day of fun and fellowship.

Gushikawa Shijin Kai's goal at the picnic was



to bring together family and friends from various generations to continue building and promoting our Okinawan culture for many generations to come. That was definitely accomplished. There



Tasato provided information on World Uchinanchu Business Association (WUB), Dr. Shigehiko Shiramizu "talked story" about the Okinawan Festival in the *Yuimaaru* room, Ellen Higa was in the *paranku* procession, and Gail Kohagura participated in Okinawan dancing. There were others who volunteered in various activities.

## Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai

Participating in the annual Festival wok cleaning on August 25, 2019 (one week before Festival) are (L-R): Gaye Oshiro, Patti Sakihara, JoAnn Takamiyashiro, Donne Soga, Laura Ajimine, Gary Jitchaku, Patrice Nagy, Dwight Ikehara, and Eric Nitta. Missing from the photo: Darlene Itomura and Todd Inafuku. Photo by Jon Itomura.



## Okinawa City-Geoku Son Does HOC Cleanup



1st row, (L-R): Chloe-Mae Talkington, Copeland Talkington, Mae Chung, Janise Oshiro, Chrissy Talkington, and Gwen Fukuhara. 2nd row, (L-R): Thomas Talkington, Martin Yang, Stephanie Higa, Michele Costales, Tony Costales, and Craig Fukuhara.

were so many kids, young adults, and parents having so much fun playing Gushikawa Shijin Kai's most legendary games, and many won prizes for participating. And, of course, "Uncle Paul's" iconic voice returned to emcee the picnic festivities. We had awe-



some bentos for lunch and all you can eat shaved ice for dessert.

We love to see more and more people at the picnic because it is one of only a couple of times each year that everyone comes together just to have fun. This was truly an event that will be remembered.

# Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program 'Seeking Host Families'

**H**aisai Families!  
The Hawaii United Okinawa Association would like to present a wonderful opportunity for all Hawaii high school students and their families to participate as hosts for this upcoming Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program (HOSEP). From February 29 to March 14, 2020, 25 high



school students from Okinawa will be coming to Hawaii for a two-week homestay. It will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HOSEP.

We are seeking families who would like to host one or two students from February 29 to March 14, 2020. As host families, you can learn first-hand about the diverse culture of Okinawa, and, at the same time, share your knowledge and experience of Hawaii's diverse culture as well. Here are the expectations of host families:

- **Submit application to host a student from Okinawa by November 27, 2019 to the Hawaii Okinawa Center office, HUOA. (available on-line at huoa.org)**
- **Attend Orientation Meeting for Host families.**
- **Attend Orientation/Welcome Get together.**
- **Host Student(s) from February 29 – March 14, 2020.**
- **Consider yourselves as "family" for your Okinawan student.**
- **Okinawan student will attend school with Hawaii host student (5 days).**
- **Attend 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration/Aloha Party at Hawaii Okinawa Center on Thursday, March 12, 2020.**
- **Bid them Aloha on Saturday, March 14, 2020 as they depart for their homeland.**
- **Share your family's Aloha and enjoy your Okinawan student!**

For application forms and more information of the HOSEP, including the opportunity to go to Okinawa in June, go on-line to huoa.org. Click on the "Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange" link. Or contact Jon Itomura, Executive Director of the HUOA at (808) 676-5400.

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be immersed in the Okinawan culture, and gain valuable experiences and memories as you foster a good relationship with your exchange student from Okinawa!

*Ippei Nifwe Debiru!*

# Uchinanchu in Full Force at UJSH Nenchosha

The United Japanese Society of Hawaii (UJSH) celebrated those born in 1939 at its annual Senior Citizens Festival or "Nenchosha Ian Engei Taikai." The event is held every September to align with Japan's Keiro no Hi or Respect for the Aged Day. Honorees from HUOA and Lanakila Okinawa Nenchosha Club were joined by many family and friends.

Photo courtesy of Carolyn Kimura.



## OKINAWAN PROVERB

Kutuba, Jinjikee

くとうば じんじけー

Meaning & Interpretation:

*Use your words as you would your money.*

## Uchinaa-guchi

(Okinawan language)

### Word of the Month

#### September

kaja•in, vt. [kazaru] 1 To decorate; ornament. 2 To embellish; garnish. 3 To exhibit; display. 4 To affect; be affected

#### October

guru-mun, n. A nimble person; a quick person; an agile person.

(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

## November 2019

- 2 Legacy Awards Banquet; Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom; 9am-Reception & Silent Auction, 10am-Doors open
- 13 Executive Council meeting, HOC, 7pm
- 20 Board of Directors meeting, HOC, 7pm
- 24 Uchinamun Family Variety Show, HOC, 2pm
- 28 THANKSGIVING - HOC Office closed
- 29 Winter Craft Fair set-up
- 30 Winter Craft Fair, HOC, 9am-3pm

## December 2019

- 1 HUOA Winter Craft Fair, HOC, 9am-2pm
- 9-10 An Evening in Waipio Craft Set-up
- 11 An Evening in Waipio Craft Fair, HOC, 5:30-9pm
- 18 Executive Council meeting, HOC, 7pm
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE - HOC Office Closes at Noon
- 25 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY - HOC Office Closed
- 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE - HOC Office Closes at Noon

## January 2020

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! - HOC Office Closed
- 8 Executive Council meeting, HOC, 7pm
- 18 Uchinanchu of the Year Recognition & Installation Banquet, HOC
- 22 Board of Directors meeting, HOC, 7pm

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

- HUOA Sanshin: every Thursday, 7pm\*
- Ichigo Ichi E: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7pm\*
- Ikebana: Nov. 20 Legacy Ballroom, 7pm; Dec. 18 Chaya, 7pm\*
- Karaoke nite: 4th Tuesday, 6:30pm\*
- Monday Crafters: every Monday, 9am\*
- Okinawan Genealogical Society meeting: 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 9/24/19)

Our new episodes premiere on the first and third Saturday of the month at 7 pm and repeat the following Thursday at 5 pm on 'Olelo Community Media Channel NATV 53. No HOT 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 channels 1049 and 1053.

All 'Olelo shows are concurrently 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.

Nov 2, Sat, 7 pm, Nov 7 & 14, Thurs, 5 pm 2018 Okinawan Festival (Show Nine) held at the Hawaii Convention Center on Labor Day weekend. This episode features Nidaime Teishin Kai Hawaii Shibu and the HUOA Sanshin Class; and Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai, Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo, with guest dancers from Kinuko Mototake Azama Honryu Seifu Ichisen Kai USA of California.

Nov 16, Sat, 7 pm, Nov 21 & 28 & Dec 5, Thurs, 5 pm HOT Thanksgiving Special highlighting the many volunteers who come to the Hawaii Okinawa Center – gardeners, groundskeepers, the Monday crafters, waterfall and pond caretakers, Kin gardeners, video, genealogy, and others.

Dec 7, Sat, 7 pm, Dec 12 & 19, Thurs, 5 pm 2018 Okinawan Festival (Show Ten) held at the Hawaii Convention Center on Labor Day weekend. This episode features Okinawa's Utakata Minyo Caravan Concert – Ikiga (Men) with Kazufumi Miyazawa and Daiichi Hirata; and Fashion Designs from Okinawa's Mitsuko Yamauchi and Halau Hula O Leala O Na Pua from Okinawa.

Dec 21, Sat, 7 pm, Dec 26 & Jan 2, 2020, Thurs, 5 pm HOT Holiday Special featuring the 2019 Summer Okinawan Cultural Day Camp for Children on Oahu.



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