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Hawaii United Okinawa Association Honors Three Distinguished Community Leaders for 2022 Legacy Award

Mark Mugiishi, Jane Serikaku and Paul Yonamine Honored for Contributions to Community

HONOLULU, April 19, 2022 – The Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) is proud to announce the 2022 Legacy Award honoring Mark Mugiishi, Jane Serikaku (posthumously), and Paul Yonamine. After a two-year hiatus, the event will be held in-person at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom on Sunday, July 24, 2022.

The HUOA Legacy Award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the Okinawan community and to the worldwide community at-large. While being Okinawan is not a prerequisite for the HUOA Legacy Award, all three 2022 honorees have Okinawan heritage.

The 2022 HUOA Legacy Award honorees are:

Dr. Mark Mugiishi – Mark Mugiishi is the president and CEO of Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA), the state's largest health organization and insurer, and has served the community in many capacities. For the majority of his career, Dr. Mugiishi practiced and taught surgery in private practice and in association with the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine. In addition to his leadership at HMSA, Dr. Mugiishi co-founded the Endoscopy Institute of Hawaii and the Eye Surgery Center of Hawaii, and was a medical director at several Hawaii technology accelerators. Dr. Mugiishi currently serves as chair of the Iolani School Board of Governors, where he also previously coached varsity basketball and led the team to 11 league championships and seven state championships. He was also a producer of the Broadway musical "Allegiance" about the Japanese American experience during WWII. Dr. Mugiishi received his medical degree from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and is a third generation Uchinanchu with ancestral roots in Nago City, Okinawa.

Jane Serikaku (posthumously) – Jane Serikaku served as HUOA's executive director from 2006 - 2018 and was the first female president of the HUOA in 1993-1994. As a retired educator, she dedicated her life to education and believed that the future of HUOA depended on the youth. Serikaku won the prestigious Milken Educator Award in 1998 while principal at Iliahi Elementary School for her exemplary work in collaborating with teachers, parents, and students and even establishing a free preschool. After 30

years as an educator, she became the HUOA executive director and continued to foster relationships between the people of Okinawa and Hawaii. One of her most beloved projects was the Hawaii Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program which she helped coordinate since its inception in 1990. She was designated a Uchina Goodwill Ambassador by the Okinawan Prefectural Government in 2006 and truly exemplified the Uchinanchu spirit. Ms. Serikaku received her bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and was a second generation Uchinanchu with ancestral roots in Nakagusuku Village, Okinawa. She passed away peacefully on July 6, 2018, at the age of 79 surrounded by friends and family.

Paul Yonamine - Paul Yonamine is the chairman and CEO of Central Pacific Financial Corporation and Central Pacific Bank. Born and raised in Tokyo, Japan, Mr. Yonamine has held various leadership positions in the United States and Japan. He has served as president and CEO of IBM Japan, Hitachi Consulting and KPMG Consulting Japan and Asia Pacific. From 2006-2008, he also served as senior advisor to the Mayor of the City & County of Honolulu on driving efficiency and transportation efforts. Mr. Yonamine currently serves on the board of directors of the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation of Japan (SMBC) and Circlace Company Japan and is the chairman of the Board of Directors of the U.S.-Japan Council. His father, Wally Yonamine, was the first American to play professional baseball in post-war Japan, was inducted to the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame in 1994 and received the HUOA Legacy Award in 2007. Mr. Yonamine is a graduate of the University of San Francisco and has ancestral roots in Nakagusuku Village, Okinawa.

The HUOA Legacy Award banquet will start at 9am on July 24 with a silent auction and an opportunity for guests to congratulate the honorees. Doors to the ballroom will open at 10am, with lunch and an entertainment program to follow. More information on table sponsorship and individual ticket sales can be found on huoa.org or by calling 808-676-5400. The Legacy Award banquet is a fundraiser for the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and will help fund programs to fulfill its mission to preserve, promote and perpetuate the Okinawan culture in Hawaii.

About the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to promote, perpetuate and preserve Okinawan culture in Hawaii. The organization consists of 50-member clubs, whose combined memberships is approximately 40,000 members. The Hawaii Okinawa Center is home of the HUOA and provides a gathering space for the association's many workshops, meetings and events. The HUOA's largest event is the Okinawan Festival, but also hosts many other programs such as the Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program, the Children's Cultural Day Camp, the Senior Health and Wellness Fair, the HUOA Community Outreach Picnic and much more. For more information about the HUOA contact us at (808) 676-5400 or visit www.huoa.org.

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