



UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program

By Tom Yamamoto

Haisai and Aloha! Throughout the months of February through June, students and their families involved in Phase I and II of the Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program (HOSEP) have been busy hosting students and are now preparing for their two-week trip to Okinawa.

On February 11, fifteen students and their adult leaders from Okinawa arrived in Hawaii for their two-week homestay with families eager and excited to host them. As they shadowed the Hawaii students at their respective public and private high schools, the Okinawan students quickly engaged themselves in the different learning environment, traditions, and routines that make up the culture of the school. Deputy Superintendent Misayo Yamada, Coordinator Jacques Madsen and Teacher Ayano Arakaki led the students on courtesy visits to the capitol, City Hall and to the Department of Education to express their gratitude on behalf of the Okinawa Board of Education for supporting the HOSEP for so many years. In the blink of an eye, the two-weeks came to an end as the exchange culminated with a celebration at the Aloha Party. Tears were shed as students received their certificates, performed traditional dances, and said their 'goodbyes' and 'mahalos' to their host families. But knowing that they would see each other again in June, our Hawaii and Okinawa students had something to look forward to.



Phase II is under way. Our first orientation meeting was held on Saturday 3/30 with fourteen of our Hawaii students, who will be staying at the homes of the students that they hosted. The students represent Leilehua, Mililani, Moanalua, Kalani, Le Jardin Academy, and UH Lab Schools. The Okinawan students attend the following schools: Nago, Kyuyo, Futenma, Urasoe, Naha Kokusai, Shuri, Oroku, Koyo, Chinen, Showayakka, Okinawa Shogaku, Itoman high schools. Aside from attending school, our students will be going on three field trips. To gain some knowledge about the history of the Ryukyuan Kingdom, the Hawaii group will visit some of the castle ruins including Katsuren Castle, where a famous modern

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President's Message

By Brandon Nakasone

Haisai Gusuyo! I hope that the Year of the Dragon has brought you good luck, great health, and prosperity thus far. It's been a whirlwind of a year with all the wonderful events happening. Shinnen Kai season is winding down, and my waistline is very grateful for that. I've lost count of how many parties I attended, but I had an awesome time celebrating the New Year with old friends and many new ones. Thank you very much to all the clubs who extended invitations to attend their shinnenkai. I wish I could have attended all of them, but I'm glad that our amazing leaders, President-Elect Frances Kuba and Vice Presidents Jodie Ching, David Shinsato, Jessica Yamamoto, and Kim Yamamoto were able to represent the HUOA at the parties that I couldn't attend. There's no question that *Uchinanchu* know how to party!!

In February, we welcomed students from Okinawa who participated in the Hawaii Okinawa Student Exchange Program (HOSEP). Mahalo to Executive Director Jon Itomura, Education Committee Chair Tom Yamamoto, host families, and the countless volunteers who created a wonderful experience for the Okinawa students. It's programs like HOSEP that create life-changing experiences for our future generations that will perpetuate the strong ties between Hawaii and Okinawa.

In March, we shared our *Uchinanchu* culture at the Honolulu Festival with lively *sanshin* music, *paranku* drums, vibrant outfits, and colorful banners representing the 50 clubs. Thank you to all the volunteers who joined us in Waikiki to help celebrate. Frances Kuba and I were overwhelmed with pride and gratitude when we turned around and saw our HOUA Ohana proudly marching down Kalakaua Avenue behind us. What an amazing feeling it is to be a part of our Okinawan community! I'm looking forward to celebrating with you at our upcoming events. *Ippee nifee deebiru. Hwīkarasanaya!* Let's shine together! 🌟

UCHINANCHU

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

HUOA President Brandon Nakasone
 Executive Director Jon Itomura
 Editor Caro Higa
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Uchinanchu reaches over 8,000 households. For advertising rates and more information visit www.huoa.org, contact us at info@huoa.org, or 676-5400.

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Production costs for Uchinanchu have escalated due to increases in circulation, labeling expenses and postage. Your contribution to help defray some of the expenses is greatly appreciated.

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2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The year at a glance!

- May 3 Senior Health & Wellness Fair
- 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 21 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 for more information.

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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 January 1 to February 29, 2024

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Monday Crafters

Monday Crafters proudly display some of the placemats and bottle covers of their creation. These will be taken to Okinawa by Executive Director Jon Itomura, President Brandon Nakasone, and President-elect Frances Kuba on their aisatsu trip as omiyage.

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 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.



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



UJSH Shinnen Enkai

The United Japanese Society of Hawaii (UJSH) celebrated its 65th Annual Shinnen Enkai on January 6, honoring Aaron Muraki as the 2023 Young Achiever for his contributions to the community. Aaron, a dedicated member of Shinka, has been actively involved in various events and served in leadership roles. He played a crucial role in navigating Shinka through the pandemic and contributed to planning events such as "Karii - Sunset Pau Hana" in 2022. Additionally, he has been involved in the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce and currently serves as its president.

Other awardees included Kristin Alm, Jenna Nakagawa, Seri Nakamura, Tierra Nakamura, and Trisha Tanaka-Mantua. The event also recognized the Honorable David Yutaka Ige, former Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, former State Senator, and Mr. Akemi Kurokawa, former President, Urasenke Tankokai Hawaii, for their Imperial Decorations from the Government of Japan in 2023.

Proceeds from the event's silent auction supported Maui's Ganbare Fund to aid in the recovery and preservation of Maui's Japanese culture and community.

Pan Pacific Festival Parade

Sunday, June 9
Saratoga & Kalakaua

looking for banner holders and parade marchers

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

If you are interested in participating, please email:
Kim.yamamoto9@gmail.com or
Caro.h@huoa.org by Friday, May 31

Preserving Our Legacy

2023 TO 2024
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Thank you to the many members, friends, and businesses that have responded to our Annual Giving Campaign. Since November 2023, we received 798 donations, representing \$187,798.83. 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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“Miree Ya Kugani: A Bright Hopeful Future.” 125th Anniversary Commemorative Booklet

Dreaming of a hopeful bright future, 26 immigrants from Okinawa disembarked the S.S. China at Honolulu Harbor on January 8, 1900, marking the beginning of Okinawan immigration to Hawaii. Kyuzo Toyama – the “Father of Okinawa Immigration” – through activism, cleared a path for Okinawan pioneers to pursue new horizons in foreign lands outside of Asia, including those who landed here in Hawaii – our honorable and brave Issei ancestors.

As we approach 2025, marking the 125th anniversary of Okinawan global immigration, we honor their legacy. Join us in commemorating this milestone by being a part of our 125th

Anniversary Commemorative booklet, “Miree Ya Kugani: A Bright Hopeful Future.” This publication will honor our early pioneers, celebrate the milestones of our ancestors, and is dedicated to our present and future generations.

We humbly request your support and participation in this publication by placing an advertisement in our special 125th commemorative booklet or making a donation. Your contribution will help preserve and promote our cherished Okinawan culture down through future generations.

We sincerely thank you, and our friends and family for your ongoing support in our mission to perpetuate our cultural heritage.

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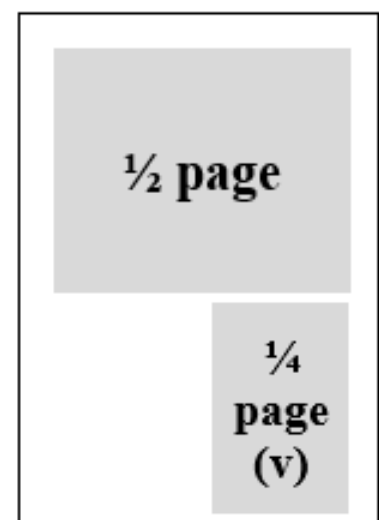
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CLUB NEWS

Our Clubs, Our Future

2025 Hui O Laulima Cultural Grant Applications

Hui O Laulima (HOL) is pleased to announce that the 2025 Cultural Grants applications are being accepted. Grants and scholarships have been awarded by HOL since 1984 and total more than \$234,000. Hui O Laulima is a women's organization promoting the Okinawan culture and true to its spirit of "giving a helping hand," has continued to perpetuate and preserve its culture by awarding grants to individuals and groups who share the same desire.



A FEW OF THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION INCLUDE:

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

All prospective grant projects/activities should take place from January through December 2025. **Deadline for submission is July 31, 2024.**

The 2025 Cultural Grant application contains the complete list of the criteria for selection. Please direct inquiries and/or requests for application to Karen Fuse, Committee Chairperson, at (808) 735-4523 or kcfuse@hawaii.rr.com.

2024 Hui O Laulima Cultural Grant Awardees

A TOTAL OF \$10,450 was awarded to four individuals and organizations. Congratulations and best wishes to each recipient for a successful year!

1. Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai - Jimpu Kai Maui: To help with airfare for Cheryl Nakasone Sensei's monthly classes on Maui
2. Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Kohala: To assist with airfare to bring RMD Oahu instructors to Hawaii island or sending their instructors or students to Oahu to learn new songs
3. Shari Tamashiro: To hire a video editor for the creation of a series on "How To Be More Okinawan" to be hosted on HUOA's YouTube channel.
4. Wendy Tamashiro: To assist with her transportation costs for practice of kumiwudui and odori with Cheryl Nakasone Sensei and Jimpu Kai USA Kin Ryosho Ryukyu Geino Kenkyusho, Hawaii Shibu students on Oahu. 🍻

Okinawa City – Goeku Son

2024 WILL SURELY BE an exciting year for Goeku Son members, as evidenced by our recent Shinnen Enkai. Scheduled on March 2nd at Natsunoya Teahouse, members were saddened by the news of Natsunoya's fire. With only one week to "think," Goeku's board was faced with either canceling, rescheduling or finding an alternative site for their new year's party.

Whew! Co-President Stephanie Higa with the help of member Steven Kim was able to secure a reservation at Pagoda Restaurant, the same day and time. The venue though different, proved to be a nice fit for our club. Located conveniently in the middle of Honolulu, lots of available parking (by the way, Ross's parking charge has increased), a comfortable banquet hall, good food and an excellent staff our members enjoyed a wonderful event. The flow of the party was like we planned all along to have it at Pagoda.

This year we honored 80yr old birthday members Diane Gay and Barbara Ichinose along with 88yr olds David Johnston, William Penhart and Ethel Shiraki. New members Rachel Cook, Kathy Haruno, Tai Perkins, Sharla & Glenn Respicio, and Paul & Faye Shiraki were welcomed to our family. Sadly, we gave a final silent good-bye to members Miyako Higa, Sally Matsumoto, Amy Oshiro and Rachel Sakuma.



Ginowan Shinnen Enkai 2024

By Wilma Ogimi

Ginowan Shijin Kai welcomed the Year of the Dragon on February 25, 2024, at their 112th Shinnen Enkai at the Legacy Ballroom where 190 members and guests gathered. We were honored to have the presidents of several other clubs as well as some VIPs from HUOA in attendance. Seven (7) Leadership Tour participants were also our guests at this event. They were definitely a lively, fun bunch.

Tris Tanaka, who participated in HUOA's Leadership Tour to Okinawa in 2023, was instrumental in putting registration and membership renewal online on Ginowan's website. Emcees Tricia Araki and Michelle Mendes made the entire program entertaining by establishing an upbeat and energetic atmosphere from beginning to end.

The table decorations by Donna Komagome and Leigh Morisako captured the festivity of the day with Areca palms adorned with a dragon, and red-bagged gold coins. Kelly Pila designed a beautiful flyer and printed program that featured a ferocious dragon to celebrate the Year of the Dragon. Linda Kunihsa worked with Rem Kaneshiro of ACE Catering and his staff to keep everything running smoothly. The buffet and delicious cakes and our wonderful homemade desserts were enjoyed by all. Marni Canubida arranged to have Hooje Ryu Hana Nuuzi no Kai Nakasone Dance Academy, led by Lisa Nakandakari, provide us with wonderful dances and music of Okinawa. They also led us in our traditional Kachaashi with young and old participating.

My little granddaughter, Eli, liked the fun activities that Claire Matsumoto had for the young ones, including dragon puppets, headbands and bells. When asked what he liked best about the Shinnen Enkai, my 8-year-old grandson Carson said "The Prizes!" Paul Campbell and family purchased many great prizes including a dragon whiskey bottle, an air fryer and various gift coupons. Prizes were also donated by members and guests, including orchids by Dean Oshiro. There were many happy lucky number winners. What a great way to welcome the New Year together!

SAVE THE DATE! Ginowan annual picnic will be held on Sunday, July 21 at Ala Moana Park. 🍻



80-year-olds honored (L-R):
Barbara Ichinose, Diane Gay

Entertainment was provided by the Kuba and Higa Ohana, with Okinawan dance by Jimpu Kai USA Kin Ryosho Ryukyu Geino Kenkyusho, Hawaii Shibu, Dancers Cheryl Nakasone - Shibu Cho and Charlene Gima. As tradition dictates we closed our program with Milton Higa and his Higa Ohana.

We would like to thank our members for the many door prizes, pupu, dessert and monetary donations received that made this event super special for our members. Keeping it exciting, Goeku will celebrate their picnic on July 14th at Kapiolani Park and do an HOC Clean-up on October 12th. Goekuans don't forget to volunteer at the Okinawan Festival Chili Booth on Saturday, August 31st and purchase your scrip from us. 🍻

CLUB NEWS

Our Clubs, Our Future

Oroku Aza Jin Club

The Oroku Azajin Club has been buzzing with activity lately. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us in February for the HOC clean-up—working with the spirit of Iaulima made cleaning the Center a breeze!

In March, we held our 101st Shinnen Enkai. A big shout-out to the Oroku Board, our dedicated advisors, enthusiastic volunteers, and the talented dessert makers who made this memorable event possible. During the festivities, we swore in first-time Board members, Kurt Takara, Coreen Doi, Leah Kakuni, Pamela Webb, and Dawn Kakuni. Their fresh perspectives and commitment, along with the guidance and leadership of our returning Board members, ensure a bright future for Oroku Azajin. And let's not forget our spirited volleyball team, currently bumping, setting, and hitting their way through the season. We're having a great time! Mark your calendars: Our summer picnic is scheduled for



Kneeling (L-R): Dexter Teruya, Natalie Teruya, Kyu Yeo, Colin Yeo, Cameron Yeo, Kelly Teruya, Brooke Teruya, Corey Takara, Kayla Teruya, JoAnne Takara, Kristi Teruya, Kurt Takara, Wade Teruya, Betsy Ebesu, Lorri Kajikawa, Clarisse Kobashigawa, Ella Kobashigawa, Brandon Nakasone. Standing (L-R): Jeanette Uehara, Beverly Taira, Terry Teruya, Darren Chun, Ann Teruya, Alex Teruya, Howard Takara, Miwa Teruya Kishimoto, Jane Takara, Travis Ebesu, Val Teruya, Kim Chun, Milton Onna, Bruce Yokochi, Lily Kumura, Alison Ebesu, Dustin Ebesu, Gene Kaneshiro.

July 21st! We can't wait to see everyone there. Stay connected with the Oroku Azajin Club at www.oroquazajinhawaii.org—there's always something exciting happening! 🌺



Hui Makaala Club News

This year, the 53rd Annual Hui Makaala Scholarship Fund Luncheon & Fashion Show will be held on Sunday, July 28 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom.

Under the leadership of co-chairs Cindy and Lisa Shishido, the fashion show committee is working hard to present an exciting event with three local designers, Anne Namba, Tanya Uehara of Laha'ole Hawai'i, and Fighting Eel.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: JULY 28, 2024. We are looking forward to seeing everyone! 🌺

Hui Makaala

53rd Annual Scholarship Fund Luncheon & Fashion Show

showcasing:

FIGHTING EEL

Sunday, July 28, 2024
Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom

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

QUESTIONS? Call 551-7868

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 17, 2024.

Proceeds benefit the Hui Makaala Scholarship Fund.

Hui Makaala

53rd Annual Scholarship Fund Luncheon & Fashion Show

Sunday, July 28, 2024
Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom

RESERVATION FORM

Deadline for Reservations: July 10

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 & 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
Mililani, HI 96789

HUOA Facilitates Yaese Connections *By Shirley Fujimoto*

HUOA recently served as a connection point between the town of Yaese and local Nisei, Sansei, and Yonsei Uchinanchu with familial roots in Kochinda and Gushichan.

Both regions were consolidated on January 1, 2006, via political re-districting and became the new town of Yaese. The re-districting in Okinawa intended to give more recognition to smaller villages and enable more comprehensive government support.

In conjunction with the formation of the new town, a government grant was awarded to the Yaese Department of Education to gather, record, and preserve oral histories of Okinawan immigrants from that region to add to its historical archives. Information was previously gathered from Issei and Nisei from this area. Hence, the intent this time was to ensure continuity through stories taken from descendants of Issei who might be the last generation in Hawaii who can recall interactions with their Issei relatives.

Interviews reflected primarily on how the Sansei experienced the cultural assimilation of their parents and grandparents after they arrived in Hawaii. Interviewers were interested in how Sansei remember the languages spoken in the home, the livelihoods adopted to maintain the well-being of families, efforts made to perpetuate Okinawan culture, the impact of World War II, and the general lifestyle that evolved in the local community.

Representing Yaese were Makoto Arakaki who served as the chief interviewer, Mao Miyahira from the Yaese Department of Education, and Kunio Nohara, a member of the Yaese Town Council. Yumiko Nakagawa served as translator and facilitator for the interviews held at the HOC and on Maui and the Big Island between February 9-14.

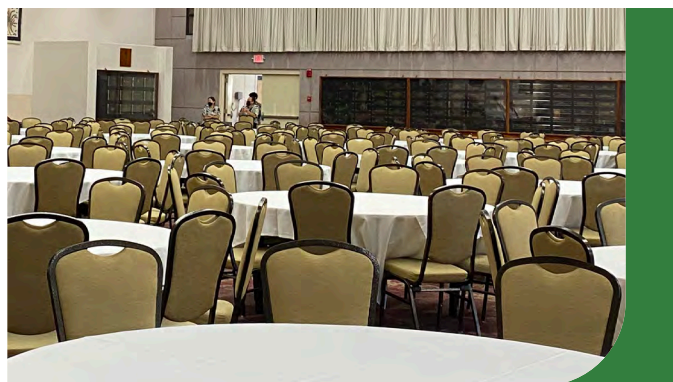
A total of 42 local Uchinanchu statewide were contacted through the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's member clubs, Aza Gushikawa and Gushichan Sonjin Kai, to participate in the interviews. Their stories will become part of a book that is currently being written, as well as an exhibit expected to be completed this March for presentation at the Yaese Town Hall. The proposed title of the book is 'History of Yaese Town – Migrants and Migrant Workers.'

AMONG THOSE INTERVIEWED WERE:

From Gushichan: Thelma Akagi (Maui), George Chinen (Big Island), Denise Gima, Kurt Ginoza, Michel Hondo (Maui), Evan Ishihara, Earlyn Koizumi, Cassie Nakagawa, Neil Nakagawa, Lyn (Uesato) Nishida, Suzanne (Shoma) Hasuike, Cheryl Tanaka, Robin Tokuhama, Suzanne Uehara (Maui), Derek Uesato, Jan Uesato, Phil Uesato, Thomas Uesato, Aileen (Zakahi) Yoshimura, George Zakahi, Hazel (Zakahi) Ginoza, Helen Zakahi, and Robert Zakahi,

From Kochinda: Robert Arakaki, Irene Hino, Katherine Hirai, Annette (Isara) Platt, Donna Isara, Frank Isara, Henry and Evelyn Isara, Jan Isara, May (Isara) Asato, David Kaneshiro, Walter Miyashiro, Scotty Moriyama, George Nohara, Francis Yagi (Maui), and Kalen (Yagi) Yoshikawa.

From Kochinda/Gushichan: Gordon Uehara, Daphne (Uehara) Yamauchi, Tiffany Yamauchi



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— CURRENT HUOA MEMBERS RECEIVE 10% DISCOUNT OFF FOOD ORDERS. —

Room Name	Min. Guests	Max Guests
Legacy Ballroom	350	800
Legacy I	200	350
Legacy II	125	200

For more information visit acateredexperience.com or call 808-677-7744 for more information



Munugatai - Stories That Connect the Past, Present and Future 2024 Loochoo Identity Summit *By D. Yamagusiku*

With an invitation to bring the essence of a cherished person to accompany them, 100-plus attendees were warmly welcomed to the highly anticipated Loochoo Identity Summit held on March 22-24 at the Windward Community College under the grandeur of the majestic Ko'olau Mountain. Thoughtfully crafted by the directors of Ukwanshin Kabudan, Eric Wada, Norman Kaneshiro, Keith Nakaganeku with Uchinaa-based advisor Chihiro Komine and their steadfast planning committee, this Summit marked the 10th year that folks who hold a special connection to Okinawa were able to meet each other, share stories, develop relationships, and strengthen their knowledge of Okinawan culture, history, language and awareness of the social issues affecting our motherland.

Munugatai was the theme of the Summit. As explained in the "Welcome" program, Norman Kaneshiro elegantly wrote:

"In this, our 10th Loochoo Identity Summit, we turn our focus to the *Uchināguchi* word, *munugatai* (also *mungatai*) which literally means "the telling of things," but more conventionally translated as "story" or "tale." For those of us who are separated from our ancestral homelands by both generational time and geographic space, stories are often the only connections we have left. For those who have remained in the homeland, stories store memories of places, people, events, or ways of living that exist no where else in the world that have either faded to the background or been erased by trauma or violence. For all of us, then, the sharing and interweaving of stories helps us to remain connected to our ancestral homes and ancestors in ways that people who do not understand these stories will never quite comprehend. Thus, the homework we have as indigenous Shimanchu is to learn how to both take in and understand the *munugatai* of our ancestors as well as to preserve and perpetuate them.

It seems our *Uchinānchu* ancestors understood the importance of stories in making relationships and maintaining connections as another definition of *munugatai* is "conversation" or "dialogue." In this way, the "telling of things" is not simply a recollection of past events, people, or places, but a vital means of communication in the present. It is in the present that we develop an understanding and relationship with others and the world around us. And it is in the present we create a vision or



map for the future based on our lives and perceptions now. Thus, the full interpretation of *munugatai* makes it a thread that connects the past, present, and future."

Over the course of this 3-day event, participants were able to actively engage in very meaningful activities that clearly transmitted the concepts of "how we remember, how we share and how we create." A solid presentation by Eric Wada on an Okinawan creation story and the analogy of the life-cycle of ocean coral to the generational evolution of our existence to honor, appreciate and respect the teachings of our ancestors set the foundation for other powerful and enriching experiences that awaited everyone.

Among the thought-provoking workshops, Micah Mizukami, associate director at the Center of Oral History -UHM, illustrated how oral history can be approached from an indigenous perspective. A panel discussion with *hajichi* (tattoo) artist Moeko Heshiki, local musician/song-writer Brandon Ufugusuku Ing, and dance instructor/choreographer Yukie Shiroma shared how they imbue their stories through their creative medium.

Another panel discussion moderated by Kaiya Laguardia-Yonamine revealed the choices and decisions that the younger generation make to express how they create their own stories. Hawai'i Peace and Justice officer, Tina Grandinetti joined artist Dane Nakama, curator Josh Tengan to share their views of the challenges they face in today's world and how it shapes their stories.

This year's Summit attracted people beyond Hawai'i. A contingent of university students from Okinawa were very present in their interaction with the other attendees. They enjoyed talking to the many other participants. A recurring comment from them was "People in Hawai'i know more about Okinawa than we do." A noticeable change was the larger number of young and first-time participants. Many from the continental US flew in just to attend after learning about the Summit through social media.

As with many other Loochoo Identity Summits, the attendees expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to connect with their Okinawan heritage, connect with other interesting folks and especially having a safe and comfortable space/time to share and express their own thoughts, feelings, and concerns.

For many, they came away from the Summit with much to think about; to reflect on their own identity and perhaps to define who they are or who they want to be. 🌸



HUOA Clubs Shinnen Enkai



Hawaii Sashiki Chinen Doshi Kai celebrated their Shinnen Enkai on February 18th with fun games and excellent entertainment by Keith Nakağaneku and his Calabash band.





Okinawa City - Goeku son
88yr olds honored: Patty Umetsu (daughter), honoree Ethel Shiraki, honoree William Penhart, Stephanie Higa (President)

Shinka
Oroku Azajin

Oroku Azajin

Young Okinawans

Ozato

Ozato

Young Okinawans

Yonashiro
Honoring Yonashiro's 80+ Seniors



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, August 10, 2024
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Jikoen Hongwanji

ART & AWAMORI

Learn the painting steps to create a Hanagasa on an Okinawan background

Aloha Awamorii Cocktails

Kuba Awamori Vintage Selections



Mana-Su Healthy Mocktails (Non-Alcohol)



Charcuterie Type Bento (Various Snack food packed individually)

For Info Contact:

EVENTS (808) 594-6547

Randy Kuba (808) 780-3440

Cost:

\$75 per person
21 and over

PARTNERSHIP WITH JIKOEN HONGWANJI

Club Picnics

AZA GUSHIKAWA DOSHI KAI

DATE: Sunday, June 30
TIME: 9am
PLACE: Magic Island Sites 38 & 40
CONTACT: Wendy Horikami

KIN CHOJIN KAI

DATE: Sunday, July 21
TIME: 9am-3pm
PLACE: Ala Moana Park - by risers
CONTACT: Brian Ikehara, kinchojinkai@gmail.com

BITO DOSHI KAI, AZA YOGI DOSHI KAI & HAEBARU CLUB

DATE: Saturday, July 20
TIME: 9am-2pm
PLACE: Ala Moana Beach Park Site 9
CONTACT: Kylie Sato 808-772-9618 or kyliesato@gmail.com

KOHALA OKINAWA KENJIN KAI

DATE: Saturday, July 20
TIME: 10am
PLACE: Hisaoka Gym @ Kamehameha Park
Contact info: Ted Matsuda, 77tedmatsuda@gmail.com

CHATAN-KADENA CHOJIN KAI

DATE: Sunday, August 4
TIME: 9am
PLACE: Ala Moana behind Ewa Bathrooms
CONTACT: Eric Nitta, ericnitta@yahoo.com

NAKAGUSUKU SONJIN KAI

DATE: Sunday July 21
PLACE: Kapiolani Park
CONTACT: Denise Liu, deniliu@hotmail.com, 808-284-9793

GAZA YONAGUSUKU DOSHI KAI /NISHIHARA CHOJIN KAI

DATE: Saturday, July 13
PLACE: Ala Moana Beach Park Site 8
CONTACT: Cynthia Arnold, ctgoya@gmail.com, 808-221-8345

ONNA SONJIN KAI

TBD
CONTACT: Lynn, 808-429-9692 or Liane Yoshitsugu-Cenido at liane.yoshitsugu@gmail.com

GINOZA SONJIN KAI

DATE: Sunday, July 28
PLACE: Kapiolani Park
DETAILS: TBD

OROKU AZAJIN CLUB

DATE: Sunday, July 21
PLACE: Magic Island Sites 38, 39, 40

GINOWAN SHIJIN KAI

DATE: Sunday, July 21
TIME: 9am-3pm
PLACE: Ala Moana Park behind the Diamond Head Concession Stand
CONTACT: Joy Schoonover, joyschoon@gmail.com, 808-741-1724

OZATO DOSHI KAI

DATE: Saturday, July 20
TIME: 10am
PLACE: Navfac Pavilion, 4025 Salt Lake Blvd.
CONTACT: Dennis Arakaki at 808-271-0947

HANEJI CLUB

No picnic in 2024 (every other year)

YONASHIRO CHOJIN KAI

DATE: Sunday, July 21
TIME: 8am-3pm
PLACE: Ala Moana Beach Park Site 9
CONTACT: Gainor Miyashiro, gmiyashiro777@yahoo.com, 808-561-8933

HAWAII SHURI-NAHA CLUB

DATE: Sunday, July 14
TIME: 8am-4pm
PLACE: Ala Moana Beach Park, Risers Section 28A
CONTACT: Greg Kuwazaki, 808-738-2264, gmkuwazaki@gmail.com



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continued from front page

performance of Kimutaka no Amawari honoring Lord Amawari will be performed by Okinawan students. An extremely important field trip is the visit to the memorials, monuments and museums commemorating the victims of the Battle of Okinawa. As they view the documents and hear the testimonies, the Hawaii students will learn how many civilians fell victim to the war, and what they had to endure, especially when so many were their same age. As textbooks most often omit certain events of war and conflict, students will return back home with a new perspective, and hopefully help to make a positive impact towards peace.

Lastly, we are asking for our community's support in helping with the travel cost for our students with an Andagi Sales Fundraiser on Saturday, May 18 from 10am-1pm at Jikoen Hongwanji. It will be organized as a drive-thru and pick up event. We are doing pre-orders using this link to our pre-order form. andagi.wufoo.com/forms/q1onrusf1lw7pnr. The deadline to pre-order is Monday, May 13. From the coordinator and chaperones of the Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program, we express our deepest gratitude to our HUOA member clubs and community for your continued support to the program.



Legacy Award Banquet



Sheraton Waikiki Hotel - Hawaii Ballroom
 Sunday, July 14, 2024
 9am | Reception & Silent Auction
 10am | Doors Open

Please join us in honoring the 2024 HUOA Legacy Award recipients. These special individuals are recognized for their outstanding achievements in their fields and significant contributions to our local, national, and international communities.



ZENKO HESHIKI SENSEI has dedicated his life to preserving and promoting Okinawan culture, especially through his mastery and teaching of traditional Okinawan karate. Heshiki Sensei has been a pillar in the karate community in Okinawa, Argentina, New York, and Hawaii, fostering a deep understanding and appreciation of karate and Okinawan heritage among younger generations. His karate dojos in New York City, especially in Harlem, have not only been a center for learning self-defense but also a place where students immerse themselves in the Okinawan traditions, heritage, and culture. This holistic approach to teaching has significantly contributed to the cultural exchange between Okinawa, South America, New York City and Hawaii, strengthening the bonds between these communities through the art of karate. His tireless efforts in nurturing peace, harmony, and a sense of community and belonging among all ethnic backgrounds outside of Okinawa emphasizing the Uchinanchu values has made an enduring impact on many generations and those to come.

ARNOLD AND ELOISE "ELO" HIURA are a match made in Heaven. Currently, they serve as Hawaii Japanese Center's (HJC) Executive Director and Executive Assistant. Together, they have curated a place that celebrates local Japanese culture that exists in the vibrant multiethnic community of Hawaii. Before taking on the enormous task of reviving HJC, MBFT Media – the Hiura's editorial and communications company – helped to produce the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's Uchinanchu Newsletter from 2006-2021. They also designed HUOA's Uchinanchu Annual – a valuable keepsake booklet that chronicles the history of HUOA. For nine years (1983-1992) Arnold was editor of The Hawaii Herald: Hawaii's Japanese American Journal. The Hiura's legacy began over 40 years ago and continues to share the history and stories of Japanese and Okinawans in Hawaii that enrich our community.

SHELEE KIMURA is the President and CEO of Hawaiian Electric. Shelee was born and raised in Hawaii and is a proud public-school graduate from Aiea High School and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. On her father's side of the family, she has ancestral roots in Gushichan Village in Okinawa and has wonderful memories of big family gatherings at the home of her Issei great-grandparents. In her role as CEO of Hawaiian Electric, Shelee

is committed to serving Hawaii's communities with safe, reliable, clean energy and is proud of the "Hawaii-Okinawa Clean Energy Partnership" that has allowed Hawaii and Okinawa to learn from each other as island communities.

BONNIE NAOMI MIYASHIRO, Kaishu of Miyashiro Sōhō Kai, has perpetuated Okinawan culture through her teaching of koto. Taking her grandmother's words to heart, Miyashiro Sensei has dedicated her life to seizing every opportunity to learn anything and everything about Okinawa. Besides koto, Miyashiro Sensei has taught Ryukyu buyō, provided lectures on Okinawan textiles and was designated by the Okinawan Prefectural Government as an Uchinā Goodwill Ambassador. She recently retired from the Hawaii Okinawa Center where she spent over 30 years sharing her vast knowledge of all things Okinawan, as well as serving as a docent to the center's museum, providing translation services and assisting with

genealogy research. Miyashiro Sensei continues to serve as a bridge to our Okinawan culture for all generations and our Hawaii community.

STEVE KISHABA SOMBRERO is the President and Principal Owner of Cushman & Wakefield ChaneyBrooks, Hawaii's oldest and largest, locally owned real estate brokerage and management company. Steve is also the founder and owner of Aloha Beer Company, a family enterprise he established with his wife, Takako. The successful entrepreneur is also a published author. His book "What Day Are You?" is listed as Amazon's Best New Release in 2023. Born in Misato, Okinawa, and raised in Guam, Steve is an islander, who embraces a deep sense of gratitude for his journey of resilience and optimism in the Okinawan spirit of "Nankurunaisa."



More info and online purchases

RESERVATION FORM For the online form, visit www.huoa.org/events/legacy-award-banquet

Kindly reply by June 14, 2024

Name _____
 Address - Street _____
 City/State/Zip code _____
 Telephone: _____
 Email: _____

PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____ payable to HUOA (memo: Legacy Banquet).

I regret, I am unable to attend. Please accept my donation of \$_____

I prefer to pay by credit/debit card. \$_____ Please call me at _____ OR send a Paypal invoice at _____ OR

Silent Auction Donation:
 Contact Jodie Ching at oneluckylocal@gmail.com or 808-721-5229

Hawaii United Okinawa Association
 Attn. Legacy Banquet
 94-587 Ukee St., Waipahu, HI 96797

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- BRONZE individual seat(s): \$150**
 - Tickets purchased together will be seated at the same table

Please provide the names of guests and number of vegetarian lunches, if any, and submit via email to Caro Higa at caro.h@huoa.org no later than July 1, 2024.

No tickets will be issued. Table assignments will be given at the registration table at the event.



Senior Uchinanchu Walks the Walk and Runs the Race *By Shirley Fujimoto*

Vibrant and thriving, 95-year-old Masuo “Rocky” Kino, epitomizes the healthy nature of Uchinanchu.

For 40 consecutive years, Kino has completed the 8.15-mile Great Aloha Run (GAR), and this past March was the oldest finisher in the annual race.

Kino, a member of Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai, is also a survivor of the deadliest tsunami in Hawaii on April 1, 1946. According to his nephew, Russell Kino, “a tree saved his life”. Masuo recalls being carried over several hundred yards for several minutes by the devastating waters. He believes his survival was a “bonus – a gift of life” and accepted this gift with gratitude to shape his life through his education, employment, marriage, children, grandchildren, and of course, his dedicated participation in the GAR.

Kino’s running streak began when he was in his 50s, running with another Kanegusuku member every weekend and every GAR for 22 years until his friend died of cancer. He continued to run for 10 years solo, and the 2024 race this past March, was a highlight of his running career when eight relatives from across the continental US ran alongside with him.

During his youth, Kino said he was never an athlete as he was always busy helping his parents in the sugar cane field and had no time for sports. These days, while walking 2-3 miles through Hawaii Memorial Park and Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden in Kaneohe daily, he appreciatively soaks in the massive, majestic, verdant green of the Koolau Mountains.

“They inspire me,” he says. “I truly believe that running/walking leads to a healthy life, both physically and mentally. I will walk as long as I can, even if by chance, I live to be 100 years old.”

He also dabbles in “backyard landscaping” and lovingly nurtures a huge puakeniken tree which reciprocates every other day with blossoms which he carefully picks, washes, sorts and packages and generously distributes to neighbors and businesses in his community.

In addition to his daily walks, eating meals and shopping together with Alice, his wife of 68 years, is a much appreciated blessing that he hopes will continue “for a little while more.”

Art & Awamori - A Painting Experience A Cultural Celebration at Jikoen Hongwanji

AUGUST 10, 2024, SATURDAY, 5:30-8:30PM
COST: \$75 PER PERSON

In the heart of Kalihi, a unique celebration awaits, blending the rich tapestry of Okinawan art with the spirited essence of Awamori. We are thrilled to invite you to “Art & Awamori,” a special event hosted at Jikoen Hongwanji. This gathering is not just an invitation to explore cultural artistry and flavors but also a meaningful endeavor to support the sustainability of our cherished facilities.

Jikoen Hongwanji holds a special place in the hearts of our Uchinanchu community, serving as a beacon of support and unity for our first-generation Issei. When they first arrived in Hawaii to work on the sugar plantations, it was here that they found a haven, receiving the essential support that helped them not only to survive the harsh plantation life but to thrive. The guidance and community spirit fostered at Jikoen

Hongwanji have propelled our Uchinanchu community to where it is today, embodying resilience and collective progress.

As you step into the humble surroundings of Jikoen Hongwanji, prepare to embark on a journey through the vibrant hues and intricate patterns that define Okinawan art. Under the guidance of local Hawaii artist from Paint Paina, participants will learn the painting steps for our first iconic symbols of Okinawa – the elegant Hanagasa. Whether you’re a seasoned artist or a curious beginner, this workshop promises an enriching experience for all.

Amidst the strokes of creativity, savor the distinct flavors of Okinawa with our Charcuterie-type Bento. These individually packed snack foods are a perfect accompaniment as you immerse yourself in art. Elevating the experience, our exclusive Aloha Awamori and Kuba Awamori cocktails will be served, offering a taste of Okinawa’s beloved spirit. For those who prefer non-alcoholic options, our healthy Mana-Su mocktails will refresh and invigorate.

“Art & Awamori” is more than an event; it’s a gesture of unity and support for Jikoen Hongwanji. By participating, you’re contributing to the sustainability of a space that has been a cornerstone for community gatherings, cultural celebrations, and spiritual growth. This partnership is a call to preserve and cherish our shared heritage, ensuring that future generations can enjoy and learn from the rich cultural legacy of Okinawa.

For inquiries or to secure your spot, please reach out to EVENTS (808) 594-6547 or Randy Kuba (808) 780-3440.

Your participation not only enriches your cultural understanding but also aids in the vital efforts to sustain Jikoen Hongwanji facilities.

Join us on this memorable day, where art meets spirit, and community meets culture. “Art & Awamori” is an invitation to celebrate, contribute, and connect – immersing yourself in the beauty of Okinawan art and the warmth of our Uchinanchu community. Let’s come together to make this event a beacon of cultural pride and communal support, honoring the legacy of our Issei and the enduring spirit of Jikoen Hongwanji.



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Chris Yamashita







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Koichiro and Shiho Takakura

KOICHIRO AND SHIHO TAKAKURA visited on Friday, March 22 for the first time after 2019. Left to right: Jeanie Yamasato, Ann Oshiro, Rodney Kohagura, Lynn Bourgeois, Shiho and Koichiro Takakura, Jon Itomura and Maurice Yamasato.

Mensore Ginozanchu

On Wednesday, January 31, Wakana Inamine and Juno Aramoto visited the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Sponsored by Ginoza Village, they traveled to Brazil, Peru, and Argentina before landing in Hawaii to meet with local Ginozanchu from all over the world. You can follow their adventures on their YouTube channel:

Arino manma Ginoza channel
www.youtube.com/@user-xl8co5bo4m/featured



Emperor's Birthday Celebration

By Karen Kuba-Hori

On February 13th, Hawaii's Japanese community celebrated Emperor Naruhito's birthday at the Consul General's official residence. Consul General Yoshinori Kodama welcomed approximately 400 guests including Governor Josh Green; United States and Japan military leaders; Hawaii's political leaders and members of Hawaii's Japanese community.

HUOA was one of ten prefectural Kenjin Kai groups, sharing information about their rich cultural heritage. Our exhibit featured information about HUOA and showed examples of our textiles, lacquerware, pottery and most popular, provided samples of Okinawan snacks and awamori.

HUOA would like to thank Hui O Laulima members Karen Kuba-Hori and Geri Maeda for their creative and beautiful display and President Brandon Nakasone for his generous awamori donation.



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Tourism Day at the Hawai'i State Capitol

On March 8, representatives from the tourism industry gathered to advocate for the importance of tourism to the local economy and community.

Hawaii United Okinawa Association promoted the Okinawan Festival, our various events in 2024, and the 125th Anniversary of Okinawan Immigration to Hawai'i and the world in 2025!



Find Your "Nankurunaisa" with "What Day Are You?"

Moco's adventure is more than just a whimsical tale; it embodies the spirit of *Nankurunaisa*, the Okinawan proverb meaning "things will work out in the end." Through Moco's encounters with other creatures dwelling on their worries, the story gently nudges readers of all ages toward mindfulness. Each page encourages them to let go of anxieties and embrace the beauty of the present moment.

Inspired by Steve's personal experiences and his Okinawan heritage, "What Day Are You?" offers a beacon of hope and resilience for young readers facing challenges. Candice's illustrious narration brings Moco's world to life, creating a captivating experience that blends the wisdom of *Nankurunaisa* with the wonder of childhood.

"What Day Are You?" is more than a bedtime story; it's a reminder to savor the present moment. Perfect for parents raising mindful children or adults seeking daily inspiration, this book invites readers to discover their own "Nankurunaisa" and find joy in the here and now. All of the proceeds will go to youth mental health charities, including the Moore Aloha Foundation, led by Olympic Gold Medalist Carissa Moore. Available now!

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Link: www.madeforsuccess.com/what-day-are-you/

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Ippee nifee deebiru!

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Children's Okinawan Cultural Day Camp 2024



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

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

Children age 8 to 13 will be able to enjoy the beauty and uniqueness of our culture. They are introduced to Okinawan history, language and songs, dance, drumming, martial arts, crafts, cooking, and plantation games. Projects are designed to provide a hands-on fun and educational experience for the participants, varying from camp to camp. Each location selects the curriculum that best suits its participants and community. We hope you will join us!

Listing of camps and general information:



HAWAII - HILO

Location: Hilo Higashi Hongwanji
Dates: June 6–June 14, 2024
Hours: Sunday | 1pm–3pm; Monday–Friday | 8am–2:30pm
Coordinating Club: Hui Okinawa
Director: Robert Kaneshiro
Registration: \$100 per child
 Discount for multi-child households available
Number of campers: 48
Ages: 8–13 (2nd–7th grade)
Contact: Robert Kaneshiro, rskanesh@outlook.com, 808-315-1421

HAWAII - KOHALA

Location: Kohala Resilience Hub Barn
Date of Camp: June 3–June 5, 2024
Hours: 9:00am–2:30pm
Coordinating Club: Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai
Director: Kathy Matsuda
Registration: \$20 per child
Number of campers: 24
Ages: 7–10 (2nd–5th grade)
Contact: Kathy Matsuda, kathy@northkohala.org, 808-895-2025



MAUI

Location: Maui Okinawa Cultural Center
Date of Camp: June 4–7, 2024
Hours: 9am–3pm
Coordinating Club: Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai
Directors: Elaine Fujita, Janet Miyahira, Christine Hondo, Sonya Toma, Ruth Murata
Registration: \$125 for MOKK members, \$155 for non-members (includes one year membership in MOKK) Discount for multi-child households available
Number of campers: 30
Ages: Entering Grade 1–Grade 8
Contact: Elaine Fujita, gfmaui50@hotmail.com; Janet Miyahira, miyahirajan63@gmail.com; Christine Hondo, christine.sue525@gmail.com; Sonya Toma, sonyatoma@gmail.com; Ruth Murata, ilimamura@gmail.com



OAHU

Location: Hawaii Okinawa Center
Dates: June 4 - June 7
Hours: Tuesday–Thursday, 8:30am–2:30pm; Friday, 8:30am–Noon
Director: Caro Higa
Registration: \$125.00, discount for multi-child households available
Number of campers: 60
Ages: 8–13
Contact: Caro Higa, caro.h@huoa.org, 808-621-1223



Note: Kauai and Kailua-Kona camps have been facing challenges as their long-time volunteers can no longer help.



This program is supported in part by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts through appropriations from the Legislature of the State of Hawai'i and from the National Endowment for the Arts.



2024 President Brandon Nakasone and 2023 President Clarisse Kobashigawa with Sunday volunteers.

Honolulu Festival at the Hawaii Convention Center *By Karen Kuba-Hori*

On March 9th and 10th Hawaii's community was treated to all things Japanese at the 28th Honolulu Festival at the Hawaii Convention Center. Created to promote peace and ethnic harmony between Hawaii and the Pacific Rim region, the Honolulu Festival Foundation created an event rivaling our Okinawan Festival. Crowds were treated to hands-on crafts and activities, a craft fair, a seafood and sake fair (featuring lots of free samples), cultural exhibitions, and entertainment throughout the day. Okinawan groups Afuso Ryu Ongaku Kenkyuu Choichi Kai – USA - Hawaii (Festival Gala), Chinagu Eisa Hawaii, Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii and Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Hawaii Francis Nakachi Ryubu Dojo performed at the Festival.

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association and nine other Hawaii-Japanese prefectural organizations were tasked to inform the guests about their proud culture. HUOA's exhibit focused on our organization and proud musical heritage. Hui O Laulima assisted in creating our display featuring Okinawan instruments, from the sanshin to Okinawan drums. If you attended Saturday morning you would have been treated to sanshin music, played by Dexter Teruya.

HUOA would like to thank Hui O Laulima for creating the display and for volunteering to docent the exhibit, and Patrick & Nona Miyashiro, Mae Chung, Nicole Hori, and Karen Kuba-Hori for the use of their musical instruments.



Bertha Arakawa assisting one of our young guests



L-R: Mae Chung, Val Teruya, Dexter Teruya, Inez Kaneshiro, Kacie Moribe



28th Annual Honolulu Festival Parade

By Kim Yamamoto

Sunday, March 10th marked the 28th Annual Honolulu Festival Parade where more than 100 enthusiastic Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu at heart marched down Kalakaua Avenue. Everyone proudly held their club flags and waved at the thousands of spectators watching from the sidewalks and hotel balconies.

Leading the parade were President Brandon Nakasone, and President-Elect Frances Kuba, who graciously spent her birthday marching along with everyone. This year, one-half of the 50 club flags marched in front of the sound truck that was transporting Afuso Ryu members playing songs on their sanshin like Mensore and Asadoya Yunta. Beating along to the tunes were more than 20 members of the Paranku Club of Hawaii. Following their upbeat group were the second half of club flags which helped to expand the look of our HUOA entourage.

The Honolulu Festival Parade is held on the final day of the Honolulu Festival which is Hawaii's premier cultural event. It is always an honor for HUOA to participate each year and we cannot do it without everyone's help and participation. Thank you to all of you who participated in the parade this year, and we hope to see you all again next year! *Ippee nifee deebiru!*



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 4/10/2024)

May 2024

- 7 Okinawan Festival Core meeting, Hybrid-HOC Chaya, 7pm
- 9 Executive Council meeting, Zoom, 7pm
- 23 Board of Directors meeting, Zoom, 7pm
- 28 Okinawan Festival General meeting, Hybrid-HOC Legacy I, 7pm

June 2024

- 13 Executive Council meeting, Zoom, 7pm
- 18 Okinawan Festival Core meeting, Hybrid-HOC Chaya, 7pm
- 25 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

HOT 'HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY' SCHEDULE

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. 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 on the Internet at www.olelo.org. Our latest shows are available on-demand on the 'Olelo website: select Tune In, then 'OleloNet On Demand, then type in "Okinawa" in the Search Archives box. The HUOA website www.huoa.org also has links to the site.

MAY 4 SAT 7PM AND MAY 9 & 16 THURS 5PM Show 7 of the 41st Okinawan Festival held on September 2 & 3, 2023 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Featured in this show are two groups, the HUOA Ichigo Ichi E Class and Chinagu Eisa Hawaii.

MAY 18 SAT 7PM AND MAY 23 THURS 5PM Show 8 of the 41st Okinawan Festival held on September 2 & 3, 2023 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Featured in this show are Yuttai Kwattai and the combined performance of Nomura Ryu Dento Ongaku Kyokai Hawaii Shibu and Azama Honryu Allison Yanagi Ryukyu Dance Studio.

JUN 1 SAT 7PM AND JUN 6 & 13 THURS 5PM Show 9 of the 41st Okinawan Festival held on September 2 & 3, 2023 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Featured in this show is the music of the Aimamire group from Okinawa.

JUN 15 SAT 7PM AND JUN 20 & 27 THURS 5PM Show 10 of the 41st Okinawan Festival held on September 2 & 3, 2023 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Featured in this show is the combined performance of Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo and Azama Honryu Seifu Ichisen Kai U.S.A. Mototake Kinuko Classical Okinawan Dance Academy (Mototake Kinuko Ryubu Kenkyusho).



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Hawaii United Okinawa Association



When: May 25 and 26

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Deadline is May 8, 2024