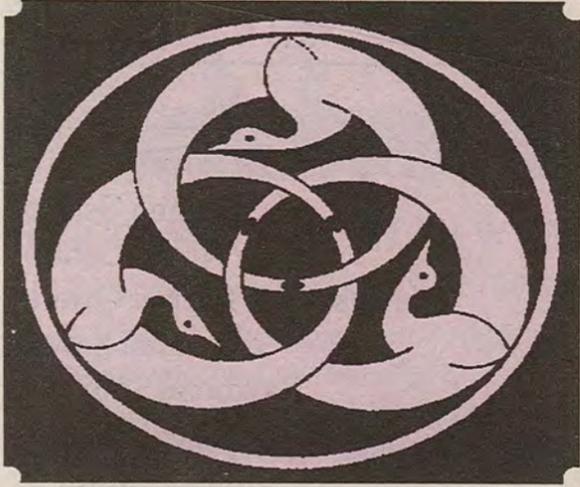


# ii Sogachi Shimisochoi



## Dexter T. Teruya 46th President of HUOA

### Chui Shiizii - Sharing with a Spirit of Cooperation

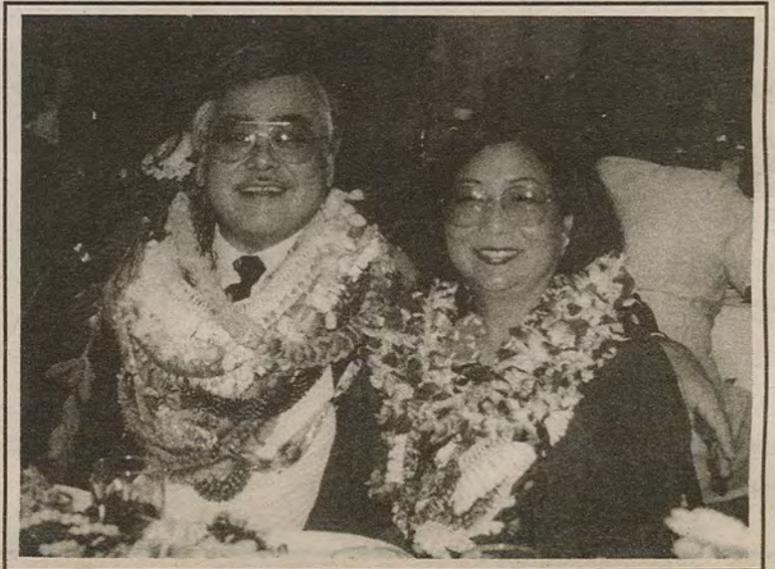
by Dexter T. Teruya, 1997 President

(text edited from Dexter Teruya's incoming presidential speech, at the HUOA 47th Annual Installation Banquet, December 14, 1996.)

*Hai Sai!* I want to extend my warmest greetings to all of you for the holiday season and the upcoming new year. The theme that I have selected for 1997 is "Chui Shiizii", sharing in a spirit of cooperation. A few years ago, when I began attending HUOA Board meetings and workshops as a representative of my club, Oroku Azajin Club, I remember attending a workshop at which we were trying to describe who we were as an organization and how we were unique from other organizations. One of our characteristics was that we possessed the "Uchinanchu Spirit". Being new to HUOA activities, I was very interested in knowing what the Uchinanchu spirit was...how do you define it? Of course no straight, definitive answers. As the discussion continued, it sounded more like the "Aloha Spirit" which was not unique to being an Okinawan. Over the years I have periodically wondered to myself as to the meaning of the

Uchinanchu spirit. I have finally come to the realization that the Uchinanchu spirit is hard to define and it must be defined in context of one's own experience. Secondly, it may be hard to recognize

if you have not experienced an absence of that spirit. As an example, during my college years I had worked in Hawaii's travel industry which is renown for its "Aloha spirit." I did not have a clue, as to what that meant. On my first trip



Dexter and Valerie Teruya enjoying the Installation Banquet

to the mainland as an adult, I immediately could tell the difference in the warm hospitality that Hawaii had over mainland destinations. You are able to distinguish the Aloha spirit through comparison. So, is it, with the Uchinanchu spirit. An aspect of this spirit

(continued on page 3)



# UCHINANCHU

UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII • NEWSLETTER

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H U O A C A L E N D A R

### SPECIAL DATES OF INTEREST

MARCH 16TH - HONOLULU FESTIVAL  
HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER

MARCH 30TH - CHILDREN'S DAY  
HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER - SUNDAY

APRIL 27TH - "CHURAJIMA -- OUR BEAUTIFUL ISLANDS"  
DANCE CONCERT BY TAMAGUSUKU-RYU GYOKUSEN KAI AND  
TAMAGUSUKU-RYU ITOWA KAI  
HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER - SUNDAY - 2:30 PM

### OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

Jan 1st	First Day of the New Year	
Jan 8	Ikebana Class - HOC	7:00pm
Jan 14	HUOA Board Mtg - HOC	7:00pm
Jan 15	Hogen Class - HOC	7:30pm
Jan 27	HOC Trustees Mtg - HOC	7:00pm

Jan 28	Karaoke Night	6:30pm
	HOC	
Feb 5	Hogen Class - HOC	7:30pm
Feb 11	HUOA Executive Council	
	HOC	7:00pm
Feb 12	Ikebana Class - HOC	7:00pm
Feb 19	Hogen Class - HOC	7:30pm
Feb 24	HOC Trustees Mtg	
	HOC	7:00pm
Feb 25	Karaoke	7:00pm
	HOC	
March 5	Hogen Class - HOC	7:00pm
March 11	HUOA Board Mtg	
	HOC	7:00pm
March 12	Ikebana Class - HOC	7:00pm
March 16	HONOLULU FESTIVAL	
	HOC	
March 19	Hogen Class - HOC	7:30pm
March 24	HOC Trustees - HOC	7:00pm
March 25	Karaoke Night - HOC	6:30pm
March 30	CHILDREN'S DAY	
	HOC	9:00am



Thank You . . . The donations to help support the UCHINANCHU continues to grow with each bi-monthly issue. The Hawaii United Okinawa Association, the Hawaii Okinawa Center, and especially the UCHINANCHU staff would like to thank you for such tremendous generosity and support. Donations were received from the following supporters during the months of November and December.

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*A Special Message of Thanks* . . . . . The Hawaii United Okinawa Association would like to thank the many generous donations received from individuals. This year, over \$4,500.00 was received. Included in these contributions were two contributions of \$1,000.00 each, received from Stan Shiroma of Gaza Yonagusuku and the Nakasone Dance Academy (Sensei Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone and Clarence Nakasone). With your strong support, we will be able to continue to provide our community with quality cultural and educational programs. *ippe nihei debiru!*

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three issues	\$1,620	810	405	200	135
six issues	\$3,000	1,500	750	375	250

\* Prices reflect camera ready Ads, there will be a \$25.00 minimum charge for additional production work.

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**UCHINANCHU**

The Uchinanchu is a bi-monthly newsletter for the members of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. Issue dates will depend upon upcoming HUOA events but will generally occur on Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/Jun, Jul/Aug, Sept/Oct, and Nov/Dec of each year. Volunteers are always welcome. Send your name and telephone number to: Uchinanchu Newsletter c/o Hawaii Okinawa Center, 94-587 Ukee Street, Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

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**PLEASE KOKUA!**

The production cost for the UCHINANCHU newsletter has escalated due to the increase in circulation, postage and label expenses. Your contribution to help defray some of the expenses will be greatly appreciated!

*Please take the time to make your donation now!!!*

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*A Happy and Safe Holiday*  
*from the Uchinanchu Staff*

**President's Message - Dexter T. Teruya**

is chui shiizii...sharing in a spirit of cooperation. From what I have learned through childhood experiences and more recently through my involvement in the HUOA, I have seen and experienced this spirit of sharing and cooperation at the Okinawan Festival, craft fairs, and all our cultural events.



Dexter Teruya receiving the HUOA gavel from 1996 President Randall Kuba.

Without this type of sharing of one's self and cooperation, we would not have a cultural center dedicated to the issei's who came to Hawaii.

Talking about our issei forefathers, I have often thought to myself, how fortunate it was for them to settle in Hawaii. But in thinking about it, the only reason for people to have emigrated at that time, to a new land, was due to the hardships that were occurring in their homeland. Times must have been hard in Okinawa in order for these adventurous people to take a long journey to a new foreign land. Yes, our good fortune today is a result of unfortunate circumstances on our forefathers. When they came, Hawaii was no picnic either, having to work in the canefields for long hours and little pay. But could it be that these hardships resulted in the Okinawans establishing closer ties with each other...sharing and cooperating with each other...the beginnings of our organization's roots?

Over the past two years, our organization has had to deal with several unpleasant matters. The officers over the past two years have had to deal with difficult issues and have done their best to preserve the dignity and integrity of our organization. Of course, we would rather not have had these circumstances occur, in the same vein that we would not have wished upon our forefathers the hardships which resulted in their immigration to Hawaii. Hopefully, we may see a stronger and more vibrant organization as a result of these past events.

Over the past several years, I have experienced...no, sampled our Okinawan culture that all of you have also lived and experienced. This sampling, once tasted, gives one an appetite for more. I ask your support and your kokua in encouraging our younger generations to sample their Okinawan heritage not only by attending performances but to actually participate to whet their appetites. So they will begin to hunger for more.

In closing, I want to thank you all in advance for your support and help for the coming year; especially to my wife, Valerie and children Natalie and Roland; to my parents Wallace and Ethel Teruya; my older brothers and sister, Raymond, Wayne and Rosemarie and their families for their help...sometimes its good to be the baby of the family; to George Bartels, Jr., President of Oroku Azajin Club and the rest of the Urukunchus who have provided a lot of help and support. You all are examples of "Chui Shiizii". And finally to all the officers and members of the HUOA, as 1997 approaches, let's keep Chui Shiizii alive and "go for it".

*Chibarana!  
Ippe Nihei Debiru!*

**1997 Officers' Biographies**

**Dexter T. Teruya** - Dexter T. Teruya is a member of the Oroku Azajin Club (Yago: Uyehanjame). He is the youngest of four children born to Wallace T. and Ethel M. Teruya on their fifth wedding anniversary in 1950. Dexter has two brothers, Raymond and Wayne and a sister, Rosemarie. He lives in Manoa with his wife, Valerie S. (Teshima), and their two children, Natalie and Roland.

He attended Mid-Pacific Institute and graduated from the University of Hawaii with a Bachelor's Degree from the College of Education.

He is currently employed by Amfac/JMB Hawaii, Inc. as an Assistant Vice President and Tax Manager for the Hawaii agriculture and real estate operations. He has been employed by Amfac in various occupations for over 20 years. He originally joined Island Holidays, Inc., an Amfac travel and hotel subsidiary, and later joined their accounting department.

He transferred to Amfac, Inc. in 1982 and became a tax manager in 1983.

He is a member of the Hawaii Chapter of the Tax Executives Institute and served as chapter president during 1988-89; a board member of the Tax Foundation of Hawaii, and an advisory board member of Mid Pacific Institute.

He has served as a vice president for Hawaii United Okinawa Association during 1994 and 1995, has served as chairperson for the Winter Craft Fair, Food Chairperson for the Okinawan Festival and general chairperson for the 1995 Okinawan Festival which was highlighted by a visit by President Clinton.

The theme, Chui Shiizii, is, in part, a reflection of what he has learned and seen within our Okinawan community. Dexter remembers the stories of his dad's early days moving off the plantation to Honolulu and the variety of jobs that he worked at. How his father, along with his uncle, Albert, worked in restaurants owned by other Okinawans, obtained the needed experience to operate their own diner and then restaurant.

He sees this spirit and attitude in our organization's activities, this willingness among the Uchinanchu community to share and assist one another, especially at the Okinawan Festival. Many hands are needed to put this event on each year and it is done with a spirit of cooperation. Chui Shiizii is one aspect of the Uchinanchu spirit which must be remembered and preserved.

**President-elect Pam Tamashiro** - Pam Tamashiro is a member and past-President of Hui Makaala. She currently serves as a member of Hui Makaala's Board of Directors. Pam first became involved with the Okinawan community in 1984 upon returning to Hawaii after working in Washington, D.C. as an administrative assistant with Senator Daniel K. Inouye and obtaining her law degree from Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon. Her law career includes six years as a Honolulu deputy prosecuting attorney and four years as First Deputy of the Department of the Corporation Counsel, City and County of Honolulu. She is currently in private law practice.

Besides her involvement with Hui Makaala, Pam has served as a vice-president of HUOA. She co-chaired the 1996 Okinawan Festival and chaired the special Litigation Committee.

(continued on page 4)



Teruya Family: (l to r) Valerie, Natalie, Dexter, Ethel and Wallace.

**INCOMING OFFICERS 1997**

President	Dexter T. Teruya Oroku Azajin Club
President-Elect	Pamela E. Tamashiro Hui Makaala
Vice-President	Dwight Ikehara Kin Chojin Kai
Vice-President	Kevin Uyehara Itoman Club
Executive Secretary	Amy Higa Minami Nakagusuku
Recording Secretary	Jane Takara Oroku Azajin Club
Corresponding Sec.	Kaaren Takara Minami Nakagusuku
Japanese Corresponding Secretary	Shigeko Asato Club Motobu
Asst. Japanese Corresponding Sec.	Bonnie Miyashiro Osato Doshi Kai
Treasurer	Randall Kumabe Minami Nakagusuku
Assistant Treasurer	Miles Kaneshiro Gaza Yonagusuku

**ADVISORS**

- Ryokichi Higashionna, Gushikawa
- Bob Mayeshiro, Sashiki-Chinen
- Wayne Miyahira, Gaza Yonagusuku
- Jane Serikaku, Minami Nakagusuku



## 1997 Officer's Biographies - President-elect Pamela Tamashiro

Pam is married to the Honorable John C. Bryant, Jr., a Family Court judge. They live with their two daughters, Reiko and Chiemi, in Kaneohe. Pam says, "Being involved with Hawaii's Okinawan community has been a life-enriching experience for me. Never have I seen individuals so willing to give of their personal skills, talents and time for the good of the whole. Truly, the Okinawan community is proof of the maxim that working together, all things are possible. I look forward to working with President Dexter Teruya and the rest of the HUOA officers in 1997. Thank you for the opportunity to serve HUOA as a part of its 1997 leadership team."

**Vice President Dwight Ikehara** - Dwight, the oldest son of Barney and Janet Ikehara, graduated from Roosevelt High School and Hawaii Loa College. He resides in Kaimuki with his wife, Sandra, and their two children, Brian, a junior at Kalani High School and Carrie, a student at Kaimuki Intermediate School. Dwight is currently the president of the Kin Chojin Kai Club. In the past few years he has served as both the co-chairman and advisor for the food committee for the Okinawan Festival. Dwight is a cost engineer at Hawaiian Dredging Company Precast Plant in Campbell Industrial Park.



1997 Officers - Kevin Uyehara, Dwight Ikehara, Pamela Tamashiro, and President Dexter Teruya

**Vice-President Kevin Uyehara** Kevin has been involved in HUOA since returning to Hawaii six years ago after attending school and working on the mainland for ten years. He is the eldest son of Kazuo and Jane Uyehara. A past president of the Young Okinawans of Hawaii and current president of Itoman Club, he is also a partner in Tsunami Sports, Inc. He coaches baseball in the ILH for Maryknoll Schools. He also is learning to play the sanshin from Sensei Grant Murata.

## Randy's KADU

## HUOA President Randy Kuba's Message of "KAHUUSHI"

(edited from his farewell address at HUOA's 47th Installation Banquet, December 14, 1996.)



Two weeks ago I was on Maui to attend the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai's Bonen Kai. There is a calligraphy scroll hanging in the Maui Kaikan; it is the kanji for the Japanese word, "kansha", which in English, means "Heartfelt Appreciation." When I was installed as the HUOA President a year ago, I shared with you a word that I hoped would guide us during the year. It was the Okinawan equivalent of "kansha" - "KAHUUSHI."

The feeling of "Kahuushi" filled my heart as I read the English translation of a poem by the late koto sensei, Nae Nakasone—for it is so beautifully described the love between a mother and her child. The poem, titled "Uya Amma," or "My Dear Mother," is a dialogue between a young man and his mother.

"Let me take my leave, my mother," the son says. She responds, "earn money and come home, my child, as I stay home and pray to the gods."

The poem concludes with the son explaining to his mother, "to this Hawaii from far away Okinawa we have come all the way for the sake of money. Thinking it would only be a few years, we came. But, we have now grown roots deep and with green leaves."

Eight years ago, I visited Okinawa for the first time with my cousin, Ed Kuba. It was a journey that changed my life. I understood for the first time how difficult it must have been for people like my grandparents—and your parents and grandparents—to have left their families and homes in Okinawa to come to a land they knew nothing about.

I never felt as close to my roots as I did on that first trip in 1988. I promised myself that I would never take for granted the struggles and hardships our isseis endured, for they made possible all we have today. They set free their own dreams to give us a better life...to allow us to dream.

We sit here tonight--ninety six-years after the first Okinawan immigrants arrived in Hawaii. My generation inherited a positive Okinawan identity. We never had to experience the hurtful sting of discrimination, or struggle to be accepted as equals. And, maybe because of that, we often forget how precious our Uchinanchu heritage is.

If we truly appreciate the sacrifices of our isseis and are determined to live our lives as proud Uchinanchu's--We Must Remember—and be willing to stand up and fight to keep that proud identity.

If we really are determined to pass on a positive ethnic identity to our children and grandchildren and future generations —We Must Remember. If we are truly determined to perpetuate our culture and share its beauty and richness with others -- We Must Remember.

It is said, that struggle is good for the soul. I have come to truly believe that. I am wiser for the experiences of this past year. All of you who never lost faith in our organization, or in me, and the people who served with me, you taught me the essence of being Uchinanchu.

You taught me the value of pulling together and

(continued on page 5)

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**Randy's KADU** (continued from page 4)

working with a positive attitude for a common good. You taught me the importance of doing what is right, step by step - not what is expedient. You gave from your heart and never expected anything in return. You strengthened my feelings of Kahuushi for all that our isseis endured. You made defending the honor of our community worthwhile and I thank you truly for teaching me that valuable lesson.

In a few short years, we will observe the one hundred year mark since the first Uchinanchu immigrants arrived in Hawaii. This milestone will come as the entire world crosses over into a new century. We need to be sure that the Hawaii United Okinawa Association is prepared to meet the challenges of the new century.

We need to ensure that the HUOA and the Hawaii Okinawa Center are fiscally secure and strong. But, we must also never lose sight of what makes our organization so special: our Kukurū...our heart.

In a little over two weeks, my term as President of this fine organization will officially come to a close—and Dexter Teruya's will officially begin. Dexter

brings to the HUOA a tremendous commitment and valuable organizational skills. I wish him well and ask all of you to support him as you have supported me.

I would like to conclude tonight by thanking some very special people. First of all, my parents; Richard and Marjorie Kuba. Mom and Dad, thank you for your unconditional love and for always believing in me. And, also to the wonderful people who gave so much of themselves this year by serving as our HUOA officers and on our Executive Council. They were the "wind beneath my wings", and the wings of our Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

My time as your president is nearly over. However, my commitment to my Okinawan heritage burns as brightly as it did that day in 1988 when I walked along the same streets in Okinawa where my grandparents walked nearly a century ago. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support, and most of all, for your faith and for your trust in me. You will never know how much it meant to me. You touched my life, and I am richer for it. I hope that I have done something that has touched your life.

*I wish you all a happy and safe holiday season.  
Aloha...Kahuushi...and Ippe Nihei Debiru.*



## ANDAGI HOTLINE

### Three Hawaii Students Win National Web Site Contest

Three Hawaii high school students each won a \$20,000.00 scholarship for their joint entry, Design Paradise, in a national Web site contest which was held in Washington D.C. on November 25, 1996. Roosevelt High School's senior, **Jeff Chan**, junior **Dawn Sueoka** and her brother **Darren Sueoka**, both of Moanalua High School won scholarships for the ThinkQuest contest. This Internet contest offers scholarships and other awards to creators of the best educational tools on the World Wide Web.

ThinkQuest is sponsored by Advanced Network & Services, Inc., of Armonk, New York, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing education by increasing the use of computer network applications and technologies. One of the objectives of ThinkQuest is to foster collaboration among students from different schools.

Each student team is assisted by teacher-coaches. One of the three coaches of this award-winning team was **Wallace Ikei**, a member of the Yonashiro Chojin Kai. Wallace has been an industrial arts teacher and technology coordinator at Roosevelt

High School since 1984. As a coach for the Outstanding Educational Design ThinkQuest Team, Wallace won an individual cash award and \$4,000.00 for his school. Wallace is the son of Mrs. Mitsue Ikei, whose ancestral village in Okinawa is Henza.

Over 1,000 teams submitted proposals for this year's ThinkQuest contest. The Hawaii entry included an interactive game that allowed a student to build a city, complete with commercial, industrial and residential buildings and parks. The site emphasized balance rather than development—balancing industry, environment and population on the island of Kauai. Officials of the ThinkQuest contest were so impressed with the Hawaii trio's Web site that they created an Outstanding Educational Design category, second only to the "Best in Contest" award.

### MURATA SENSEI AND KENTON ODO

#### Recipients of Silver Certificates in Sanshin

In October 1996, Sensei Grant Murata of Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai, Hawaii Shibu received the "Yuu Shuu Sho," silver certificate in Okinawa, Japan. It was sponsored by the Ryuku Shimpo Newspaper of Okinawa. Grant studies under Choichi Terukina, President of Afuso Ryu, Gensei Kai Honbu.

Kenton Odo, a student of Sensei Murata is the son of Stephen and Caroline Odo of Oroku Azijin Kai also received the "Yuu Shuu Sho" silver certificate in sanshin.

肝

MAGOKORO

THANK YOU.



RAMONA AND I THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF MY CAMPAIGN  
AND YOUR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.  
IPPE NIHEI DEBIRU.

心

1996 AT A GLANCE  
1996 AT A GLANCE  
1996 AT A GLANCE  
1996 AT A GLANCE



HUOA Golf Tournament-May 25th and 26th

Tea Ceremony  
Zazen Seminar  
Karate Training Class  
Honolulu Festival

1996 AT A GLANCE  
1996 AT A GLANCE  
1996 AT A GLANCE



Hogen Language Class



Ikebana/Ikenobu Class  
Casino Night-May 3rd  
Pan Pacific Festival - June 16th



Children's Fair-march 31st



1996 AT A GLANCE  
1996 AT A GLANCE  
1996 AT A GLANCE

Mahalo Waipio Night - March 1st



Children's Day Camp - August 19 - August 23

Kariyushi IV-May 19th  
Study Tour 1996-October 7th-October 15th  
Winter Baseball Fundraiser - October 18th



Leadership Tour 1996 - October 3rd - October 15th

Okinawan Festival - August 31st - September 1



Tatsuko Yamada Charity Concert-November 3rd  
Aloha Week Parade-September 14th



Spring Craft Fair-April 27th  
Winter Craft Fair-Nov 30th and Dec 1st



Nakada Performance - August 3rd



DIRECTOR'S  
AWARD

HAPPENINGS IN 1997  
HAPPENINGS IN 1997  
HAPPENINGS IN 1997  
HAPPENINGS IN 1997  
HAPPENINGS IN 1997



In October of this year, KITV4 announced that the station would produce and televise in 1997 a series of prime time specials celebrating Hawaii's people of Okinawan ancestry.

The first of these half-hour specials entitled "Return to Okinawa," featuring KITV4 Anchor Pamela Young, will air in prime time during

the week of January 20th and will then be rebroadcast the following week. This special, videotaped on location in Okinawa, will chronicle the visit of the HUOA Study Tour group in October 1996, and will feature wonderful video of the Naha Matsuri, and several stunning island locations.

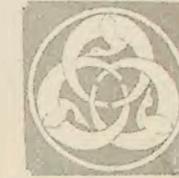
Two more KITV4 Okinawa specials will air later in the year with tentative air dates in June and late August.



Honolulu Festival  
March 16, 1997 - Sunday  
Hawaii Okinawa Center

HAPPENINGS IN 1997  
HAPPENINGS IN 1997  
HAPPENINGS IN 1997  
HAPPENINGS IN 1997

HUOA  
Children's Day  
Warabi Ashibi  
"Children at  
Play"  
March 30, 1997  
9am  
Sunday



### "Churajima ~ Our Beautiful Islands"



is a dance concert which will be held on April 27, 1997 at 2:30 pm at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Dance masters from the Tamagusuku-ryu Gyokusen Kai (Morihide Inamine Sensei) and Tamagusuku-ryu Itowa Kai (Sueko Inamine Sensei) will be accompanied by their students for this performance.

Churajima will combine graceful and lively Okinawan dance selections and the strength of the martial arts numbers. Karate, a form of self-defense, was developed in Okinawa. Many related principles of balance and postures can be found in Okinawan dancing and karate. The audience will be treated to a program of selections utilizing martial arts weapons by one of Okinawa's widely recognized schools of dance that has incorporated martial arts numbers in its repertory.

We take pride in the beauty of our islands, Okinawa and Hawaii, and the love we share for our music and dance. In Churajima, the artistry of Okinawa's dance masters and students will blend with the musical accompaniment of Hawaii's Okinawan musicians for a harmonious collaboration of song and movement.

Performance and Aloha Party ticket information follows:

- \$10.00 - Adult (pre-sale)
- \$ 5.00 - Student (pre-sale)
- \$15.00 - Adult or student at the door
- \$15.00 - Aloha Party at HOC

Churajima is a charity dance concert for the benefit of the Hawaii Okinawa Center. For additional information, call the Hawaii United Okinawa Association at 676-5400

HAPPENINGS IN 1997

A special thank you to 1996 President  
Randall M. Kuba  
for your outstanding work for the Hawaii  
United Okinawa Assn. You had a vision  
and the feeling of "kahuushi" that helped  
you develop an impressive calendar and  
legacy for our membership  
and the people of Hawaii. To you,  
Magukuru Kara  
ippe nihei debiru  
"from the heart, thank you very much"

## AS I SEE IT ~ COMMENTARY

## "The Stakes are Higher Than We Think"

By Karleen Chinen

(This article originally appeared in the October 4, 1996, Vol. 17, No. 19 edition of *The Hawaii Herald*. It has been reprinted with permission.)

he Japanese American community is my "beat." Much of what I know is the result of having worked on projects with cultural, community and professional organizations: the Asian American Journalists Association, Japanese American Citizens League, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Japanese American National Museum and the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, among others. I am richer for those experiences and for the people I have gotten to know, and I think I've contributed something to those fine organizations. The experiences have enhanced my understanding of our community and its dynamics—all of which have helped me as a writer.

So I *know* a lot more about these community organizations than journalists who come around only when someone stirs up the beehive with juicy words like "scandal."

Does my participation in these organizations render me biased, or in a conflict of interest position? Perhaps. But I'd rather do something to help a cultural or community group stay alive than report on its death. If I am not a journalist because I choose to do that, then I'm not a journalist.

Let me say from the outset that I think reporter Darren Pai's piece in the September 11 *Honolulu Advertiser* on the "once-unified" Hawaii United Okinawa Association was way off the mark—and that he would have known better had he taken the time to get to know the HUOA community: its past and its present. It's easy to sit ensconced in the News Building, collect comments over the phone, and crank out a story full of antennae-raising words like "scandal" and "once-unified"—based on the complaints of a few individuals.

It takes more energy and more of one's self to get out into the field and talk to more than four people in an organization with 45,000 members—and find out whether the complaints reflect the reality. This was not a pressing story; there was ample time to do that legwork. But Darren Pai didn't do it.

If he had, he would have found a vibrant and thriving organization that, admittedly, is going through growing pains—but dealing with them, nevertheless. But "once-unified" was hardly an accurate description of the state of the HUOA on September 11.

In an interview with the Herald earlier this year, Randy Kuba noted that if the HUOA was a private company which he owned, he could make all of the decisions affecting the association. "But, because we're working with a community organization, the organization belongs to everybody," he said. "You have to really be in touch with them and their feelings. And, although there are some people with minority viewpoints, for the good of the whole community, you have to listen to the majority."

The group, like any other, is made up of individuals who come with diverse points of view. From what I have heard from some HUOA old-timers, that has always been the case. But once the board of directors voted, the majority prevailed. That's democracy, they reminded me.

The HUOA had just come off a highly successful festival. I chaired the publicity efforts for the festival, so I *know* what it took to get that extravaganza from being merely two dates on the calendar of the city Parks Department in January 1996—to reality on August 31. An organization as divided and as

riddled with problems as Pai's sources claimed the HUOA is, could *never* have pulled off what more than 1,000 volunteers—Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart—did over that hot and humid, rain-threatened Labor Day weekend. It happened because the Okinawan community came together as one united family and opened its hearts and extended a hand to anyone else who wanted to participate.

The festival didn't just happen because HUOA President Randy Kuba waved a magic wand over the festival grounds at Kapiolani Park. But to a large extent it came together *because* of Randy's leadership qualities—his quiet ability to bring people together, the mutual support and positive attitude he has always encouraged, and his ability to help others see a bigger picture.

Did Darren Pai bother to attend the festival to find out whether the organization was, in fact, divided? Did he ever drive out to the \$9 million Hawaii Okinawa Center, which, when it hires a new executive director, will have on its payroll, only three full-time employees and one part-timer to service 45,000 members? Did he bother to talk with the gardeners, who volunteer their time and talents to keep the center's grounds so well-manicured that the garden is a popular setting for weddings? Did he bother to talk with members of Kin Chojin Kai, who maintain the HOC's Issei Garden, because they are so proud that Kyuzo Toyama, the "Father of Okinawan Immigration," hailed from the township of their ancestors? Did he bother to talk with the volunteers who turn out day after day to answer the phones and help with odd jobs around the office? All of these people—and those who help at the various activities—are volunteers who give of themselves because they support the HUOA. They are the backbone of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

1996 has been a watershed year for cultural activities for the HUOA. When I saw Randy's cultural calendar for the year, I thought he was nuts. It was bulging with cultural programs for people of all ages—performances, demonstrations and classes. One of the classes being offered this year for the first time ever is in Okinawan language, which isn't even offered at the University of Hawaii. Since early this year, HUOA members have been learning the language their ancestors spoke, free of charge, from two volunteer teachers.

Several months ago, the HUOA supported its Kauai member clubs, Hui Alu and Hui Pono, in putting on a two-day Okinawan dance program in Kapaa. It was a fund-raiser for the two clubs. The HUOA sent a group of Okinawan musicians and dancers to perform. Another dance group paid its own way over to participate in the program. The HUOA rounded up a group of members who flew over at their own expense to support the program. I was on the island at the time, so I dropped by to check it out. What a beautiful sight. I expected to see a predominantly Okinawan crowd. What I saw, instead, were people of all ethnic backgrounds, munching on *andagi* while enjoying the music and dances.

We take so much for granted. At a time when government funding for culture and arts programs is being severely cut back due to budget constraints, our community needs to stand up and openly support individuals like Randy Kuba, who has done so much to advance our appreciation of culture and the arts and to make cultural programs available not only to Okinawans, but to our entire Hawaii community.

One of the first programs Randy scheduled after taking office on January 1 was called, "Mahalo Waipio Night"—a special program for the HOC's

(continued on page 9)

## Traditional Okinawan Karate

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"Flowers Whisper What Words Cannot Express"

COMMENTARY - CHINEN (continued from page 8)

neighbors in Waipio. He said it was important that the HOC be a good neighbor in the Waipio community.

I consider Randy Kuba a good friend. But this commentary isn't about friendship. It's about the frustration of watching an organization that has worked so hard to keep its culture alive and share it with others take so much unwarranted criticism from a very small, but verbal minority. It's about the frustration of watching a good leader, who, for the past year, has put the HUOA above everything else—his personal life, his business, and for no compensation, whatsoever—only to get his name dragged through the mud.

Randy has never been comfortable with the high visibility of the HUOA presidency. Anyone who knows him can tell you that. He never saw the HUOA as a springboard for a bigger and better position for himself. All this guy—a late-bloomer in matters relating to his Okinawan heritage—ever wanted to do was honor his immigrant grandparents and other Okinawan issei by serving the community and doing whatever he could to keep the Okinawan culture alive.

For most of this year, I have come away from HUOA meetings with one, troubling question in my mind: who in their right mind would want to lead this organization if you have to continually put up with disruptions by a

handful of people?

Good leaders don't grow on trees. So when one *proves* that he or she is a good leader, that individual needs to be supported, openly and publicly. When that person's character is unfairly assassinated, those who know better need to stand up immediately and speak the truth.

There are many young people in the HUOA who would make good, inspiring leaders sometime in the future. They have the kind of heart and commitment to the Okinawan culture and community that Randy has had. But after seeing what Randy has endured this year, I wonder how many of them are going to be willing to step forward and offer themselves up for leadership roles? Forget the time one spends attending the endless string of meetings, or representing the organization at countless events—how many are going to be willing to chance the negative publicity they may face should they tick off a handful of members who can't get their way? How many can sacrifice their families? Their livelihoods?

How many of these potential leaders will conclude that they can't afford to chance that, no matter how much they support the culture and the community, no matter how much they want to honor their grandparents? Who loses then?

The stakes *are* much higher than we think.

# CLUB NEWS

## ISHIKAWA SHIJINKAI

Our upcoming Shinnen Enkai will be held on Sunday, February 2, 1997, at Masa's Cafeteria in Mapunapuna. Lunch and great entertainment are being planned. We are seeking members who wish to share their great talents, whether it is dancing, singing, or even an act. Look for the Ishikawa Shijinkai newsletter in the mail soon. For information, call Cheryl Kamihara at 455-9769.

## HUI OKINAWA

### CELEBRATES GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

In November 1946, the Hui Okinawa's first President, the late David Miyashiro, was installed into office with the following officers: Hideo Nakasone, 1st Vice President; James Yagi, 2nd Vice President; Amy Nakasone, Secretary; Kotoku Miyashiro, Corresponding Secretary; Sukemori Chinen, Treasurer. Now, 50 years later, leading in the celebration of the 50th anniversary is Miyashiro's son, President Dennis Miyashiro.

The joyous occasion was celebrated on Saturday, December 7, 1996, at the Naniloa Crown Room with special entertainment provided by Teddy and Nanci Tanaka of Honolulu who kept us in stitches and moved us through nostalgia.

Miyashiro made the following award presentations: the 1996 "Hatarachaa" award to Conrad Hokama for service beyond the call of duty; and the 1996 "Chibayaa" award to Melvin Kaneshiro for diligent and dedicated service. Nancy Nakaishi was recognized as the 1996 Member-of-the-Year. She was given the award earlier at our Bonen Kai in November.

Fourteen past presidents who were present were recognized and honored.

Violet Miyashiro, widow of the first President, David Miyashiro, did the honors of blowing out the birthday candles and cutting the cake.

The formal opening dance number, Kajiya Defu, was performed by Earl Ikeda, accompanied by Mrs. Masako Uehara on the koto and Reynold Miyashiro on the shamisen and vocal.



## YONASHIRO CHOJIN KAI NEWS

Many thanks to all our volunteers who participated in and supported club and HUOA programs. It was a very busy, yet productive and rewarding 1996. We look forward to the same enthusiastic support in 1997.

The Shinsato Shosei Kai (Sensei Katsumi Shinsato), along with Miyashiro Soho Kai (Sensei Bonnie Miyashiro) are celebrating the beginning of a new year with a recital on Sunday, January 12 at 1:00 pm at the Kapalama School Cafeteria. Yonashiro club members who are interested in attending, please contact Gainor Miyashiro (456-4367) or Karen Sugikawa (455-4916).

Our Shinnen Enkai dinner will be held on Saturday, February 22, 1997 at Masa's Cafeteria in Mapunapuna. Details will be forthcoming in our club newsletter.

Happy Holidays and a Prosperous 1997 to all.



## OKINAWA CITY - GOEKU SON

### Goeku to celebrate 70th Anniversary

Congratulations to our Uchinanchu of the Year, George Kamimura. He has done an outstanding job as our President for the last two years. George was honored not only for his work with our club, but for his volunteer efforts with the Boy Scouts of America and Kalihi Union Church. George will be "passing the gavel" to Raelene Higa at our next Shinnen Enkai, our special Shinnen Enkai.

On February 8, 1997 Goeku will be celebrating its 70th Anniversary at (continued on page 10)

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the Hale Koa Hotel. Members are requested to make their reservations to Raelene Higa at 753 12th Ave., Honolulu, HI 96816, as soon as possible. It is still not too late to get your family page ready for the commemorative booklet. You can contact Karen Kuba-Hori at 676-5400, 235-1243 or 45-439 Ohaha St., Kaneohe, HI 96744 for additional information.

To make this event extra special we are requesting both monetary donations, door prizes, and any additional assistance you can give us. In particular, Karen Kuba-Hori is looking for assistance with the flower arrangements and the membership special gift, give her a call.



### KIN CHOJIN KAI

Hiroshi and Nancy Ige are Kin Chojin Kai's Uchinanchus of the Year. They are the "behind the scene" workers, who communicate with the many members through the telephone, in addition to producing and mailing the club newsletter. Congratulations and thank you to such a deserving couple.

### KANEGUSUKU SONJIN KAI

Kanegusuku's 71<sup>st</sup> New Year's Party will be on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm at Victoria Inn. The evening promises to be fun for everyone.

Kanegusuku Golf Club held its October 13<sup>th</sup> tournament at The Links with Toshi Simabukuro winning his 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive tourney with a net of 69. The 1<sup>st</sup> tournament of 1997 is on February 2, 8:06 at Minami Koolau and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one is on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:22 at Kunia. Mahalo to Masuo and Ed Kino, Henry Nagamine, Ronald and Choko Oshiro and his friend and Mike Shimabukuro for unloading the wares of the vendors at the HUOA Winter Craft on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 6am at the HOC.

### GUSHIKAWA SHIJIN KAI

SHINNEN ENKAI NEWS: Date: February 8, 1997 Time: 5:00 - 10:00pm  
 Place: Jikoen Temple. LOTS OF PRIZES!!!! BYOB



## HUOA SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Our 14-inch softball league will be starting up again in March, 1997 at Halawa District Park. Team captains will be contacted for the first meeting in January. If your club wants to field a team or if your club does not have a team and you want to participate with another team, please call Gary Kaneshiro at 737-6619.

## HUOA VOLLEYBALL

Our 1997 volleyball season will be starting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The games will be played at Radford High School Gym, starting at 9 a.m., every Sunday until May 11<sup>th</sup>. If you require additional information, please contact League President Mary Ann Miyashiro (Club Kobashigawa) at 689-7894, after 6 p.m..

Assisting Mary Ann this year are fellow officers; 1<sup>st</sup> VP Jerry Nakasone (Yagaji); 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Roy Sekigawa (Ginoza); Sec. Arlene Fountain (Gushikawa); Treas. Clarice Akagi (Gushichan); and Advisors: Shane Uemoto (Yonabaru); Genel Uehara (Hui Makaala); and Doreen Miyasato (Club Yogi).

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## 1997 New Year's Festival in Moiliili

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH), in partnership with Moiliili Community Center (MCC), will present its fifth annual 1997 New Year's Festival in Moiliili on Saturday, January 11, 1997 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Activities include, a variety of cultural exhibits, demonstrations, entertainment, food booths, children activities, craft demonstrations and sales.

At the JCCH. The Historical Gallery will be open for viewing of its two exhibits, "Strength and Diversity: A Portrait of Japanese American Women in Hawaii" and "Okage Sama De: I am what I am because of you." Gallery admission charge; JCCH members are free.

Join us in celebrating the new year at this special one-day event! Free and open to the public. For more information, call the JCCH at 945-7633.

## Attention Mother-Adult Daughter Pairs Your assistance is requested

Paula Usita (Wahiawa Kyoyu Kai) a doctoral candidate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University is currently researching her dissertation on mother-daughter relationships of first and second generation Japanese American women. She is requesting your assistance to volunteer or locate qualified mother daughter pairs in Hawaii, for interviewing.

The mothers will be women reared in Japan with daughters 18 years of age or older raised in the United States. The purpose of this study is to gain a greater understanding of Japanese American women's lives and has the potential to contribute to Japanese American women's lives by displaying the potential variation within the mother-daughter relationship. The interview will last for approximately two hours and will be audiotaped for later analysis.

If you are interested in assisting Ms. Usita, or require additional information, please contact Paula Usita at 621-2012.

### "Ichariba chode"...

Though we may be from different countries with different languages and cultures, as "Uchinanchus," we are "brothers and sisters under the skin," who share a love for our proud heritage. Public & private school students, grades 7 - 12, can join the Hawaii-Okinawa Sister State Student Exchange program and host high school students from Okinawa, March 2 to 15, and intermediate school students from Naha, Aug. '97. Hawaii students travel to Okinawa, June '97.



Hawaii Exchange Students, Rep. Dennis Arakaki, along with DOE coordinator Lana Mito visiting officials from Ginowan Okinawa High School.

Students and their families interested in hosting Okinawan students and/or Hawaii intermediate and high school students interested in going to Okinawa can call Lana Mito at 396-2572 or Dennis Arakaki at 586-6050.

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## HOC GOLF TOURNAMENT NETS OVER \$8,000 FOR HOC

Facing wind, rain, and mud over 190 golfers braved the elements at Luana Hills Country Club to raise much needed funds for the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Chairpersons Gladys Tokunaga-Asao and Wes Teruya organized this "fun" and "wet" event for the Center. Golfers included HOC Trustee's Chairman Herbert Matayoshi with this son Ron, Trustee Dorothy Shiroma Hoe and her family, 1997 President Dexter Teruya with his "Amfac Gang," and many other supporters of the Hawaii Okinawa Center and Hawaii United Okinawa Association.



### PROGRESS MADE AT HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE - HERBERT MATAYOSHI

The HOC Board has been working towards establishing more productive operational functions based on a strong policy base.

Through the effort of trustees John Nuha and Roy Asato, the HOC has instituted a single caterer contract with Zippy's. This has eliminated the cumbersome and often complicated negotiations in a multiple caterer system. We appreciate Zippy's cooperation in refining the system to meet our mutual concerns, and improving communications. The HOC looks forward to further cooperative improvements to meet changing needs and affordability of services.

Miles Kaneshiro continues to lead the challenge of revamping the security system. This entails pinpointing accountability while maintaining full access to the facilities. The HOC board will continue to keep the HUOA fully informed as it works towards a satisfactory security system.

The HOC's multi-million dollar facility continues to be maintained by only two employees and a mammoth volunteer force. The board anticipates increasing problems faced by the aging of any building as the years progress...that of upgrading, replacing, and meeting the conditions of wear-and-tear. The soon-to-be named executive director of HOC will be expected to have the expertise and experience of maintaining, yet building further, our great facility, through creative solutions in meeting the multitude of challenges ahead. S(he) will be working with the board in developing a strong policy and implementation base, of increasing the work force, and mobilizing, maintaining and nurturing the talents of our membership. The board appreciates the cooperation and patience of everyone as we work towards policies and implementation which are fair, equitable, and accountable.

Although we will continue to have challenges to overcome, we have the greatest confidence that we can meet any need with the immense energy that exists in our membership. It is clear that the HOC could never have achieved what we have today without our strong and vibrant membership and volunteer force. It is this volunteer force which keeps returning week after week, to maintain the grounds, assist in the office, answer calls, and work with vigor and enthusiasm on special projects and activities. Without this vital force, the HOC could not survive.

We extend a very large and special MAHALO to our volunteers for their dedication, loyalty, and hard work. We hope to see you often at the HOC, the home you built and will continue to improve for the benefit of future generations.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 1997

Herbert T. Matayoshi  
in behalf of the Hawaii Okinawa Board of Trustees

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Uchinanchu apologizes to Daiei, Hawaii for inadvertently omitting their name from a "Mahalo" list of corporate donors for our 1996 Okinawan Festival.



Pictured on left: (l to r) Golfers Bert Kikuyama., Mike Yamgata, Larsen Fukumoto, and Wes Teruya at the Ameron sponsored tee.

Pictured above: Gainor Miyashiro testing the wind velocity of the day or was she trying to catch water for drinking?

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**IMPORTER**

Kotake Shokai, Ltd.

**MANUFACTURER**

Kumesen Syuzo Co., Ltd.