



UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

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Strengthening Our Sister-State Relationship in Okinawa

Hawaii Delegation Journeys with HUOA to Commemorate 30th Anniversary

By Mark Higa

Approximately 50 of Hawaii's top representatives from various disciplines escorted Governor David Ige on an economic, trade and cultural exchange mission in October to Okinawa. This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Sister-State Relationship between Hawaii and Okinawa, and how fitting that Okinawa's *sansei*-immigrant son, the first U.S. Governor of Okinawan descent, would lead the delegation to Okinawa on his first trip there in his inaugural year. The purpose of the mission was to explore the similarities and challenges that both of our sister states face, to examine and find ways to strengthen the many collaborative efforts in place, and to explore even larger efforts together in the future. These goals were packed into an intensive schedule over four days.

With a specific focus on Education and Renewable Energy, Governor David Ige, First Lady Dawn Amano Ige, and the diverse contingent were able to observe Okinawa's approaches and share Hawaii's efforts in a series of site visits and conferences in different locations around Okinawa.

The Hawaii delegation included Senator Gil Kahele, Representative Ryan Yamane, state Department of Business Economic Development & Tourism (DEBDT), leaders from all of Hawaii's higher education institutions: the University of Hawaii, Chaminade University, and Hawaii Pacific University, as well as a cross section of Hawaii's leaders in energy industries. Site visits and interfaces included University of the Ryukyus, Meio University, Naha Kokusai High School, Okinawa J-Power Plant, Okinawa Power Company, and Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology. Seminars were held on education, international exchange and renewable energy. Our own Executive Director Jane Serikaku served on a panel of distinguished speakers covering the importance of educational exchange!

Governor Ige and Okinawa Governor Takeshi Onaga addressed a crowd of about 500 at a reception hosted by Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai. Throughout the trip, Governor Ige delivered moving speeches that showed commitment to the bond between our two states, and impressed how our collaborative spirit is akin to connection between family.

With the events overlapping the start of the HUOA Study Tour, a Sister-State reception was held with all of the Okinawa participants and a total of about 80 from Hawaii. What an honor it was for HUOA to be able to represent Hawaii *Uchinanchu* and be recognized alongside with Governor Ige, Governor Onaga and U.S. Japan Ambassador Caroline Kennedy. Each gave their respect and gratitude to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association for our unwavering efforts to keep this friendship alive. Please know that this message goes out to each of you reading this, your families, the *geinou* community, and every volunteer at the Hawaii Okinawa Center and our events throughout the year! Our hard work is much appreciated!

Governor Onaga and Naha Mayor Mikiko Shiroma wanted to be sure that Governor Ige would be able to enjoy the unique experiences of Okinawa while sharing Governor Ige with so many in Okinawan public who were anticipating this visit. Aside from the



Separated by the Pacific Ocean, two Uchinanchu Governors (Okinawa's Governor Onaga and Hawaii's Governor Ige) exchange paddles (*ho* and *haari eeku*), to symbolize bringing our two communities closer together.

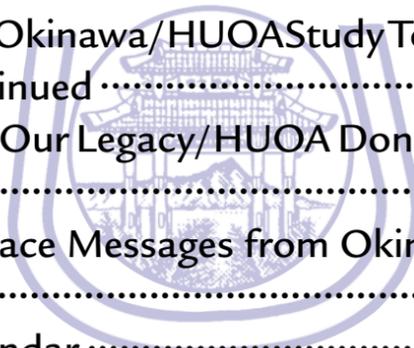
public addresses, Governor Ige spent time with TV and radio interviews, marching in the Naha Matsuri Parade, and attending the Naha *Ootsunabiki* - Great Tug-Of-War!

Aside from the courtesy visits, conferences and addresses, our Governor was able to share very special moments with his brothers and family who connected with their relatives for the first time in Okinawa. A delicate moment that many of us have experienced, we can relate to our Governor and his family as they met face to face for the first time with cousins and relatives, paying their respects at the "Igei" Family *toutoume*. Governor Ige also set aside a morning to visit *Heiwa No Ishiji*, paying his respects on behalf of himself, his family and all of us, for the thousands who perished during the Battle Of Okinawa.

Thirty years ago, Hawaii legislators Dwight Yoshito Takamine, Marshall Ige, Charles Toguchi, Ken Kiyabu, Dennis Nakasato and Robert Nakata laid the groundwork with Governor George Ariyoshi to form this Sister State Relationship. With the hopes of strengthening the bonds through the commonalities of our island communities, so many programs and initiatives have spurred from this relationship ever since. Exchange through education, travel industry, medicine, agriculture, aquaculture, renewable energy, technology and culture are just a few of the many facets of collaboration that continue to grow. Many thanks go to DEBDT's Dennis Ling and Marlene Hiraoka, Governor Ige and his staff for their continued conviction in this relationship, in their rigorous planning and for working to have supplemental funding for this year's events. This year's exchange in Hawaii in July, and Okinawa in October have renewed our efforts and set the tone for the next 30 years!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Sister-State Anniversary in Okinawa	Page 1
President's Message	Page 2
Uchinanchu of the Year	Page 3
Legacy Awards Banquet & Photos	Pages 4 & 5
Mayor Caldwell's Trip to Okinawa/HUOA Study Tour	Page 6
HUOA Study Tour - Continued	Page 7
Ikuyu Madin/Preserving Our Legacy/HUOA Donations	Pages 8 & 9
Mensore	Page 10
Club News/Children's Peace Messages from Okinawa	Page 11
Sports Corner	Page 12
2016 Shinnen Enkai Calendar	Page 13
Student Exchange/Hosting High School Students	Page 14
Study Abroad/Uchinaaguchi/Okinawan Proverb	Page 15
HUOA Schedule of Events/HOT Schedule	Page 16



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President's Message

By Mark Higa



Sumiti - Making an Imprint for Our Future Generations

Happy Holidays Hawaii United Okinawa Association, Families and Friends!

Eleven months ago, I sat thinking of the message that would mark the start of our year! Can you believe that 2016 is right around the corner? As this is my last opportunity to address you in this particular column, I'd like start by expressing a sincere *Ippe Nifee Deebiru* to our Club Members, Club Presidents, HUOA Staff and Executive Council for your commitment! Each of you offer your experience, strategic planning, and then roll up your sleeves and make things happen. You are there from start to finish, event after event, engaging the help of friends and family. You spread the word for the community to participate, engage and attend. It truly takes all of these moving parts and people to succeed! Everyone works hard to showcase our *Uchinanchu* Culture in the best way to each other, our visitors and the rest of the community. Our organization is able to thrive and shine because of each of you!

Otsukarema to our membership for a year of excitement and impact! Because of you, we were able to celebrate the many imprints that were left for us, and we have found many ways to *Sumiti* for the future.

We continue to honor those who have provided for us and those who have been continuing to nurture our community from generation to generation. Many from Hawaii and Okinawa who were instrumental in the building of the Hawaii Okinawa Center joined us for our Silver Anniversary Celebration. In June, those who were affected first hand by the events of the Battle of Okinawa shared their stories and experiences with us for a moving memorial on its 70th Anniversary. Just this past month, we honored individuals and families who were instrumental in shaping our communities at the Legacy Awards Banquet: *Mahalo* to Past Governor George Ariyoshi, Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa, Gwen Fujie, Masakazu Teruya Sensei and Highway Inn's Toguchi Family for the imprint you have made on our Hawaii landscape!

Together we continued the work that shares our culture with the greater community, and reinvested in the imprints left for us. Thanks to our many volunteers, assistance from various grants and generous HUOA donors, we were able to provide upkeep to our home. Volunteers continued keeping our grounds pristine and we were also able to tend to landscaping, pathway and maintenance projects. Through the generosity of Mac Yonamine and his late wife Patsy, we now have a new lift that allows us to be safe, efficient and mobile. The 33rd Okinawan Festival brought our favorites to Hawaii residents and visitors, and also introduced a number of fun attractions and inspirational performances from Okinawa! Marking 30 years since the forming of the Sister-State Relationship, Hawaii and Okinawa hosted a number of conferences and seminars regarding issues that affect our island communities today: renewable energy, education and economic development. In July, a collaborative roundtable for over 200 Okinawa and Hawaii members allowed participants to openly discuss thoughts on culture, education and caring for seniors. The "*Drums of Hope*" production treated us to a collaboration of our local *geinou* performers with cultural performances from Fukushima, Okinawa and Hawaii. And as we read this, the holiday season is in full swing with our Member Clubs actively coordinating our popular Craft Fairs and *Bonnenkai* celebrations!

The imprints we make for the future can be seen in our commitment to our youth and the strengthened bonds with Okinawa. The 25th Anniversaries of the Children's Cultural Day Camp and the Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program touched many due to the hard work of our volunteers who continue to find fresh new ideas each year. About 50 participants of the HUOA Study Tour connected to the Okinawan culture through their minds, emotions and spirits! Many of our cultural performers displayed their dedication achieving newcomer's awards and teaching certifications this year. Several of our young leaders took initiative to form our 50th HUOA Club, *Shinka* - dedicated to the growth of young adults and their awareness of our Okinawan culture! They eagerly stepped up to participate in various HUOA events and coordinated the Yuntaku 2 Social Mixer. Finally, hundreds of visitors from Okinawa found ways to visit Hawaii to share the latest affecting Okinawa today. An array of visitors included two trips by Governor Takeshi Onaga, other government officials, businesses, students and performers. Aside from exchanging ideas, it was always moving to see how we were able mutually inspire each other.

I hope that this year has raised your spirits, the way it has mine. As we look at the horizon to 2016, I am excited to carry this energy with you in joining President-Elect Tom Yamamoto as he guides our many hands, minds and hearts working together! Already a banner year with the 6th *Uchinanchu Taikai*, we can also look forward to fruits from our grants and contributions to renovate our Hawaii Okinawa Center stage and lighting. Through the extreme generosity of our donors, we look to improvements to our facilities, supplementing our pro-

grams and ensuring opportunities for our young leaders. And with only days away from receiving our permits, we will see the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Project lay a critical foundation for our future!

Our passion to perpetuate the *Uchinanchu* culture is deep, with many approaches, beliefs and ideas. This year we reaffirmed that we can achieve great things by working side by side together respectfully with our common goal. We can be certain that the seeds that have been planted will grow in the coming years and continue making imprints for future generations!

*Taiya chimu awachi
Umanchu nu kukuru
Ryuchu nu mabui
Mamuti ikana*

Let's put our souls together along with the hearts of everyone, to work to protect and perpetuate the Spirit of Ryukyu.

It has been a true honor to serve as your Hawaii United Okinawa Association President. Let's continue paddling together as Tom Yamamoto steers us with the help of all those who have left their imprints before us.

Sincerely and Respectfully,
Mark Higa

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The year at a glance!

- January 16 Installation of Officers & Recognition of UOY Honorees
- February 3 -7 Exhibit in Serikaku Chaya: Children's Peace Messages from Okinawa
- Feb 20 - Mar 5 25 students from Okinawa - High School Student Exchange Program
- March 7 HUOA Club Leadership Training
- May 28, 29 HUOA Goodwill Golf Tournament
- May 31 - June 3 Children's Cultural Day Camp at HOC
- June 4 - 18 Hawaii High School Students - Exchange to Okinawa
- June 17 Senior Fair
- September 3, 4 Okinawan Festival
- Oct 23 - Nov 2 HUOA Study Tour/World Wide Uchinanchu Festival in Okinawa
- Nov 26, 27 Winter Craft Fair
- December 7 Evening in Waipio Craft Fair *Check HUOA website - www.huoa.org for more information.*

Please Kokua

Production costs for Uchinanchu have escalated due to increases in circulation, labeling expenses and postage. Your contribution to help defray some of the expenses is greatly appreciated.

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UCHINANCHU

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66th HUOA Installation Banquet & Recognition of Uchinanchu of The Year

Hawaii Okinawa Center
Saturday, January 16, 2015

Officers to be installed are:

President	Tom Yamamoto
President-elect	Vince Watabu
Vice Presidents	Lynn Miyahira, Brandon Nakasone, & Courtney Takara
Executive Secretary	Sandra Yanagi
Asst. Executive Secretary	Terry Goya
Japanese Language Secretary	Kumiko Yabe-Domingo
Treasurer	Stephanie Katayama
Asst. Treasurer	Norman Nakasone

HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

2015 Uchinanchu of the Year Honorees

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to all the honorees who have contributed unselfishly to their respective clubs and the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. The following will be recognized at the Installation & Uchinanchu of the Year Celebration on January 16, 2015. List of clubs and names as of November 27, 2015

☺ Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai	Leslie Dang Nagamine
☺ Aza Yogi Doshi Kai.....	Douglas Miyasato (deceased)
☺ Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai.....	Frances Yamamoto
☺ Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai.....	Mildred Nagatori
☺ Club Motobu.....	Lori Nakamura Higa
☺ Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai	Mildred Kikue Kobashikawa
☺ Ginowan Shijin Kai.....	Thomas "Tom" Tasato
☺ Ginoza Sonjin Kai.....	Misao Yara Asato
☺ Gushichan Sonjin Kai	Lyn Uesato Nishida
☺ Gushikawa Shijin Kai	June Tokuda
☺ Haebaru Club.....	Ranko Oshiro
☺ Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai.....	Charles and Jean Tsuda
☺ Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club	Cyrus Tamashiro
☺ Hui Alu, Inc.....	Gloria Hiranaka
☺ Hui Makaala	Michael Ito
☺ Hui O Laulima	Laura Ajimine
☺ Hui O Laulima	Lillian Hokama
☺ Hui Okinawa.....	Dwayne Miyashiro
☺ Itoman Shijin Kai	Chisato "Chili" Takeda
☺ Kin Chojin Kai.....	Mamo and Arlene Emi Kuniyoshi
☺ Kitanakagusuku Sonjin Kai	Christine Higa
☺ Kona Okinawa Kenjin Kai.....	Patrice "Pat" Nagy
☺ Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai.....	Jason Hondo
☺ Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai.....	Christine Hondo
☺ Nago Club.....	Ed and Helen Ginoza
☺ Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai.....	Howard Asato
☺ Nishihara Chojin Kai.....	Goro Arakawa
☺ Okinawa City-Goeku Son.....	Stephanie Higa
☺ Okinawa Genealogical Society of Hawaii	Sally Matsumoto
☺ Oroku Azajin Club	Myrtle Yoshioka
☺ Osato Doshi Kai.....	Toyoko Miyashiro
☺ Tamagusuku Club.....	Nancy Oshiro
☺ Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai.....	Willie Nagamine
☺ Urasoe Shijin Kai	Wes & Lynn Masuda
☺ Wahiawa Kyo Yu Kai	Shigemasa Tamanaha
☺ Yomitan Club.....	Mildred Chibana
☺ Yomitan Club.....	Roy Higa
☺ Yonashiro Chojin Kai	Cassandra Sherod
☺ Young Okinawans of Hawaii	Glenn Hirano
☺ Young Okinawans of Hawaii	Lynn Harada

2015 Legacy Award Banquet

By Norman Nakasone, Chair

The 2015 Legacy Award Banquet began with a resounding Call to Celebration with Chinagu Eisa Hawaii performing Hinamoto. They were followed by a *Shishimai* performance by Hawaii Okinawa Creative Arts (HOCA). The finale was a “dynamic” joint performance of Dynamic Ryukyu by Chinagu Eisa and HOCA. And thus opened the gathering of 350 people on November 1st at the Sheraton

Waikiki Ballrooms to congratulate and honor six (6) exceptional individuals for their contributions to the Okinawan community and Hawaii communities at-large: The Honorable George Ariyoshi, Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa, Gwen Fujie, Sensei Masakazu Teruya, and Seiichi & Sachiko “Nancy” Toguchi.

MCs MoaniKeala Nabarro and David Arakawa opened the program by introducing special guests, Governor and Mrs. Ige, Consul General and Mrs. Misawa, and Georgette Deemer, who represented Mayor Kirk Caldwell. HUAO President Mark Higa welcomed the guests and gave a heartwarming message of congratulations and appreciation to the honorees. Governor Ige then offered his congratulatory message and shared a few very moving experiences from his first ever trip to Okinawa in October. HUAO President-elect Tom Yamamoto followed with a doxology and it was time for lunch.

Following the delicious meal, the program began and guests were able to enjoy

videos of the honorees created by Steve Arashiro, Ron Miyashiro and Toby Anguay that were both inspiring and very touching. Following each person’s video, entertainers selected by the honoree performed for the audience. Through each honoree’s segment, familiar Okinawan melodies were played by Dale Senaga on piano.

The first honoree recognized was The Honorable George Ariyoshi, who served as the governor of Hawaii from 1974 to 1986. With the support of several Okinawan legislators, Governor Ariyoshi established the Hawaii-Okinawa Sister State relationship in 1985. He felt very strongly that this relationship would give the young people of Hawaii and Okinawa the opportunities to be proud of and get involved with their ethnic heritage, to develop relationships with each other, and to share ideas and collaborate on issues that would affect their future. After 30 years, it is a continuing success story of how very strong and extraordinary a Sister State relationship can be. Reverend Takamasa Yamamura sang beautiful operatic renditions of “My Way” and “Koko no Sachi Ari” for Governor Ariyoshi



Legacy honorees (L-R): Gwen Fujie, Bobby and Monica Toguchi, Masakazu Teruya Sensei, Honorable George Ariyoshi, and Mayor Alan Arakawa.

with piano accompaniment by Dale Senaga.

The second honoree recognized was Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa. Mayor Arakawa, a *sensei* whose paternal grandparents are from Onaha Village in Nishihara, is a longtime member of the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai and served as its 2000-2001 President. He

Continued on page 5

Legacy Awards... Mahalo!

Special thanks to our many contributors, silent auction donors, advertisement and table sponsors. In particular, we would like to recognize our three Legacy Gold Table Sponsors: Central Pacific Bank, Island Insurance and WCIT Architecture.

Like all of our HUAO supporters, these companies have shown their dedication to helping our organization and our mission to perpetuate, preserve and promote the Okinawan Culture. Aside from their generous contributions, you can see members of their organizations active at our events, and they have been strong supporters of the HUAO Legacy Awards Banquet. Just as they feel the importance of celebrating our awardees for their significant contributions, HUAO extends a warm Mahalo to these sponsor businesses for leading by example as community role models.



Teruya Brothers Ltd.

Continued from page 4

led the Hawaii delegation at the Opening Parade of the 2011 Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai and has helped strengthen the bonds of the 50-year Sister-City relationship between Maui County and Miyakojima City through exchanges related to culture, education, renewable energy, business, medicine, and tourism. A beautiful hula was performed by dancers Aubrey Schumann and Melissa Uyeunten-Yamashiro to the song "Naneo I Kou Nani" with musical accompaniment by Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai. That was followed by the lively tune "Chibariyo."

The third honoree recognized was current Hui O Laulima president and Yomitan Club member, Gwen Fujie. One of Gwen's many interesting experiences throughout her life was being crowned the 15th Cherry Blossom Festival Queen in 1967. She was the first "country" girl and first Okinawan to win the coveted crown. Most of Gwen's working life has revolved around customer service and community service in some form or fashion. A certified "Tongue Fu" trainer, she developed customer service training courses and made presentations to thousands of health-care workers, educators, parents, and business people. Working voluntarily with the Department of Education, she designed a workshop entitled "Project Aloha" to improve customer service in the DOE and presented this seminar throughout the State system and public schools without charge. The trio of Eric Wada, Norman Kaneshiro, and Keith Nakaganeku performed the song *Yutaka Bushi* in celebration of Gwen.

Our next honoree was Sensei Masakazu Teruya. Teruya Sensei began studying karate at the age of 12 and eventually became one of the top instructors for *Shorin-Ryu* Seibukan under famed *Shorin-Ryu* master, Zenryo Shimabukuro. After spending time in the banking, construction, and transportation industries, Teruya Sensei finally found his niche in the food service industry. He established several successful businesses and today is the President & CEO of Ala Hawaii Kitchen. While his occupations have changed over the years, his dedication to karate never diminished.

He works tirelessly to pass on his knowledge of *Shorin-Ryu karate* and is presently *Kancho* (Director) of the *Shorin-Ryu* Hawaii Seibukan *dojo*. Nina Teruya (daughter), Masaki Teruya (son), and Tsuneo Kinjo Sensei from Okinawa performed a variety of *karate* demonstrations, the finale of which was a breathtaking sparring session between Nina and Masaki.



Pianist Dale Senaga entertains at the Legacy Award banquet.

Our final honorees were Seiichi and Sachiko "Nancy" Toguchi, original founders of one of Hawaii's most successful Hawaiian food restaurants, Highway Inn. Their son, Bobby, and granddaughter, Monica (current President & CEO of Highway Inn), accepted the award on their behalf. Seiichi and Nancy opened the original Highway Inn in 1947 and were forced to relocate the original restaurant from Farrington Highway to Waipahu Depot Road near Arakawa's because of a highway widening project during the '70s. Seiichi's sons, Gary and Bobby, took over the business in 1979 after Seiichi underwent a kidney operation. In 1984, the restaurant moved to its current Waipahu location on Leoku Street. Highway Inn came to another crossroads in 2003 when Bobby suffered a stroke. That's when the third generation stepped in as Regina Toguchi became vice president and general manager. Monica

Toguchi took over in late 2009 becoming President & CEO in 2012. The evolution of Highway Inn continues. It opened a new location in Kakaako in October 2013 and is this year beginning operations at the new Bishop Museum Café. Three generations later, Highway Inn continues a family tradition of great Hawaiian food. The trio of dancers, Akemi Azama Sensei from Okinawa, Allison Yanagi, and Dazzman Toguch performed to "*Kariyushi No Mai*."

To bring the banquet to a close, retired Judge Herbert Shimabukuro offered the *karii* toast to the honorees and everyone participated in the traditional *kachashi*. A big *Ipee Nifee Deebiru* to our honorees, sponsors, donors, committee members, and volunteers for making the 2015 Legacy Award Banquet a very memorable one!

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Mayor Caldwell meets Naha Mayor Shiroma

By Cyrus Tamashiro

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell visited Naha City from November 2-6 to meet Naha Mayor Mikiko Shiroma and participate in ceremonies to commemorate the 55th Anniversary of the Naha-Honolulu Sister City relationship. The delegation included Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney Keith Kaneshiro, who also had a

participated in the official events. November 3 was *Bunka no Hi*, a national holiday, and the date of the Ryukyu Kingdom Festival Parade, an authentic recreation of royal processions from the 15th to 19th centuries. Mayor Shiroma spotted Mayor Caldwell along the parade route and invited him and his wife, Donna Tanoue, to join her in

the parade. Afterward, the delegation visited Shuri Castle. That evening, the Okinawa-Hawaii Kyokai hosted a wonderful reception that filled the Miyako Hotel Ballroom.

The official courtesy call to the Naha City offices was the next day. As the delegation walked to Mayor Shiroma's conference room, city employees lined the corridors, applauding enthusiastically for their guests. This was one of many examples of *omotenashi*. After very cordial *aisatsu* meetings with Mayor Shiroma and Naha Assembly Chair Toru Kinjo, the delegation was escorted to a regular session of the Naha City Assembly where Mayor Caldwell was presented with an impressively framed certificate proclaiming him an International Goodwill Honorary Citizen of Naha City. In his acceptance remarks, Mayor Caldwell spoke of his visit to the Peace Museum and how important it was to promote peace, and demonstrated his knowledge of history and compassion for the Okinawan people. It was a moving speech that brought tears to peoples' eyes and smiles from their hearts.

Mayor Caldwell was able to learn more about Okinawan history by visiting the Naha City Museum and the Okinawa



Former HUAO Presidents whose ancestors were from Naha join Mayor Caldwell in greeting the Mayor from Naha, Okinawa. (L-R): 1997 HUAO President Dexter Teruya, 1996 HUAO President Randall Kuba, Honorable Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Honorable Mayor Mikiko Shiroma, and 2012 HUAO President Cyrus Tamashiro.

separate meeting with public officials to discuss law enforcement issues. HUAO Past President Ryokichi Higashionna coordinated the itinerary with the Naha City office with support from HUAO Past President Laverne Higa who now lives and works in Okinawa. Honolulu Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting, George Atta, who was born in Okinawa, provided Mayor Caldwell with valuable insight and assistance.

Mayor Caldwell was knowledgeable about the Battle of Okinawa, so the visit to the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum in Itoman was memorable and moving. He read all of the English translations of the Battle of Okinawa exhibits, then placed a bouquet of flowers at the Cornerstone of Peace, and prayed. On the mini-bus, he asked to stop to visit the caves where civilians hid from soldiers, and to make up for the lost time, have lunch on the bus with musubi and sandwiches from Family Mart.

Mayor Caldwell requested that HUAO past presidents with ancestors from Naha join his entourage so Randy Kuba, Dexter Teruya, and Cyrus Tamashiro also par-

ticipated in the official events. But this trip was also to learn how Naha was addressing the challenges of an urban area on a small island. The visit to the state of the art Naha-Haeburu Clean Center was to see how Okinawa was handling trash disposal and recycling. It was remarkable how clean the waste treatment facility was. In the upper level meeting rooms and observation area, visitors are asked to remove their shoes and wear provided slippers to keep the sparkling floors clean! A visit to the Okinawa Urban Monorail maintenance building also showed the Japanese mindset of cleanliness and regular maintenance of equipment. Mayor Caldwell had many questions for the facility managers who were impressed with his knowledge of the technical aspects of environmental engineering and transportation design and management.

It was a productive visit for Mayor Caldwell and one that further strengthened the bonds between Honolulu and Naha. Mayor Caldwell expressed that he hopes Mayor Shiroma will make her first visit to Honolulu soon, perhaps for the 2016 Okinawan Festival! 🍷

Study Tour Full of Once in a Lifetime Experiences

By Mark Higa

The much anticipated 2015 HUAO Study Tour was a life-changing experience for many of the 49 who joined the trek. *Chimu Ni Sumiti* was the theme of this year's tour, and the desire for everyone was to have Imprints on their hearts.

Transpacific Tour's Barbara Maeshiro and Frances Yamamoto diligently met with tour members since March of this year to plan, collaborate and learn in preparation for the tour. We had members who were first time visitors to Okinawa, but also had many who had been to Okinawa multiple times. We were pleasantly surprised at the turnout the year before *Taikai* – everyone agreed that you can never get enough of Okinawa and there are always new things to see and learn! With such a diverse group, we wanted to ensure new experiences with something for everyone, and if we had been to places before, we would share our knowledge and experiences with each other. This was truly a tight knit *Ohana*.

We got a glimpse of the early settlers of Okinawa at the 2,000-year-old earthen structures at Nakabaru Iseki, and walked in time gaining a better understanding of the rich history of Ryukyu at Katsuren Castle, Shikina En, Tama Udun and of course Shuri Castle.

During this 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa, we dedicated time at the various memorials and museums to understand how this event affected Okinawa and its people forever. Members shared their family experiences and searched for names of their relatives. We also saw how tragic events such as the sinking of Tsushima Maru affected families even before the Okinawan landscape was devastated.

Bridging the past with contemporary urban Naha truly showed Okinawa's "living culture": Many joined the 270,000 packed to partake in the Naha Great Tug-of-War and then checked out Naha Matsuri. Exploring the centuries old Tsuboya pottery

village then venturing for the best *izakaya* at night. And while Governor Ige and our Hawaii State entourage are there to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Hawaii-Okinawa Sister State Relationship, why not march with them in the parade? We were able to see Governor Ige, Governor Onaga, U.S. Japan Ambassador Caroline Kennedy speak at a reception and stand front and center for a BEGIN concert for attendees! Day's later, National Living Treasure Choichi Terukina welcomed us to his *dojo* to show how he has dedicated himself to preservation of the art of *Uta Sanshin*.

Relocating our tour to the Central Okinawa landscape provided a different perspective. Resorts, shopping areas, military bases, along with tourist and cultural attractions demonstrated the diversity and influences that today's *Uchinanchu* live in. Many participated in glass blowing, *mini-kimino* and *obi* making, and other crafts. We were able to observe and partake in the processes of making Awamori and Orion Beer!

After observing the various ways Okinawa was historically ahead of its time, we also looked at its commitment to world-class facilities and research today through visits to Churaumi Aquarium, and a special tour to the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST). Many were amazed and proud that we could have such facilities and opportunities in today's Okinawa.

For those who wanted a little "aji," there were many optional tours thanks to Grant Sandaa Murata Sensei and Chikako Shimamura: interacting with vendors in shops to understand their foods, products and being able to find the best merchandise and deals! Members explored and shared experiences on various *Izakaya* and *minyo* bars where they could enjoy and sometimes even participate in the music!

Continued on page 7

Study Tour...continued from page 6

Linking all of our bus rides, we learned from our Hawaii and Okinawa tour guides, and participated in *sanshin* sing-a-longs.

Of all of the unique experiences, the best was observing the closeness of all the families. Most attendees came in family groups of six to 10 members, and made efforts to connect to their Okinawa relatives. All appeared to be moving

unique time with each other.

Okinawa families, friends and supporters joined us at our Aloha Party, where Senbaru Eisa and Okinawa Prefectural University of the Arts (*Okigeidai*) blew us away with rousing performances! What an unforgettable send-off we received, locking all of that learning and thoughts into our hearts and minds. Our members shared



experiences—some meeting family for the first time, visiting *haka* and paying respects at the family *toutoume*. Tour members ranged from ages 5 to 80 years old with six people flying in from the West Coast, and one flying in to join us from Tokyo! A rare experience in itself, all on the trip were very grateful to share this

their experiences and perhaps 15-year-old Rebecca Brewer from Portland captured the essence in saying that the best part of Okinawa is its people!

We all vowed to find more ways to connect to, learn and grow in our culture, and that we will all be back again! In 2016 perhaps? Some are already set to go!

A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE HAWAII OKINAWA PLAZA


Kuba
AWAMORI

Hawaii Okinawa Plaza



Each bottle and pouch of Kuba awamori sold in Hawaii, a \$1 donation will be made towards the construction of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza.



“Once completed, the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza will be a model of what a community can do working in harmony with each other. More important, it is honoring our Issei for their “spirit” of never giving up in the face of adversities. Our Hawaii Okinawa Plaza will generate on-going funds to support our priceless culture for generations to come. Our culture is intended to cultivate us to be outstanding individuals skilled at our craft. These wise character building principles and values are graciously imparted to us from our ancestors through our songs, dances, and the fine arts. Share the “spirit” on our quest to perpetuate our Okinawan culture for future generations!”

CAMPAIGN DETAILS: ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS INCLUDE KUBA AWAMORI IN BOTH BOTTLE AND POUCHES SOLD IN HAWAII. THIS CAMPAIGN IS APPLICABLE TO PRODUCTS SOLD BETWEEN JULY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31, 2015.

Connect, converse, share...one sip at a time!

UCHINANCHU 2015 IS COMING!

In 2013, HUOA launched the inaugural edition of the annual *Uchinanchu* magazine, a compilation of the very best, full-color images from the entire year’s activities. It became an instant hit.



This yearly album captures the spirit and energy of our HUOA members, from installation of officers and *Uchinanchu of the Year* celebrations, through shinnen enkai parties, community outreach projects, craft fairs, Okinawan Festival, sports, recitals, concerts and club picnics, just to name a few highlights. This beautifully produced memory book will make a great keepsake or gift.

Uchinanchu 2015 is coming soon. Cost is \$10 an issue. Clubs should inquire about discounts for orders of 25 or more. Clubs and companies can also show their support by placing a full-color ad in *Uchinanchu 2015*. Proceeds benefit the HUOA.

For information, contact Jane Serikaku at jserikaku@hawaii.rr.com or call 676-5400.

Bridging from Generation to Generation - For Our Children!

Ikuyu Madin 染

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

Our Supporters



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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 MAURICE & JEAN YAMASATO
 KENNETH & HELEN YANAMURA
 BOB YONAHARA
 HAROLD & ELSIE YONAMINE

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 a special gift from the Kaneshiro Family in honor of Sanri and Ushi Kaneshiro and 500,000¥ from the Okinawan Prefectural Assembly. A special mahalo to those who visited us at our Capital Tent at the Okinawan Festival.

Our 200 FOR 2M CAMPAIGN continues to grow, we would like to welcome Lawrence and Alice Morisako and Mitsuko Toguchi Nakasone to our 46-member family. The HUOA is truly grateful for your support and the confidence you have displayed through your generous donations and humbly ask for your continued support. *Magukuru Kara Ippee Nifee Deebiru* – from our hearts, thank you very much.

Donations listed below were received from September 16, 2015 to November 15, 2015.

Aloha Tofu Inc. (2)
 Thelma Arakawa
 Jerry & Eva Bohannon
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 Ginowan Club
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 In Honor of Richard & Kiyoko Kuba
 Family by Mae Chung
 In Honor of Richard & Kiyoko Kuba
 Family by Karen Kuba-Hori
 In Honor of Parents Ryoyei & Kamado
 (Okuma) Kuwaye by Glenn M. &
 Lucille K. Biven 

Preserving Our Legacy

2015 TO 2016-ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM



On November 18, 2015, the HUOA launched its 17th Annual Giving campaign. Over 10,500 letters were mailed to our membership and close friends. Last year, through the generous support of seven hundred forty-five individuals, families and organizations we raised \$102,807. This year our association has adopted the concept of "Sumiti- to make an imprint." Much like how our generations today thrive and benefit from the work of our Issei, the actions we make today will also lay paths for our future generations.

Please join us in helping our culture thrive and grow through your continued contribution for Hawaii United Okinawa Association's many programs and the upkeep of our wonderful home - the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

In just a few days since our mailing we have received responses from 136 donors, representing \$13,400. *Ippee Niffee Deebiru!*

The following list of donors reflects contributions from September 16, 2015 to November 26, 2015.

GOLD (\$2,499 TO \$1,000)

Jane F. Serikaku

To Celebrate the Occasion of Matsue Shimabukuro's 99th Birthday on Sept. 18, 2015 by R.K. & C. Shimabukuro and Family

In Memory of Holly Emi Takara by Howard and Jane Takara

SILVER (\$999 TO \$500)

In Memory of Joe and Yoko Higashi by Henry & Sharon Higashi

In Memory of Shinsei and Atsu Asato by Shigeo & Sumiko Asato

BRONZE (\$499 TO \$250)

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Michael M. and Frances A. Serikaku

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In Honor of Richard and Kiyoko Kuba by Karen Kuba-Hori & Gene, Nicole and Jessie Hori

In Memory of Jean Chinen by Glenn and Jonathan Chinen

In Memory of Haruo Kaneshiro by the Kaneshiro Family

In Memory of Segi Kaneshiro by Iris Kaneshiro

In Memory of Mitsugi and Yoshiko Kobayashi by Christine Kobayashi

In Memory of Kosei and Haruko Miyashiro by Patrick & Nona Miyashiro

In Memory of Chosei and Aiko Onaga by Donald M. Uesato

In Memory of Reynold Y. Shimabukuro by Sally N. Shimabukuro

In Memory of Harry and Harriet Shiroma by Russell & Charlene Shiroma

In Memory of Albert and Wallace Teruya by Stephen & Rosemarie Love

In Memory of Florence Kiyoko Tokuda by Eileen Moneyhon and family

In Memory of Margaret Oshiro Tsuma by Walter Tsuma

In Memory of Yoshiko and Kamado Uyehara by Alice & Masao Masutani

In Memory of Dorothy Yamashiro by Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai

In Memory of Edith S. Yogi by Seitei Yogi

FRIEND (\$50 AND BELOW)

anonymous (8)

Riyosei and Kamato Arakaki

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In Memory of M. Arashiro by Aileen Arashiro

In Memory of Shigeo Chinen, Sr. - formally from Molokai by Sakaye Nomura

In Memory of Kamado Koza by Sue Miller

In Memory of Boka and Kamata Nohara by Irene Y. Chun

In Memory of Masaichi Oshiro by Sadako Oshiro

In Memory of Satoei and Sue Shiohira by Wayne Shiohira

HUOA DONATIONS

September 16 to November 15, 2015

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

Marion Akamine

Goodshop

Hatsuko Gushiken

Laverne Higa

Peggy Higa

Iwakuni Odori Ai Ko Kai

Jerri Nagato

Kenn & Iris Nishihira

Marleen Nishimiya

Ronald & Jane Okuhara

In Memory of Bernard Seiso Akamine & his Parents, Shojiro & Kame Akamine by Jeanette S. Akamine

In Memory of Chad Higa by Kazuo & Kathleen Shirakawa

In Memory of Yokichi Hokama by Sashiki Chinen Club

In Memory of Roy Kino by Nancy Yogi

In Memory of Edna Kuwazaki by Nancy Yogi

In Honor of Matsue Shimabukuro's 99th birthday by Portia H. Hara

In Honor of Matsue Shimabukuro's 99th birthday by Sueno Miyasato

In Honor of Matsue Shimabukuro's 99th birthday by James S. & Norma Nakasone

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Wilson Okamoto Corp.

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Mr. & Mrs. Mac Yonamine





Friends from Ishigaki

Members of the Ishigaki Special Product Promoting Association—including awamori distillers, kamaboko, sea salt, black sugar factory owners and more—visited the Hawaii Okinawa Center and also toured Aloha Tofu and Tamashiro Market.



OTS Women's Group Visits

These delightful women of the Okinawa Tourist Service (OTS) came from places like Kin town, Yomitan, Nakagusuku, and other places in Okinawa to explore and get a taste of Hawaii. One of their stops was our Hawaii Okinawa Center, where they were especially excited to see Toyama Kyuzo's statue standing majestically in our Issei Garden: Kin Town's pride and joy.



Welcome Takamiyagi-san

Hiroyuki Takamiyagi, President of Jyutaro Homes, engaged many young leaders of the Okinawa Prefectural Government in exploring many aspects of Hawaii. Takamiyagi-san is a strong supporter of HUOA and Hawaii Okinawa Plaza.



Ryudai and Meio students

An energetic group of students from the University of the Ryukyus and Meio University in northern Okinawa visited Hawaii Okinawa Center to learn about the brave immigrant men and women who left Okinawa in search for a better life in Hawaii, as well as the story of second to fourth generations of Okinawan descendents.

CLUB NEWS

Our Clubs, Our Future

What's the 'Big Catch' on Kauai?

By Tom Yamamoto

On the weekend of November 13-15, dozens of anglers aboard the SS Hui Alu steered by their "Captain" Kent Yamauchi, set ashore to land the "big one." No, this is not a scene from "Gilligan's Island" nor does it pertain to any ship. This event was the 2015 Third Annual Hui Alu Fishing Tournament, organized by Kauai's pioneering Hui Alu, led by their president Kent Yamauchi. And I had the privilege to experience all of this as one of the entrants of this tournament.



Esther Yamauchi holds her First Place oio weighing 3.64 lbs.

The tournament encompasses three days of shore fishing starting from 6:00 p.m. Friday to 2:00 p.m. Sunday with the entire shoreline of the Garden Isle as the boundaries. As open as it may seem in terms of limitless fishing grounds and allotted time, there are a set of 12 strict rules to which all entrants must abide by using good 'ole fashion honor system. At the 2:00 p.m. deadline on Sunday, all anglers pack up their catches of *moi*, *ulua*, *papio*, *oio* and other species, and head to the Kekaha Neighborhood Center for some "R & R," food provided by Kent's mother, and the anticipated weigh-in of the five fish categories.

Tremendous support comes from Garrett Agena

and his *ohana* who coordinate the gathering and distribution of prizes purchased from the Nakagawa Family's Rainbow Paint and Fishing Supply. As a contribution to the club's fishing tournament, the store generously donates much more supplies than what Hui Alu pays for. What makes this a fun fishing tournament for all generations is that even the *keiki* receive an assortment of fishing supplies. Among the winners were Esther Yamauchi with her first place oio weighing 3.64 lbs. and Kent's grand prize lucky number win of a brand new Penn reel!



Kent Yamauchi is presented with the Grand Prize Penn Reel by Garrett Agena.

A wise man once said, "Good fishermen know how to work together!" Helping and learning from each other makes fishing a success. Hui Alu is one of the clubs among our organization that exemplifies this quality! They have established themselves as a very successful club by organizing well-attended events, which capture the interests of all members, whether *Uchinanchu*, or *Uchinanchu* in spirit, or whether *kupuna* or *keiki*. Kent humbly attributes this success to the different "communities" that he and other Hui Alu leaders helped to organize within the club, who spearhead annual events such their fishing and golf tournament, *shinnen enkai*, the Kauai Okinawan Festival, and other activities. In fact, as a way to draw in membership, one of the stipulations for the fishing tournament starting this year is, if you enter the tournament as a non-Hui Alu member, you need to join the club in order to enter the tournament next year. What an awesome idea to help build membership and capacity of leaders within. I would like to thank the Yamauchi "Resort," Kent and Esther for their amazing hospitality and three-day accommodations! *Chibariyo!*

UCHINANCHU

Ippee Niffee Deebiru... Mahalo!

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

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

Uchinanchu Newsletter Donors September 16 to November 16, 2015.

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Marion M. Akamine | Gerri Kaneshiro | Emi Paik |
| Jan Bautista | Hatsuko Kaneshiro | Joanne Richardson |
| Terri Brower | James Kishaba | Sally Shimabukuro |
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| Jane Inukai | Thelma Oshiro | |
| Gail Kahakui | Alton Oshiro | |
| Dave Kamiyama | Betty T. Oshiro | |

The Exhibition of Peace Message by Children in Okinawa

Okinawan Children's Peace Messages as Picture, Essay, Poetry
at Hawaii Okinawa Center "Serikaku Chaya"

▶ February 3,4,5 2016 10:00am-6:00pm
▶ February 6,7 2016 2:00pm-5:30pm

ADMISSION FREE



SPORTS CORNER

Young Nakagusuku Captures HUOA Mixed Handicap Bowling Championship

Bowlers and friends enjoyed a fun-filled evening highlighted by ono food and great fellowship at the Natsunoya Teahouse. The celebration marked the end of this season's HUOA Mixed Handicap Bowling League, which was won by Young Nakagusuku. Installed as the new president of the league is someone who bowled a 300 game several years ago—Brian Ikehara!



(L-R): HUOA President Mark Higa, Outgoing League President Tomomi Shimabukuro, Secretary-Treasurer Germaine Kiyomoto-Isara, Vice President Carl Nakata, and President Brian Ikehara.



(L-R): Darren Uyezu, HUOA President Mark Higa, Captain Tomomi Shimabukuro, Masahiro Shimabukuro, Aislinn Mikami, and Jared Omiya.

A Gift Binding Okinawa and Hawaii

Last year, the Okuhara and Kinjo Families visited the Hawaii Okinawa Center and briefly toured the Gallery. At first, they appeared to be typical visitors who were curious about our Center and community. Unbeknownst to us they had another mission for their visit. They were looking at our display and found their answer.

Our Okinawan guests wanted to see something in the Gallery that conveyed a message of friendship while being something uniquely Okinawan. The lightning bolt of answer was a *hanagasa*. While many Ryukyuan Dolls on display were adorned with them, they returned to Okinawa and asked a cousin, Haruo Kinjo, to craft one.



(L-R): Toru Kinjo, Hiromi Okuhara, Yu Kinjo (Jane), and Nozomi Kinjo.

Cousin Haruo is an *uta-sanshin* and very deft with his hands.

In their recent visit to the Hawaii Okinawa Center, they took great care to hand carry their precious gift. In their explanation they felt that the *hanagasa* was an appropriate symbol to strengthen the connection between Okinawa and Hawaii. In ancient times, the royal court developed classical dances and operas to entertain important guests, especially from China. As good hosts, the ancient Ryukyuan integrated elements and auspicious Chinese symbolisms to honor these guests. One of these items is the *hanagasa*. It is representative of the peony flower, a flower of grandeur and deep respect.

We are truly delighted to accept the beautiful *hanagasa* as a gift from the Kinjo and Okuhara Families of Okinawa as a bond of a special friendship in the spirit of *chimugukuru - ippee nifee deebiru!!*

Fostering Ginoza-Hawaii Relations

Mayor Atsushi Touma and his entourage from Ginoza Village in Okinawa spent a whirlwind three days in Hawaii to pursue their dream of establishing a strong bond between Ginoza Village and Ginoza Sonjin Kai, Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the State of Hawaii. They visited Kapiolani Community College and Tokai University searching for possible partnerships and sites for their Student Study Abroad Program and Homestay and/or Student Exchange Program.



Left to right: Vince Watabu, President of Hawaii's Ginoza Sonjin Kai; Yoshifumi Hirata, Tourism, Commerce & Industry Section; Tetsuya Kin, Planning Section; Mayor Atsushi Touma, Governor David Ige, Yoshio Shiradou, Superintendent of Education; Mikiya Ishikawa, Assembly Vice Chair; Alvin Tobaru, Kinjo Tsutomu, Chief of Tourism, Commerce & Industry Section.

Save The Date

70 years of friendship and goodwill in the spirit of Chimugukuru and Aloha

Ginoza Village in Okinawa will celebrate the 70th year of its founding with 70 villagers who will treat the Hawaii community to a special evening of their unique performing arts in combination with a delicious buffet dinner.

Please "save the date": Thursday, February 11, 2016

Hawaii Okinawa Center

Doors open at 6pm, Dinner at 6:15 p.m.

Program: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Ticket includes dinner and performance: Adults \$25, Students \$15 (elem. - college)

Children (10 and below) FREE!

Tickets will be ready for distribution in January — please check with your club presidents or call the HUOA office at 676-5400.

Look for more information on our website in January – www.huoa.org!



2016 SHINNEN ENKAI SCHEDULE



(information received as of 11/29/15)

HUOA CLUB	Date	Time	Place
Awase Doshi Kai	3/13/16-Sunday	5:30 pm	Natsunoya Teahouse
Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai	1/30/16-Saturday	6:00 pm	Jikoen Hongwanji Social Hall
Aza Yogi Doshi Kai & Bito Doshi Kai	3/19/16-Saturday	4:00 pm	Masa's Cafeteria
Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai	3/19/16-Saturday	5:00 pm	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Ginowan Shijin Kai	2/21/16-Sunday	10:00 am	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Gushichan Sonjin Kai	2/27/16-Saturday	5:00 pm	Masa's Cafeteria
Gushikawa Shijin Kai	1/23/16-Saturday	6:00 pm	Masa's Cafeteria
Haebaru Club	2/21/16-Sunday	10:00 am	Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
Haneji Club	2/14/16-Sunday	5:00 pm	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen	2/27/16-Saturday	5:00 pm	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Hawaii Shuri - Naha Club	2/28/16-Sunday	10:00 am	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Hui Okinawa	1/31/16-Sunday	10:30 am	Aunty Sally's Luau Hale
Hui Uruma	3/5/16-Saturday	Noon	Honokaa Hongwanji
Ishikawa Shijin Kai & Onna Sonjin Kai	3/12/16-Saturday	5:00 pm	Natsunoya Teahouse
Kin Chojin Kai	1/23/16-Saturday	5:30 pm	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Kita Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai	2/21/16-Sunday	4:00 pm	Masa's Cafeteria
Kochinda Chojin Kai	2/20/16-Saturday	5:00 pm	Natsunoya Teahouse
Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai	2/27/16-Saturday	5:00 pm	Hawi Jodo Mission Hall
Kuba Rosei Kai	3/20/16-Sunday	10:00 am	Masa's Cafeteria
Nago Club	2/21/16-Sunday	9:30 am	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai	2/27/16-Saturday	10:00 am	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Nishihara Chojin Kai	2/6/16-Saturday	5:00 pm	Masa's Cafeteria
Okinawa City-Goeku Son	2/27/16-Saturday	5:00 pm	Natsunoya Teahouse
Oroku Aza Jin Kai	3/6/16-Sunday	10:00 am	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Tamagusuku Club	3/6/16-Sunday	5:00 pm	Masa's Cafeteria
Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai	4/2/16-Saturday	5:00 pm	Hale Koa-Banyan Tree Showroom
Urasoe Shijin Kai	2/13/16-Saturday	5:00 pm	Masa's Cafeteria
Yomitan Club	2/20/16-Saturday	5:30 pm	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Yonashiro Chojin Kai	2/20/16-Saturday	5:00 pm	Masa's Cafeteria



Andrew J. Sato

ATTORNEY AT LAW

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~ MEMBER OF AZA YOGI DOSHI KAI ~

Brandon Marc Higa

Nmarijima nu kutuba wasshii nee kuni n wasshiin – Forgetting your native tongue means forgetting your native country.

Like many young Okinawan Americans growing up in Hawaii, I first learned about my ancestral roots from elders and the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA). I grew up in a household that only spoke English, so everything I first learned about my Okinawan heritage was hearsay. I often wondered about where my family first came from and was thrilled when mom asked if I wanted to host an Okinawan exchange student. Without hesitation, I obliged.

The exchange student, Toshimichi Arakaki, arrived in Honolulu from Ozato-son, Okinawa, during the busiest time of year for me—with Hawaii Youth Symphony and Hawaii All-State Select Band concerts—so I ended up meeting Toshimichi backstage after one of my concerts. He had a darker tan than I did, so my friends quickly pointed out that he looked more like the local student and me the exchange student.

After reaching my parents' house, Toshimichi went to his room, unpacked, and came downstairs. He looked so serious and wise beyond his years. Then he formally

introduced himself again and brought out his instrument, the *sanshin*, and performed a classical piece. I had not heard anything like it before, even as a classical musician. At the age of 16, Toshimichi was already a renowned *sanshin* player throughout Okinawa. His voice was powerful and pure. It truly felt like the spirit of Okinawa filled our entire house.

From that moment on, Toshimichi and I bonded over our mutual interest in music during our short two-week homestay. Although Toshimichi and I could

not speak each other's languages fluently, we were able to piece together the music and eventually perform a duet together.

Toshimichi returned to Okinawa, and, just months later, I visited Okinawa that summer before my junior year in high school. I was finally able to see Toshimichi's high school and meet his family. Surprisingly, Okinawa was strikingly similar to Hawaii. The white sandy beaches were pristine and the landscape looked similar to home without any mountain ranges.

Toshimichi took me to my ancestral village in Nakagusuku, which was large and had a castle. My family connection is with HUOA's Kuba Rosei Kai which is part of

Nakagusuku. Before heading back to Toshimichi's house in Ozato-son, we stopped at a local restaurant to have a bowl of Okinawa soba. When the two-week homestay program ended, I was sad to leave Okinawa, but more determined than ever to learn Japanese.

The Okinawa homestay experience influenced my decision to study International Relations at the University of Southern California in hopes of fostering mutual understanding between the U.S. and Japan. I enrolled in Japanese my first semester and studied hard until I was able to place into advanced Japanese class at Waseda University. Toshimichi visited me in Tokyo with his family, and it was like old times except we were finally able to converse in Japanese. To say that was a surreal moment is an understatement and I will never forget the feeling of connecting in a different way with my host brother.

Ultimately, the homestay in Okinawa through the HUOA awakened me to think about my Okinawan identity and exposed me to bilateral issues in U.S. and Japan relations. My career led me to work at the U.S. Embassy at Tokyo, where I participated in discussions about Futenma Base relocation in Okinawa. These life experiences gave me a better sense of my Okinawan identity and family ancestry. Most importantly, the homestay taught me core values such as *okage sama de* ("my thanks and gratitude to you") that are so critical to pass along to as it implies a reciprocal understanding of relationships -- one that continues with each generation and between Hawaii and Okinawa.

Nearly 15 years later, Toshimichi and I crossed paths again during a recent celebration of the Hawaii-Okinawa sister state anniversary. Toshimichi came to Hawaii accompanying the Governor of Okinawa as part of his protocol for this occasion. We reconnected over dinner overlooking Waikiki, talking about how much Okinawa and Hawaii changed since we last met. Once again, music and our ties to the Okinawa-Hawaii sister relationship brought us back together. I am thankful for making a lifelong friend with my host brother, and for being forever grounded to my Okinawan roots through our mutual respect for one another. 🍻



(L-R): Toshimichi Arakaki and Brandon Marc Higa reunite in Hawaii at a recent celebration marking the 30th anniversary of the Hawaii-Okinawa Sister State relationship.

Interested in Hosting a High School Student from Okinawa?

Twenty-five high school students will arrive from Okinawa on February 20, 2016, to participate in a two-week student exchange program. In June, our Hawaii students will have the opportunity to spend two weeks in Okinawa living with host families just as the Okinawa students do when they visit Hawaii. Friendships that are developed when the students spend time with families and go to high schools here are further nurtured when our Hawaii students are hosted by the same students in Okinawa.

This is a wonderful opportunity for any high school student—please encourage your child or grandchild to participate in this Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program from February 20 – March 5. The Okinawa students will spend two nights (February 24 and 25) at Camp Erdman. For more information call Jane Serikaku at 676-5400 or email: edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com or check our website: www.huoa.org

This is *Your* Newsletter
Please send us your club news items
and photos.

Email us at info@huoa.org

Mahalo!

Courtney Takara: Nakagusuku Village Kenshusei

Like most *Uchinanchu* kids in Hawaii, I grew up eating *andagi*, going to the Okinawan Festival, and learning about my great-grandparents who immigrated to Hawaii. I took my first trip to Okinawa in 2007, when I visited the major tourist attractions, learned about the history, and fell in love with the motherland. But none of this compared to actually living in Okinawa! My name is Courtney Takara; I am a fourth-generation *Uchinanchu* and member of Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai. I had the amazing opportunity to live in Okinawa for three months as a *kenshusei* and would like to share my experience with you.

Each year, Nakagusuku Village hosts a three-month training program for young descendants of Nakagusuku Village immigrants. The purpose is for young *Uchinanchu* to learn about the culture, history, language and experience Okinawa first-hand; then, return to their respective home countries to share what they have learned. In Okinawa, participants in this program are known as *kenshusei* (trainee). I had the honor of being Nakagusuku Village's first *kenshusei* from Hawaii, or even the United States. This year, there were also *kenshusei* from Argentina, Akira Iguchi, and Peru, Juan Carlos Nakamatsu.

We attended Japanese language school, *shodo* (calligraphy) lessons, *uchinaguchi* classes, and learned about Okinawa culture, history, and *Uchinanchu* identity at the University of the Ryukyus. We learned and practiced *sanshin*, *wadaiko*, and *eisa*. I used to play the *koto* as a child, so I also took *koto* lessons from a *sensei* in Nakagusuku Village. While I was at *koto* practice, Akira and Juan Carlos practiced *karate*. I also had two weeks of job training at the Nakagusuku Middle School, where I helped teach English.

Of all our activities, I enjoyed *eisa* the most! We got to practice with a young *eisa* group in Nakagusuku Village. Our *sensei* was only 24 years old and he was the elder of the group. There are a lot of these young *eisa* groups throughout Okinawa. It was so amazing to see so many young people promoting and perpetuating the traditional culture.



Nakagusuku *kenshusei* (L-R): Courtney, Juan Carlos, and Akira practice for their *Uchinaguchi* performance.

We also had time to attend various local events such as the Zento Eisa Festival in Uruma City and the Tsunahiki in Naha. We took a three-day trip to the Yaeyama Islands and visited Ishigaki, Iriomote, and Taketomi. I was also very fortunate to have a great host family, Howard Asato and Laverne Higa, who took me sightseeing on the weekends.



Courtney at *koto* practice.

Okinawa is such a beautiful place, but the best thing about Okinawa is the people! They are friendly, kind, and truly exhibit the *Uchinanchu* spirit of *ichariba chode* (once we meet, we are brothers). From our *sensei*, to Mayor Keisuke Hamada and the staff at the Nakagusuku Village Office, and local friends we made along the way, everyone made us feel welcomed and treated us like family. I loved living in Okinawa and never felt homesick. This was truly an *ichigo ichi e* (once in a lifetime) experience and I am so thankful that I was able to participate. I think everyone needs to go to Okinawa to experience it for themselves; and, for young *Uchinanchu*, the *kenshusei* program is the best opportunity to do this.

Okinawan Proverb

Selected by the Uchinaaguchi Class Members with Hijirida Sensei

Proverb of the month:

Kugani Kutuba—Words of Wisdom

Mii nu irawa kubi wuriri

みいぬ いらわ くび をうりり

Meaning:

The greater you become, the humbler you are. A plant heavy with fruit, it bows down in humility.

~~~~~  
Since ancient times, Okinawans brilliantly composed proverbs and poems that have withstood eons of time with sterling clarity and value. One such poem conveys the thought of this issue's proverb. One meaning of the poem expresses happiness for this year's abundant rice crop. However, a deeper interpretation of the same poem is that in one's success, one must follow the example of heavily laden sheaths of rice, which lower their heads of grains in modesty and humility upon the pillow-like footpaths in the paddies.

## Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language)

### Word of the Month

#### November

**yushi-ashi, n.** [yoshiahi] Good and evil; virtue and vice; right and wrong.

#### December

**chiki-tuduki, n.** [tsuketodoke] 1 A gift; a present. 2 Winding-up; clearance; settlement.

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

# HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar!

# HOT

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

## December 2015

- 17 Executive Council meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY - HOC Office Closed

## January 2016

- 1 NEW YEAR'S Day - HOC Office Closed
- 13 Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 16 INSTALLATION LUNCHEON & UOY RECOGNITION - HOC
- 20 Executive Council meeting, 7pm, HOC

## February 2016

- 10 Executive Council meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 11 Special performance by Okinawa's Ginoza Village (*see info on pg. 12*)
- 15 PRESIDENTS DAY - HOC Office Closed
- 20 Arrival of students from Okinawa for Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program

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

- HUOA Sanshin: every Thursday, 7pm\* (first practice in 2016: 1/7/16)
- Ichigo Ichi E: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7pm\* (first practice in 2016: 1/5/16)
- Ikebana: 1st Wednesday, 7pm\* (first class in 2016: 1/6/16)
- Karaoke nite: 4th Tuesday, 6:30pm\*
- Kobudo Taiko: every Monday, 7pm, contact Calvin Nakama 224-7374 (first practice in 2016: 2/1/16)
- Monday Crafters: every Monday, 9am\* (first session in 2016: 1/11/16)
- Okinawan Genealogical Society meeting: 3rd Saturday, 9am\* (January-only: 1/23/16)
- Uchinaaguchi: every 2nd Tuesday, 1pm\*; every 4th Thursday, 7pm\* (first session in 2016: 1/12/16)

\*for more information, please call 676-5400

\*\*Subject to Change\*\* (entries as of 11/23/15)

In 2016, a new show will be premiered twice a month on the first and third Saturday at 7 p.m. on Olelo Community Media Channel NATV 53. The premiered show will repeat on the following Thursday at 5 p.m. on the same channel, except that no show will air on the fifth Thursday of any month. All Olelo shows are streamed live on the Internet at [www.olelo.org](http://www.olelo.org). Most, if not all, of our latest shows are available on-demand on the same 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 these sites.

Dec 5, Sat., 7 pm & Dec 10, Thurs., 5 pm - Part Two of "Drums of Hope" connecting Hawaii, Okinawa and Fukushima - all people of the sea. A production directed by Daiichi Hirata and performed at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on July 12, 2015.

Dec 12, Sat., 7 pm & Dec 17, Thurs., 5 pm - Part Two of Sadao China Anniversary Recital on March 29, 2015 in Okinawa.

Dec 19, Sat., 7 pm & Dec 24, Thurs., 5 pm - 80th Anniversary and History of the Rinzaï Zen Mission on Maui.

Dec 26, Sat., 7 pm & Dec 31, Thurs., 5 pm - Highlights of the 1984 Okinawan Festival at McCoy Pavilion, Ala Moana Beach Park.

Jan 2, Sat., 7 pm & Jan 7 & 14, Thurs., 5 pm - Hawaii Okinawa Today presents a New Year's Special - Omoide: Down Memory Lane.

Jan 16, Sat., 7 pm & Jan 21 & 28 & Feb 4, Thurs., 5 pm - Part Three of "Drums of Hope," connecting Hawaii, Okinawa and Fukushima - all people of the sea. A production directed by Daiichi Hirata of Okinawa and performed at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on July 12, 2015.

Feb 6, Sat., 7 pm & Feb 11 & 18, Thurs., 5 pm - Part One of the HUOA Installation Banquet and Recognition of Uchinanchu of the Year Honorees, held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Saturday, January 16, 2016.

Feb 20, Sat., 7 pm & Feb 25 & Mar 3, Thurs., 5 pm - Part Two of the HUOA Installation Banquet and Recognition of Uchinanchu of the Year Honorees, held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Saturday, January 16, 2016.

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