



UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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2023 Aisatsu Trip

HUOA may be the only Okinawan kenjinkai that arranges annual visits by HUOA Presidents and Presidents-Elect with Okinawan government officials, University of the Ryukyus, and news/media corporations including the Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times. Through these face-to-face visits, friendships are formed and the collaboration and education between Hawaii Uchinanchu members and Okinawa friends and relatives can be perpetuated. The recent Aisatsu Tour was our earliest annual trip to Okinawa, landing on January 28th, which allowed us to experience cool weather and the full bloom of the Yambaru sakura at Nakijin Castle. Most importantly, President Clarisse Kobashigawa and President-Elect Brandon Nakasone encountered an authentic Okinawan experience visiting with family, friends, and Okinawa representatives who shared many perspectives of their community. A warm *Ippee Nifee Deebiru* to Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai, Laverne Higa, Kurt Nagamine, Masami Kinjo, and Riko Higa for their assistance in coordinating an unforgettable and productive 2023 HUOA Aisatsu visit.

On Saturday, Jan. 21, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association held its Uchinanchu of the Year and 73rd Installation Celebration themed “Alohi



Akatsichi – Vibrant New Beginnings.” After two virtual events in 2021 and 2022, the in-person celebration was held in the Albert T. and Wallace T. Teruya Pavillion at Hawaii Okinawa Center for the first time since it was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Seven hundred attendees gathered happily to be celebrating with one another, face-to-face.

Clarisse Kobashigawa: As we embarked on our trip, I had a vague awareness that I had relatives still living in Oroku, but no specifics. I had no expectation of meeting them at this time. So, when a string of fortuitous events brought us together, the experience was indescribable.

Mid-way through our trip, Jon had pre-arranged for 50 Hawaiian-print table placemats, handmade by our HUOA Monday Crafters, to be presented to a senior home in Aza Oroku. After our touching visit with senior home residents, we explored the Oroku area to look for the Hawaii-Oroku Kaikan that Dexter Teruya had spoken of several times. We were initially led by Google Maps to a vacant lot. Disappointment set in. Thankfully, Jon explored a bit further, turned the corner, and stumbled upon the Kaikan that commemorates the special relationship between Hawaii and Okinawa due to the significant post World War II relief effort that forever binds the two communities in solidarity. Excited by this finding, I was more curious to know who my Okinawan relatives were...what if

[MORE AISATSU TRIP – PAGE 8](#)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2023 Aisatsu Trip.....	Page 1
President’s Message	Page 2
Emperor’s Birthday/442 Regional Combat Team.....	Page 3
Preserving Our Legacy/Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Donations.....	Page 4–5
Children’s Okinawan Cultural Day Camp 2023.....	Page 6
51st Annual Hawaii Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament.....	Page 7
2023 Aisatsu Trip continued.....	Page 8
Club News: Ginowan/Oroku Azajin	Page 9
Club News: It-o-Bu Shinnenkai/Ginoza Sonjin Kai/Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai.....	Page 10
Club News: Hui O Lailima/Shinka/ Kitanakagusuku Sonjin Kai/Wahiawa Okinawa Kyo Yu Kai	Page 11
Seiya Sawada/Karii 2023	Page 12
Loochoo Identity Summit/32nd HOSEP Student Visit.....	Page 13
Honolulu Festival Parade/HUOA Leadership Tour Returns	Page 14
Hawaii Okinawa Center Calendar/HOT Schedule	Page 15

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President's Message

By Claisse Kobashigawa

Haitai gusuyoo HUOA Community! I sincerely hope that everyone is happy and healthy and shaping this year into the year that they've wished for!

So just like that...the first quarter of the Year of the Rabbit has hopped away faster than Flash! Time really flies when you're having fun and partying Uchinaachu style!

Speaking of parties...Shinnenkai season is also winding down. Thank you to so many HUOA clubs for hosting our Executive Director Jon Itomura, myself, President-Elect Brandon Nakasone, Vice-Presidents Jodie Ching, Ryan Hunt, Greg Kuwazaki and David Shinsato! We had so many events to attend I had to tap Immediate Past President David Jones to attend a few! Ippee nifee deebiru DJ for your continued support even though you're technically off-duty.

It's been so encouraging to see so many clubs returning to an in-person format to celebrate their annual New Year's parties. It's been truly fascinating and educational to see how each club rings in the new year in their own special way. I want to say thank you to every club for rejuvenating their membership and planning this important annual event. For many clubs it's been three years since they last gathered in person and similar to planning for the Okinawan Festival last year, it was an arduous process of dusting ourselves off and remembering what had been done for so many years previously. I'm truly grateful to all of the clubs for putting forth their best effort!

Especially touching was our trip to Maui and the Big Island to celebrate with Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai (MOKK) and Hui Okinawa (in Hilo, Hawaii). It was my first time visiting the Maui kaikan and upon entering, I felt awash with a spiritual feeling. I imagined the many hands that came together throughout the years to build and maintain this beautiful structure. The tender love and care that went into maintaining that building was immediately apparent. The deep rich woods, their beautifully framed stage and glass showcases containing historic and cultural memorabilia reminded me of our very own kaikan on Oahu and especially of our loyal and dedicated volunteers. These buildings stand as testaments to our Okinawan culture and provide such a great source of pride for our community. During my brief and lovely time in Hilo I was able to meet some of my relatives for the first time, one of whom turned 100 years old! Congratulations Aunty Hatsue



Kobashigawa and found out I was related to Hui Okinawa's President, Robert Kaneshiro!



Like many of the various club shinnenkai, the Yomitan shinnenkai featured many talented performances from various members of our geino community. It was especially impressive to see 20 Takara family dancers fill the HOC stage for a fun, exciting and very special modern choreography to none other than Justin Bieber's "Intentions."

Many thanks again to all of the clubs that refreshed and revised their programs and found new ways to collaborate across the generations. Kudos to the small but mighty clubs that have partnered together and combined resources to put on their annual shinnenkai. These collaborations are defining our future and showcases our ability to adapt and change with every new challenge.

I'm especially grateful to President-Elect Brandon Nakasone for tackling two islands in the same day and flying directly from Maui to Kona to attend the Kohala Shinnenkai where he was able to perform for both clubs! With only a few hours of sleep he was on the first flight out the next day and made it back to Honolulu in time for the Oroku 100th Anniversary party where he again treated the audience to his vocals and sanshin talents with Afuso Ryu. His resilience and ability to effortlessly execute on the most arduous of tasks reminds us all that we're in excellent hands as we gear up for the 41st Okinawan Festival this Labor Day Weekend - September 2 & 3.

Thank you also to my Churabana Executive Council sisters - Jodie Ching, Lynn Miyahira, Courtney Takara, Brianne Yamada, Jess Yamamoto and to Frances Nakachi-Kuba sensei for continuing to perform Yotsudake with me. We had a wonderful time reprising the dance at the Honolulu Museum of Arts.

Wishing everyone continued happiness and health as we begin preparations for our 41st Okinawan Festival. *Ippee Nifee Deebiru!*



UCHINANCHU

Uchinanchu is the newsletter of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. Although subject to change, issues will be published bi-monthly. Volunteer writers are welcome. Send your name, address, and telephone number to Uchinanchu Newsletter, Hawaii United Okinawa Association, 94-587 Ukee St., Waipahu, Hawaii 96797. E-mail articles to info@huoa.org. Uchinanchu reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

HUOA President Claisse Kobashigawa
 Executive Director Jon Itomura
 Editorial/Production Design..... Erika Kim

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Uchinanchu reaches over 8,000 households. For advertising rates and more information visit www.huoa.org, contact us at info@huoa.org, or 676-5400.

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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Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ Home Tel: _____

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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 *Ippee Niffee Deebiru* to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

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2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The year at a glance!

Events are subject to change.

May 26-27	Kauai Okinawa Dance Festival
May 27-28	HUOA Invitational Golf Tournament, Pali Golf Course
June 6-9	Children's Cultural Day Camp, Oahu
June 12-14	Pan Pacific Festival-CANCELED
June 16	Senior Health & Fitness Fair, HOC
June 22	Irei No Hi Remembrance, HOC (TBD)
June 23	Taste of Okinawa, Pagoda Banquet Halls.
July 30	Hui Makaala Fashion Show Luncheon, Hilton Hawaiian Village
Sept 2 & 3	Okinawan Festival, Hawaii Convention Center
Sept 16	Autumn Matsuri, HOC
Oct 4-13	Heritage Tour to Okinawa
Oct 4-13	Leadership Tour to Okinawa
Oct 29	Uchinanchu No Hi Celebration, HOC
Nov 25-26	Winter Craft Fair, HOC
Dec 6	"An Evening in Waipio" Craft Fair, HOC

Check HUOA website – www.huoa.org for more information.

Emperor's Birthday

On Wednesday, Feb 22nd, approximately 450 people attended a Celebration for the Japanese Emperor's Birthday hosted by the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu. HUOA leaders and past presidents were invited, along with many other leaders from government, business and cultural organizations. Consul General Yutaka Aoki and his team put together a wonderful gathering and it the first large in-person gathering on the grounds since the COVID pandemic. HUOA volunteers had a booth to showcase Okinawan culture and even passed out small samples of awamori and chinsuko. A big mahalo to our volunteers and to Consul General Aoki for inviting HUOA to participate.



Karen Kuba-Hori, Frances Nakachi Kuba, Clarisse Kobashigawa and Patrice Nagy

80th Anniversary for 442 Regional Combat Team

By Gwen Fujie

On March 25, 2023, the Sons & Daughters of the 442 Regimental Combat Team celebrated their 80th Anniversary.

Private First Class Matsuichi Yogi of 3rd Battalion K Company who was killed in action, and who received the Distinguished Service Cross, was honored at that time. His brother, longtime HUOA volunteer gardener Larry Yogi, was recognized at the banquet. His wife Nancy was also there.

Of note, over the years the DSC was upgraded to the Bronze Star. *Chibariyo and Go for Broke!*



Larry Yogi and Gwen Fujie

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Preserving Our Legacy

2022 TO 2023
ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM



Thank you to the many members, friends, and businesses that have responded to our 2022/2023 Annual Giving Campaign. We are in the fourth month of our Campaign, and pleased to report that we received 860 donations, representing \$202,835.74. We are deeply grateful for the confidence you have shown us. Let's continue embracing the theme "Alohi Akatsichi, Vibrant New Beginnings", looking forward to new promises and challenges. It is through your continued contributions that we are able to have successful cultural programs and upkeep our home, the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

The following list combines contributions made to the Annual Giving Campaign and all other non-specified monetary donations. *Ippee Nifee Deebiru!*

Contributions from January 1 to February 28, 2023

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Preserving Our Legacy

2022 TO 2023
ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM



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Hawaii Okinawa Plaza donations

The Hawaii Okinawa Plaza opened its doors in late 2019 and is now the home to five tenants. Rental income from the Plaza will go to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association to support its many cultural programs as well as the upkeep and capital improvements of the Hawaii Okinawa Center. This accomplishment took years in the making and would not have been possible without the help and support of the over 1,200 donors in Hawaii and Okinawa.

In honor of our previous generations and in promise to those to come, "Shikinoo Chui Shijii Shiru Kurasuru," we will greatly enhance our shared way of life, now and for future generations.

To all of our donors, we say *Magukuru Kara Ippee Nifee Deebiru.* – from our hearts, thank you very much.

Contributions from January 1 to February 28, 2023

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OAHU REGISTRATION CAMPERS FORM

Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA)
 2023 Warabi Ashibi, Okinawan Cultural Day Camp for Children - Oahu
 Tuesday, June 6-Friday, June 9, 2023

Registration

Registration Deadline: Friday, May 5, 2023
 Enrollment limited to 60 participants, ages 8-13
 (child must be 8 years old by December 2023)

1) Last Name _____ First Name _____

Age _____ Gender: M ___ F ___

Returnee: No ___ Yes ___ # of years participating _____

T-Shirt Size: Youth / Adult Small / Medium / Large
 (circle one) (circle one)

2) Last Name _____ First Name _____

Age _____ Gender: M ___ F ___

Returnee: No ___ Yes ___ # of years participating _____

T-Shirt Size: Youth / Adult Small / Medium / Large
 (circle one) (circle one)

3) Last Name _____ First Name _____

Age _____ Gender: M ___ F ___

Returnee: No ___ Yes ___ # of years participating _____

T-Shirt Size: Youth / Adult Small / Medium / Large
 (circle one) (circle one)

Registration Fees (fee includes one t-shirt for each registered child):

One child (\$125.00).....\$ _____

Two or more children, (\$110.00 each)\$ _____

To qualify for multi-child discount, children must reside in the same household.

Additional t-shirts are available for purchase as follows:

Youth (\$10.00 each) Qty _____ Size _____ \$ _____

Adult (\$12.00 each) Qty _____ Size _____ \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Checks shall be made payable to HUOA and mailed to:

**HUOA, 94-587 Ukee Street,
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 Attn: Warabi Oahu**
*Ippee niffee deebiru!
 Thank you very much!*



Pdf fillable applications available online at huoa.org

Children's Okinawan Cultural Day Camp 2023



"WARABI ASHIBI" IS AN OKINAWAN TERM meaning "children at play," and is the name for the anticipated cultural summer program of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

First established in 1996 on Oahu, this program was designed to provide a fun and educational experience for children while learning about our Okinawan culture in a day camp atmosphere.

Children age 8 to 13 will be able to enjoy the beauty and uniqueness of our culture. Campers are introduced to Okinawan history, language and songs, dance, drumming, martial arts, crafts, cooking, and plantation games. Projects are designed to provide a hands-on fun and educational experience for the participants and vary from camp to camp. Camps select the curriculum that best suits their participants and community.

This year, Kauai and Kailua-Kona camps are facing challenges as their long-time volunteers are not able to help anymore, and Kohala will be taking a break to return at full speed in 2024.

We hope you will be able to join us again. For additional and updated information, call Caro Higa at 808-621-1223 or email caro.h@huoa.org.

Listing of camps and general information:

OAHU

Location: Hawaii Okinawa Center

Dates: June 6 - June 9

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 8:30am-2:30pm; Friday, 9am-Noon

Director: Caro Higa

Registration: \$125.00, discount for multi-child households available

Number of campers: 60

Ages: 8-13

Contact: Caro Higa, caro.h@huoa.org, 808-621-1223

HAWAII - HILO

Location: Hilo Higashi Hongwanji

Dates: June 4-June 9, 2023

Hours: Sunday, 1pm-3pm; Monday-Friday, 8am-2:30pm

Coordinating Club: Hui Okinawa

Director: Robert Kaneshiro

Registration: \$100 per child

Discount for multi-child households available

Number of campers: 48

Ages: 8-13 (2nd-7th grade)

Contact: Robert Kaneshiro, rskanesh@outlook.com, 808-315-1421

MAUI

Location: Maui Okinawa Cultural Center

Dates: May 30-June 2, 2023

Hours: 9am-3pm

Coordinating Club: Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai

Directors: Elaine Fujita, Janet Miyahira, Christine Hondo

Registration: \$125 for MOKK members, \$155 for non-members (includes one-year membership in MOKK)

Discount for multi-child households available

Number of campers: 30

Ages: Entering Grade 1-Grade 8

Contact: Elaine Fujita, gfmaui50@hotmail.com; Janet Miyahira, miyahijan@aol.com; Christine Hondo, christine.sue525@gmail.com

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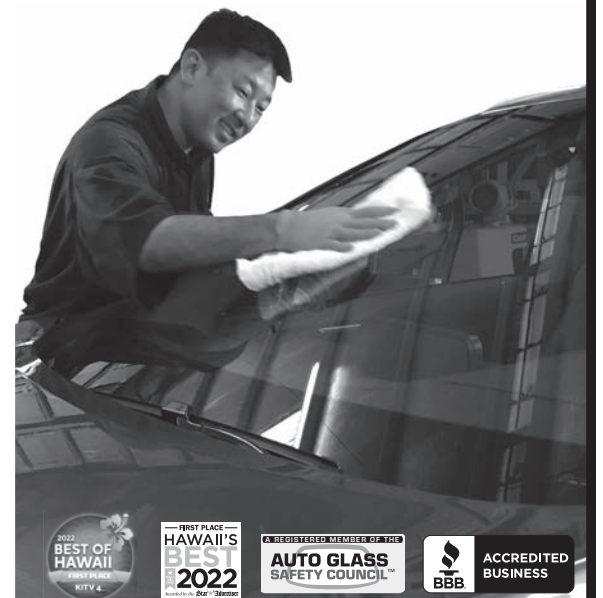
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51st Annual Hawaii Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 27, 2023 & Sunday, May 28, 2023

Pali Municipal Golf Course

Sponsored by Hawaii United Okinawa Association

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all members and guests of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and affiliated Okinawan clubs.

FLIGHTS

CHAMPIONSHIP	0-9	36 holes	One low gross, all others net
"A"	10-19	36 holes	Low Net
"B"	20-30	36 holes	Low Net
Women	0-38	36 holes	Low Net
Seniors (65 & over)	0-30	36 holes	Low Net
Super Seniors (75+)	0-30	18 Holes	Sunday Low Net Sunday

NOTE

Championship Flight golfer with the lowest 36-hole gross total will be declared the Tournament Champion. In case of a tie, the winner will be determined by sudden death play off. For net scores, ties will be decided by matching cards or by other methods as determined by the Tournament Committee.

AWARDS & BANQUET

Prizes and awards to be presented on May 28, 2023 at Jikoen Temple, 1731 North School Street, with cocktails starting at 5:30pm and dinner at 6pm.

ENTRY FEE

\$160.00 includes green fees, cart fees, City and County of Honolulu user fees, and awards banquet. Additional banquet tickets are available at \$25.00 each.

Super Seniors (75+): \$80.00, green fees & cart fees, Sunday User fees & awards banquet.

STARTING TIMES

Starting times for all flights will be from 6:30am to 9am. Tee times will be posted at the Starter's Booth at Pali Municipal Golf Course. All participants will be grouped according to flights: Seniors, Women, A, Championship, and B.

ENTRY DEADLINE

First 120 players or May 12, 2023, whichever comes first.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please call Neal Takara: (808)291-9672 or HUOA: (808)621-1223

51st Annual Hawaii Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament

ENTRY FORM

Complete and mail this form so we receive your entry no later than **May 12, 2023**. Entry fees must accompany this form or it will be rejected. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to verify and adjust handicaps and to accept or reject entries. **Please print all information. Mahalo.**

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Handicap as of 5/1/23 _____

Your HUOA Club: _____ OR are you a Guest _____

Golf Club Affiliation: _____

DO YOU INTEND TO PLAY IN THE*:

Senior Flight? Yes ___ No ___ Age ___

OR Super Senior (75+); Sunday Only? Yes ___ No ___ Age ___

*If you do NOT intend to play in the Senior/Super Senior Flight, we will place you in a flight based on your handicap listed below.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADJUST HANDICAP

GROUP REQUEST	Enter Handicap:	Indicate HUOA Club Name or if Guest
Player #1: _____	_____	_____
Player #2: _____	_____	_____
Player #3: _____	_____	_____
Player #4: _____	_____	_____

_____ Entry Fee - \$160	MAIL ENTRY FORM BY MAY 12, 2023: HUOA-Golf 94-587 Ukee Street Waipahu, HI 96797-4214
_____ Super Seniors Entry Fee - \$80	
_____ Add'l Banquet Tickets - \$25 each (_____ tickets)	
_____ Total Amount Enclosed (checks payable to HUOA)	

Mahalo! Ipee Niffee Deebiru!



CONTINUED FROM - PAGE 1



they were just a stone's throw away?

The next day we visited the Okinawa Prefectural Library and I learned that my distant cousin from Seattle had already been in touch with OPL. That same morning, my Aunty Caroline in Hawaii started funneling information to me about my relatives in Okinawa. By the next day, I had emails upon emails with photos and short narratives and finally a contact list of family members in Oroku. Thankfully Riko Higa, a reporter with Ryukyu Shimpo and former HUOA intern who also grew up in Oroku, was assisting our team as a volunteer translator. Thanks to her bilingual skills, she was able to connect with my uncles and their families in Oroku and arranged for us to meet on the last morning of my trip.

Meeting my uncles, Yoshikio Kobashigawa and his wife (the keeper of our family tombs) and Jinkichi Uezu, a former WUB Okinawa President and 8th-dan karate sensei, and his daughter, we drove to see the family obutsudan and haka. It was there that I saw for the first time that I was a 16th-generation Okinawan. Seeing the names of those that came before me, including those who struggled through the war hiding in caves during the Battle of Okinawa... was more than words could describe. Drawn to the beautifully engraved names on the wooden panels, I yearned to trace the names with my fingers.

I've always only thought of myself as 4th Generation and often recited the number, not putting much thought into it. Traveling to Okinawa and realizing that I was 16th generation was quite a mind shift. I learned that my ancestors kept an ancient heirloom – a family lineage book now more than 200 years old. Besides the clothes on their backs, that was the one item that they took with them as they fled into the caves during World War II. Offering incense and bowing my head in prayer before the family obutsudan and again at the family haka gave me the moment of pause that I needed to reflect on everything they had gone through to protect and honor our family history. At that moment I was filled with shame for not knowing what they went through to preserve our legacy, guilt for not understanding the importance of the small obutsudan that my grandfather kept in our home downstairs during my childhood, and remorse for never taking the time to hear the stories of my grandfather.

I learned that my grandfather had traveled to Okinawa many years ago, shortly after I was born, and painstakingly tried to trace our family tree onto paper so that he could bring it home to share with his family in Hawaii. This was his attempt to transport our deep family heritage across the seas. Envisioning the delicate translucent tracing paper against the rich wood, his rough hands steadily and patiently tracing each stroke knocked the wind out of me. Why didn't I know? How could I have not known?

While I can't change the past, I'm armed with the information that I know now...and promise to continue this connection with my relatives in Okinawa. I have the HUOA, my travel team Jon and Brandon, family members Eric Kobashigawa and Caroline Bischoff, and especially Riko Higa to thank for this life-changing experience.

HUOA family – please – if your grandparents are still alive, talk to them. Document their stories in some shape or form, you won't regret it.

Brandon Nakasone: Amazing! That's my immediate response to everyone who's asked me how the Okinawa Aisatsu trip was. Having been an active member of my club, Bito Doshi Kai, and the HUOA for many years, I've always been proud of my Okinawan heritage and culture. But nothing prepared me for the incredible experience of traveling with Clarisse and Jon. As I sat at the airport gate waiting to board our flight to the motherland, it dawned on me that we were crossing the sea as representatives of the 50 HUOA clubs and approximately 40,000 members. What a tremendous responsibility we had.

As the airplane began its descent to land at Naha airport, I was overcome with emotion as I witnessed Clarisse excitedly look out the window to see Okinawa for the first time. It was reminiscent of my first trip in 2017, and I recalled the overwhelming feeling and anticipation of finally visiting where my ancestors came from and walking in their footsteps.

After retrieving our bags, weary travelers were met by a cheering group of people who stayed up past 11:00 p.m. just to welcome us. Members of the Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai and Hawaii natives: Laverne Higa, Kenton and Kris Odo, Kurt Nagamine, and Wreyn Waniya welcomed us with a large banner and smiling faces. Just an amazing bunch of people!

Through the next several days, we had the honor of meeting various dignitaries including Okinawa Governor Denny Tamaki, Assembly President Noboru Akamine, and University of the Ryukyus President Mutsumi Nishida, just to name a few. Everyone we met emphasized that the bond between Okinawa and Hawaii remains unbreakable, and they have never forgotten how the Uchinanchu in Hawaii helped Okinawa recover after the war. After each meeting, the dignitaries and their staff bowed and thanked us for visiting them. It was humbling because I realized that they were not only thanking us but the countless Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu at Heart back home who help to keep the Okinawan culture thriving. It was an honor to represent all of you during our Aisatsu trip. Like I said before, simply Amazing!! 🇺🇸



CLUB NEWS

Our Clubs, Our Future



80-89 years old: Dorothy Aragaki, Harriet Chinen, Clinton Chung, Karen Chung, Lorraine Funakoshi, Christine Higa, Stanley Higa, Helen Iha, Owen Iha, Betty Inada, Ethel Milner, Shirley Miyashiro, Hatsue Momohara, Hiroo Momohara, Janet Momohara, Carl Nakamura, Jane Nakamura, Roy Suzuki, John Tasato, Betsy Tamanaha, Tom Tamanaha, Frank Vega, Daniel Zukemura. Names listed alphabetically.

Ginowan News *By Jane Nakamura*

This year's Shinnen Enkai held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center was our first in-person celebration since 2020! Joy Schoonover recorded events of the past three years and presented her slideshow on March 12, 2023. Friends and relatives happily enjoyed the gathering of family, friends and lots of good food.

Kanoe Yama was the emcee for the program with opening remarks by club president Joy Schoonover. Garrett Iha and his father Owen led members and guests in a toast for the new year.

HUOA President Clarisse Kobashigawa officiated the swearing-in of new Ginowan Shinjin Kai officers. HUOA Uchinanchu of the Year for Ginowan Shijin Kai, Dean Oshiro, was recognized for his achievements, and nine college graduates received engraved pens and mementos for their achievements.

We also acknowledge our treasured kupuna: Seihan Tamashiro, 100 years old; nine members over age 90; 23 members over age 80; and five who are 70 years and older.

Amanda Higa emceed the entertainment portion of the program. Joy Schoonover led the group singing "Nada Sou Sou" and Kaitlynn Canubida danced to "Hatoma Bushi" and "Chibariyo." Chinagu Eisa Hawaii kept a lively pace with its dynamic performance.

There were lots of door prizes for members to win. Children and adults eagerly played Jan Ken Po; Carl Nakamura was the winner! The day ended with a celebratory kachaashii.



90-99 years old: David Funakoshi, Elayne Funakoshi, Judy Momohara, Matsuo Momohara, Shigeo Momohara, Alice Morisako, Edna Oshiro, Shigemasa Tamanaha, Lorna Tokunaga.



Oroku Azajin's Keiro Seniors for 2023!

Oroku Azajin Club's Shinnen Enkai

On Sunday, March 5th, the Oroku Azajin Club held its 100th Anniversary Shinnen Enkai. To help the Club celebrate, along with our valued community guests from HUOA and other HUOA Clubs, we welcomed family members from Okinawa and Brazil! We had speeches recognizing the long-time relationships across countries and special performances where Okinawan and Brazilian performers could play alongside our local artists. Thank you to the Oroku Board Members who worked to assemble a program, organize activities, and welcome us back from the pandemic. And thank you to our always delightful dessert makers for making the Dessert table the best!



Group picture of the Okinawan and Brazil special guests



Oroku Azajin Club's HOC Clean Up

Sunday, February, 26. L-R: Gene Kaneshiro, Rosemarie Love, Terrence Teruya, Jason Takara, Brian Masutani, Ann Teruya, Alice Masutani, Darren Chun, Cameron Yeo, Ethel Teruya, Bruce Yokochi, Kim Chun, Betsy Ebesu, Travis Ebesu, Mayumi Kishimoto, Alison Ebesu, Thomas Ka'ai'ai, Candyce Ka'ai'ai, Lorri Kajikawa, Brooke Teruya, Colin Yeo, Jane Takara, Kyu Yeo, Kristie Teruya, Galen Teruya, Howard Takara, Wade Teruya, Eileen Tamashiro, Dustin Ebesu, Brennan Tamashiro, Natalie Teruya, and Valerie Teruya (missing...photographer Dexter T. Teruya)



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CLUB NEWS

Our Clubs, Our Future

It-o-Bu Shinnenkai



Motobu member Thomas Yaagi reunites with Itoman member George Tamashiro for the first time 67 years after graduating from Castle High School together!



Right: Kachashii at the It-o-Bu Shinnenkai, music by Sean Sadaoka and June Uyeunten of Afuso Ryu Hawaii.



Ginoza Shinnen Enkai. First Row (L-R): Diana Hirohata, Barbara Toguchi, Shirley Higa, Shigeru Ishikawa, Sakae Loo, Edith Koomoa, Juliet Shimabukuro. Second Row (L-R): Manasey Hatori, Frederick Nakama, Dorothy Nakama, Joyce Takara, Rene Nakama

Ginoza Sonjin Kai: 2022 to the First 2023 Meeting

The Ginoza Sonjin Kai celebrated the Year of the Rabbit in person, marking a return to the usual and typical club events for the year.

In 2022 with in-person events still discouraged, the Ginoza Sonjin Kai held its annual Shinnen Enkai as a virtual event with bento pick-up from our club member's Highway Inn. By the summer, the pandemic had eased, and the club returned to an in-person picnic at Kapiolani Park to enjoy each other's company, play games and receive door prizes. Usually, the Ginoza Son village sends high school students for a homestay in July, but with the uncertainty of the pandemic, there were no students in 2022. So, the club conducted an online student exchange with the village where Ginoza Sonjin Kai high school members "met" students Ginoza village via Zoom on August 14, 2022. In October/November 2022, some club members attended the Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai in Okinawa and were hosted in Ginoza village for the day. On the same day, Ginoza Village also simulcasted their village gathering to allow members from Hawaii, Argentina, Peru, and Brazil to attend virtually via Zoom to view the performances and share happenings within their clubs. Hawaii Ginoza Sonjin Kai members participated in a live viewing gathering at the Hawaii Okinawa Center Serikaku Chaya.

The Ginoza Sonjin Kai held its first 2023 event, the annual Shinnen Enkai, in person on March 4, 2023. Nearly 80 members turned out for the new year celebration at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. This being the first in-person meeting of the year, there was much to cover and do. The club conducted its annual meeting reviewing the finances and electing its officers for the year. Past HUOA President David Jones was there to give a brief talk and to swear in the officers. Following the business meeting, the attendees applauded the Uchinanchu of the Year honorees for 2020, 2021, and 2022; honored the 80+ members with gift cards; played team and individual games; viewed a slide show of highlights from last year's activities including the 7th Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai; and received lucky number prizes. The last activity was for all attendees to learn and participate in the Ginoza Sonmin Ondo, the village dance.

If the Shinnen Enkai is any indication of the upcoming year, 2023 will be a year of strengthening connections with each other and Okinawa. 🇺🇸



Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai

The members of Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai celebrated the new year with an in-person shinnen enkai. Members were so happy to finally be with each other and catch up on the past few years.

Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai is blessed with so many healthy and energetic members. HUOA Vice President Jodie Ching was on hand to help us honor members who celebrated their 85th birthday during the pandemic, as well as those celebrating 90 years or more. There were also many young members who will be graduating from Kindergarten, Intermediate, High School, and College. We are so proud of these future leaders of our Uchinanchu Community

We also honored our 2022 Uchinanchu of the Year honorees, Nadine and Tomomi Shimabukuro who took such good care of Nakagusuku members during the Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai, as well as our 2021

honorees, Nora Lum, and Alyssa Asato for their unwavering support of our club.

President Clarice Kobashigawa stopped by to share her vision for HUOA, and her goal to bring back the HUOA Leadership Tour and support our performing arts community.

We were treated to performances by Nakagusuku members with Azama Honryu Allison Yanagi Ryukyu Dance Studio and the Urizun Minyo Group who are perpetuating Uchinanchu music, dance, and culture. Nakagusuku Village in Okinawa shared Gosamaru hapi coats which many members received as prizes. And several new members joined us after participating in the Taikai and visiting Nakagusuku Village. Our next event is our annual summer picnic, which is currently scheduled for Sunday, July 16th at Kapiolani Park. 🇺🇸

2024 Hui O Laulima Cultural Grant Applications

Hui O Laulima is pleased to announce that the 2024 Cultural Grant Applications are being accepted. HOL has awarded grants and scholarships since 1984 totaling about \$224,000. Hui O Laulima is a women's organization promoting the Okinawan culture and true to its spirit of "giving a helping hand," has continued to perpetuate and preserve its culture by awarding grants to individuals and groups who share the same desire.

A FEW OF THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION INCLUDE:

- Interest in the study, perpetuation, and promotion, including goodwill projects of Okinawan culture (music, dance, art, or other forms of artistic expressions), language, and history
- Leadership ability
- Community service
- Financial need
- Overall potential for success
- Clarity of goal(s)
- Two letters of recommendation from individuals other than relatives

All prospective grant projects/activities should take place from January through December 2024. Deadline for submission is July 31, 2023.

The 2024 Cultural Grant application contains the complete list of the criteria for selection. Please direct inquiries and/or requests for application to Karen Fuse, Committee Chairperson, at kcfuse@hawaii.rr.com or (808)735-4523.

Hui O Laulima



Da Pidgin Guerilla author Lee Tonouchi thanked HOL members for supporting his newest play, "Gone Feeshing" at Kumu Kahua Theater on February 18, 2023.



HOL members created and manned the HUOA booth at the Honolulu Festival on March 11 and 12, 2023.



Shinka

On March 18th, Shinka installed their new officers at Pagoda Hotel & Restaurant at their 2023 Shinnenkai.



Immediate past president Stanley Higa leading all Kitanakagusuku Sonjin Kai members in a Kari.

Kitanakagusuku Sonjin Kai

Kitanakagusuku Sonjin Kai held its first post-pandemic Shinnen Enkai on February 19, 2023 at Masa's Café. This was our first live gathering in over two years. We were honored to have HUOA President, Clarisse Kobashigawa, and HUOA Vice President, Greg Kuwazaki in attendance. Kitanakagusuku was founded in 1946 and is one of 14 charter clubs who formed UOA/HUOA in 1951. Our club is known for having very talented members and we were richly entertained by Derek Asato, Brandon Ing, Richie Kiyabu, Jr., Yukie Shiroma's dance troupe,



SCAN ME

Scan this QR code to see more pictures of this event

Frances Kuba and Senjukai Hawaii, and Afuso Ryu. We were blessed to have David Arakawa as our very spirited MC. Our oldest member is 101 year old Beatrice Shiroma. Our oldest male member is Yoshimori Oshiro, who has been the continuity of our club as Treasurer for the past 30 years. Other Kitanakagusuku Sonjin Kai officers are: Kelly Higa (Secretary), Derek Asato (Vice President), Clyde Higa (President) and Stanley Higa (Immediate Past President). This Shinnen Enkai was very memorable because of the generosity of all members and their willingness to volunteer to make this a success.



Julia Okamura Sensei and Lisa Nakandakari Sensei of Nakasone Dance Academy

Wahiawa Okinawa Kyo Yu Kai 75th Shinnen Enkai

140 MEMBERS AND FRIENDS of the Wahiawā Okinawa Kyo Yu Kai (WOKYK) gathered at the Wahiawā Ryusenji Soto Mission on February 25 to celebrate our club's 75th shinnen enkai.

WOKYK was established in 1937 as an "all-Okinawan" club as compared to clubs based on an aza (hamlet) or son (village). History tells us that all-Okinawan clubs formed in Honolulu lasted only a few years but eighty-six years later WOKYK is going strong! We attribute our longevity to Wahiawā Uchinanchus' strong sense of community and cultural identity.

Part of our community is the Hooqe Ryu Hana Nuuzi no Kai Nakasone Dance Academy. Yoshiko Nakasone Sensei, a recipient of HUOA's Legacy Award, taught classes at WOKYK club member Thomas Shigeru Miyashiro's home at the Wahiawā Botanical Garden dating back to 1956. And her dancers have been performing at WOKYK shinnen enkai events for roughly sixty years. The WOKYK legacy continues...



Okinawan Festival with Young Okinawans of Hawaii

@seiyasann 澤田聖也

From September 2021 to March 2023, I stayed in Hawaii as a visiting scholar of UH to research how the Uchinaanchu people identify themselves by confronting their roots and culture. In particular, I surveyed people involved in Okinawan music and dance to investigate what it means to them to be involved in such activities.

My name is Seiya Sawada, and I am a Ph.D. student at Tokyo University of the Arts (Tokyo Geidai), researching ethnic music. The reason why I am interested in the topic is that I am half Uchinaanchu and half Japanese.

I have Okinawan roots, but I did not grow up in Okinawa. I grew up in Chiba, Japan. I know the situation is the same for the Uchinaanchu in Hawai'i. Even though we did not grow up in Okinawa, we respect our Okinawan culture and ancestors and try to carry them on. I didn't feel I am Uchinaanchu until high school. The first time I came to recognize myself as a Uchinaanchu was when I gave a presentation on Okinawan music at my university. I thought it was easy for me to prepare for that because I have Okinawan blood. But it was not true. I did not know not only music but also many things related to Okinawa. My friends and a teacher expected me to know Okinawan music because I have Okinawan blood and Okinawa is special to them.

I thought deeply about my identity and I have come to have very strongly my Uchinaanchu identity. There was a time when I wanted to be Uchinaanchu. So I read many books about Okinawan things and studied Uchinaaguchi and music and asked my mom to teach me to talk with an Okinawan accent. But even though I made effort to be Uchinaanchu, I was often told "You are Naichaa" in Okinawa. I was very shocked and sad. I thought no matter how much I love Okinawa, I could never be Uchinaanchu. This experience gave me the topic, of the relationship between identity and Okinawa.

The first Uchinaanchu I met in Hawai'i was Norman Kaneshiro. He picked me up at the airport even though he had never met me before. I appreciate him a lot. He then invited me to an "Imaginary homelands" practice organized by Yukie Shiroma, where I met her, her students, Derek Fujio, and Kenny Endo. This was my first week in Hawaii. Since then, I had so many wonderful experiences such as going to the Hawaii Okinawa Center and Jikoen, Sunrise Restaurant, attending Sandaa Sensei's class for 6 months, the Okinawan Festival, New Year's party, Okinawan dance class at UH, KZOO radio and so many more.

I interviewed over 80 Uchinaanchu and documented 80 different life histories. As a Uchinaanchu myself who did not grow up in Okinawa, there was so much overlap between their experiences and mine that I felt closer to Hawaii than to Okinawa. Through my dialogue with them, I became more interested in Okinawa and began to reconstruct my own identity. In Hawai'i, I can confidently say that I am Uchinaanchu because everyone accepts me as one. I was very impressed by the wonderful Okinawan community in Hawai'i and the way Okinawans help each other out of concern for each other. there is a Yuimaaru spirit, where Uchinaanchu help each other. I have been supported by so many people over the past year and a half. I feel like Hawaii is my second home. Many people have supported me. I want to continue to contribute to the Uchinaanchu of Hawaii. *Ippee Nifee Deebiru!*



Farewell Party



Karii 2023 By Lisa Tamashiro Maumalanga

On April 2, we had the pleasure of hosting Karii 2023 at our beloved Hawaii Okinawa Center.

Karii is a fundraising event benefiting the Hawaii United Okinawa Association organized by Shinka Hawaii. With a crowd of over 300 attendees, Shinka brought together the Uchinaanchu community for another memorable night. The event was a celebration of diversity and inclusivity and we were thrilled to see so many familiar faces.

The night started with doors opening at 5:00pm. Guests were guided through the Legacy Hall to experience 11 food vendors: A Catered Experience, Superb Sushi, Strip Steak, La Tour Cafe, El Gallo, Giovanni Pastrami, Luna Events, Mana + Pua, Scoop Scoops, Papi's Empanadas, Stage (Amuse), HUOA's own Andagi & Andadog, and 2 drink sponsors: Lotus Spirits and Beer LAB HI. Guests raved about the variety of food and drinks and everything was absolutely incredible. We are thankful to Design with Aloha, Ho'okipa Events, Accel Events and Tents, Yelp, Zippy's and Hawaii Volcanic Water for their generous donations and making the space come alive.

The evening included Trade Winds, an amazing local band of educators, and of course a cultural showcase of Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo, Chinagu Eisa, Hawaii Okinawa Creative Arts, and Dazz Toguchi. All groups and performers entertained the crowd with their talent and passion and it is always exciting to see the cultural arts being preserved and perpetuated.

Overall, Karii 2023 was another great success and we want to thank our VIP tables and everyone who came out to support it. Shinka believes that events like this are important for bringing people together and celebrating our Uchinaanchu pride and spirit.

To see pictures and relive the magical night, check out @shinka_hawaii on Instagram. Save the date, Karii 2024 is set for April 2024 at Hawaii Okinawa Center.



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Loochoo Identity Summit

Kajitui and Community: 2023 Loochoo Identity Summit *By Kaiya Laguardia-Yonamine*

KĀNE'OHE, O'AHU - Bingata, Okinawan delicacies, and laughter filled the halls as volunteers set up at Windward Community College in late March. Ukwanshin Kabudan, a cultural arts group in Hawai'i, held its first in-person Loochoo Identity Summit since before the pandemic, welcoming guests back to the beautiful college campus.

The Loochoo Identity Summit is a three-day intensive sequence of workshops discussing different elements of Okinawan culture, including genealogy, historical analyses, and identity. This year's workshops surrounded the theme of "kajitui," or helmsman, and pulling forward to a re-imagined future as indigenous peoples.

"When I was younger, I always thought that Okinawan was just Japanese," said Blaise Higa, a first-time participant and high school student. "It wasn't until recently that I understood the difference in culture and language, how different they are to Japanese. The summit helped me to understand my identity because it gave me a better understanding of the distinction."

"[It] reinforced the theme that we are not alone. There is power and resilience in our communities," said Mariko Middleton, a first-time participant from Vermont. "If we can harness our collective energies and direct them to a cause... there is a tremendous capacity to effect meaningful change."

With the return to in-person participation, the Loochoo Identity Summit brought a mix of intergenerational audiences and experiences, including many first-time participants, shimanchu diaspora from the continental U.S., and students from various schools around O'ahu.

As a diasporic Shimanchu with no access to Okinawan communities where I live, I had long wanted to join to learn more from others that had more of that knowledge – especially places like Hawai'i where there are larger communities, with access to elders," said Mariko Middleton.

"It was a space where I realized that there are islanders outside of Okinawa who love and think about Okinawa so much, unlike before when I felt lonely," said Rinna Iha, a college exchange student from Okinawa. "It was also an empowering space for me as I have to face the cultural, political, and social issues of Okinawa in the future."

Participants encourage Okinawan people around the world to join future Loochoo Identity Summits, and continue this collective discussion around indigeneity and shimanchu cultures. After the emotional and intense weekend, students are motivated to continue this reflection and transformation process for future generations of shimanchu leaders.

"As one who represents Uchinanchu from the past to the present, I felt an even stronger sense of pride in being Uchinanchu, as well as the responsibility that comes with that privilege," said Rinna Iha. "I felt mentally and physically exhausted because I had to face more than ever how I feel about Okinawa from my social, political, and cultural background... and how I can take action after I return to Okinawa."

"The summit was really an enjoyable experience that I will remember for many years to come. I [even] started writing down my experiences for my future children and grandchildren," said Blaise Higa. "It's important for others in our Uchinanchu community to participate in these sorts of spaces to really understand our own culture in comparison to the Japanese culture that we are associated with."

The Loochoo Identity Summit is held annually in March. To learn more about future events, visit www.loochooidentity.org or ukwanshin.org



The Summit's Kajitui symbol and T-shirt designs were created by Shinichiro Yūnanmī, a previous summit participant from Okinawa. His brand, IDTTY, focuses on designs by the people, for the people.



Students from Okinawa met Mayor Blangiardi

32nd HOSEP Student Visit February 12th–25th

15 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, 2 teachers, and the Deputy Superintendent of the Okinawa Board of Education visited Oahu in Phase 1 of this program. Okinawa students stay with Hawaii families and attend local high schools. Hawaii students, participating as homestay hosts were from the following high schools: Moanalua, Mililani, Punahou, HBA, UH Lab, Kalani, Waipahu, and Leilehua. Students attended school with their host students and found Hawaii's high school experience very liberal and fun. The Okinawa students visited Kula Kaiapuni 'O Ānuenu Hawaiian Immersion school, the Polynesian Cultural Center, Pearl Harbor, and met with civic leaders including Honolulu Mayor Blangiardi and numerous Okinawan legislators. Phase 2 will be conducted June 9th – 24th, when Hawaii students will visit Okinawa. 14 students were selected among the over 20 applications received. HUOA teacher chaperones are Tom Yamamoto and Brenda Nomura. Ipee Nifee Deebiru to the many HUOA members who assisted with excursions and donated their valuable time to this program!



Students from Okinawa and Hawaii at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on the first day of the program

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The 27th Annual Honolulu Festival Parade *By Greg Kuwazaki*

The last time the Honolulu Festival Parade took place was back in 2019. So after nearly 4 years of dormancy because of the COVID safety protocols, everyone couldn't wait to participate. And the Hawaii United Okinawa Association was no exception. Over 100 spirited Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu's at heart marched down Kalakaua Avenue. Proudly holding club banners, singing, whistling and waving to the crowd which was reciprocated by the thousands of spectators at least three deep on either sidewalk.

Leading the parade and making an instant impact were Masanduu Grant Murata and six sanshin virtuosos. Riding a flatbed truck, they played spirited music for the Paranku Ladies who jubilantly danced and drummed behind them.

Of course, very busy President Clarisse Kobashigawa and President-elect Brandon Nakasone found time to march ahead of the 50 club banner holders and club supporters. Even HUOA at-large member Aolani Yamasato-Gragas four-legged family member Olive joined in on the fun.

The Honolulu Festival is Hawaii's premier cultural event. It showcases



the rich and vibrant blend of Asia, Pacific and Hawaiian cultures to the rest of the world. It promotes mutual understanding, economic cooperation and ethnic harmony between the people of Hawaii and the Pacific Rim region. And the HUOA is always happy to be part of this wonderful event.

Thank you to everyone who participated and those who helped to make this live event a complete success. So, until next year. *Ippee Niffie Deebiru!*

HUOA Leadership Tour Returns

In 1980, 37 men and women went on the first young leaders tour initiated and sponsored by the Okinawa Prefectural Government and the City-Town-Village Associations in Okinawa. In 1993, HUOA – in partnership with the Okinawa Prefectural Government and the sponsoring HUOA Clubs – sent 15 young adults to Okinawa. Subsequent HUOA Leadership Tours ensued with the last one occurring in 2007.

Many of our current HUOA leaders recall their own life-changing experience on past Leadership Tours. This tour involves formal meetings with government and business leaders. Additional and important elements of the Leadership Tour are a weekend homestay with the participants' family or friends and meeting with civic leaders from their ancestral town or village. HUOA President Clarisse Kobashigawa returned from her 2023 Aisatsu Tour inspired and motivated to offer our younger generations the opportunity to learn and connect through Okinawan culture.

We hope to bring back this unique experience to inspire a new generation of future leaders. "It's long overdue and needs to come back," says Kobashigawa.

This year, 15 participants will be selected from across all of the Okinawan clubs. They will travel to Okinawa in the first week of October 2023 and immerse themselves in Okinawan history and culture. Their trip will culminate in the annual (Naha Tsuna Hiki – Giant Tug of War).

Our future leaders will return to Hawaii re-energized and enthusiastic, wanting to lead their clubs and engage with the HUOA perpetuating a rich thriving community into the future. We hope to make selections in May 2023 which will allow for time for Leadership tour fundraising. This program is sponsored in part by HUOA and the respective selected clubs. The tour costs (Air/Ground/Lodging) will be split 1/3 among HUOA, the respective club, and the participant. The estimated total cost of the tour per person is \$4800 ($\$4,800/3 = \$1,600$).

Clubs are encouraged to select their representative and submit a Leadership Tour application by Friday, May 18, 2023 or as soon as possible. Contact Caro Higa (caro.h@huoa.org) or Jon Itomura (jon.itomura.ed@huoa.org) for applications, or visit huoa.org/scholarships



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HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER CALENDAR

Important notes for our May-June calendar entries:

- Any event not already cancelled or postponed will be subject to change.
- All 2023 EC and BOD meetings will be conducted in hybrid mode on Zoom video conference and in person simultaneously until further notice.

May 2023

- 1 Okinawan Festival Core meeting, Chaya, 7pm
- 10 HUOA Executive Council meeting, Chaya, Hybrid 7pm
- 22 HUOA Board of Directors mtg, Legacy I, Hybrid 7pm
- 25 Okinawan Festival General meeting, Legacy I, Hybrid 7pm

June 2023

- 5 Children's Cultural Day Camp set-up, HOC
- 6-9 Children's Cultural Day Camp, HOC
- 14 Executive Council meeting, Hybrid 7pm
- 15 Senior Fair set-up, HOC
- 16 Senior Fair, HOC
- 22 Irei no Hi (TBD)
- 26 Okinawan Festival General meeting, Legacy I, Hybrid 7pm

Classes • Other Meetings at Hawaii Okinawa Center:

- HUOA Sanshin: every Thursday, 7pm*
- Ichi Go Ichi E: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7pm*
- Ikebana: 1st Tuesday, 7pm
- HUOA Karaoke: 3rd Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm
- Monday Crafters: every Monday, 9 am*
- Okinawan Genealogical Society mtg: 3rd Saturday, 9 am*

*For more information, please call 808-676-5400

HOT 'HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY' SCHEDULE

Our new episodes premiere on the first and third Saturday of the month at 7 pm and repeat the following Thursdays at 5 pm on 'Olelo Community Media Channel NATV 53.

All 'Olelo shows are concurrently streamed on the Internet at www.olelo.org. Our latest shows are available on-demand on the 'Olelo website: select Tune In, then 'OleloNet On Demand, then type in "Okinawa" in the Search Archives box.



huoa.org/watch-and-listen

MAY 6 SAT 7 PM AND MAY 11 & 18 THURS 5 PM

Part Three of the Uchinanchu of the Year and Installation Banquet held on January 21, 2023, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

MAY 20 SAT 7 PM AND MAY 25 AND JUNE 1 THURS 5 PM

Show One of the Okinawa Festival held on September 3 & 4, 2022 at the Hawaii Convention Center. This show features Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyo Kai Hawaii Shibu, Ryukyu Koten Ongaku Nomura Ryu Ongaku Kyokai Hawaii Shibu, Opening Procession, Paranku Clubs of Hawaii, Formal Opening Ceremony, and Cherry Blossom Court.

JUNE 3 SAT 7 PM AND JUNE 8 & 15 THURS 5 PM

Show Two of the Okinawa Festival held on September 3 & 4, 2022 at the Hawaii Convention Center. This show features Mitchai Kwattai and Hooge Ryu Hana Nuuzi No Kai Nakasone Dance Academy.

JUNE 17 SAT 7 PM AND JUNE 22 THURS 5 PM

Show Three of the Okinawa Festival held on September 3 & 4, 2022 at the Hawaii Convention Center. This show features Sonorous Quartet, Hawaii Okinawa Creative Arts, and Ryusei Honryu Ryuko Kai.

Note: No HOT show on the fifth Thurs of a month.

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Friday, June 16

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A Taste of Okinawa "Sharing is Belonging"

Friday, June 23, 2023
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Pagoda Hotel Banquet Halls
1525 Rycroft St.
Honolulu, Hawaii

Tickets \$75
A variety of Okinawan food,
awamori and entertainment.

Banquet Parking
Ross's clothing store on Kanunu
Street. \$3.00 with validation.

Contact Information:
Randy Kuba
(808) 780-3440
lotusspirits@gmail.com

Steve Miyashiro
(808) 220-1564
miyasm@outlook.com

John Tasato
(808) 398-3343
jtasato@gmail.com



Okinawan Chamber
of Commerce

Worldwide Uchinanchu
Business Association

The Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association of Hawaii'i is once again celebrating and sharing the food and drink of Okinawa and its worldwide diaspora.

It is said that Okinawans cannot resist an opportunity to celebrate life's events, especially for children and seniors. Perhaps it is the energy of youth and their enthusiasm that makes us young, and WUB will partner with the young people of the Shinka Club to put on this event. Sharing culture and food is a means to bringing the generations together.

Uchinanchu prospered by helping others. In this spirit of "yuimaaru," funds raised will go to the new WUB Foundation to assist Uchinanchu in Hawaii'i and worldwide in educational and cultural pursuits. Although WUB and its members have founded several endowments, they are administered by the East-West Center and UH Center for Okinawan Studies, and in the former case, funds are dedicated to foreign students. This Foundation will be administered directly by WUB Hawaii'i and is open to all Hawaii'i residents.

A Taste of Okinawa will also be an opportunity to celebrate the upcoming publication of the *Born Again Uchinanchu* book. It retraces the journey Hawaii'i's Okinawans took as they became "born again Uchinanchu," revisiting in detail the many milestones and movements that contributed to the Okinawan community's progress and resurgence.

WUB Hawaii'i hopes you will share in this Uchinanchu Spirit with its unique food and drinks. In a spirit of togetherness and celebration, it is hoped this will be a celebration of both young and old, fostering fellowship and camaraderie. Please come, connect, and celebrate with Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart.

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