



# Uchinanchu

The Voice of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

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## CELEBRATING GOLD: FIFTY YEARS OF HEARTS TOGETHER

by Ken Kiyabu (Yagaji Doshi Kai)  
Co-chair, HUOA 50th Anniversary Celebration

On September 22, over 800 Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart gathered at the Hawaii Okinawa Center to celebrate the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's 50th anniversary. About three weeks before the event, George Uyema of Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai, co-chairman of the Banquet Committee, stated, "It doesn't look good; we have less than 300 people signed up for the banquet." However, true to the Uchinanchu spirit and the yeoman work of the club presidents and their members, a capacity crowd of over 800 guests showed up for the exciting evening.

A well-planned program was in store for the members and guests: paranku to start the banquet, koto music during dinner, some speeches, a fantastic video of 50 years of HUOA, and great entertainment by Hawai'i's geino (performing arts) groups and also the Hawaii students who had attended Geidai, the performing arts university, and the University of the Ryukyus (Ryudai).

The 50th Anniversary banquet had a couple of firsts: A zillion kudos go to entertainment chairman George Kaneshiro of Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai for working so hard to get all of the geino groups to perform on the same stage on the same night, and in some cases, together. Over 200 entertainers and helpers kept the audience entertained. This was a first in Hawai'i. Another first for an HUOA function was to serve Okinawan

cuisine, the brainchild of Dot Hoe of Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai and Nishihara Chojin Kai. Dot helped *A Catered Experience* develop the menu and even taught the chef how to cook some of the dishes, like rafute (shoyu pork), etc. There were many complements about the ono food. Give Dot Hoe a giant hand.

There were many more people involved in making the banquet a success. Roy Kaneshiro of

Doshi Kai was the scriptwriter, producer, director and coordinator who made this such a fantastic film.

There were numerous more volunteers who helped to stage this enjoyable event and they all deserve our heartfelt appreciation.

Besides the scrumptious Okinawan cuisine and the thought-provoking film, the entertainment by the Geidai and Ryudai students were the highlight of the evening. These young students who studied in Okinawa, the members of Young Okinawans of Hawaii and the young people in our sonjinkai are the future of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the Okinawan people in Hawai'i.

In the process of producing the video of the past 50 years of the HUOA and its future, one glaring point stuck out: the HUOA lacks data, photos, oral history of members and documents for people wanting to do research on Okinawans in Hawai'i, much less for our children and future generations of Okinawans. Therefore, I strongly recommend that the next administration set up a committee or task force to at least do oral histories of our elders who are rapidly vanishing.

I urge the next leaders to approach the Young Okinawans of Hawaii and the former Geidai and Ryudai students to lead this project



HUOA President Jimmy Iha presents a plaque to 1957-58 UOA president Shinsuke Nakamine while other former presidents or their representatives look on. Choki Kanetake, who succeeded Nakamine as UOA's fifth president is seated to Nakamine's right. (Michael Young photo)

Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai, co-chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee, was the task master who kept all the committees moving along to accomplish the mission. Banquet committee co-chairs Pam Tamashiro of Hui Makaala and George Uyema published a beautiful and informative banquet booklet.

The 50th Anniversary Video Committee, co-chaired by Cheryl Okuma-Sepe of Gushikawa Shijinkai and Lillian Takata of Nago Club, produced a very informative and entertaining video of the 50 years of the HUOA and of the future. Producing this film took many hours of research, hunting and begging for materials. It also resulted in the discovery of valuable photographs and articles. Lillian Takata spent many hours calling people for photos. George Kaneshiro did a lot of legwork and provided lots of history of UOA functions, and the HUOA Video Subcommittee under the direction of Lane Inamine of Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai, Itoman Shijin Kai and Young Okinawans of Hawaii filmed a few of the interviews and also provided footage from past events. But Karleen Chinen of Bito



Koto students from Toyoko Toma Sensei's Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyokai perform at the 50th anniversary banquet. (Michael Young photo)

and to involve other young members of HUOA's various sonjinkai to help them better understand their connection to their Okinawan heritage. These young people are highly intelligent, educated and, most important, their hearts are in the right place. They will make us proud to be American and Uchinanchu. Think about it: the Nisei and Sansei generations have run the HUOA for 20 years. It's time to give the Yonsei and Gosei the opportunity to direct and manage the HUOA in the 21st Century and beyond. 🍀

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## UCHINANCHU

Ippe nihei 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 the Okinawan cultural heritage.

HUOA received a total of \$1,407.00 in contributions for *Uchinanchu* during the months of August and September. Every dollar donated — along with income from advertising — helps offset the cost of publishing *Uchinanchu*. HUOA sends a heartfelt ippe nihei deebiru to the following donors, including one from Oregon, three from Maui and three from Kaua'i. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

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## Uchinanchu

*Uchinanchu* is the newsletter of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. Although subject to change, issues will be published bi-monthly. Volunteer writers are welcome. Send your name, address and telephone number to *Uchinanchu* Newsletter, Hawaii United Okinawa Association, 94-587 Ukee St., Waipahu, Hawaii 96797.

E-mail articles to [kchinen@lava.net](mailto:kchinen@lava.net)

*Uchinanchu* reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

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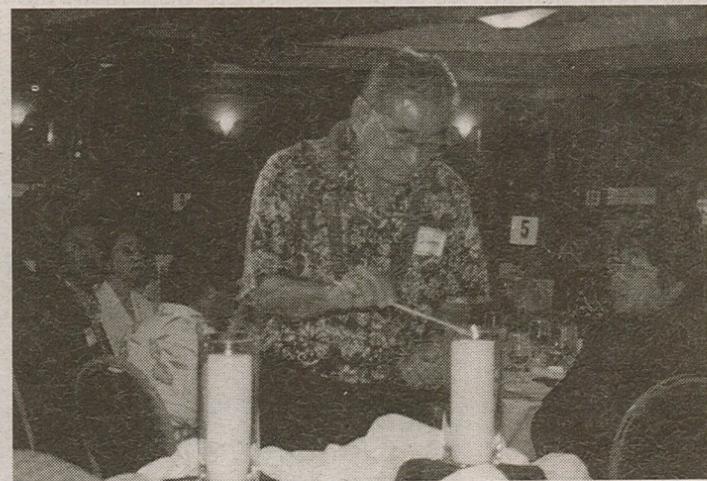
## President's Message

by James Y. Iha (Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai, Wahiawa Okinawa Kyo Yu Kai)  
2001 President, Hawaii United Okinawa Association

The opportunity to observe the planning, implementation and evaluation procedures for our Okinawan Festival from start to finish is a truly awesome organizational experience. It is an activity that demonstrates devotion and dedicated commitment to the promotion, preservation and perpetuation of our Okinawan culture by *Uchinanchu* and *Uchinanchu-at-heart*. It is an amazing display of unity that would be very difficult to duplicate by any other organization. We can all be very proud of this accomplishment.

Success in an activity like the Festival does not just happen, it requires leadership skills and the commitment of many volunteers. On behalf of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA), I extend my highest commendation to the 19th Okinawan Festival co-chairs Gladys Tokunaga-Asao, Keith Kaneshiro and George Tamashiro as well as the many subcommittee chairs and the thousands of volunteers who contributed diligently and harmoniously to the success of our Festival.

Our Okinawan Festival is one of many activities held to meet the objectives of the HUOA. The intensive and well-coordinated planning that took place for the Festival occurs with all of our activities. Before I go any further,



At the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's annual membership dinner last month, HUOA President Jimmy Iha was asked to light a candle in memory of the people who lost their lives in the September 11 terrorist attacks on the East Coast. Also asked to light a candle was Ruth Ono from the Urasenke Foundation, Hawaii Shibu. HUOA and the Hawaii Shibu are both celebrating their 50th anniversaries this year. (Photo courtesy of Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii)

I extend HUOA's "thank you" to all of the conscientious members and supporters who came forward to assist us in activities such as our installation banquet, Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program, Kariyushi, Summit conference, Storytelling Festival, Children's Day Camp, Leadership Study Tour, parades, Spring Craft Fair, sports programs, cultural performances and the Autumn Dance Festival.

We still have a few more interesting activities before the close of our calendar year: the Winter Craft Fair and "An Evening in Waipio" craft fair. We'll end the year with mochi pounding to graciously greet the new year. Please come out and support us in our future activities.

To celebrate our proud past and promising future, we held our 50th Anniversary Banquet at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Sept. 22. Approximately 800 *Uchinanchu* and *Uchinanchu-at-heart* attended the celebration marking this HUOA milestone. The evening was well-orchestrated with an impressive formal program. Congratulatory messages were offered by Lieutenant Governor Mazie Hirono, Mayor Jeremy Harris, Consul General of Japan Minoru Shibuya, United Japanese Society of Hawaii President Claude Zukeran, and Akira Makiya, president of the Okinawa-Hawaii Kyokai from Okinawa.

The presidents, officers and members of our 51 HUOA clubs were recognized for their part in perpetuating and promoting the *Uchinanchu* spirit and values in Hawai'i. Also honored with a Certificate of Appreciation were the HUOA's past presidents and a family representative of our deceased past presidents. The entertainment was provided by the various Okinawan performing arts schools and by the students who participated in the Okinawa Prefectural Government scholarship program. Our heartfelt thank you to the performing arts sensei, performers, student scholars and supporters for providing us with a very entertaining cultural program.

The Uchinaa kwatchi (delicious Okinawan food) was well prepared with a "taste of Okinawa." The 50th anniversary commemorative video presentation captured the highlights of HUOA past and present and left us with directions for a challenging yet promising future — a future that must be met with organizational changes as necessary and ever mindful of our grateful past. We must keep foremost in our endeavors the essence of our organization: the promotion, perpetuation and preservation of the Okinawan culture and values. Let us all move forward with the spirit of "Yui Nu Kukurū — *Uchinanchu* Spirit with Hearts Together."

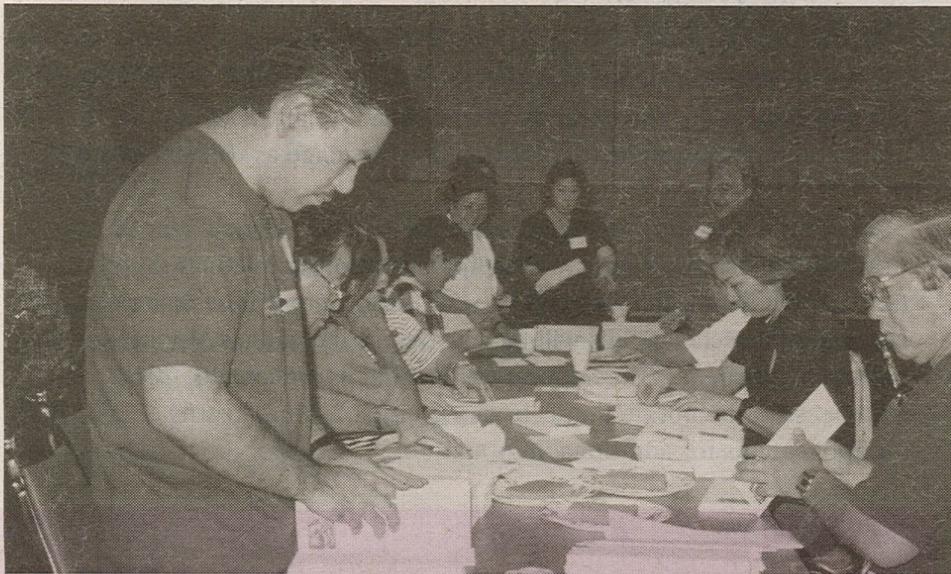
# THIRD "PRESERVING OUR LEGACY" FUND DRIVE OFF AND RUNNING

by Jon Itomura (Young Okinawans of Hawaii, Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai)  
Chair, Fund Development Subcommittee

For many fellow Americans and members of our Uchinanchu family, life as we knew it before September 11, 2001, will never be the same. While the September 11th tragedy has created many doubts and fears, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) stands as a shining example of "Yui Nu Kukuru — Uchinanchu Spirit with Hearts Together" and what can be accomplished when individuals work together to overcome adversity. Our thoughts are with the families and friends of those impacted by the events surrounding the nation's new challenge.

Fifty years ago, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association set forth on its mission to perpetuate the Okinawan cultural heritage in Hawai'i. The efforts of countless volunteers and the contributions of generous donors turned the dream of a home to honor the sacrifices and triumphs of our Issei generation into reality with the opening of the Hawaii Okinawa Center in Waipio 11 years ago in June of 1990. And three years ago, the HUOA launched its annual sustaining fund drive program, "Preserving Our Legacy" to ensure that the Okinawan cultural heritage will live on for generations to come.

Like so many cultural organizations, the HUOA faces a daunting challenge in ensuring that the efforts of past and present volunteers continue to benefit future generations through our numerous cultural programs. In order to accomplish this feat, it is imperative that we continue to maintain the facilities that make up our Hawaii Okinawa Center: the Teruya Pavilion, the Higa Building, and the Takakura and Issei gardens.

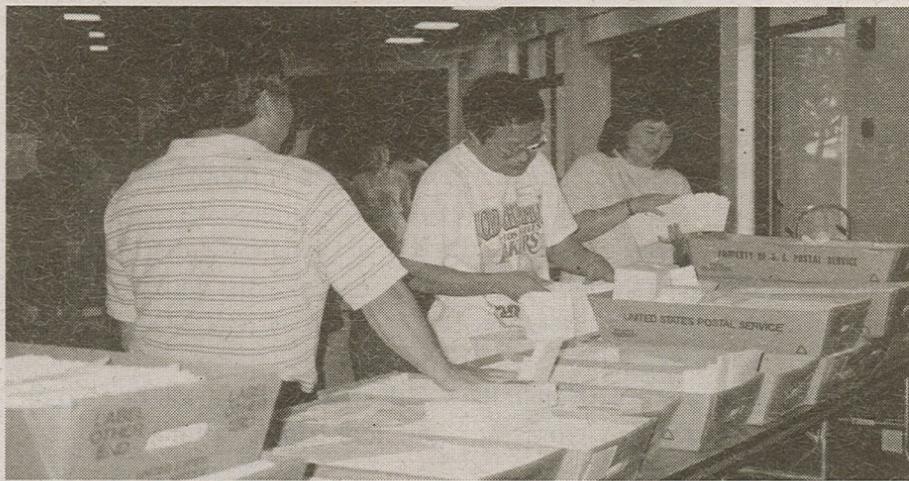


HUOA volunteers stuff and sort appeal materials for the "Preserving Our Legacy" campaign.

The Hawaii Okinawa Center has hosted many local and international cultural performances as well as the Autumn Dance Festival, community Storytelling Festival, cultural workshops and classes, the immensely popular seasonal craft fairs, and the week-long Okinawan Cultural Camp for Kids. This year, with great enthusiasm and dedication, the HUOA celebrated the 50th anniversary of its establishment, and last year, the centennial of Okinawan immigration to Hawai'i. Many of the events and activities held as part of these celebrations would not have been possible without your participation in our "Preserving Our Legacy" family.

We humbly request your continued assistance as a member of our "Preserving Our Legacy" family. Please encourage other family members and friends to join our "Preserving Our Legacy" family. In the previous two fund drives, an average of 9 percent of those who received our request responded positively with generous donations which have enabled HUOA volunteers to continue the perpetuation and promotion of Okinawan cultural programs for our community. We hope that this percentage increases with the continued success of the HUOA and its programs.

This year HUOA has prepared a synopsis of its activities in a "Report to the Community" which was mailed to you. We plan to follow up on this next year with our inaugural in-depth annual report.



The Hawaii United Okinawa Association and our home, the Hawaii Okinawa Center, are symbols of the Uchinanchu community in Hawaii. Each individual effort, sacrifice and contribution represents the best of the Uchinanchu spirit. Please help foster this spirit and ensure that our mission to perpetuate and promote Okinawan culture in Hawai'i is sustained well into the new millennium.

Ippei Nihwee Debiru — thank you very much — for your commitment to building a stronger Okinawan community here in Hawai'i.

## PRESERVING OUR LEGACY

The following donations were received between August 1, 2001 and October 12, 2001.

### SILVER (\$500 to \$999)

In Memory of Taru & Kamado Arakaki

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Ginowan Shijin Kai  
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Ippei nihwee deebiru to the following individuals for their generous contributions. Your support for the Hawaii Okinawa Center's "Preserving Our Legacy" campaign is greatly appreciated.

### SUPPORTER (\$50 to \$99)

Chiyoko Ishiki  
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The Hawaii United Okinawa Association's

# Winter Craft Fair

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## OUR CLUBS, OUR FUTURE

### KANEGUSUKU SONJIN KAI . . . by Ed Kino

Ippe nihei deebiru to the 42 volunteers who worked in the pigs feet soup booth at the Okinawan Festival on Saturday, Sept. 1, during the morning (7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.) shift, although the 10 a.m. workers had to work until relief came after 1:45 p.m.

The family of Kanegusuku member Nancy Lee (six of them) and club secretary Henry Nagamine (representing me as president) attended the HUOA's 50th anniversary banquet at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Sept. 22.

Kanegusuku members will be called upon again to assist with whatever help is needed at the HUOA's Winter Craft Fair on Saturday, Nov. 24. The craft fair runs on Nov. 25 as well.

Don't forget: Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai's 76th shinnen enkaï will be held on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2002, at Victoria Inn's 2nd floor banquet room.

### HUI OKINAWA . . . by Amy Shiroma

Noticing a lack of books on Okinawan culture at the Hilo Public Library, Hui Okinawa's Cultural Committee recently purchased five books and donated them to the library. Hui Okinawa vice president Clifford Kaneshiro presented the books to librarian Wilma Matsumura. The five books are: "Folk Tales of Okinawa — Children's Stories" (English/Japanese language), "Shurijo Iro Iro Chishiki — Castles of Okinawa" (Japanese), "Shirijo Handbooks — Famous Landmarks" (Japanese), "Cultural Properties of Okinawa III — Famous Landmarks" (English/Japanese), and "Cultural Properties of Okinawa IV — Famous Landmarks" (English/Japanese).

The publications are now available in the Hilo Public Library, which plans to place a book plate that reads, "Donated by Hui Okinawa," in each book. Depending on the interest and demand for the books, the club may possibly purchase and donate more books.

With a stirring roll of drums and the booming of the bass drum, the Taishoji Taiko group opened the entertainment portion of Hui Okinawa's annual Summer Festival on Saturday, Aug. 18, in the Honpa Hongwanji Sangha Hall. We were pleased to welcome HUOA President Jimmy Iha and President-elect Gladys Tokunaga-Asao.

The lively taiko performance was followed by the Waiakea Elementary ukulele class; hula by the Kaumana Seniors; Japanese exercise and line dancing; a medley of Okinawan songs, dances and sanshin with Grant Murata Sensei and twin sisters Marlene and Carolyn Shimamura of Honolulu; an exciting Lion Dance by three Hiloans; the Big Island Karaoke Club and the Hilo Okinawan Cultural Club. All of that great entertainment led up to the grand finale: Hui Okinawa's eisa, which continued until the closing of the festival at 4 p.m.

Event chair Carolyn Oki said the festival was a great success, with the public enjoying the abundance of food, entertainment, crafts, genealogy workshop, etc. She thanked her committee for working so hard to make the festival a success and for extending the Uchinanchu hospitality to everyone.

Serving on her committee were: Amy Miwa, festival secretary; Bernard Sagawa, concession; Dorothy Taira, andagi; Merle Tomori and Jan Nakahara, general store; Patti Taira-Tokuuke, crafters; Alben Namihira, scrip and finance;

Kathy Okunami, entertainment; Wilbert Shimabukuro, produce; Edwin Hara and Kent Inouye, refreshments; Alma Yogi, poster; Thomas Ortogero, set-up/clean-up; Conrad Hokama, photography; Clifford Kaneshiro, T-shirts; Milton Yafuso, audio; Bruce Shioji, parking; and Amy Shiroma, publicity.

### HUI O LAULIMA . . . by Bobbi Kuba, Gerri Maeda and Yvonne Kearns

Sydney, Australia; Poway, California; Wilson Creek, Washington; Albuquerque, New Mexico; River Forest, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; Warrensburg, Missouri; Cambridge, Massachusetts; Groton, Connecticut; Powder Springs, Georgia; Asheboro, North Carolina; Fort Walton, Florida; Lanai City and Kealahou, Hawaii — just a few of the many places, near and far, requesting mail order copies of Hui O Laulima's "Okinawan Mixed Plate: Generous Servings of Culture, Customs and Cuisine."

To date, over 6,800 books have been sold through members and friends, at the Okinawan Festival and as fund-raisers for the Hawaii Okinawa Center and Jikoen Hongwanji Mission. Retail outlets include Borders bookstores at Ward Centre, Waialeale and in Hilo, and Marukai stores.

The books will be on sale at the HUOA Winter Craft Fair on Nov. 24 and 25. For all Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart, it would be a wonderful gift and addition to the libraries of friends and relatives who want to learn more about Okinawan history, culture and language as well as cookery.

Applications are now being accepted for Hui O Laulima's Year 2002 Grants/Scholarships Program for the preservation, perpetuation, promotion and study of Okinawan culture. Cultural grants will be made to organizations while scholarships will be awarded to individuals. Applicants must be Hawai'i residents. The application deadline is January 15, 2002. Awardees will be notified on February 28. Call Yvonne Kearns at 261-0197 for applications for additional information.

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# SASHIKI CHINEN DOSHI KAI TEENS VISIT OKINAWA

by Mel Gushiken, Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai

Six young Hawai'i descendants of immigrants from Sashiki Cho and Chinen Son had a chance to meet their relatives in Okinawa for the first time this past summer, thanks to the generosity and hospitality of the people of the two districts and the Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai. The teens, who ranged in age from 13 to 17, stayed with families in Sashiki and Chinen. During their 12-day visit, they were introduced to Okinawan culture as well as the history of Sashiki Cho and Chinen Son. They visited with the mayors of the two districts, took in historic sites in Sashiki Cho and Chinen Son, performed in a mini concert at Sugar Hall, toured northern and southern Okinawa, and even camped overnight on Kudaka Island, located just off Chinen Village.

The students said they enjoyed meeting new people, seeing new and different places, learning about their culture, and meeting their Okinawan relatives. (Short essays by two of the students follows this item.)

The student travelers were: Calli Chinen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Chinen; Jennifer Gima, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Gima; Jason Nagamine, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Nagamine; Barry Nakamoto, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jared Nakamoto; Jeri Shimazu, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Shimazu; and Amy Ueunten, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Ueunten of Kaua'i.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the student exchange program between Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai and the Sashiki Cho Department of Education. That milestone was celebrated this month with a visit to Sashiki Cho by members of Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai, who have thus far hosted 20 students from Sashiki and Chinen. The program has led to a long-term relationship between the host families in Hawai'i and the students from Okinawa.



The Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai teens and chaperones with their Sashiki Cho and Chinen Son hosts. (Photo courtesy of Mel Gushiken)

## Sugar Hall was beautiful. . .

*Just the thought of traveling to a different country, a different lifestyle and culture is exciting enough. The first thing I noticed was the humidity.*

*All airports look alike, but this one was different. The people, the roads, even the cars outside — I know this would be something I would remember forever.*

*As for me, my trip was very educational and exciting. I saw many sights and tasted many flavors. Everywhere was air conditioned and I got to shower by sitting down and then relaxing in the hot and ice tub. I felt like Crayon Shinchan.*

*Sugar Hall was beautiful and the parties were awesome. The sake tasted strong. The music was nice and the dancing is fun. I didn't really like the snakes. They were very scary. Especially the habu.*

*Also, meeting my relatives was great because I got to go to a nice dinner and pray at all the houses. All in all this trip, I would go again. Everything is beautiful.*

— Jason Nagamine, age 17

## Once in a Lifetime. . .

*My trip to Okinawa was a once-in-a-lifetime thing to me. I felt that the trip was a really fun and educational. The trip was cool to try all the different foods and see all those places.*

*Some place I went to was the Sugar Hall, which was really big and nice. The Shurijo castle was really big. The history in it was cool, seeing all those pictures and paintings. The mausoleum was interesting and bigger than in the picture in the tour book that we got when we first met. I really thought that the Ocean Park Expo was fun to see all those animals, but they didn't have to put me by the big fish. They could have put Jeri, but I'm not complaining about it.*

*I think I'm not going to eat sushi for a while. We had that for about three days in a row. We also had a lot of sashimi, too. The Okinawa soba was really good, too. I enjoyed the different ice cream flavors. They were really good. I really liked the melon soda.*

*I feel that the trip was a great learning experience for me because going on an exchange program is a chance to meet with new people, see new places and try new foods while you're there.*

— Amy Ueunten, age 13

For the latest information  
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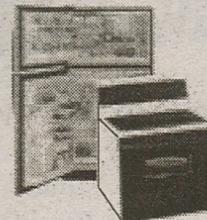
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# KARII! . . . CONGRATULATIONS!!

**M**aj. Keith Y. Tamashiro has been named commander of 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery of the Hawaii Army National Guard. Tamashiro assumed his new command, headquartered at Schofield Barracks, earlier this year. He has been a member of the Hawaii Army National Guard since 1989.

As battalion commander, Tamashiro is responsible for the training, administration and preparedness of nearly 400 soldiers who serve as in a variety of capacities.

Tamashiro was born in Chicago, Ill., to Caroline (Arakaki) and the late Stanley Tamashiro. His father grew up in Wahiawa, Oahu; his mother in Keāhua, Maui. Maj. Tamashiro earned his B.S. in business management from DePaul University in Chicago, where he was awarded his ROTC commission and was named Distinguished Military Graduate. Tamashiro served his active duty at Schofield Barracks from 1984 to 1988. In 1990 he was selected Officer of the Year of 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery.



In his civilian life, Tamashiro is supervisor of the First-to-Work Program in the state Department of Human Services. Tamashiro is a member of Wahiawa Okinawa Kyo Yu Kai. He credits his two uncles — Yoshiaki Kakazu, a Wahiawa Okinawa Kyo Yu Kai member, and Charles Arakaki of Maui, both veterans, for his success.

**H**ui Makaala held its scholarship banquet at the Ala Moana Hotel on Aug. 12. City Corporation Counsel and Hui Makaala member David Arakawa emceed the luncheon program, which was chaired by Janet Toma. Guest speaker optometrist Dr. Jon Ishihara encouraged the scholarship recipients to make a difference in life.

Several of the talented 2001 recipients showcased their cultural knowledge; a few were joined by their siblings. Year 2001 recipient Ryan Nakamatsu and his sister Nadine, a 1998 scholarship recipient, performed a sanshin rendition of the song, "Mensore." Kerensa Iraha did a "power" karate demonstration, and Maryn Nakasone and sister Marisa played "Onna Bushi," on the sanshin and koto.

Jolene Okaneku represented the Class of 2001 recipients in expressing their appreciation to Hui Makaala for the \$2,000 per student scholarship award which supports their college education. She also thanked the Scholarship Selection Committee, chaired by 1983 Hui Makaala scholarship recipient Gary Nako, for the time they devoted to the selection process. Serving on the committee were Judy Nako, Ryan Okunaga, Lisa Tobara and Jeanne Yamasato.

The 2001 recipients are:

Lauren Aoki, daughter of Neal and Charlyn (Chinna) Aoki. Lauren is a graduate of James Campbell High School where she graduated first in her class of 480. Last year she served as a student leader in the Hawai'i- Okinawa Student Exchange Program.

Lauren hopes to earn her master's in business administration from Creighton University.

Kari Furutani graduated from Moanalua High School where she played the clarinet and bass clarinet and played in the band for four years. Kari is the daughter of Mark and Norene (Shimabukuro) Furutani and attends the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa where she plans to major in elementary education.

Alicia Higa, a Boston University freshman, plans to major in engineering. Alicia graduated from Iolani School where she served as an officer in the Okinawan Club during her sophomore and senior years. She is the daughter of Spencer and Satsuki (Kaneshiro) Higa, both of whom are from Okinawa.

Kerensa Iraha graduated cum laude from Iolani School with a 4.0-plus grade point average and made the Headmaster's List throughout her high school years. At Iolani, she was a member of the Hokulua Singers since grade 8. Kerensa plans to major in business at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the daughter of Michael Iraha and Jocelyn (Ikeda) Kaneshiro and stepdaughter of Gary Kaneshiro.

Michelle Isa, daughter of Wesley and Janis (Doi) Isa, plans to major in journalism at the UH-Mānoa. Michelle graduated with honors from Kailua High School, where she was active in the Japanese Club and hosted Japanese students from Tomita High School.

Iris Nagamine, daughter of Shoji and Michiko Nagamine, is attending the UH-Mānoa where she plans to pursue a career in medicine. The McKinley High School graduate excelled in English, math and Japanese and was a Sterling Scholar nominee in the Science and General categories. She also received a National English Merit Award.

Ryan Nakamatsu, son of Robert and Eglal Nakamatsu, graduated from Hawaii Baptist Academy with honors — that, in spite of his many Okinawan cultural activities. Ryan has studied Okinawan dance with Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone Sensei since elementary school and also studies sanshin with Grant Murata Sensei. Ryan is an Information and Computer Science student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Maryn Nakasone, daughter of George and Jenny (Higuchi) Nakasone, graduated from Roosevelt High School, where she excelled in science and music. She is currently attending the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Maryn initially studied koto with Bonnie Miyashiro Sensei and most recently with Jane Kaneshiro Sensei. She has also studied sanshin with Katsumi Shinsato Sensei since 1998. In 1992, she performed in a Children's Festival in Okinawa.

Jolene Okaneku, daughter of Jerome and Corrine (Sato) Okaneku, is attending the University of Pennsylvania where she plans to major in anthropology and pre-medicine. She graduated first in her class of 284 from Kaua'i High School. Jolene was one of five Sterling Scholar English finalists. She plans to pursue a career in medicine — the result of her family's experience with cancer. On Kaua'i, she career-shadowed several Wilcox Hospital medical professionals to affirm her career goal.

Reid Okaneku, son of Rodney and Gail (Moriyama) Okaneku, is attending Chatman University in Orange County, Calif., where he plans to major in graphic design. The Assets School honor grad has been involved in Okinawan culture since he was 12, playing with the Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko - Hawaii Shibu. He has performed in numerous festivals with the group.

Amy Tamashiro, daughter of Edmund and Kimiko (Arakaki), graduated from Baldwin High School on Maui. She is an elementary education major at the UH-Mānoa. Amy is considering specializing in computer graphic arts.

Amy Taniguchi, a graduate of Iolani School, is the daughter of Elsie Yoshimura. Amy served as president of Iolani's Okinawan Club for three years. She plans to major in education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and eventually earn her master's degree. She also hopes to join the UH Wahine softball team as a walk-on.

## In the spirit of "Yui Nu Kukuru — Uchinanchu Spirit with Hearts Together"

**Ippe Nihwee Deebiru . . . Mahalo!**  
for supporting our 19th annual Okinawan Festival



*We truly appreciate your hard work and support!*

James Y. Iha  
2001 HUOA President

Gladys Tokunaga-Asao, Keith Kaneshiro, George Tamashiro  
2001 Okinawan Festival co-chairs



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"Flowers Whisper What Words Cannot Express"

# CAMP UCHINANCHU

By Karen Kuba-Hori (Okinawa City-Goeku Son)  
Camp Director, Okinawan Cultural Day Camp for Kids

It started as a peaceful Monday morning at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on June 15. You could hear the rustling of the leaves in the breeze and the playful splashing of the koi in the fishpond.

The silence is broken at 8:30 a.m. when cars start filling the parking lot and 61 children enter the Hawaii Okinawa Center to participate in HUOA's sixth annual "Okinawan Cultural Day Camp for Kids."

For one week, these campers were exposed to different aspects of Okinawan culture and heritage. On Monday, their schedule included Okinawan history with Jean Yamasato; paranku drumming and drum-making with Violet Ogawa Sensei and Frances Funakoshi; pottery-making with Warren Andrade; plantation games with Jane Takayesu, Yoshiko Yamauchi, Noreen Furutani and Deidere Higuchi; and crafts with Lynn Miyashiro, Jean Agena and Karen Kuba-Hori. Every minute of the day, the campers were kept busy playing, learning and experiencing our Okinawan culture. Other classes throughout the week included Okinawan cooking with Thelma Arakawa and Val Teruya, ikebana with



Nobuko Kida Sensei, and singing with Marion Arakaki Sensei.

When we asked the children what they enjoyed the most, the overwhelming response was the sleep-over at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. At night, the Center takes on a different feel. It's quiet, dark, and very cold. Campers enjoyed Okidogs (a chili/hotdog combined with shoyu pork and lettuce wrapped in a soft tortilla wrap), tons of popcorn, and gallons of hot chocolate. Their program included storytelling and a movie.

And what was the second thing they enjoyed most? Well, it was a tie between fishing at Hawaii Plantation's Village, playing plantation games, shopping at the Camp's Plantation Store (campers earned "play" plantation dollars which they could use to purchase small gifts or snacks), and participating in Family Day.

On our final day, campers were allowed to invite their parents and family members to observe and participate in "Family Day." Campers performed "Asatoya Yunta" on paranku drums and showed off the many craft activities they had completed. It is amazing what the children learned in such a brief



## JANUARY "HOMECOMING" CONCERT FOR JON NAKAMATSU

by Karleen Chinen (Bito Doshi Kai)

Last year, he gave us chicken skin and moved us to tears with his unforgettable rendition of "Bashofu," a song from his ancestral homeland — Okinawa.

On January 6 and 8, 2002, 10th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Gold Medalist Jon Nakamatsu will return to the Blaisdell Concert Hall stage for two concerts with the Honolulu Symphony. He will perform Chopin's Piano Concerto #2. This will be Nakamatsu's second performance with the Honolulu Symphony.

Last year, the 33-year-old Nakamatsu captured the hearts of Hawai'i's Uchinanchu community with a solo recital that was presented in conjunction with the Okinawan Centennial Celebration.



Jon Nakamatsu's September 2000 recital as part of the Okinawan Centennial Celebration will air Dec. 12 at 7 p.m., on "Hawaii Okinawa Today" on Oceanic Channel 52.

In June 1997, Nakamatsu became the first American in 16 years to be named the Gold Medalist in the prestigious Van Cliburn Piano Competition, transforming the then-26-year-old high school German teacher into an internationally acclaimed pianist virtually overnight.

Nakamatsu graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in German Studies and also earned his master's in education.

He began studying piano with Marina Derryberry at the tender age of 6, and continues to study with her today, more than 20 years later.

In 1998 Nakamatsu was named "Debut Artist of the Year" by National Public Radio's "Performance Today." He has three recordings, two of which are available on the harmonia mundi label.

Nakamatsu has performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., in Boston,

Chicago, Paris, London and Milan. His 1998-99 season was highlighted by a White House performance of "Rhapsody in Blue," hosted by President and Mrs. Clinton.

Jon Nakamatsu's family roots in America began in Hawai'i, where his maternal and paternal grandparents were born to immigrants from Okinawa. His maternal grandmother, Chiyoko Maeda, is a member of Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai and an active member of the Jikoen Hongwanji Mission. His parents, David and Karen Nakamatsu, were born in Hawaii. They settled in San Jose, where the gifted pianist was born and continues to reside.

Tickets for the concerts (4 p.m. on Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 8) are \$15, \$25, \$30, \$40 and \$55, and are available at the Symphony Ticket Office at the Dole Cannery (phone 792-2000), Blaisdell Box Office and all Ticket Plus outlets.

If "home" is a matter of heart, Jon Nakamatsu will definitely be "home" when he steps off the plane and breathes in the fragrant and familiar scents of the Islands. "It's (Hawai'i) one other place, I think, that I feel when I come here, it's like coming home even though I've never lived here, because so much of it is familiar to me," Nakamatsu told KJPN radio hosts Ikuko Tomita and Mike Hayashi during an interview last year. "I feel that we all have our little part here, and I grew up with the attitudes that my parents had from Hawai'i. So it's always a pleasure to be here." 🍷

period. One of the more impressive displays was the children's ikebana arrangement placed in the raku vase they had made and glazed earlier in the week.

After lunching with their children and eating purple potato ice cream (made that morning by the children and parents), parents were able to watch the children participate in traditional Okinawan-style picnic games. The kids raced using plantation toys, such as wooden stilts and getas, and played an Uchinaaguchi language matching game. The Day Camp closed with a video recap of the week's events — and many sad good-byes.

HUOA President James Iha recapped the success of the Camp best. He believes the Camp serves as HUOA's commitment to perpetuate and preserve our Okinawan culture. Our success is the many Okinawan "seeds" we planted in the memories and hearts of our campers and their families.

Mahalo to the 51 adult volunteers and six junior leaders that committed themselves towards the success of this program. 🍷

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Nov. 24 & 25: HUOA Winter Craft Fair @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).  
 Nov. 27: Karaoke Club. 6:30 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).  
 Dec. 4: HUOA Program Committee meeting. 7 p.m.  
 @ HOC (Higa Building).  
 Dec. 8: Young Okinawans of Hawaii 20th annual Seniors Luncheon.  
 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).  
 Dec. 5: HUOA "An Evening in Waipio" craft fair. 5:30-9 p.m.  
 @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).  
 Dec. 11: HUOA Executive Council meeting. 7 p.m.  
 @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).  
 Dec. 12: Flower arrangement class. 7 p.m.  
 @ HOC (Higa Building).  
 Dec. 15: HUOA first membership mochi tsuki and Hawaii Blood Bank blood drive. 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
 @ HOC.  
 Dec. 17: HUOA Board of Directors meeting. 7 p.m.  
 @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).  
 Dec. 18: Communication & Information Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).  
 Dec. 19: Uchinaaguchi class. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).  
 Dec. 24 & 25: Hawaii Okinawa Center closed for Christmas holidays.  
 Dec. 31, Jan. 1 & 2: Hawaii Okinawa Center closed for New Year's holidays.  
 Jan. 6 & 8: 1997 Van Cliburn Piano Competition winner Jon Nakamatsu in concert with the Honolulu Symphony. Jan. 6, 4:00 p.m., Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m. @ the Blaisdell Concert Hall. Call 792-2000 for ticket information.  
 Jan. 9: Flower arrangement class. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).  
 Jan. 21: Hawaii Okinawa Center closed for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.  
 Jan. 26: Installation of HUOA's 2002 officers and recognition of 2001 Uchinanchu of the Year. 5 p.m. registration, 6 p.m. dinner @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).  
 Jan. 28: Administration Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building)

## "HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" (HOT) SCHEDULE

The following is the tentative program schedule for "Hawaii Okinawa Today" through December. "Hawaii Okinawa Today" is a production of the HUOA video subcommittee. Programs presently air Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. on 'Olelo: The Corporation for Community Television (Oceanic Cable channel 52).

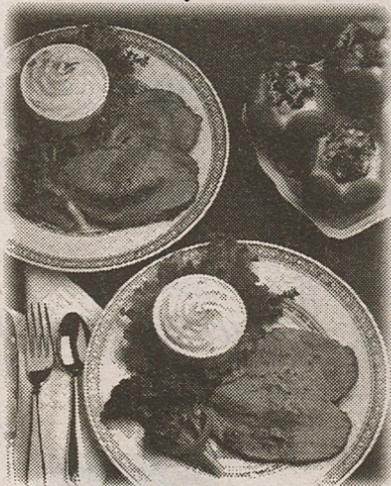
The latest schedule information for "Hawaii Okinawa Today" programs is available on HUOA's website — [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org) — or by tuning in to Keiko Ura's radio program on KZOO on Sundays from 4:30 to 5 p.m.

For more information on the HUOA video subcommittee or "Hawaii Okinawa Today" programs, call Henry Isara at 595-2773, or e-mail him at [henryisara@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:henryisara@hawaii.rr.com), or e-mail the video team at [hot@huoa.org](mailto:hot@huoa.org).

- Nov. 21: Repeat showing of Mini Tsunahiki, held July 16, 2000, at Ala Moana Park.  
 Nov. 28: Part 6 showing of the 18th annual Okinawan Festival (held Sept. 2 & 3, 2000 at Kapiolani Park bandstand).  
 Dec. 5: Repeat showing of "Leilani's Hibiscus" stage play (held July 14, 2000 at Kumu Kahua Theater); also Choichi Terukina celebration dinner (held June 7, 2000 at Natsunoya Tea House).  
 Dec. 12: Premiere showing of "An Evening with Jon Nakamatsu" piano recital (held Sept. 8, 2000 at Blaisdell Concert Hall).  
 Dec. 19: Premiere showing of "Shinasaki" — koto recital by the Jane Kaneshiro Sozan Kai (held April 19, 1998 at Leeward Community College Theatre); also, Kaneshiro Sensei's goodwill tour to Okinawa and mainland Japan, June 10-24, 2001.  
 Dec. 26: End of the year show with James Iha, President, Hawaii United Okinawa Association, and other events.

ALL PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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