



# UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

May/June 2023 Issue #204 Issue Date: June 26, 2023 Circulation 8,200

## Okinawan Prefectural Government Scholarship (Kempi Program)

By Wreyn Waniya

Six years ago, I had the privilege of going to Okinawa on SHUOA's high school exchange program. The two-week program, held in June, allowed me to only scratch the surface of discovering what Okinawa means to me; I promised myself that I would find a way to stay for a longer period of time, which is made possible by the Kempri Program.

For three years, I applied for the Kempri Program, but due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, I wasn't able to go until this past year. Turns out, three out of the other six kempri applicants had gone through the same thing! Our group of seven covered a wide range of countries and interests – from *sanshin*, to *bin-gata* (Traditional stenciled resist-dyeing technique unique to Okinawa) and *yachimun* (pottery), and even Okinawan cuisine!

I'm so thankful for the six-months experience; I have gained so much. Of course, the official objective of this program is to focus on an area of study and bring back your homeland experience to share with others. I received so much more than just a sanshin education. For starters, besides a year in college, this was the first time I was living on my own, and in another country at that. The question I probably asked myself the most was *What am I going to eat for dinner?* And that answer was (usually because I'm tired from school) *I'll just stop by a convenience store on the way home.* Speaking of which, I've never walked as much in my entire life as I did living in Okinawa, added to the fact that The Okinawa Prefectural University of the Arts (AKA Geidai) sits right below the back entrance to Shuri Castle, even though I was probably eating more, the walks to and from school by themselves kept me in shape.

Not having attended school since 2019, going back to university life was a pretty big hurdle. Because of the way the classes worked, I wasn't able to take a lot of the courses that I wanted because they were "Part Two" of a class that had happened in the first semester, so I took a wider range of lectures. Thankfully, the *sensei* were all kind enough to work me into their schedules so that I could take some extra music lessons. Most of my non-music lectures were online, which meant I could take them at home, but probably half of the time I chose to go to school anyway because it was easier to focus ... and the wifi at school was free.

I usually borrowed one of the practice rooms available to music stu-



All seven Kempri at our closing ceremony.

dents, which also all had pianos so I could also work on my own music! Studying as a Ryukyuan Performing Arts student at Geidai also comes with performances, which I was able to participate in a couple of times. The most interesting one was getting to perform "Kagiyadefu" at the Okinawa Prefectural Museum, but the one I had the most fun at was playing *jikata* for my *odori* (dance) sensei's studio recital. At this recital, I got to play with Kenton Sensei, who is now working in Okinawa.

I was able to do more than just toil away at school though! Being a kempri doesn't just mean school or studio, it also means learning about the community. The company that hosts and supports us, the Uchinā Network Concierge, or UNC, held a series of events that let us get to know and work with high school and college students that facilitated ways to strengthen and continue our overseas Uchinanchu ties and expand them even further. UNC is also the organizer of a lot of different programs and organizations, like the World Youth Uchinānchu Association, or WYUA, which held a World Youth Uchinanchu Festival alongside the official one. By the way, attending the World Uchinānchu Taikai after so many years felt really good. It was nice to see so many people from Hawaii after a month of living on my own and gave me a nice boost in energy to carry on until winter break.

Thanks to Uchinānchu Taikai's welcome parties, I got to meet a great friend in Okinawa through relatives that I met for the first time. This friend, Shotaro, likes to do videography as a hobby and often films for music videos, so I tagged along to a lot of live shows and music video sets, and through him, my connections to Okinawa's music scene grew even more. The community of musicians in Okinawa is so connected that I almost

[MORE KEMPI PROGRAM – PAGE 3](#)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Okinawan Prefectural Government Scholarship (Kempi Program).....	Page 1
President's Message .....	Page 2
Kempi Program continued/HUOA Volleyball/Jogaku .....	Page 3
Preserving Our Legacy.....	Page 4
Golf Tournament Results/Tuesday Gardeners Projects .....	Page 5
I am Filipino, and I am Uchinanchu/Kylee Hamamoto .....	Page 6
Jennifer Kumura/Legacy of James Serikaku/R. Halligan Trust Visit.....	Page 7
Club News: Hawaii Shuri Naha/2023 MOKK Scholarship Recipients .....	Page 8
Club News: Hawaii Sashiki Chinen/Yomitan/Gushikawa.....	Page 9
Club News: Kohala/Osato Doshi Kai/State Rep Trish La Chica .....	Page 10
Senju Kai Hawaii's Mina Tamashiro and Eric Kobayashi .....	Page 11
Shima Piano Part 2/Hui Makaala Golf Registration .....	Page 12
MEGABON/Skye Yasuda .....	Page 13
Fred Shinsato .....	Page 14
Hawaii Okinawa Center Calendar/HOT Schedule .....	Page 15

Postage Paid  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Honolulu, HI  
Permit No. 659

Hawaii United Okinawa Association  
94-587 Ukee Street  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797



# President's Message

By Clarisse Kobashigawa



Memorial Day Weekend was busier than usual for the HUOA this year!

The Kauai Okinawan Festival returned for the first time since COVID. Having taken a five-year hiatus, it was quite an undertaking to bring all of their normal food booths and entertainment back but they did it! Congratulations to Hui Alu and Jonathan Chun! Serving up all of your home made favorite Okinawan foods - from pig's feet soup, to *andagi*, *okinawan soba*, *yakisoba*, and *champruru* - you name it, they had it! It was especially fun to see so much neighbor island support. Geino groups flew in from Oahu and the Big Island to support this bi-annual festival. Familiar faces and club members from Oahu also made the quick flight over to support the food booths and lend extra manpower! But we were most fortunate to have a very special guest - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda not only flew over and supported the festival but she also spent several hours dropping *andagi*! Way to lead by example!

Our annual Goodwill Golf Tournament was also back this year! I extend my sincere thanks to President-Elect Brandon Nakasone for greeting the golfers at sunrise on both Saturday and Sunday while I was away. Friends of HUOA and members hit the Pali Golf Course early on Saturday and Sunday mornings for this two-day tournament. Sincere thanks to the organizing committee and especially golf tournament chairs, Joey Itagaki, Sean Sadaoka, Neal Takara, the Tamashiro brothers and so many others for pulling this annual tournament together in a pinch!

Thank you to the returning golfers and thank you to the new faces who participated in this tournament for the first time. My dad tried very hard to get me interested in golf when I was very young. As I got older, I would go with him to the driving range and saw it as a nice way to spend time with him. It was then that I came to really appreciate and understand why golf is so special.

As a true gentleman's game, it is a game of skill and requires extreme patience and dedication. It is not a game that can be rushed, muscled




through or pushed through quickly. In order to be good at it you need to be dedicated. And in order to be excellent at it, requires the utmost commitment and dedication.

From the positioning of your body, to the slightest tilt of your head. From the timing and cadence of your swing... a rollover of the wrist too early or too late makes all the difference. So no matter what brought our golfers out to the green this Memorial Day Weekend, whether for fun or some friendly competition - I can only guess that deep within each of them lies the pursuit of perfection for a game that absolutely demands it and I applaud that.

If you were on Kauai or on the golf course this past Memorial Day weekend, I hope you enjoyed the camaraderie wherever you went. And if you're ever interested in learning more about Okinawan culture, I hope you reach out to any one of our 40,000 members and come to any one of our amazing events this year. I think that at each of our events you will feel a difference. There is a warmth and a joy that is unmistakably Uchinanchu. We have a rich, vibrant history and culture that deserves to be perpetuated and shared in as many forms as we can.

So again, *ippee nifee deebiru* for coming out over Memorial Day Weekend to hang with us. I certainly hope you come back and party with us again in the near future! Okinawan Festival, here we come! 🌺



## UCHINANCHU

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

**Uchinanchu Newsletter Donors March 1 to April 30, 2023**


Anonymous	Alberta Mayeshiro	Karen Tamanaha
Frederick Higa	Edward Miyasato	Evelyn Tengan
Amy Ichiyama	Keiko Nakata	Walter W. Wauke
Setsuko Kaneshiro	Judy Ogata	Thomas Yonamine
Alice Kim	Carol M. Oshiro	In memory of Thomas I.
Miyoko Kitamura	Tsuneko Taira	Isara 🌺

### Find Us Online


Find the full-color newsletter online here:  
[HUOA.ORG/NEWSLETTERS](http://HUOA.ORG/NEWSLETTERS)




[www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org)



[Facebook/HUOA.org](https://Facebook/HUOA.org)



[@hawaiiunitedokinawaassociation](https://@hawaiiunitedokinawaassociation)



[YouTube.com/c/Hawaii UnitedOkinawaAssociation](https://YouTube.com/c/HawaiiUnitedOkinawaAssociation)

### 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.

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please include this form with your donation and send to:  
**HUOA Newsletter Fund, 94-587 Ukee Street, Waipahu, Hawaii 96797**

## 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](mailto:info@huoa.org). Uchinanchu reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

HUOA President ..... Clarisse 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](http://www.huoa.org), contact us at [info@huoa.org](mailto:info@huoa.org), or 676-5400.

CONTINUED FROM – PAGE 1

found myself saying “Ho wow, small world!” more often in Okinawa than I do here!

The thing that I’m most thankful for is the number of relationships I was able to foster with people in the Okinawan community. After coming home from the high school exchange program in 2017, I thought the exact same thing, thinking about my host family and friends that I made in school. However, now I’m involved in a few different communities of people, all of which were extremely welcoming. I’m also especially thankful for the other kempi. We were all able to bond over the trials of living in a new country for the first time and being immersed in a new language and lifestyle. I was the youngest in our group by a decent margin but that never mattered; it always felt like we were just a group of friends trying to get the best out of the program.

Now that I’ve gained this experience, I’m home to share it with our community in Hawaii and become an advocate for both the kempi program in Hawaii, and for Hawaii in Okinawa.



Playing with another Kempfi at a get together.

## HUOA Volleyball

The HUOA Mixed Volleyball League kicked off the 2023 season in February after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. A total of 17 teams made up of players from 13 HUOA clubs returned to compete in one of the three divisions (Open, A, and B). Congrats to the following teams for their outstanding season!

**Open Division:** Kochinda Chojin Kai (1st) and Urasoe Shijin Kai (2nd)

**A Division:** Hui Makaala of Hawaii (1st) and Awase Doshi Kai (2nd)

**B Division:** Kin Chojin Kai 2 (1st) and Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai 3 (2nd)

If you are an HUOA member or belong to an HUOA club that would like to participate in the 2024 season, please send an email to [huoamixedvballleague@gmail.com](mailto:huoamixedvballleague@gmail.com).



Brandon Fujimura (Kochinda) and Lisa Kaneshiro.

Scan this code to access the photo album:



## Jogaku

Hawaii-Okinawans and their organizations’ efforts made JOGAKU’s 3-week high-school immersive Study Abroad Program 2023 a success.

At her home, Tomigusuku’s Stella Tamashiro hosted Naha sophomores Rinka Murakami and Haruto Shimoji starting 25 Feb. On Sunday, Greg Kuwazaki and Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club warmly welcomed the students to Shinnen-enkai celebrations and cultural performances at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

Stella’s connections with Kalaheo High School allowed Rinka and Haruto to experience a week of classes there. Chris Shimabukuro arranged the second week at Iolani School.

The students explored Hawaii Okinawa Center’s museum with Bonnie Miyashiro, who shared background on the displays and artifacts relating to Ryukyuan and Hawaii-Okinawan histories while exemplifying the strong bonds between the two archipelagos.

On the program’s third weekend, Hawaii Island’s Liann Speed Young (Tomigusuku) arranged a guided tour of University of Hawaii’s Hilo campus by Ph. D. candidate Kotaro Yogi, as well as a Community Service project with Hilo’s Salvation Army.

On Friday, they joined Ukwanshin Kabudan’s 9th Loochoo Identity Summit at Windward Community College, participating with local Uchinanchu (Okinawan) students in cultural protocols, dinner, and group activities.

Rinka and Haruto at HOC Toyama statue.



Rinka and Haruto departed for Okinawa on 18 March with experiences and stories to share with friends and relatives. Their Study-Abroad Program work will conclude with April multimedia presentations to sponsor JOGAKU and classmates at Naha High School.



Hawaii isle community service.

## 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The year at a glance!

July 3	3rd of July Endless Summer Bash, Pagoda Hotel
July 30	Hui Makaala Fashion Show Luncheon, Hilton Hawaiian Village
Sept 2 & 3	Okinawan Festival, Hawaii Convention Center
Sept 16	Autumn Matsuri, HOC
Sept 24	Legacy Award Banquet, Sheraton Waikiki
Sept 28 - Oct 9	Leadership Tour to Okinawa
Oct 5 - 15	Heritage Tour to Okinawa
Oct 30	Uchinanchu No Hi Celebration, HOC
Nov 25 & 26	Winter Craft Fair, HOC
Dec 6	“An Evening in Waipio” Craft Fair, HOC

Subject to change. Check HUOA website – [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org) for more information.

**EMS DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION**  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR, BC-23003

**EARL SHIMABUKURO**  
Owner/Designer

TEL. 808-487-5959  
email: [emsdesign1@yahoo.com](mailto:emsdesign1@yahoo.com)

**FREE ESTIMATES**  
New homes, additions, kitchens, baths, misc. repairs, renovations, commercial projects, drafting and permit processing

**MEMBER OF AZA YOGI DOSHI KAI**

# 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 sixth month of our Campaign, and pleased to report that we received 893 donations, representing \$207,060.80. We are deeply grateful for the confidence you have shown us. Members embracing the theme "Alohi Akatsichi, Vibrant New Beginnings" have generously come forth and contributed towards the success of our organization. Events such as Children's Day Camp, Irei no Hi, and Hawaii Okinawa Student Exchange are supported by your donations.

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

## Contributions from March 1 to April 30, 2023

### DIAMOND \$5,000 +

Ronald T. Oshiro  
In memory of Kenei & Yoshiko Oshiro  
by the Oshiro Family

### PLATINUM \$4,999 – \$2,500

Jessie A. Kojiro

### GOLD \$2,499 – \$1,000

Dexter T. & Valerie Teruya  
In honor of Lynn Miyahira by Yuriko Gilbertson

### SILVER \$999 – \$500

Ford Chinen  
Henry H. Takara  
Tsuneko Taira

In honor of Bertha Arakawa by Derek  
& Jan-le Uehara Family Foundation  
In memory of James Hiroshi Kishaba  
by Amy Kishaba

In memory of Thomas Y. Omine & Satsuko  
Maekawa Omine by Jeffery & Connie Omine

### BRONZE \$499 – \$250

Gordon & Faye Miyasato  
James S. & Norma Nakasone

Paranku Club of Hawaii  
Karen K. Street

### CONTRIBUTOR \$249 – \$100

Tomomi Arakaki  
Elmira Fukumoto  
Phyllis & Gary Ishikawa  
Myrtle Kaneshiro  
Miyoko Kitamura  
Lynn Miyahira  
Mildred S. Nakama  
Paul & Janice Nakama  
Keiko Nakata  
Sharkdog Designs Hawaii  
Janel Toguchi  
Amy E. Tsuru  
Stanley & Barbara Uyezu

Francine Young  
In memory of Stanley Arakaki  
by Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club  
In memory of Wayne Higa by Tomiko Higa  
In memory of Haruo Kaneshiro  
by Kaneshiro Family Partnership  
In memory of James H. Kochi  
by Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club  
In memory of Russel Kumura  
by the late Koichi Tamanaha family  
In memory of Larry & Margaret Miyashiro  
by Laryne Miyashiro  
In memory of Linda Momohara  
by Ginowan Club

In memory of Yoshiko Nakasato  
In memory of Jean K. Nishikawa  
by Gary & Lisa Nishikawa  
In memory of Katsumi Shinsato Sensei  
by Grace R. Teruya  
In memory of Katsumi Shinsato Sensei  
by Janice C. Teruya  
In memory of Katsumi Shinsato Sensei  
by Lynette K. Teruya  
In memory of Katsumi Shinsato Sensei  
by Robin K. Teruya  
In memory of Kamaichi & Kama Tamanaha  
by Cathy Shiraishi  
In memory of Kenneth Tome  
by Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club

### FRIENDS \$99 AND UNDER

Anonymous  
Mae Chung  
Clara Goto  
Hawaii Katsuren Cho Jin Kai  
Karen Irie  
Setsuko Kaneshiro  
Calvin Kawakami  
Charlotte Mukai  
Thomas Nakama  
Takuji Nose  
Kanakano Ocasio Gonzalez

Maki Okuni  
Allen T. Shiroma  
Jerry & Jan Wheeler  
Tomeo Yoshizawa  
In memory of the late Ms. Elsie Kaneshiro  
by Yomitan Club  
In memory of Larry & Margaret Miyashiro  
by Marla Miyashiro  
In memory of the late Mr. Akio Murata  
by Yomitan Club  
In memory of Ken Tome  
by Hui O Laulima

WE BUY LAND

if you have it in Okinawa

We buy land fast and for cash. We strive to make the sale process very easy for our customers. If you would like to have cash in exchange for your property, please contact us asap.

**Esperanza** Real Estate

ATTN: Ms. Erika Nakanishi [English & Japanese Speaking]

TEL: +81-98-943-5656 / FAX: +81-98-943-5646

EMAIL: e.nakanishi@es-esperanza.jp

Email would be better, we would reply you back within 24 hours



(L-R) Kent Tamashiro (presenting David B. Tamashiro Trophy), Merl Miyashiro (tied for Senior Flight Champion), Gary Higa (tied for Senior Flight Champion), and Clarisse Kobashigawa (HUOA President).

## 51st Annual Hawaii Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament Results

*Ippee niffee deebiru* to all the golfers who came out to the Pali Golf Course, the tournament co-chairs Sean Sadaoka and Joey Itagaki and all our volunteers. It was a great way to “swing” into a fun Memorial Day weekend with good weather, family and friends!

### WINNERS

**Tournament Grand Champion**  
Eric Akamine

**Overall Low Net Champion**  
Brienne Yamada

**Super Senior Flight Champion**  
Mats Okamoto

**Junior Flight Champion**  
Ian Sadaoka

**Inamine Cup Winner**  
Shinka

**Champ Flight**  
Eric Akamine, 134  
Sheldon Tokuda, 137  
David Miyashiro, 140  
Kent Tamashiro, 147  
Neal Takara, 148  
Les Tamashiro, 149  
Sean Sadaoka, 150  
Markus Miyashiro, 154  
Mark Gaza, 155  
Neal Tamashiro, 157

**A-Flight**  
Blaine Tajiri, 138  
Dan Maekawa, 142  
Jay Higa, 147  
Reyn Sugai, 149  
Troy Tanaka, 152

Lance Gushiken, 157  
Bryson Kihara, 157  
Jon Itomura, 159  
Shane Ihara, 161

**B-Flight**  
Chris Iwamura, 136  
Robert Mariano, 139  
Jarred Yara, 139  
Josh Nakamura, 143  
Lester Higa, 145  
Tyler Nitahara, 145  
Calvin Nakama, 147  
Ryllen Abeshima, 155  
Joey Maekawa, 155  
Travis Yara, 165  
Micah Nakasone, 168  
Jaron Maekawa, 169

Wayne Takara, 178  
Marques Asato, 181

**Senior Flight**  
Gary Higa, 141  
Merl Miyashiro, 141  
Nelson Tamashiro, 147  
Len Nakahara, 148  
Bob Tanaka, 148  
Melvin Oshiro, 150  
Brent Taguma, 156  
Seimo Higa, 160  
Alan Miyashiro, 161  
Lloyd Nakama, 167  
George Kaneshiro, 176

**Junior Flight**  
Ian Sadaoka, 89



## The Takura and Issei Gardens Receive Some T.L.C. *By Jodie Ching*

Have you ever walked around the grounds that surround the Hawaii Okinawa Center? It really is a treasure of Waipi’o. Many of us will come to our Shinen Enkai or banquet and go straight from the parking lot to the hall. If you have a chance, I encourage you to walk around and enjoy the beautifully manicured Takakura and Issei Gardens. And when you do take notice of some of the recent improvements that our volunteer gardeners have been working on.

One that you might not notice, unless there is rainy weather, is the improved drainage system. Prior to this improvement, the entrance to the Yeiko and Kameko Higa Building – which houses the administration offices and our precious historical and cultural artifacts and resources – used to create several inches of flooding making the garden a muddy mess. After the volunteers designed and installed the new system, the area remains flood free and drains beautifully.

Another improvement made in the Takakura Garden was giving the wall with the Okinawan kawara clay tiles a scrub down. The volunteers did a wonderful job of revitalizing the wall from dingy to dazzling. It is now the beautiful garden access it was intended to be!

The volunteers also got creative and put up a protective fence made of PVC pipes as a protective barrier to the fishpond. They cleverly painted and made the PVC pipe fence look like it’s made of green sticks of bamboo. It fits into the aesthetic of the garden while keeping curious and kolohe keiki safe.

On the Issei Garden side of the Albert T. & Wallace T. Teruya Pavillion, the world map in front of the Kyuzo Toyama statue, made of marble, became dull. The volunteers cleaned and polished it to a shine. Now the “Father of Okinawan Immigration” can really stand proudly as he oversees “our home” – the five continents.

*Ippee niffee deebiru* to all the volunteers who give so much TLC to the Hawaii Okinawa Center by making improvements while keeping the Takakura and Issei Gardens pristine. We look forward to more improvements to enhance our beloved HOC.

(L-R) Tom Nakamatsu, Glenn Awakuni, Paul Uyehara, and Craig Tobara working on the new drainage system.



# Yamas Automotive Repair LLC

Owner & ASE Certified Automotive Technician


---


## Oil Change, Brakes, A/C, Struts, Shocks

Excellent Repairs Done Here

### Shop & Cell (808) 497-1324

### Chris Yamashita




**94-143 Leokane St #104**  
**Waipahu, HI 96797**



## REPLACE WITH ACE!

Serving Hawaii for 3 Generations  
Mobile Service • All Makes & Models

---

**Certified Calibration Center**  
Advanced Technology Safety Systems  
Forward Collision Avoidance

**FREE QUOTE!**  
aceautoglass.net

KALIHI: 808-847-3217  
McCULLY: 808-593-2366  
AIEA: 808-488-2821  
KANEOTE: 808-235-3760  
MAUI: 808-871-7921  
KAUAI: 808-245-8084  
HILO: 808-935-4002  
KONA: 808-329-5223  
GUAM: 671-649-4330





**WINDSHIELD REPLACEMENT**



**CERTIFIED CALIBRATION CENTER**



**ROCK CHIP REPAIR**



**CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS**



**MOBILE SERVICE**






## I am Filipino, and I am Uchinanchu.

By Reiko Quitevis

I am a fifth-generation Filipino-Okinawan. American assimilation and decades of Hawaiian residence barred connection with my Okinawan heritage for most of my life. I am proud to be Filipino, but the older I got, the stronger I felt the absence of my Okinawan background.

This past year, I enrolled in Advanced Placement Drawing and Fashion Design II at Waipahu High School. These courses required me to investigate a theme through visual art. I picked the Okinawan diaspora of Hawaii - broad enough to keep me interested and specific enough to be meaningful.

Over the summer, I attended the Okinawan Festival for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. I spent most of my time in the educational exhibits: I learned that my family is from Chinen, I bought a book on the Ryukyuan language, and I took notes on traditional recipes.

Although the Okinawan Festival inspired me, my knowledge still felt lacking. I contacted the Okinawa Center and interviewed Ms. Bonnie Miyashiro about the Ryukyuan Empire, the annexation of Okinawa, and traditional art. I developed an interest in *bingata* (Okinawan resist-dyed fabric) and symbolism in textiles. I returned to the Okinawa Center several times during the school year with different inquiries. And each time, I left with borrowed books, fabric samples, and notes on my work.

When the school year began, I used *bingata* patterns to illustrate Uchinanchu stories in AP Art. I combined *ganji-gata* (zig-zag pattern often used in children's clothing or racehorse attire, meant to resemble lightning and represents strength and speed) with narratives from first-generation immigrants to depict a plantation town childhood; I utilized the phoenix, which



represents the Ryukyuan empire, to explore the complexity of being Okinawan during World War II. I also dug into my family records and spent time with my great-grandmother to paint her portrait. My final painting was a mural outside my art classroom. It was my first genuine memory of Okinawan culture - the bon dance. This was the only piece in my project inspired by personal experience and a fitting way to round out my AP Art project. I finally

saw myself in my art and, consequently, my heritage.

In Fashion Design II, I used the resources provided by Ms. Miyashiro to synthesize historical *bingata* and modern clothing. I didn't have the materials to recreate every step of the printing process, but I learned to adapt. With the help of my Fashion Design teacher (who is also Okinawan!) I custom-printed fabric for my designs. I made a skirt using aquatic *bingata* motifs to represent the importance of the sea in Ryukyuan culture. Additionally, I sewed and printed a bolero inspired by the *ryusou* and experimented with crochet to replicate *bingata* textures in 3-dimensional space.

I am glad I chose to explore my heritage through art. This was much more gratifying than a series of essays or presentations. I would like to revisit these projects in my college and post-graduate years. I will study Apparel Design and Sustainability at Oregon State University this fall. While there, I want to research pre-colonial Ryukyuan clothing and promote traditional, low-waste practices. After graduating, I plan to pursue a career in Production Design for film and television to bring accurate and meaningful Okinawan representation to the big screen.

I am privileged enough to live in a time when I am actively encouraged to seek out my history, and I am beyond grateful to everyone who supported me on this journey. Any previous uncertainty I may have had about myself or my identity no longer exists. I am Filipino, and I am Uchinanchu. There is nothing left for me to doubt.

Scan the QR code to view Reiko's finished work at [reikoquitevis.wixsite.com/portfolio](https://reikoquitevis.wixsite.com/portfolio) under 'Illustration' and 'Fashion.'



## Kylee Hamamoto: Honoree of the 2023 Prudential Emerging Visionaries Program

This past February, 17-year-old Kylee Hamamoto – Punahou School student and Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai Hawaii member – was named a 2023 Prudential Emerging Visionary for her inspiring commitment to improving the lives of others.

As one of 25 Prudential Emerging Visionary winners, Hamamoto will receive a \$5,000 award to help take her innovation to the next level. She is also invited to attend an all-expenses-paid trip with her parent or guardian to Prudential's Newark, New Jersey, headquarters for a three-day summit in April. There she will receive coaching, skills development and networking opportunities with Prudential employees and other young leaders.

Prudential Emerging Visionaries recognizes young teens who exhibit fresh perspectives and innovative solutions addressing pressing financial and societal challenges in their communities.

Hamamoto created "WeGo! Hawaii" to foster strong and independent female leaders and create a community space for young women to

pursue changemaking. The initiative operates through a four-step process where participants discover their passion, build confidence under the guidance of the WeGo! Leadership program and ultimately create a venture. Then participants pay it forward, working with the next cohort of young women leaders. Hamamoto's project has helped more than 200 students create 50 projects across the United States and Japan.



To read about this year's Prudential Emerging Visionaries, visit [prudential.com/emergingvisionaries](https://prudential.com/emergingvisionaries).



## Congratulations to HUOA Volunteer Jennifer Kumura

By Jodie Chiemi Ching

On Friday, March 31st, at the 71st Cherry Blossom Festival Ball at the Sheraton Waikiki Ballrooms, Jennifer Dee Emi Kumura was named Princess and Miss Congeniality. Kumura is a member of Motobu and Misato; her parents are Dennis Kumura and Ivie Kumura. She has been an active volunteer for HUOA and led a team of 20+ volunteers to create our Okinawan Festival website and redesign the HUOA.org website. HUOA supporters attended the CBF ball to cheer her on.

The evening began with the Western phase. Queen Contestants delivered a prepared speech while wearing an evening gown. During the Eastern phase, Queen Contestants answered an impromptu question while wearing traditional furisode silk kimono. The evening concluded with the coronation of the 71st Cherry Blossom Festival Queen and Court: Queen Samantha Ke'olani Marumoto, First Princess Chirstyn Shihori Okuno, Princess and Miss Popularity Emily Mieko Johnson, Princess and Miss Congeniality Jennifer Dee Emi Kumura, and Princess Amber Masaye Yonamine.

This year, for the contestants' profile descriptions, they were asked to describe an example of how *tsunagu* (connections) has impacted their lives. Kumura wrote, "In 2020, I returned home after living on the mainland for eight years. Although previously unfamiliar with the phrase, 'tsunagu' articulates a value I hold in my heart. My field of study and profession, human-centered design, approaches problem-solving by prioritizing connection with and between people. We strongly value a unified approach. This 'human-centered' aspect in my profession sparked my desire to return home – to create solutions for and with the people I care most for, our Hawai'i community." Hmm, sounds a lot like our Okinawan value of *yui maaru* (spirit of cooperation).

Kumura is an 'Iolani School graduate and received a Bachelor of Science in Human-Centered Design and Engineering with a Human-Computer Interaction focus. She works as a Product Design Manager at Servco Pacific Inc. where she leads a small team of designers who strategizes the design of the company's digital solutions for customers and employees based on their needs and goals.

Congratulations Jenn! We are so proud of your accomplishments and so grateful for your inspiration and spirit of *tsunagu* and *yui maaru*! 🌺

## Legacy of James Serikaku

On March 21, 2023, HUOA lost a dear friend, James "Jimmy" Torao Serikaku, who passed at the age of 94. Mr. Serikaku was born in Waipahu and graduated from Waipahu High School. After serving with the U.S. Army, he worked with his father at Serikaku Motors, on Farrington Hwy/Depot Road, followed by opening the first of four "Jimmy's Auto Parts" stores on Oahu and in Hilo.

His father, Shigeru Serikaku, arrived in Hawaii in 1906 and later opened Serikaku Motors. In 1913, only 10 years after Wilbur and Orville Wright's historic first flight, Shigeru Serikaku assembled his own airplane and, in 1914, piloted his plane and landed in Moanalua Gardens, making history as the first successful flight of a Hawaii-designed and built airplane.

In addition to having a keen expertise in finance and investing strategies, Mr. Serikaku developed an interest in researching his Okinawan roots and supporting local Okinawan activities. He moved back to Honolulu from Oregon in 2012 and was an active member of the Hawaii Sashiki Chinen club, the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Roundtable, and the Okinawan Genealogy Club of Hawaii.

In 2005, Mr. Serikaku donated funds on behalf of his late wife Beatrice and children, to construct the Shigeru and Soyo Serikaku Chaya ("Serikaku Chaya") on the grounds of the Hawaii Okinawa Center in memory of his parents. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Serikaku Chaya was held on July 31, 2005. A year and a half later, on December 11, 2006, Mr. Serikaku and his family participated in the opening of the Serikaku Chaya. "Jimmy" felt that this donation was his way to "pay back" his parents for working so hard to make a better life for their children. Over the past ten years since the opening of the Serikaku Chaya, many Uchinanchu, young and old, from Hawaii and abroad have come together in the Serikaku Chaya to meet, learn, and enjoy all aspects of Okinawan heritage and culture. In appreciation for his contributions to the Uchinanchu community, Mr. Serikaku was recognized as an HUOA Legacy Awardee in 2009. Jimmy was a friend, supporter, and contributing member of HUOA and will be truly missed. 🌺



(L-R) David Arakawa, Mark Higa, Jon Itomura, Norman Gantz, Brandon Nakasone, Clarisse Kobashigawa, and Brianne Yamada

## R. Halligan Trust Visit

Executive Director Jon Itomura, HUOA officers and EC members met with the dashing and distinguished Mr. Norman J. Gantz of Chicago, Ill. based, John R. Halligan Charitable Fund on March 22 at the beautiful Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Mr. Gantz imparted valuable wisdom, ideas, suggestions and feedback on how to improve our organization's annual fundraising efforts. We are so grateful for the many years of generosity that the widely renowned philanthropic organization has bestowed on us. Here's to a successful 2023! 🌺



# CLUB NEWS

*Our Clubs, Our Future*

## Hawaii Shuri Naha Club

Hawaii Shuri Naha Club celebrated their Shinnen Enkai on Sunday, February 23rd at HOC. Our pre-program activities included creating your own “Year of the Rabbit Towel”, wearing a balloon creation, and viewing the poster boards of our much-deserved Chimugukuru Award recipient Louise Tamashiro, birthday honorees and new club members.

HUOA President-elect Brandon Nakasone installed our officers for 2023 which included our new Vice-President Aaron Wakamatsu. Our special guests were UH students from Okinawa and two Naha High School Study Abroad Students hosted by our newest club members.

Entertainment was provided by our home-grown talent of Tamagusuku Ryu Senjukai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo, Sensei Yukie Shiroma’s students, Wayne Takamine, Cyrus Tamashiro, and our guests from Okinawa and the Uchinanchu classical pianist, Seiya Sawada.

We presented our club’s highest accolade, the Chimugukuru Award, to Louise Tamashiro. Since Louise was unable to attend, her son Cyrus graciously accepted the award on her behalf.

After lunch, our program resumed with our birthday honorees. The Koki No Iwai recipients were Gail Satsuma and Chris Taylor, and our Tokachi recipient celebrating her 88th birthday was Amy Matano.

We closed our celebration with something we missed for nearly 3 years – the rejuvenating and energizing *kachaashii!*



Birthday honorees Gail Satsuma, Amy Matano, and Chris Taylor.



Members celebrating the joy of gathering again with the *Kachaashii!*

## 2023 MOKK Scholarship Recipients

Each year, the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai (MOKK) awards scholarships to outstanding high school graduates from Maui. This year, three recipients received a \$1,000 scholarship from MOKK. This program has awarded more than \$70,000 since 1977, to deserving students who are members of MOKK or are of Okinawan ancestry. The scholarship recognizes academic achievement, school and community activities, financial need, and connection with Okinawa. This year’s recipients are Haley Mahoe, Luke Nagamine and Cody Gima.

**Haley Mahoe** is a graduate of Lahainaluna High School. She is the daughter of Donald, Jr. and Lisa Mahoe of Wailuku.

Says Haley, “My name is Haley Mahoe, and I am a graduating senior from Lahainaluna High School. I will be continuing my education at the University of Pennsylvania, where I plan to pursue Penn’s unique Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE) major. I am Okinawan on my mom’s side, and my family has been involved with MOKK since I was little. Almost every summer, I went to the Children’s Day Camp, where I was fortunate enough to grow up around others with not only similar ancestry, but similar drive to learn more about Okinawan culture. During my senior year, I partnered with MOKK and edited two editions of their club newsletter alongside my mentor, Jason Hondo, for my senior project. I am grateful for the opportunities MOKK gave me to connect with Okinawan culture, history, and events over the years, and I am honored to be a recipient of this scholarship.”



Haley Mahoe

“I would like to thank the MOKK for this generous scholarship as it will help me further my education. I am beyond honored to be a recipient of this scholarship.”

**Luke Nagamine** is a graduate of Maui High School. He is the son of Eric and Jennifer Nagamine of Kahului. Luke is an Eagle Scout and also participated in track & field and bowling. He will be attending Arizona State University with plans to major in graphic design.

Says Luke, “Sharing food is a great way to share my Okinawan culture with friends that I hope to make in college. By introducing foods that are unfamiliar with people, conversations will be started. This in turn will lead to questions such as what kind of food is it and where does it come from? Thus, leading to conversations about Okinawa. By giving back to the community with my time and sharing the amazing Okinawan food, the Okinawan culture will continue to thrive.”



Luke Nagamine

**Cody Gima** is a graduate of Maui High School. He is the son of Stephen and Denise Gima of Kula.

Says Cody, “Okinawan culture is significant to me being that both sets of my great-grandparents are 1st generation Okinawans. My family and I are members of the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai and Gushichan Sonjin Kai on Oahu. Being involved with these organizations allows me to be in touch with my Okinawan heritage. I attended the Maui Okinawa Children’s Day Camp for many years and briefly had a chance to perform taiko with a group from the MOKK. On Oahu, I attend Gushichan picnics and volunteer to work at the Okinawan Festival. This past summer I was selected to participate in the Uchina Junior Study where I got to meet many high school students with Okinawan ties from all over the world.



Cody Gima

In the future, I would love to visit Okinawa to learn more about my culture and see where my family came from.

I am very honored to be named a recipient of the 2023 MOKK scholarship and I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the MOKK for awarding me this scholarship. This scholarship will help pay for my college education and my family and I are very grateful. “

**Congratulations Haley, Luke and Cody!**



### Digestive Disorder?

**PRO EM-1®:**

- ▶ Proven technology of **Dr. Higa’s Effective Microorganisms®**
- ▶ Increases the **good bacteria in your gut flora**
- ▶ Promotes proper **digestion and nutritional absorption**
- ▶ Helps your **immune system and mental health**



**Reset Your Gut Flora: Take 1 tablespoon of PRO EM-1® with a glass of water daily**

808-548-0396



**EM HAWAII LLC**  
560 N. Nimitz Hwy #217A  
Honolulu HI 96817  
www.emhawaii.com





# CLUB NEWS

*Our Clubs, Our Future*

## Hawaii Sashiki Chinen



## Yomitan Club Shinnen Enkai

Saturday, March 18, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center

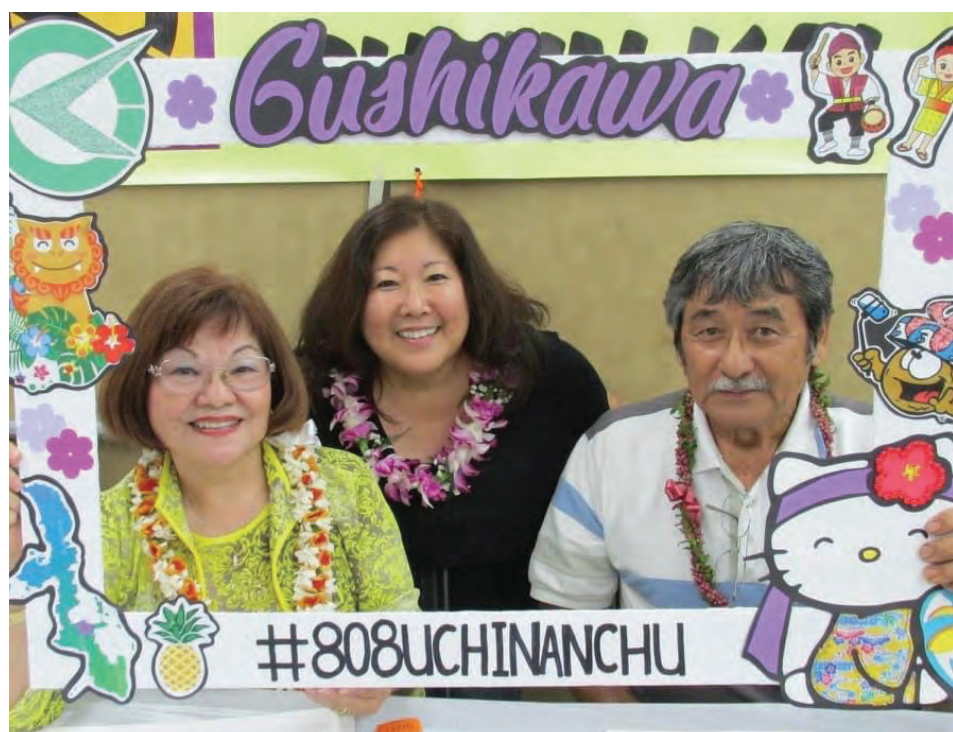


2023 Yomitan Club Officers: (L-R) Lauren Furuya, Roxanne Yoshida - Finance, Warren Furuya - Corresponding Secretary, Laura Ajimine - Recording Secretary, Mel Horimoto - 2nd Vice President, and Lea Ann Kakimoto - 1st Vice President



Paula Lewis, Yomitan Uchinanchu of the Year 2022, 2023 Yomitan Shinnen Enkai Raffle Chairperson

## Gushikawa





It's All About Lifestyle!

Taste before purchase at our TASTING ROOM (By Appointment Only)

Centenarians in Okinawa treasure their Culture. Culture influences their **LIFESTYLE**. A daily cultural practice is knowing your "Ikigai", what wakes you up in the morning, your passion!

**Ikigai of Mana-Su**

- Offer you healthy choices
- Provide food as medicine
- Live your life to the fullest





LEARN MORE: Call: (808) 780-3440  
Email: sharemanasu@gmail.com  
Guaranteed Satisfaction or we will make it right.

# CLUB NEWS

*Our Clubs, Our Future*

## Kohala



## Osato Doshi Kai



**Osato Doshi Kai - 115th Anniversary Shinnen Kai**  
Masa's Cafeteria - March 26th, 2023

## State Representative Trish La Chica

New State Representative Trish La Chica visited the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Monday, April 10th to learn more about the HUCO. Rep. La Chica is a new state representative representing portions of Mililani Town, Mililani Mauka, Koa Ridge, and Waipio Gentry. Executive Director Jon Itomura and HUCO past president Lynn Miyahira gave her a tour of our facilities and discussed various ways the HUCO supports the community. Rep. La Chica met our gardeners and other volunteers who help keep our center beautiful. Mahalo, Rep. La Chica, for making time to visit the HOC!



(L-R) Jon Itomura, Lynn Miyahira, Mamo Kuniyoshi, Zina Nagamine, Richard Maeda, Rep. Trish La Chica, Jimmy Kobashigawa, Wayne Takara, Karen Kuba-Hori, Gary Jitchaku, David Nakasone, and Wayne Kawakami

## Senju Kai Hawaii's Mina Tamashiro and Eric Kobayashi Achieve Teacher Certificates in Ryukyu Dance

On May 13, 2023, a teaching certificate ceremony for Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai was held in Okinawa. There were a total of 15 *kyoshi* (teachers) and eight *shihan* (master teachers) from Okinawa, Osaka, Nagoya, Hawaii and Brazil. From Hawaii, two students: Mina Tamashiro and Eric Kobayashi obtained the *kyoshi menkyo* (teaching certificates).

Tamashiro and Kobayashi are the first students from Senju Kai Hawaii who have traveled to Okinawa to take the *konkuru* or dance contest and earned all three levels of certification [Shinjin-sho (Newcomer's Award), Yuushuu-Sho (Award of Excellence) and Saikoshu (Highest Award)], helped with *daigeiko* (training to teach and earn the teaching certificate). Iemoto, Grandmaster Yoshiko Tanita and Grandmaster Mieko Kinjo were overjoyed and congratulated all the new teachers for their achievement.

Tamashiro and Kobayashi's commitment to the perpetuation and preservation of our culture is evident in their continued advancement in Ryukyuan Dance. Being a sensei is like being a parent who nurtures students to become refined teachers and wishing for their continued growth. I look forward to the opening of their own *dojo* and nurturing their *deshi* (students) - my *mago-deshi* (descendant student). *Okage sama de* to all - family, friends and the community. I humbly ask for your continued support for our new sensei. *Yutashiku unigee sabira. Kahuushi*, With sincere appreciation -Frances Nakachi Kuba

### Impression by Mina Tamashiro

I have been with Senjukai Hawaii Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo for approximately 21 years! When I joined, I did not imagine that I would be taking lessons this long and becoming a teacher. Frances Sensei encouraged me to pursue Konkuru, in Okinawa. I completed the whole process in a seven-years span. Familiarizing myself with the lyrics and music is challenging. There were nights when I listened to the music and asked myself, "Why am I doing this?" But after feeling the amount of dedication and support that Sensei provided me, I realized this experience will help me grow not only as a dancer but also as a person. Through the Konkuru training, I not only learned the dance movements but the etiquette, the culture and the importance of passing down this living culture. With each accomplishment, I gained confidence in dancing and deepened my commitment to perpetuate the culture.

I am honored and privileged to receive my kyoshi menkyo this May with my peers. My commitment is to spread the teachings of Senju Kai and perpetuate and preserve our Okinawan culture. I am grateful for the support from Frances Sensei, my family and friends and the community.



### Impression by Eric Kobayashi

It always amazes me how there's a sense of family amongst the Senju Kai members. Maybe it's the kindness and hospitality that everyone shows toward us - the ones who traveled over 4,000 miles. Or maybe it's the Okinawan spirit and heart shining through. More likely, though, it's our love for Okinawan dance and our shared commitment to the preservation and perpetuation of this beautiful art. It is a turning point in my life recognizing that we have reached this milestone and realizing that we will need to pave the way ourselves to open our own branches and begin teaching our own students.

It was also a humbling experience, to be in the presence of many sensei, the masters of Okinawan dance. There is an immense feeling of humility as they shower us with support, words of encouragement, and love. Earning my teaching license was the culmination of countless hours of practice and a deep commitment from myself and my sensei, Frances Nakachi. As an educator, I understand that for a student to succeed, it takes dedication and hard work from the student, and unwavering care and support from a skilled teacher. As hard as I worked for this, I know Frances Sensei worked twice as hard. And for this, I am deeply grateful for all she has done to help me succeed.

While many may view an event like this as a sort of finishing, like graduating, I understand that this is actually the beginning. There is so much more to learn, to master, and most important, to share. I returned to Hawaii with a deeper understanding of the purpose of this certification process and a ceremony such as this - to cultivate and recognize the next generation of *skilled* Okinawan dance practitioners, in the hopes that this art may be preserved for future generations. I have a renewed sense of purpose as a licensed teacher of Okinawan dance and a stronger devotion to help it thrive in Hawaii.



A Fundraiser for the 2023 HUOA Leadership Tour

# 3rd of July Celebration

**Huli Chicken: 9 to 1pm**

**\$17 Chicken Only**  
(Includes: Two chicken halves)

**\$15 Chicken Plate**  
(Includes: Half a chicken, rice, corn, and bottled water)

**Evening Dinner & Dance: 7 pm**

**\$50 Pre-Sale Tickets** (BBQ dinner buffet & reserved seating)

**\$20 Pre-sale Tickets** (Dancing only - No reserved seating)

**Order by Friday 6/30:**  
<https://andagi.wufoo.com/forms/3rd-of-july-huli-chicken-fundraiser/>



Visit [www.pagodahawaii.com](http://www.pagodahawaii.com) or call 808-948-8370.

Pagoda Hotel Parking lot on Kaunu Street



**Today's Forecast**

  
9am

  
10am

  
11am

**OUR ROOFS CAN HANDLE IT.**

Hawaii's Own  
3 Generation Family Roofers





**Murakami Services Division**

-  Small Equipment Rentals
- Solar Panel Cleaning
- Roof Tune Up Package for Flat Roofs and Slope Roofs



**REQUEST AN ESTIMATE**

**Phone 808-348-8270**

[murakamiroofing.com](http://murakamiroofing.com)  
[info@murakamiroofing.com](mailto:info@murakamiroofing.com)  
 LIC# 33536  
 Bonded • Insured

Murakami Strong, Building Confidence Into Your Roof

## Shima Piano Part 2 *By Seiya Sawada*

I was in Hawaii from September 2021 to February 2023 to research the relationship between Uchinanchu in Hawaii and Okinawan culture. During my stay, many people supported me, including professors and friends from the University of Hawaii, members of the Okinawa community, members of the Church of Christ, musician friends, cafe friends, and so many others, that this list could go on for pages.

I wanted to express my gratitude to everyone before I returned home. After I attended Jikoen's New Year's party on January 29th, I found a piano backstage. Norman Kaneshiro Sensei had his sanshin, so we had an impromptu music session with Okinawan folk songs and rock tunes. Then, Norman Sensei suggested I have a concert of Okinawan music, mainly piano, before I returned to Japan. I thought that was a great idea! That was the beginning of the Shima (Island) Piano Concert.

I asked my artist friends if they would be willing to perform with me, and they graciously accepted. Norman Kaneshiro (organizer, sanshin performer and emcee), Shelby Oshiro (dance), Chantel Ikehara (vocals), Brandon Ing (guitar and taiko), Derek Fujio (koto, fue, and taiko), Jesse Shiroma (accordion), Honoka Katayama (ukulele), Yukie Shiroma Sensei and everyone in Yukie's class member (dance) played with me.

I clearly remember the first time I met them. I met Norman in an online sanshin class before I went to Hawaii. I met Shelby and Chantel on Memorial Day at Jikoen, Brandon at a Young Okinawans of Hawaii eisa practice, Derek and Yukie Sensei at Yukie Sensei's Imaginary Homeland practice, Jesse at Kapiolani Park, and Honoka through her teacher Jody Kamisato, who played my sanshin at the Okinawan Festival.

I had the best time with them and I will never forget them. Thank you so much! And I am also very grateful to all the volunteers who supported the island piano and Reverend Shindo Nishiyama and Jikoen's members for providing us with the hall as well.

The Shima Piano concert was a great success! About 200 attendees gathered! At the end, all the performers came on stage to play "Toushindo," a popular so for kachaashii which everyone participated in, bringing everyone together as one.

I played my music with gratitude for all my new friends. The music in the concert included Okinawan folk songs "Asatoya Yunta," "Iwai-bushi," and "Aha-bushi"; popular songs "Nada Sousou," "Sanshin nu Hana," and "Shimanchu nu Takara"; Japanese music from Ghibli Studio soundtracks; rock music "Let It Be" and "Smoke on the Water"; Western



classical music "Tokada." I feel like these songs are connected with my identity. I am half Uchinanchu and Japanese, and I love rock and western classical music because my dad played rock and taught me the joy of music.

Another reason for doing the Shima Piano Concert stemmed from when I heard that young people are not interested in Okinawan culture anymore, so by performing Okinawan music with various instruments and styles, I hoped that they would become interested in their own culture.

After returning to Japan, I decided to use this experience to play Okinawan music on a regular basis to let people know how great Okinawan music is. In fact, in May, my sister played the clarinet and I played the piano for "Asatoya Yunta." It was very well received. And several people who saw Shima Piano's video asked me to play Okinawan music with them.

And I am now teaching Asian music culture at a university as an adjunct teacher while researching as a graduate student. I introduced Okinawan music and Hawaii Uchinanchu to my students who are now very interested in learning more.

I treasure this life-altering experience in Hawaii and have fond memories of Shima Piano. I will definitely come back to Hawaii after I finish my dissertation. Thank you very much! *Ippe Nifee Deebiru!*

### HUI MAKAAALA

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

**New venue - 360° Ewa Beach Country Club**

91-050 Fort Weaver Road; Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Friday, September 22, 2023

Check-in: 10:30 am

Shotgun Start: 12:00 pm

#### Format:

- 4-person modified scramble
- Minimum 2 drives each
- 2 putt max
- Handicap is 10% of total
  - Handicap Max – Men- 28; Women - 36

#### Fees:

- **4-Person Team - \$700:** Includes green fee, cart; Mulligan + Greenies Packages, prizes, freshly grilled loco moco lunch, hosted beverages and snacks, and dinner banquet
- **Tee Sponsor - \$1,200:** Includes 1 four-person team, plus recognition on tournament program, tee sponsor sign, and 5 raffle tickets for each team member

#### Options:

- **Raffles** – available for purchase at check-in

- For more information please contact Al Kakazu [akakazu@bhayman.com](mailto:akakazu@bhayman.com) or (808) 265-2177

**Entry Deadline: August 22, 2023**

Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Advance Payment Requested:

• **Credit Card:**  
**VISA                      MASTERCARD**  
 CC#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Check:** Make checks payable to:  
**Hui Makaala**

Fees:	
4-Person Team - \$700	\$
Tee Sponsor - \$1,200	\$
Options:	
Mulligan Package:	\$ Included
Greenies Package:	\$ Included
Donation to Scholarship Fund:	\$
<b>Total Payment:</b>	<b>\$</b>

Mail or email form and payment to:  
**Hui Makaala**  
**Attn: Al Kakazu**  
**P.O. Box 22538,**  
**Honolulu, HI 96823**  
**akakazu@bhayman.com**



## Congratulations and Chibariyo to Skye Yasuda *By Jodie Chiemi Ching*

"I WANT TO EDUCATE, CELEBRATE and revive my Uchinanchu culture and language," said Skye Yasuda, the newly crowned Miss Hawaii Asian America 2023. She will compete in the Miss Asian Global and Miss Asian America pageant in San Francisco this August. Yasuda graduated from Waipahu High School, in 2021, with a high school diploma and an Associate's Degree in Science in Teaching, Associate's in Art Degree, and Certificate in Culturally Responsive Teaching. On top of that, Yasuda just received her Bachelor's Degree in Education (emphasis on Elementary Education) at the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu this past May 2023.

Nineteen-year-old Yasuda reached out to HUOA to seek opportunities to volunteer and participate in activities in hopes to deepen her connection with her ancestral roots and the community. She is a descendant of Uchinanchu from Nishihara, Okinawa.

Yasuda's Uchinanchu pride comes from her relationship with her great-grandmother. In an email to HUOA, she stated, "My great-grandmother, whom I called Hibaba, immigrated with my, at the time, 14-year-old grandmother to Hawaii and worked on the plantations. When my Hibaba passed while I was in intermediate school, I realized that our family had lost the last person who was the most connected to our Uchinaanchu side. After Hibaba's passing, I made a determination to become more in tune with my culture, and, with the help of my new platform, I can now share it with many others."

"I noticed that there is not much representation of Uchinaanchu in the pageant world. Everyone has such slender faces and thinner body hair (something I grew up not appreciating until much later). There were so many times I wanted to get rid of that side of myself because of getting teased and being so self-conscious. There was even a time I shaved my arms because I hated it so much.

"Towards the end of my Hibaba's life, I came to realize that I needed to love myself a lot more and appreciate who I am. I am the only one in my family who has the Uchinaanchu nose and it's something I hold dear. With such a much larger platform, I know I can take what I learn and share it with others to inspire them to love their cultures too. I would never wish anyone else to go through the struggles I did with self-image."

HUOA sincerely congratulates Skye Yasuda for her inspiration and for perpetuating Okinawan culture. We are excited for your bright future, and Good Luck in San Francisco – Chibariyo!



## Get Ready for a MEGA-Sized BON Dance at MEGABON! *By Jodie Chiemi Ching*

**SAVE THE DATE!** On Saturday, Aug. 26 at the Aloha Stadium, the JCI Honolulu, Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce and Todaiji Hawaii Bekkaku Honzan invites the community to attend Megabon.

What is Megabon? At the height of the global pandemic of 2020, the JCI World Headquarters issued a global initiative called JCI RISE, to revitalize our local communities, support local businesses following the hardships faced from the global pandemic. As a result, JCI Honolulu, the HJCC and Todaiji Hawaii, are coming together to organize and host Hawaii's first ever "Megabon," which will be a large community bon dance event expecting about 2000 attendees.

The event will host food vendors specializing in Japanese festival type foods from local restaurants, Japanese festival games for the ohana and keiki, live entertainment, beverage vendors, and a mega sized bon dance. JCI Honolulu is working with its sister chapter from Osaka, Japan, to bring authentic games, merchandise and the true essence of the bon dance to Hawaii.

Local groups that will participate in the bon dance performance include Hawaii Shin Kobukai, Ewa Fukushima Bon Dance Club and – for the Okinawan portion of the program – Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai. For more information about the event, becoming a volunteer, donor, sponsor or a vendor visit [www.jcihonolulu.org/megabon](http://www.jcihonolulu.org/megabon).

**Buying or selling a home? Moving up or downsizing? Investment or 1031 exchange?**

**CALL FRANCES & RANDY KUBA**  
"YOUR REAL ESTATE TEAM"

Service with Honesty, Integrity & Professionalism  
30+ years of experience combined  
Also assist in selling properties in Okinawa

**RANDY KUBA** · ランディー 久場  
REALTOR ASSOCIATE, CRS-63096  
808-780-3440 / Randy@kubahawaiihomes.com

**FRANCES KUBA** · フランセス 久場  
REALTOR, ABR, E-PRO, CRS RB-16619  
808-780-4334 / Frances@kubahawaiihomes.com

*Ippee nifee deebiru!*  
不動産売買お手伝いします。日本語どうぞ～!  
CONTACT US FOR A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS!

eXp Realty, RB-21841  
500 Ala Moana Blvd. #7-400, Honolulu, HI 96813  
[www.kubahawaiihomes.com](http://www.kubahawaiihomes.com)

**exp REALTY** | *Kuba Hawaii Homes*  
TEAM  
SHARING OUR ALOHA

**Real Estate Checklist**

- ❖ Full-Service whether Buying or Selling
- ❖ Friendly, Caring Agents
- ❖ Commission Discount for Sellers\*
- ❖ 1-Year Home Warranty for Buyers\*

**We Have You Covered!**

  
Reyn Uehara (R)  
Principal Broker

Call Reyn Uehara for a free, no-obligation consultation  
**Phone:** (808) 383-8072  
**Email:** rjuehara@gmail.com

**Aloha Pacific**  
PREMIER REALTY

\* Call us for details



## Fred Shinsato...Sharing Memories and Melodies *By Yoshimi Yabiku*

Meet a man who embraces life and loves to share his time and talent with others. He readily engages in conversation with anyone and everyone, covering topics close to his heart. His name is Frederick Hideo Shinsato, self-described "second son of a second son"...born October 27, 1936 to Tokyo and Mitsuko (Miyashiro) Shinsato, both Nisei. His older brother, Raymond Kazuo, resides in Los Angeles.

Fred calls himself "a typical country boy growing up in the plantation town of Waipahu." But "typical" is not reflective of Fred. His numerous life experiences are so colorful that if compiled in writing, they would fill a book...or two.

He recalls December 7, 1941 and seeing "waves of Japanese planes... fly very low directly over our house and I could see the pilots looking down at us."

He remembers the different games played as a youngster and how they handmade kites, sling shots, clothespin "guns" and bows/arrows. They carried pocket knives to cut and peel sugar cane, mangoes, guava, mountain apples and whatever fruit were plentiful and available.

Chores were done from an early age. At eight he and his brother took turns heating water daily for the bath. At nine they helped grandmother raise 100 chickens...carrying pails of water to the chicken coops, changing the water, mixing the feed, feeding the chickens and collecting eggs.

There were no organized children's sports in Waipahu until 1950 with the creation of an Amateur Baseball League. He and his friends were able to join and he became a pitcher. They also enjoyed bowling and would frequent various bowling alleys, playing in different leagues.

School was secondary as he admits "(going) through the motions to get passing grades because I was more interested in playing baseball and hanging out with all of my friends." But he did study for his math classes and did well.

As a senior at Waipahu High School, he excelled in Mechanical Drawing. His teacher, Mr. Kanzaki recommended that he attend college and major in Civil Engineering. Mr. Kanzaki explained to Fred what was involved in Civil Engineering, so Fred took his advice. He had wanted to enlist in the Army with his friends after high school, but his parents insisted on education. In the fall of 1954, after completing a trigonometry course in the summer, he was accepted as a Civil Engineering student by the University of Hawaii.

The year 1959 proved significant for Fred. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He joined the Army Reserves after passing a physical. He also married Emiko

"Amy" Murakami in June...a wonderful and memorable moment. In addition, he was hired as an Engineer I for the State Department of Transportation.

He would work there 34 years in both the Harbors Division and Highways Division. When he retired, he was an Engineer VI with the title of "State Maintenance Engineer" in the Highway Maintenance Branch. He served in that position from 1985 to 1993, responsible for the entire State of Hawaii.

His work experiences proved useful in his retirement years as he was challenged with numerous tasks but was able to create and/or complete a variety of projects. However, there were unexpected surprises for Fred.

In 1997 his oldest daughter Dawn, working in Okinawa, gifted him that Christmas with an Okinawan sanshin. "I had no choice but to try and learn how to play the instrument," he stated. He attended a senior

citizens' sanshin class and learned how to read Japanese music sheets as well as play the sanshin.

He became a sanshin enthusiast, joining two different clubs and gaining knowledge and experience. In September 2009, he was awarded the "Shinjin Sho" (first level) sanshin certificate from Nidaime TeiShin Kai, Hawaii Shibu. He now loves playing Okinawan classical music (koten) and folk music (minyō). He also plays Japanese, Hawaiian, and old-time popular English melodies.

In 1998 he purchased a computer and soon thereafter his younger daughter, Fran, gifted him with a "Family Tree" software. He began focusing on his family history. In 2000 or so his cousin, Terry Shinsato, went to Okinawa and returned with a written document in English and Japanese. It traced their lineage back to King Han Anchi (1396-1416), the last king of Hokuzan...the northern area of Okinawa during the period of the "Three Kingdoms"(approximately 1314-1419).


Fred's interest intensified and he and Amy joined the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii (OGSH) which meets at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Previously avid fans of Las Vegas, the couple began traveling to Okinawa with Terry as their guide and translator. They learned about their ancestors, visited gravesites and historical places, and met relatives as well as several helpful people. They have been visiting Okinawa regularly ever since.

Fred admits he was never very interested in his Okinawan heritage. He knew his roots were in Osato Village and grew up attending Osato Doshi-Kai events with his parents and grandmother. But the reconnection with his roots was so invigorating that he wants to help others learn and document their family histories. The OGSH allows him to do so and he encourages anyone interested to join or contact OGSH as members are willing to help.

Fred's enthusiasm in assisting others, enhanced by his outgoing and engaging personality, has allowed him to further develop another talent...playing the role of "Santa Claus." For some 20 plus years he has donned the familiar red-and-white ensemble, complemented by his naturally white Okinawan facial hair, and entertained at various venues. He has made appearances at family gatherings, group parties, class reunions, bowling alleys, locality club events and other special occasions. He has also become the official "Santa" at the Hawaii Okinawa Center Winter Craft Fairs.


So if you have the opportunity to meet Fred, or see him playing the sanshin or being "Santa," take a moment to greet him... or talk story if time permits...or just enjoy the melodies. 🎵





TAMAGUSUKU RYU  
*Senju Kai Hawaii*  
Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo




## Culture of Joy! Learn Okinawan Dance!



TAMAGUSUKU RYU SENJUKAI  
FRANCES NAKACHI RYUBU DOJO  
Celebrating 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Students of all ages, beginners and newcomers are invited. Come for a free trial class.**

**Okinawan Dance Academy** at  
Manoa Japanese Language School  
2804 E. Manoa Rd. #8  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
Tel: 808-754-2243  
Email: senjukaihawaii@gmail.com

[www.senjukaihawaii.com](http://www.senjukaihawaii.com)

# HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER CALENDAR

# HOT 'HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY' SCHEDULE

**Important notes for our July-August 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 and in-person until further notice.

**July 2023**

- 3 Okinawan Festival Core meeting, Chaya, 7pm
- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY-HOC Office Closed
- 12 HUOA Executive Council meeting, Chaya, Hybrid 7pm
- 24 Okinawan Festival General meeting, Legacy I, IN PERSON 7pm
- 26 HUOA Board of Directors mtg, Legacy I, Hybrid 7pm

**August 2023**

- 7 Okinawan Festival Core meeting, Chaya 7pm
- 9 Executive Council meeting, Hybrid 7pm
- 18 STATEHOOD DAY-HOC Office Closed
- 28 Okinawan Festival General meeting, Legacy I, IN PERSON 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, 10am to 2 pm
- Monday Crafters: every Monday, 9am\*
- Okinawan Genealogical Society mtg: 3rd Saturday, 9am\*

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

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

All 'Olelo shows are concurrently streamed on the Internet at [www.olelo.org](http://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](http://huoa.org/watch-and-listen)

**JULY 1 SAT 7 PM AND JULY 6 & 13 THURS 5 PM** Show 4 of the 40th Okinawan Festival held on September 3 & 4, 2022 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Featured in this show are the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement and Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii.

**JULY 15 SAT 7 PM AND JULY 20, 27 & AUG 3 THURS 5 PM** Show 5 of the 40th Okinawan Festival held on September 3 & 4, 2022 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Featured in this show are Tamagusuku Ryu Kansen Atae no Kai, Nishijo Joseph.

**AUG 5 SAT 7 PM AND AUG 10 & 17 THURS 5 PM** Show 6 of the 40th Okinawan Festival held on September 3 & 4, 2022 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Featured in this show are Ryukyu Koten Afuso Ryu Ongaku Kenkyuu Choichi Kai Hawaii, Kachashi and the Kilauea Okinawa Dance Club.

**AUG 19 SAT 7 PM AND AUG 24 THURS 5 PM** Show 7 of the 40th Okinawan Festival held on September 3 & 4, 2022 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Featured in this show are HUOA Ichigo Ichi E Class and Halau O Na Pua Kukui. 🇺🇸



## Celebrate Summer!

A COMPLETE PACKAGE FOR APPROX. 5 PEOPLE INCLUDES:

### 2023 Summer Celebration Package \$218.45+tax

- Black Pepper Crusted Roast Beef Tenderloin
- Stuffed Chicken Breast with Boursin Cheese & Porcini Mushrooms
- Salmon Stuffed with Lobster Sensation Topped with Yuzu Hollandaise Sauce
- Stuffed Portabella Mushrooms · Duchess Potatoes
- Steamed Broccoli · 8" Round Chantilly Cake from Napoleon's Bakery

Includes food in disposable pans, containers, and/or platters. Curbside pickup at A Catered Experience in Waipio Gentry.



PLEASE ORDER 7 DAYS IN ADVANCE.  
Order online at [shop.acateredexperience.com](http://shop.acateredexperience.com)  
or call 808-677-7744 for more information

# Hui Makaala

52nd Annual Scholarship Fund Luncheon & Fashion Show

showcasing:

**AQUA**

and other featured designers at



# bloomingdale's

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom



9:00 AM Boutique Sales/ Silent Auction	12 Noon Luncheon/ Entertainment/ Door Prizes
11:30 AM Ballroom Doors Open	1:30 PM Fashion Show

QUESTIONS? Call 988-1471

Reservations will be determined by the postmarked date on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment in full must accompany Reservations. Tickets & Table Assignments will be mailed beginning July 20, 2023.

Proceeds benefit the Hui Makaala Scholarship Fund.



## Hui Makaala

52nd Annual Scholarship Fund Luncheon & Fashion Show

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom

### RESERVATION FORM

Deadline for Reservations: July 12

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Reserve (10 seats per table):

\_\_\_ Ticket(s) at \$95 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Bronze Table(s) at \$950 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Silver Table(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Preferred seating & special favor at \$1,500 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Gold Table(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Enhanced Silver & premium seating at \$2,500 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Platinum Table(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Enhanced Gold & valet parking at \$5,000 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
**HUI MAKAAALA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Mail this form & payment to:  
**HUI MAKAAALA, 94-1004 AKAKU STREET  
Millilani, HI 96789**

## Save the date!

Hawaii United Okinawa Association

41st

# Okinawan Festival

September 2nd & 3rd, 2023

Hawaii Convention Center • Honolulu, Hawaii



## Festival scrips are available NOW!

Contact your Okinawan club or HUOA at 808-676-5400 or [info@huoa.org](mailto:info@huoa.org) to purchase scrips. Stay tuned for more details to come!

[www.okinawanfestival.com](http://www.okinawanfestival.com)

#huoa #hawaiiokinawans #okifest2023 #okifest  
#okinawanfestival #uchinanchu #hawaii #honolulu  
#culturalfestival #uchinanchupride

