



# UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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## “Hwikarasanaya - Let’s Shine Together” in 2024

By Jodie Chiemi Ching; Photos by Keith Uehara

**I** *soogwachi deebiru!* Happy New Year! On Saturday, Jan. 20, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association held its Uchinanchu of the Year and 74th Installation Celebration themed “Hwikarasanaya - Let’s Shine Together.” Six-hundred-fifty attendees gathered in the Albert T. and Wallace T. Teruya Pavilion at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

Twenty-twenty-three HUOA Outgoing President Clarisse Kobashigawa happily passed her gavel along and presidential duties to Brandon Nakasone. One of her notable accomplishments was bringing back the HUOA Leadership Tour to Okinawa that inspired a group of upcoming community leaders to connect with other leaders in the Okinawan government and community while reigniting their passion for history and culture.

In his president’s message, Brandon explained, “This year’s theme, ‘Hwikarasanaya,’ was inspired by the shining bright future of the HUOA, its membership, and future generations. But we must never forget what our ancestors sacrificed so that we could become what we are today.”

Having participated in HUOA leadership roles over the years, Brandon said he is frequently asked, “How does the Okinawan community stay so strong?”

“Is it because we hold the largest volunteer-run ethnic festival in the state with more than 45,000 attendees?” he asked. “Is it because we maintain a strong cultural connection to Okinawa almost 125 years after the first immigrants arrived? Is it because we’re able to have an annual banquet with almost 700 people at a beautiful center we call our home?”



2023 President Clarisse Kobashigawa,  
2024 President Brandon Nakasone and  
2024 President-Elect Frances Nakachi Kuba

“For me, the reason why the Okinawan community stays so strong is because we are always willing to help each other without hesitation. It’s because we still believe in *ichariba choodee* – once we meet, we are family. It’s because we have reverence for our ancestors, and keep our families close,” Brandon proudly affirmed.

HUOA recognized 32 Uchinanchu of the Year who contributed unselfishly to the success of their respective clubs. Karen Nakasone, Associate



Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals in the State of Hawai’i, installed the 2024 HUOA Officers. The 2024 Executive Council includes: Brandon Nakasone, president; Frances Nakachi Kuba, president-elect; Kimberly Yamamoto, vice president; Jodie Ching, vice president; Jessica Yamamoto, vice president; David Shinsato, vice president; Sandra Yanagi, executive secretary; Wendy Horikami, assistant executive secretary; Riko Higa, Japanese-language secretary; Brianne Yamada, treasurer; Kirstie Maeshiro-Takiguchi, assistant treasurer; Clarisse Kobashigawa, immediate past president; Dave Arakawa, Lynn Miyahira, Norman Nakasone, and Tom Yamamoto, advisors; Chris Iwamura, Leslie Nagamine and Roy Arakaki, at-large members; Kathleen Matsuda, Hawai’i Island representative; Robert Kaneshiro, Hawai’i Island representative; Christine Hondo, Maui representative; Jonathan Chun, Kaua’i representative; Ryan Hunt, Marcie Moribe, and Kylie Sato, club representatives; Mark Higa, Business Advisory and Audit Committee (BAAC) chair; and Scott Arakaki and Lisa Tamashiro, BAAC members.

Many of Hawai’i’s dignitaries and community leaders were in attendance including: Representing Gov. Josh Green, Cameron Deptula; Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke and husband Mike; representing U.S. Congress Rep. Jill Tokuda, Lynn Miyahira; Hawai’i State Legislature House Rep. Scott Nishimoto; Former Gov. David Ige and Former First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige; representing Mayor Rick Blangiardi, Jiro Sumada, deputy director of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting; Consul General of Japan Yoshinori Kodama; Associate Justice, Intermediate

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# President's Message

By Brandon Nakasone



Happy New Year Everyone! Congratulations to the Uchinanchu of the Year honorees and thank you for your dedication to your club and the HUOA. Thank you for agreeing to be recognized and being a shining example for our future generations.

I'd like to thank Clarisse Kobashigawa and the 2023 Executive Council for their amazing leadership and dedication to promoting and perpetuating our Okinawan culture. Clarisse is an outstanding leader and motivator, who led us through countless meetings and community events while inspiring everyone along the way.

This year's theme, *Hwikarasanaya*, was inspired by the shining bright future of the HUOA, its membership, and future generations, but we must never forget what our ancestors sacrificed so that we could become what we are today.

Having participated in HOUA leadership roles over the years, I've frequently been asked, "How does the Okinawan community stay so strong?" You would think that the answer would be simple, but think about it. What would your answer be?

Is it because we hold the largest volunteer-run ethnic festival in the state with more than 45,000 attendees? Is it because we maintain a strong cultural connection to Okinawa almost 125 years after the first immigrants arrived? Is it because we can have an annual banquet with almost 700 people at a beautiful Center we call our home?

For me, the Okinawan community stays so strong because we are always willing to help each other without hesitation. It's because we still believe in "ichariba choodee" once we meet, we are family. It's because we have reverence for our ancestors, and keep our families close.

It's for these reasons each of you volunteer to help our organization, not necessarily because you're an expert on Okinawan culture, and many of you may not even be Okinawan.

It's the close friendships we build, and the willingness to support each other with the Uchinanchu Spirit, that makes our community, truly special.

Thank you to my family, for all your support over the years, and especially this year! The Year of the Dragon, because I'm a Dragon. The outpouring of support I've received has been overwhelming. I'm so grateful. Thank you, thank you.

But most of all, thank you to all of you who placed your trust in me to lead the HUOA this year! I am honored and humbled to represent our community, our culture, and everything we believe in.

*Hwikarasayana!* Let's shine together! *Yutasarugutu unigee sabira. Ippee niffee deebiru.*

## 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The year at a glance!

- Mar 8-10 Honolulu Festival, Hawaii Convention Center
- Mar 10 Honolulu Festival Parade, Kalakaua Ave.
- Apr 12-21 Aisatsu Trip
- Apr 7 Ryukyu Geinou Hounou Dan Performance, HOC
- Apr 20 Shinka Event TBD, HOC
- May 3 Senior Health & Fitness Fair, HOC
- May TBD Kauai Okinawa Dance Festival
- May 25-26 Goodwill Golf Tournament, Pali Golf Course
- June 4-7 Children's Cultural Day Camp, Oahu
- June 7-9 Pan Pacific Festival
- June 9 Pan Pacific Festival Parade, Kalakaua Ave
- June 22 Irei No Hi Remembrance, HOC
- July 14 Legacy Award, Sheraton Waikiki
- July 28 Hui Makaala Fashion Show Luncheon, Hilton Hawaiian Village
- Aug 31-Sept 1 Okinawan Festival, Hawaii Convention Center
- Sept 2 Aloha Party, HOC
- Sept 20 Autumn Matsuri, HOC
- Oct TBD Study Tour to Okinawa
- Oct 29 Uchinanchu No Hi Celebration, HOC
- Nov 15 HUOA Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament, Hawaii Prince Golf Club
- Nov 30 & Dec 1 Winter Craft Fair, HOC
- Dec 11 "An Evening in Waipio" Craft Fair, HOC

Events are subject to change.  
Visit [www.huoa.org/events](http://www.huoa.org/events) for more information.

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HUOA President ..... Brandon Nakasone  
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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

## Uchinanchu of the Year Honorees



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# Preserving Our Legacy

2023 TO 2024  
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Thank you to the many members, friends, and businesses that have responded to our 2023/2024 Annual Giving Campaign. We are in the fourth month of our Campaign, and pleased to report that we received 412 donations, representing \$163,961.68. We are deeply grateful for the confidence you have shown us. Let's continue embracing the theme "Hwikarasanaya - Let's shine together!", looking forward to new promises and challenges. Through your continued contributions, we can have successful cultural programs and upkeep our home, the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

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

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**Kori-Jo Kochi, An Inspiring Uchinanchu Woman** *By Jodie Chiemi Ching*

Twenty-twenty-three Shuri-Naha Club Uchinanchu of the Year Kori-Jo Kochi is a sansei-yonsei Uchinanchu whose grandfather immigrated from Shuri.


Her passion for learning about her Okinawan roots and culture was ignited while living in Okinawa for three years in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. During this time, she established an extracurricular English club at her school, trained in Uechi-Ryu karate, learned to cook Okinawan cuisine from her relatives, volunteered with several local non-profits, and surfed all over Okinawa's main island.

After returning to O'ahu in 2006, Kori-Jo was invited to join the Hawai'i Shuri-Naha Club by her aunty Jane (Kochi) Takara. She volunteered to support the club and many Hawaii United Okinawa Association activities such as Champuru Food Booth at the Okinawan Festival, Winter Craft Fair and HUOA's Installation and Uchinanchu of the Year banquets.

Kori-jo is a member of the Ryukyu Koten Afuso-Ryu Ongaku Choichi Kai USA-Hawaii and is part of her club's home-grown band that performs at the Shinnen-Enkai. In July 2023, Kori-Jo co-chaired the Hawai'i Shuri-Naha Club's first golf tournament since 2012. She was also selected to participate in the 2023 HUOA Leadership Tour.

Besides being a passionate community leader, Kori-jo is a mother, partner and an international coordinator for University of Hawai'i's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Office of Medical Education. As a mother she makes sure her 7-year-old son knows about his Okinawan heritage and the values that have been passed down through the generations.


In her career Kori-jo plays a vital role in the Hawai'i-Okinawa Medical Education Fellowship Program, funded by the Okinawa Prefectural Government. Working with the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa, the objective of the program is to "train young doctors on how to become better clinical educators and strengthen the (Hawai'i-Okinawa) relationship."

Mahalo, Kori-jo for extending your aloha from your home, into the community and abroad. 



During the Leadership Tour visit to the Yomitan Yakuba, Kori-Jo unexpectedly reunited with 2 former students from Yomitan Senior High School, her "base" school during JET. You can probably tell from the photo, that the surprise made her cry!

**Ehime Maru Memorial Clean Up**

**IT WAS A COOL AND WINDY SATURDAY** morning on Feb. 3, when about a dozen HUOA Executive Council members went to Kakaako Waterfront Park to clean the Ehime Maru Monument. Kenneth Saiki, director of the Ehime Maru Memorial Association shared the story behind the tragic sinking of the Ehime Maru on Feb. 9, 2001 ([navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2017/02/10/9-killed-in-2001-when-a-u-s-sub-hit-japanese-fishing-ship-remembered/](http://navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2017/02/10/9-killed-in-2001-when-a-u-s-sub-hit-japanese-fishing-ship-remembered/)). 



From left: Dave Arakawa, Brienne Nitahara, Roy Arakaki, Jon Itomura, Clarisse Kobashigawa, Kenneth Saiki, Brandon Nakasone, David Jones, Jodie Ching and Tom Yamamoto.

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continued from front page

Court of Appeals, State of Hawai'i, The Honorable Karen Nakasone and her mother Chieko Nakasone; United Japanese Society of Hawaii, President Dr. Keith Sakuda; Japanese Women's Society Foundation President, Carole Hayashino; U.S.-Japan Council Director of External Relations, Wendy Abe; Pan Pacific Festival Advisory Committee Chair, Christine Kubota; University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Center for Okinawan Studies Executive Director Dr. Masato Ishida; Waipahu Soto Zen Temple Taiyoji, Rev. Ryokei Ishii and his wife Ikuko.

Elegant music flowed from the hands of harpist Dustin Ebesu as guests entered the Legacy Ballroom.

Newly installed vice presidents, Jodie Ching, and David Shinsato emceed the Sports Awards portion of the program. The sports trophy award recipients were: Eric Akamine, HUOA Golf Tournament Grand Champion; Gary Higa and Merl Miyashiro, Senior Flight Champions; Brianne Yamada, Women's Flight Champion; Shinka won the HUOA Inamine Golf Cup; Urasoe Shinjin Kai was named the HUOA Invitational Slow-Pitch Softball League champion team; and Kochinda Chojin Kai were the HUOA Volleyball Champion team.

The 2024 call to celebration started with a resounding ten-tun-ten-ten-ten-tun-ten of 16 sanshin in a makuake (curtain open) or seishou opening with the 2024 HUOA President Brandon Nakasone front and center. He was joined by Shihan Grant "Masanduu" Murata and fellow members of Koten Ryukyu Koten Afuso-Ryu Ongaku Kenkyuu Choichi Kai from Hawaii, Tokyo and Okinawa. Also on stage to complete the ensemble were Ryukyu Sookyoku Koyo Kai Hawaii Shibu (koto), Lynn Miyashiro (fue), and Alison Ebesu (taiko).

The makuake opening included three dance performances: "Kagiyadefu" by Hooge Ryu Hana Nuuzi no Kai Nakasone Dance Academy, "Katami Bushi," by Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Hawaii Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo and "Nuchibana" by Tamagusuku Ryu Kansen Atae no Kai Akiko Tome Ryubu Dojo.

The dance academies also performed in the afternoon entertainment program in addition to Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii, and Azama Honryu Hawaii Shibu (Dazzman Toguchi). Newly installed president Brandon Nakasone performed a smooth reggae rendition of "Warabigami" with Tom Yamamoto and Chikako Murata.

The traditional grand finale Kachaashii which provided by Ryukyu Koten Afuso Ryu Ongaku Kenkyuu Choichi Kai USA-Hawaii: Grant "Masanduu" Murata, Sean Sadaoka, John Hewitt, Tom Yamamoto and Dennis Nishiguchi. Other members of the musical ensemble for the program included June Uyeunten, fue and Alison Ebesu, taiko of Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai Hawaii Shibu; and Lisa Sadaoka, koto of Ryukyo Sokyoku Koyo Kai.



Scan this QR code to view the photo album



Azama Honryu Hawaii Shibu (Dazzman Toguchi) in the afternoon entertainment program.



"Katami Bushi," by Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Hawaii Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo.



The afternoon entertainment program started with Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii.





Brandon front and center playing sanshin in a makuake (curtain open) or seishou opening.




Karen Nakasone, Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals in the State of Hawai'i, installed the 2024 HUOA Officers.



Six-hundred-fifty attendees gathered in the Albert T. and Wallace T. Teruya Pavilion at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

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## 2023 Memorable Moments

By Shirley Fujimoto

Two memorable moments closed out 2023 for Frances Nakachi Kuba who represented Hawaii's Uchinanchu on a national stage and celebrated the successful 21st anniversary of *Cultural Fusion*, a fundraising event at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

### National Spotlight

Frances was among five esteemed Ryukyuan dance masters, or Shihan (the highest level teaching certificate in Okinawa), from San Francisco, Los Angeles, Southern California and Washington, D.C.. Through each master's individual classical performance in *The Heart of Ryukyuan Dance, Capitol to Capitol* on Nov.18, 2023 at Georgetown University, the audience experienced a unique, traditional art form that symbolized the rich history of the Ryukyu Dynasty. Authentic bingata kimonos and dynamic props elevated the entire experience.

As an added surprise, they also collaborated on an original dance number that was set to blues music composed by a D.C. recording artist, Charles "Shorty Corleone" Garriss, especially for this event. According to Frances, choreographing Okinawan dance to the song, *Family Affairs*, was a new and exciting venture!

This event presented an opportunity for Okinawans on the continent to not only embrace and re-connect with authentic Okinawan culture, but also establish new connections with Okinawans across the nation.

### Cultural Fusion Fundraiser

The 21st annual *Cultural Fusion* Fundraiser on Dec. 2, 2023, was also a moment of pride for Frances as scholarship beneficiaries attained notable achievement awards. The annual fundraiser supports students participating in the Konkuru program in Okinawa, which is an international test.

**Kyoshi Menkyo**, teaching certificates, were awarded to Eric Kobayashi (Kin Chojin Kai) and Mina Tamashiro (Haneji Club).

**Shinjin Sho**, Newcomer's Awards, were received by Rena Tomlinson (Tomigusuku/Shinka/WUB) and Kim Yamamoto (Tomigusuku/Shinka).

The teaching certificates present the recipients with the prospect of opening their own schools to perpetuate Okinawan dance culture, and the Newcomer Awards encourages awardees to pursue advanced certification through sequential progression of dedicated training. Frances explained that Konkuru, the journey to cultural awareness through dance, is an arduous training program composed of certification testing phases every two years which contribute to a comprehensive seven-year training process before students can aspire to the teaching certificate.

"Integral to Okinawan dance and Konkuru training are cultural values and etiquette. Our focus extends beyond the dance floor, emphasizing self-discipline, mutual respect and the significance of collaboration," she said.

In Okinawa, students undergo three weeks of intensive training before the certification tests. Konkuru is sponsored by the Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times newspapers and students are judged by a panel of experts to ensure that dance is authentic and held to the highest standards.



Brandon Ufugusuku Ing singing original songs in Okinawan language.

## "Da Okinawan Hammah" Stay Nailing It! — Brandon Ufugusuku Ing's Projects Promote Okinawan Language

By Lee A. Tonouchi

**"DA OKINAWAN HAMMAH"** get one skill that not too many people get. Uchinaaguchi, da Okinawan language stay dying out and Hawai'i-born yonsei Brandon Ufugusuku Ing stay doing everything in his powah for try help save 'em. Whether it's teaching *Uchinaaguchi* classes on Zoom, creating eju-ma-cational animated *Uchinaaguchi* music videos for childrens, making avant-garde *Uchinaaguchi* movies for film festivals, or just rocking out to his own original *Uchinaaguchi* songs, Braddah Brandon, one Castle High School 2001 grad, does it all in da hope of revitalizing his [well, our, cuz I *Uchinaanchu* too] ancestral language.

[Note: Normally when I transcribe da Okinawan words I put da macron ova da vowels with da elongated sounds, but Brandon's preference is fo use da double vowel way, so das why we doing 'em da double vowel way for his interview.]

\*\*\*\*\*

Wanee Tonouchi Lee yaiibin. Hawai nu Uchinaa yonshee yaiibin.

Yutasarugutu unigee sabira.

Unigee sabira. Wannin yonshee yaiibin doo. Chuu ya majun yuntaku gwaa sshi kwimisoochi ippee niffee deebiru.

Since I stay talking to "Da Okinawan Hammah," I figgah we gotta buss out at least some Uchinaaguchi, right? You can translate what we wen just tell?

Okay, so you said your name and you said you're fourth generation Okinawan from Hawai'i. And then for the second part, there's no direct English translation, but it's kind of like requesting good things for our time together. And so I kind of replied that I'm also fourth generation, thank you for having me and having this little chat.

Sorry, but das about all da Uchinaaguchi I know. I like ask...

(Interrupting.) Since this is for *Discover Nikkei*, I'm just wondering if I'm going to get a chance to talk about the term "Nikkei."

continued on page 10



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continued from page 9

**No worry, beef curry. We get to that. For now go start by saying who you most grateful to in helping you on your journey in coming such one strong Okinawan language advocate.**

I'm grateful to my grandparents Seishun and Fumie Oshiro for making me play *paarankuu* drums and having me do Okinawan dance when I was a kid. My grandparents, they're the ones that really raised me with that *Uchinaanchu* [Okinawan] identity.



Brandon with his Grandparents Seishun and Fumie Oshiro in Pearl City, Hawaii.

**Lotta people tink da Okinawan language stay just one dialect of Japanese, but you can try explain how das incorrect and how come you tink people tink that?**

The Okinawan language and the Japanese language, linguistically they are less similar than Portuguese is to Spanish, also less similar than German is to English. And I think a lot of people think it's a dialect, because a lot of people in Okinawa, they refer to *Uchinaaguchi* as "*hogen*." And "*hogen*" is a Japanese word that translates to dialect. So I think that could be a big part of it.

This is something that stems from the forced assimilation that happened when Japan took over Okinawa and it became a prefect of Japan in the late 1800's. They had these campaigns, you know, to wipe out the language.

What they did was in elementary schools they hit the kids with these punishments for speaking their own language, their own native ancestral language. They would have to wear this big heavy wooden placard that said something like, "I spoke *hogen*." So they would get ridiculed by their own teachers telling them that their language was inferior and nothing more than a dialect.

**You said you fourth generation, so das means you nevah grow up in Hawai'i speaking *Uchinaaguchi*, right? So how you wen learn?**

Honestly, I didn't even know there was an Okinawan language until I was an adult. I grew up with the identity of being *Uchinaanchu*, like I knew that word, but I didn't even know that that word itself comes from the language.

When I got to college I started learning *sanshin*, which is the Okinawan three-string lute, under Norman Kaneshiro in his class at UH [The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa]. And that was really when I kind of realized that there's a language, a separate language that's not Japanese.

In 2009, when I had the opportunity to go live in Okinawa and further my studies in Okinawan performing arts, one of the extracurricular activities I did was I took an *Uchinaaguchi* class for residents of the city of Naha. And that's where I guess my journey began.

The class was taught in Japanese because everybody else in that class was a Japanese speaker. So I really didn't get a whole lot out of that class except for how to introduce myself and I also learned that my mother's maiden name Oshiro, how it would be said in the old Okinawan way would be *Ufugusuku*.

**I still no understand how you wen learn *Uchinaaguchi*, cuz so far seem like you nevah learn much.**

After my study program finished, I stayed in Okinawa teaching English. I thought that when I started working at public elementary schools, the older teachers or older staff members would surely know *Uchinaaguchi* and would be able to teach me, but that was not the case. A lot of them would say that they could understand it, but they couldn't speak it, or they couldn't speak it well enough to teach me anything. Yeah, so that's when it really kind of hit me that our language was endangered.

And it forced me to look for other ways to learn *Uchinaaguchi*.

I sought out classes in the community, which at that time there were not a lot. But I also bought a lot of books that had recordings with them to try and learn *Uchinaaguchi*.

And then my journey continued when I met my wife Carolina Higa who's actually born and raised in Argentina but was living in Okinawa at the time and we got married. Then I ended up spending some time in Argentina with my in-laws, Shohachiro and Teresa Higa.

A lot of the older generation there, Okinawans in their 60's and 70's, they can still speak *Uchinaaguchi* because at the time that they immigrated there was no forced assimilation, so a lot of them held on to their language. And because of my wife's family I was able to learn quite a bit more from them.

**Brah, I hear some people call you "Da Okinawan Hammah." You like try explain what your nickname means?**

So that word "Hammah" is a relatively new Pidgin word. A "Hammah" is like how we might say, "Oh, that guy's da man!" It's just someone who has the abil-

ities. It could be intellectual abilities or it could be physical abilities. So I guess "Da Okinawan Hammah" would be someone who knows a lot about Okinawan culture. And in my case, I'm fortunate to have learned quite a bit about our language.

**When in your life did you decide you wuz going make 'em your life's mission for promote *Uchinaaguchi*?**

I remember when I lived in Okinawa, this was maybe a little over ten years ago, I remember telling people that you know my dream would be to one day be able to teach *Uchinaaguchi* to people back in Hawai'i because at that time I was working in elementary schools in Okinawa and if I tried to say some simple Okinawan words to my Okinawan students, a lot of them didn't even know what those basic words meant.

So that inspired me to create some songs to use in our English class at school. They were songs mostly sung in English, but the songs would explain simple *Uchinaaguchi* phrases and words. That's kind of I guess the starting point because I eventually started making more songs in that style. If anyone wants to listen, those Let's Sing *Uchinaaguchi* songs are available on YouTube.

**For your 2016 CD *Tiichi*, I love how da music stay all modern and da lyrics stay all in *Uchinaaguchi*. I know you can play both *sanshin* and guitar, so I curious how come you mostly use guitar on your album?**

I'll try to throw in some *sanshin* here and there, but I guess you could say I use more Western instruments because I'm trying to reach a broader audience. So even if people don't know the Okinawan words, hopefully they find the tune a little bit catchy. Even if people don't know the language, at least it might start a conversation because a lot of people don't even realize there is an Okinawan language. And they might even repeat some of the words or maybe even look up some of the words online.



Brandon playing *sanshin* with his Grandpa, Seishun Oshiro.

**I wuz at Ukwanshin Kabudan's Loochoo Identity Summit on O'ahu dis past summah and you told one story about how one reporter from Okinawa said YOU no can be *Uchinaanchu*, Brandon! Wassup, wassup?**

This reporter was interviewing me for a short film that some friends [Jesse Shiroma, Derek Fujio, Aiko Yamashiro, Yukie Shiroma, Carolina Higa, Joseph Kamiya, Hanale Bishop, Norman Kaneshiro] and I made called *Chijuyaa*. It was just like a short music / poetry / dance video we made for the virtual Okinawan Festival. After putting it together, I thought we gotta apply for some film festivals, we can't just put it on YouTube. And then it got picked up by a film festival in LA and then also one in Oregon.

So this journalist, she came to Hawai'i from Okinawa. I had seen other interviews published in Okinawan newspapers before and I noticed that in those, articles written about *Uchinaanchu* living outside of Okinawa, they're always identified as Okinawa *Kenkei*. So I brought this up with her and I said could you please identify me as *Uchinaanchu* or *Uchinaanchu* from Hawai'i.

I told her, it's because when you say "*Kenkei*," to me, there's really no connection to the culture or the history or ancestry, because Okinawa *Ken* or Okinawa Prefecture is something that was created by the Japanese government and that's the government that tried to wipe out our culture, our language, and our history.

And what she said kind of shocked me, and she wasn't trying to be mean at all. She was a younger person, she herself *Uchinaanchu* and she told me that when she thinks of the word *Uchinaanchu*, she just thinks of someone born and raised in Okinawa. To her, that was an *Uchinaanchu*.

It didn't really sink in when I told her that as *Uchinaanchu* from outside of Okinawa, we grew up calling ourselves *Uchinaanchu*, that's our identity, so that's what we want to be called. She just said, "Oh, that's interesting. We have different viewpoints." So of course when the article got published, it came out as Okinawa *Kenkei*.

**Did that make you cry?**

Small kine.

**Now your chance Brandon. Now you can talk about how come you not particularly fond of da term "Nikkei."**

"Nikkei" is a word I had never heard growing up. Basically "Nikkei" means you're Japanese. And for myself and I think a lot of *Uchinaanchu* in Hawai'i have this similar experience, but we go almost our whole lives trying to tell people that we're Okinawan or you know in my case, Okinawan and Chinese. Nobody argues with the Chinese part but they would always say, "Okinawan? Oh that's like Japanese, right? Same thing." So you spend your life defending your identity, telling people you're not Japanese. So to call myself *Nikkei*, to me, it doesn't fit.

From what I understand the word "Nikkei," it was invented to differentiate Japanese people not from Japan from the Japanese people that are in Japan. It's a word that separates.

So the thing about being able to call ourselves *Uchinaanchu*, it unifies. It's like we're saying Okinawans, we're the same. Whether you're born in Okinawa, whether you're outside of Okinawa, whether you're anywhere in the world, we can all use the same word, *Uchinaanchu* to identify ourselves. So to me, that's the beauty of that word.

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All photos are courtesy of Brandon Ufugusuku Ing. 🍻



Brandon (right) performing with Naomi Arashiro at the Okinawan Prefectural University of Arts.



Brandon with his wife's family in Argentina. Back Row: Carolina Higa (Wife), Brandon, Veronica Higa (Sister-in-law), Shohachiro Higa (Father-in-law), Teresa Higa (Mother-in-law). Front Row: Aimee Ing (Daughter)



# Mensore WELCOME!

## Vice Governor Ikeda Visits With HUOA and Lt. Gov. Luke *By Jodie Chieming*

On Monday, Jan. 29, the Okinawa Prefectural Vice Gov. Takekuni Ikeda and his delegation visited with a few of HUOA's executive members including President Brandon Nakasone, President-Elect Frances Nakachi Kuba, Immediate Past-President Clarisse Kobashigawa, Vice President Jodie Ching, Dave Arakawa (advisor) and HUOA Executive Director Jon Itomura.

Vice Gov. Ikeda said it was his first visit to Hawai'i and shared his purpose for visiting our island state. Besides connecting with HUOA, his plans included a visit to Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke's office at the Hawai'i State Capitol and to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Hawai'i and Okinawa being similar as island state and prefecture, there are many ways to share ideas and solve similar challenges.

Members from the Vice Governor Ikeda's delegation included: Shinichiro Miyara, secretary to the vice governor; Motohiro Nagamine, Mitsuhiro Machida and Manabu Shibata from the Okinawa Prefectural Government Military Base Affairs Division; and Katsuya Tamaki, deputy director of OPG, Washington, D.C. Office.



Vice Gov. Takekuni Ikeda with Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke and the Okinawa Prefectural Government delegation at the Hawai'i State Capitol.



Final group photo before their return to the cruise ship

## Peace Boat Visitors Share Food and Culture at HOC *By Shirley Fujimoto*

Volunteers and staff at the Hawaii Okinawa Center welcomed forty passengers from Japan's Peace Boat on December 26 with both groups sharing cultural experiences and a local style lunch.

Akane Sumitomo, a passenger from Okinawa, performed a dance number, Dynamic Ryukyu, following Tom Yamamoto's Hawaiian performance of ukulele, song, and hula. Tom's talent added to his contributions to HUOA as a current Advisor to the Board of Directors and former President in 2016.

Jon Itomura, HUOA Executive Director, also exhibited his talent as a video producer with his showing of the "Pigs from the Sea" video which gripped the attention of the visitors with a historical documentary of how Hawaii's Okinawans reached out to help uplift the Okinawans who suffered so much devastation after WWII.

Jon also showed off his andagi-making skills with assistance from Patrick Miyashiro who offered his recipe. Pat, HUOA President in 2022, possesses a great special talent as well.

The Peace Boat, established in 1983, visits Hawaii several times a year on its worldwide journeys as part of its mission to promote peace, human rights, and sustainability beyond political borders.



Peace Boat visitors dancing to the kachaashii



# CLUB NEWS

*Our Clubs, Our Future*

## Hui O Laulima *By Marcie Moribe*

*Ii soogwachi debiru*, Happy New Year from Hui O Laulima! We started off our year with a Miso Making Workshop on January 13th, attended by around 20 members. The instructors, Chikako Nago and Chie Wachi, gave a presentation on the benefits of fermented foods and miso, then taught us how to make our own miso using chickpeas and koji to start the fermentation process. It was a fun activity, and our miso will be ready to eat in 3 months!

We had a great turnout of Hui O Laulima members at the HUOA Installation Banquet. Our 2023 Uchinanchu of the Year, Connie Chun, is a beloved and hard-working club member who has co-chaired the Bunkwa Nu Shima Okinawan Cultural Village at the Okinawan Festival for the past 7 years. She also continues to help with organizing our annual Garage Sale. She is passionate about sharing Okinawan Culture and Uchinaaguchi and encourages everyone to learn more and make a difference, she is truly inspiring! Two other Hui O Laulima members were honored by their clubs – Jeannene Oshiro (Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai) and Dawn Sugikawa (Yonashiro Chojin Kai), congratulations to the Uchinanchu of the Year!



Koji Miso Making

## Ozato Doshi Kai

**SHINNEN ENKAI 2024**

Date: 3/10/24, Sunday

Location: Masa's Cafeteria

Time: 11:00am

**CLUB PICNIC**

Date: 7/20/2024, Saturday

Location: NAVFAC Pavillion, 4025 Salt Lake Blvd.

Time: 10:00am

Dennis Arakaki, President, PRO-TEM, 808 271-0947



## Ginowan Shjinkai



*By Ellen Higa*

Ginowan Club along with Ginoza, Gushichan, and Gushikawa spearheaded the Winter Craft Fair held on the Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving, 2023.



Have a great 2024 from the officers and board of Ginowan Shjinkai

Ginowan was in charge of the finance, hospitality/registration and manpower committees. Thank you to Alan Kuniyama and Alden Miyashiro and their gang who took care of the finance portion of the event. Special thanks to Wilma Ogimi and her crew who in hospitality kept all the volunteers well fed with delicious meals and snacks and well hydrated, too. President Joy Schoonover did a great job in coordinating the manpower needed for various areas of the fair. Ginowan also had other members who helped with andagi mixing, food sales and with setting up and breaking down of the tents and facilities. About 40 members came out to help.

December 6, was the Evening in Waipio Craft Fair. Approximately 15 Ginowan members volunteered to cook andagi for this HUOA sponsored event. The club ended 2023 actively involved in HUOA events.

In February, 2024 the Ginowan Board got off to a good start with new and long-time members attending the meeting and sharing in a delicious bento dinner. They discussed ideas and goals and activities for the coming year.

The annual Ginowan Shinnen enkai was held on February 25, 2024, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Two hundred members and guests shared in this day of fun and fellowship. Be on the lookout for more on this annual event. Save the Date: Annual Picnic, July 21, 2024. Ala Moana Park.



# Okinawa High School Students' Culture and Performing Arts Exchange Program in Hawaii

Sixteen Okinawa High School students, accompanied by teachers, visited Hawaii from January 21 to February 2. Each student was hand-picked from across Okinawa to participate in this program, organized by the Okinawa Prefectural Government Board of Education. The mission of this program is to foster relationships and exchange education related to culture and performance skills for Okinawan high school students.



During their performance at the Imin Center, UH East-West Center

During their stay, the group visited Lanakila Senior Center, Fern, and Lanakila Elementary Schools, had a dress rehearsal at Jikoen Hongwanji, and performed at Ala Moana Center Stage. Many HUOA and local Okinawan community members had the chance to witness their beautiful voices and dances at their presentation at the East-West Center's Imin Center, and finally at the Aloha Party at Pagoda.

The students were very excited to be in Hawaii and had been practicing their English. They announced their performance numbers with confidence, and enthusiasm.

Ippee Nifee Deebiru to John Teruya, general manager of Pagoda, and to the families that opened their houses to host them for a weekend: Dennis and Michi Arakaki, Robin Matsukawa and Cheryl Nakamura, Jon and Darlene Itomura, Chase, Brian and Divina Takenaka, Haruko and Dan Kessler, Stella Tamashiro and Bill Speed, and Kristi and Jarrod Oda.



Himeyuri workshop attendees and facilitators. Photo courtesy of Naomi Tamashiro

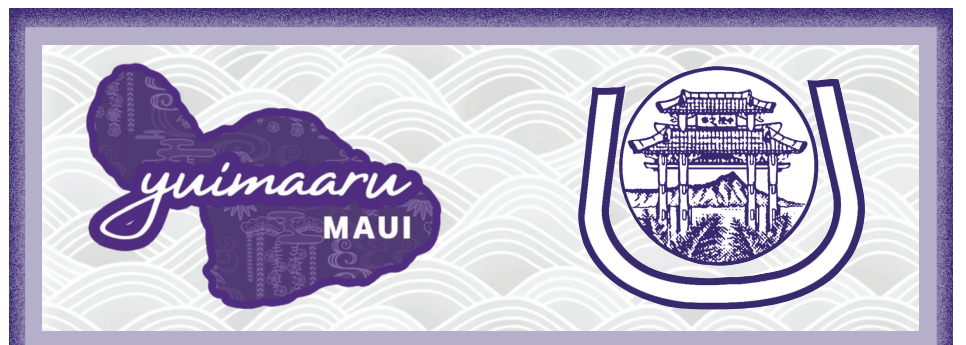
## The Himeyuri Student Corps of Okinawa By Byrnes Yamashita

On January 12, 2024, the Himeyuri Peace Research Center presented a workshop on the Battle of Okinawa and the Himeyuri Student Corps at the UH West Oahu's James & Abigail Campbell Library.

Ms. Noriko Koga, a curator at the Himeyuri Peace Museum presented the workshop with assistance by Dr. Masato Ishida of the Center for Okinawan Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Ms. Naomi Tamashiro. It was based on a similar program taught in Okinawa to high school students. Much of the information is in the Special Exhibition, "Himeyuri and Hawaii" which was displayed at the Okinawan Festival in September 2023.


It was an interactive presentation with small group breakout sessions to discuss photographs and artwork depicting the Battle of Okinawa and the experiences of the young student nurses that were conscripted by the Japanese Army. 136 of the 240 Himeyuri students mobilized died during the battle. The remaining 104 survivors vowed to keep the memories of their sister students alive by building and supporting the museum.

One of the strong connections between the museum and Hawaii is that the land was donated by Mr. Harry Shinichi Gima, a Hawaii-born Nisei who was an engineer for the U.S. military on Okinawa in the 1950s. He solicited donations to purchase 6,600 square meters around the cave where many of the student nurses perished and paid for a wall around the site. The Himeyuri Alumni Association later built a memorial to Mr. Gima in gratitude for his generosity.



### Contributions from November 1 to December 31, 2023


- |   |                                  |   |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Anonymous (4)                               | Kelly Higa                       | Loretta & Wilfred Miyashiro                 |
| Laura Ajimine & Gary Jitchaku               | Eleanor Hu                       | Judith Morikami                             |
| All Japan Dockworker's Union Okinawa Branch | Hui O Laulima                    | Jane Nishihara                              |
| Bertha & Dave Arakawa                       | Hui Alu, Inc.                    | Okinawa Association of Corporate Executives |
| Thelma Arakawa                              | Jo Ige                           | C. N. & R. T. Omine                         |
| Kate & Dick Ardona                          | Tsutomu Iha                      | Gail Tamashiro                              |
| Aza Oroku Zaisan Kanri Uneikai              | Susan Imai                       | Valerie Teruya                              |
| Aza Tabaru Zaisan Kanri Uneikai             | The Family of Kamado & Kama Isa  | Judith Tibayan                              |
| Lynn Bourgeois                              | Inez Kaneshiro                   | Cynthia Uza                                 |
| Connie & Joe Chun                           | Mildred Tina & Leonard Kaneshiro | Ann Wong                                    |
| Gwen Fujie                                  | Kenneth Kiyabu                   | Celeste Yamaguchi                           |
| Kohan Gushiken                              | Bobbi & Ed Kuba                  | Jeanie & Maurice Yamasato                   |
| June Hasegawa                               | Gerri Maeda                      | Nancy Yeda                                  |
| Amy Y. Higa                                 | Nancy Minuth                     | Jane S. Yoshida                             |
|   | Annette Miyashiro                | Karen Yoshimoto                             |



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## 52nd Annual Hawaii Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 25, 2024 & Sunday, May 26, 2024  
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 26, 2024 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.

*\*Anyone not Uchinan chu (of Okinawan decent) and/or affiliated with an HUOA club will be placed into the Guest Flight; Guest Flight not eligible for Tournament Champion.*

**Entry Deadline: First 120 players or May 10, 2024, whichever comes first.**

**For more information, please call Neal Takara: (808)291-9672 or HUOA: (808)676-5400**

### 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hawaii Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament

#### ENTRY FORM

Complete and mail this form so we receive your entry no later than **May 10, 2024**. Entry fees must accompany this form or it will be rejected. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to verify and adjust handicaps and/or flights, or to accept or reject entries. **Please print all information. Mahalo.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap as of 5/1/24 \_\_\_\_\_

Your HUOA Club: \_\_\_\_\_ OR are you a Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Golf Club Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU ARE 65 YEARS OR OLDER, 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 AND/OR FLIGHT\*\*\***

#### GROUP REQUEST

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Entry Fee - \$160

\_\_\_\_\_ Super Seniors Entry Fee - \$80

\_\_\_\_\_ Add'l Banquet Tickets - \$25 each ( \_\_\_\_\_ tickets)

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed (checks payable to HUOA)

*Mahalo! Ippee Nifee Deebiru!*

**MAIL ENTRY FORM  
BY MAY 10, 2024:**

**HUOA-Golf  
94-587 Ukee Street  
Waipahu, HI 96797-4214**





## Ryukyu Geinou Hounou Dan

On Sunday, April 7, 2024, at the Hawaii Okinawan Center, a concert unprecedented in Hawaii will occur. Ryukyu Geinou Hounou Dan will be presenting their dance and music for the first time in our islands. While Hawaii has been fortunate to host artists from Okinawa with a high level of talent, this group is particularly special because of the unique blend of performers from different styles and schools who will be gracing our stage in one show.

This group is the brain-child of Irei Sueko Sensei, from the Azama Honryu school of dance. With the support of Azama Akemi Iemoto, the head of Azama Honryu, Irei Sensei has fostered this group since 2009, and they have performed throughout Japan, from Hokkaido to Okinawa, as well as traveled to other parts of Asia to share their message of peace and hope through Okinawan performing arts. I and Dazzman Toguchi were extremely lucky to perform with Hounou Dan in 2015, when the group went to Asahikawa, Hokkaido, and Mount Koya in Wakayama for the 1200th anniversary of its founding.

This year, members of the group include Japan National Living Treasure Shida Fusako, artist extraordinaire Tamagusuku Setsuko, and Azama Honryu Iemoto Azama Akemi. Members of Hawaii's Azama Honryu will also perform, and we look forward to this once in a lifetime event and experience. For more information, please contact Allison Yanagi by phone at 808-295-3828 or via email, atyanagi@yahoo.com.

Photo from Ryukyu Shimpo

## Yeisaa nu Chimu-Don-Don

Join the Japanese American National Museum's Discover Nikkei project for **Yeisaa nu Chimu-Don-Don: Exploring Cultural Identity through Okinawan Drumming** on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 1 p.m. HST.

Eisa is a traditional Okinawan folk dance and musical performance that honors the spirit of the ancestors. As Okinawans migrated and settled all over the world, their music and dance traditions traveled with them.

Hear from members of contemporary eisa groups as they discuss how eisa connects them to their cultural heritage and identity. An interactive beginners tutorial and opportunity to talk with them will follow the program.

- Lisa Tamashiro Maumalanga of Chinagu Eisa Hawaii (Honolulu, HI)
- Rentaro Suzuki of Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Los Angeles Branch (Los Angeles, CA)
- John Azama of Ryukyu Damashii (Dallas, TX)
- Cecilia Nue of Seiryu Eisa Kai (Lima, Peru)
- Toshiyuki Yamauchi of Yuriki no Kizuna Eisá Daiko (São Paulo, Brazil)

**Register by Friday, March 8 at 8 a.m. HST.**

*This program will be presented via Zoom with translation in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. Registration is required and limited space is available.*

*Community Partners: Hawaii United Okinawa Association, Peru Okinawa Association, Okinawan Association of America, Inc. Supported by The Nippon Foundation.*



**YEISAA NU CHIMU-DON-DON**  
EXPLORING CULTURAL IDENTITY THROUGH OKINAWAN DRUMMING



# Let's Plan Our Future!

**Help us with our strategic plan to promote, perpetuate, and preserve the Uchinanchu Spirit in Hawai'i for generations to come.**

HUOA is embarking on a strategic planning process to celebrate our history and envision HUOA's future together.

Please take this short survey and encourage others you know or interact with at Club Events and Shinnen Enkai to provide their feedback. The more people we hear from, the stronger our Plan will be!



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

Respondents will be entered to win \$50 in Okinawan Festival script.



# HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER CALENDAR

**Important notes for our March-April calendar entries:**

- Until further notice, EC and BOD meetings will be conducted on Zoom only.
- Subject to Change (entries as of 2/5/2024)

**March 2024**

- 6 Okinawan Festival Core meeting, Hybrid-HOC Chaya, 7pm
- 8 Executive Council meeting, Zoom, 7pm
- 22 Board of Directors meeting, Zoom, 7pm
- 27 Okinawan Festival General meeting, Hybrid-HOC Legacy I, 7pm

**April 2024**

- 3 Okinawan Festival Core meeting, Hybrid-HOC Chaya, 7pm
- 14 Executive Council meeting, Zoom, 7pm
- 24 Okinawan Festival General meeting, Hybrid-HOC Legacy I, 7pm

**Classes • Other Meetings:**

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

For more information, please call 808-676-5400 or email info@huoa.org

# '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. No Hawaii Okinawa Today (HOT) show is aired on the fifth Thursday of a month.



huoa.org/watch-and-listen

All 'Olelo shows are concurrently streamed 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. The HUOA website www.huoa.org also has links to the site.

**MAR 2 SAT 7PM AND MAR 7 & 14 THURS 5PM** Show 1 of the 74th Uchinanchu of the Year and Installation Celebration held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on January 20, 2024. The event included the installation of the 2024 HUOA president and executive council, Uchinanchu of the Year Recognition, Sports Awards, and entertainment by local Okinawan cultural groups.

**MAR 16 SAT 7PM AND MAR 21 & 28 AND APR 4 THURS 5PM** Show 2 of the 74th Uchinanchu of the Year and Installation Celebration held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on January 20, 2024. The event included the installation of the 2024 HUOA president and executive council, Uchinanchu of the Year Recognition, Sports Awards, and entertainment by local Okinawan cultural groups.

**APR 6 SAT 7PM AND APR 11 & 18 THURS 5PM** Show 5 of the 41st Okinawan Festival held on September 2 & 3, 2023 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Featured in this show are the sanshin playing of Ryukyu Koten Afuso Ryu Ongaku Kenkyuu Choichi Kai Hawaii and Okinawan music and dancing presented by the Shoshin Dance Company.

**APR 20 SAT 7PM AND APR 25 AND MAY 2 THURS 5PM** Show 6 of the 41st Okinawan Festival held on September 2 & 3, 2023 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Featured in this show are ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro, and Okinawan dancing of Jimpu Kai USA Kin Ryosho Ryukyu Geino Kenkyusho Hawaii Shibu.



**Pomaikai Shishido (RA)**  
RS 79476  
Tel. (808) 384-5727  
pomaikaishishido@gmail.com



**Spencer Shishido (R)**  
RB-23932 (Broker-in-Charge)  
Tel. (808) 371-5480  
spencer.shishido@gmail.com

**FOR RENT:**

**820 EKELA AVENUE:** 2-bdrm./1-bath/1-parking unit in Kapahulu, includes refrigerator and range/oven. Includes water, tenant pays for electricity. Community laundry available (coin-operated). \$1,525/month.

**FOR SALE:**

**46-283 KAHUHIPA STREET, A-314,** Kaneohe (Haiku Hale), 3-bdrms./2-baths/1-parking, swimming pool, children's playground. Recently renovated. \$508,000 (FS) MLS 202325617

Coming soon . . . Kahala Towers, 2-bdrm./2-baths, 1-parking, across from Kahala Mall. Call agents for more information.

## SAVE THE DATE GARAGE SALE

**Hui O Laulima's Annual Garage Sale at Jikoen Hongwanji**

**Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 7am to Noon.**

**To donate goods, please contact Sharon via phone/text (808)389-8446 or Connie (808)781-9658.**

**Today's Forecast**



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**Email:** rjuehara@gmail.com



\* Call us for details



HOT OFF THE PRESS!

# UCHINANCHU 2023



**Uchinanchu 2023**  
ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

2023 Aisatsu Trip

Mid-way through Hawaii's 100th anniversary, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) is proud to announce the 2023 Aisatsu Trip. This year's trip is a special one, as it marks the 100th anniversary of the Okinawa Islands being returned to Japan. The trip is a great opportunity for our members and families to visit Okinawa, Japan, and see the sights, sounds, and smells of the island. The trip is a great opportunity for our members and families to visit Okinawa, Japan, and see the sights, sounds, and smells of the island. The trip is a great opportunity for our members and families to visit Okinawa, Japan, and see the sights, sounds, and smells of the island.

**ORDER NOW**

\$10 per book + \$5 shipping and handling. Send a check to HUOA (memo: "Annual 2023")

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

OKINAWAN EMIGRANTS' DESCENDANT AND ASIAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

# KEMPI 2024

September 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025



**APPLY BY MARCH 13**



scholarships

[INFO@HUOA.ORG](mailto:INFO@HUOA.ORG)

## REQUIREMENTS

- Have Okinawan ancestry
- Have 12 years of school education
- Be under 35 years old as of April 1, 2024
- Have some knowledge of Japanese language
- Have a guarantor living in Okinawa

**ATTENTION PLEASE!**  
change of date

# Senior Health Fitness Fair

May 3, 2024

Sponsored by: **GENERATIONS MAGAZINE**



# HONOLULU FESTIVAL PARADE

SUNDAY  
MARCH 10, 2024

Fort DeRussey (Saratoga & Kalakaua)  
ASSEMBLY AND MARCH TIME: TBA

WHAT TO WEAR: BLACK PANTS OR BLACK BERMUDA SHORTS, ANY HUOA OR CLUB SHIRT & COMFORTABLE WALKING SHOES UCHIKAKE (VEST) & PURPLE SASH WILL BE PASSED OUT ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS

## LOOKING FOR BANNER HOLDERS AND PARADE MARCHERS

If you are interested in participating, please email: [Kim.yamamoto9@gmail.com](mailto:Kim.yamamoto9@gmail.com) or [Caro.h@huoa.org](mailto:Caro.h@huoa.org) by Friday, March 1

