National Living Treasure of Japan, Choichi Terukina Sensei, Master of the Afuso School of classical Okinawan music, has created countless opportunities for his students to excel in the traditional performing arts of Okinawa. One of these endeavors is Sensei’s program entitled, Tobe Uta-sanshin. “Tobe” comes from the word “tobu,” which means to “fly” or “leap forward” and captures the essence of Sensei’s desire for young people to energetically pursue their musical studies.

We are pleased to announce that Terukina Sensei has chosen the Hawaii Okinawa Center (HOC) to be the site of his 2010 Tobe Uta-sanshin in Hawaii! We are further humbled by his generosity to donate the net proceeds from ticket sales for this concert to the HUOA in commemoration of the HOC’s 20th anniversary this year. The donation will be designated for the repair and maintenance of the 20-year-old Center.

Terukina Sensei is coordinating this concert with Hawaii Chapter President Grant Sandaa Murata Sensei. The program will feature Oahu members, many who have studied directly under Terukina Sensei and have attained various awards in Okinawa. Additionally, Terukina Sensei is arranging for dancers and musicians from Okinawa to join the Hawaii group for this engagement. He will feature the performance of a kumiudui, or classical Ryukyu opera, entitled, Nidou Tichiuchi—The Revenge of Two Brothers. A kumiudui culminates a dialogue of many Ryukyuan poems amongst the characters in the play, music and dance. It is a unique art form that was designated one of the traditional music and dance forms of Japan.

The particular kumiudui that Terukina Sensei has selected for this Hawaii engagement is exciting and colorful. Two brothers, Tsirumachi and Kamijuu, conceal their identity to avenge the wrongful death of their father, Gosamaru, Lord of Nakagushiku Castle, by the treacherous Amawari, Lord of Katsuren Castle. Sensei’s outstanding sons, Tomokuni and Tomoyuki, will be among the fine musicians who will provide the musical accompaniment for the kumiudui. Sensei is also assembling excellent artists from particular dance academies in Okinawa for an exceptional program in Hawaii.

Nearly three years ago, Sensei’s 7-year-old grandson, Tomohumi, stole the show at the Hawaii Theatre with his talented dance renditions. In this concert, Tomohumi will be featured in “Nakanaori Sanda-gwa,” a comical musical play that will surely delight the audience.

The history of Terukina Sensei’s association with Hawaii spans over three decades and, through his efforts and those he has trained, we are blessed with a thriving corps of youthful and very skillful Afuso Ryu musicians who will further perpetuate the legacy of the traditional performing arts in our community.
President’s Message
By Paul Komeiji

Okage Sama De – Because of you, the past, present and future.

Congratulations to all of the 2009 Uchinanchu of the Year recipients! Each one of you is deserving of the recognition and award for your dedication and commitment to perpetuating and promoting the Okinawan culture, arts and, to me most importantly, the Uchinanchu Spirit. As we all have many responsibilities, you have taken the time and effort to support your club, HUOA and the Hawaii Okinawan community. For this, your club, HUOA and I would like to say thank you and request that you continue to demonstrate the Uchinanchu Spirit.

What is the Uchinanchu Spirit? Through my journey of becoming an Uchinanchu at Heart, I’ve seen the Uchinanchu Spirit displayed throughout our community – at the Okinawan Festival, at Club Shinnen Enkais, as well as in the daily activities of people. As I reflect on those times, I realize the importance of the Uchinanchu Spirit among Uchinanchu – the ability to be inclusive of everyone that we work and play with. Being inclusive builds a stronger and closer community where everyone is appreciated. This Uchinanchu Spirit has been passed down from generation to generation and helps to guide us today – Okage Sama De – Because of you, the past. Thank you.

The Uchinanchu of the Year recipients are living examples of how the Uchinanchu Spirit impacts all of us. Through their efforts, your clubs remain strong and active. Through the clubs and families, we are able to live with the culture and values of previous generations and create strong relationships between Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu At Heart. Okage Sama De – Because of you, the present. Thank you.

I’ve been asked many times, “Are you Okinawan”? To which my reply has been – “I’m a half generation Okinawan – I get my Okinawan heritage from my children and wife.” Unlike many of you, I am still being introduced to the Okinawan culture. Although relatively new to the culture, I feel that it is important that our generation continues to promote Okinawan culture for our children. When they are ready, our children will want to know about their heritage and culture and it is our obligation to make sure that they can connect with their past. Okage Sama De – Because of you, the future. Thank you.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my parents and in-laws for showing my wife and I the importance of Okage Sama De. As I attempt to pass the feeling of gratitude on to my children, I get a further appreciation for Okage Sama De. My mother’s belief in the importance of one’s heritage is exemplified by the book that she co-authored, “The Japanese in Hawaii: Okage Sama De” – which gives a historical perspective on the impact and interdependence of the Japanese and Okinawan cultures in Hawaii.

I look forward to an exciting year full of activities including the 20th Anniversary of the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Interestingly, the Hawaii Okinawa Center’s opening celebration was themed “Okage Sama De” to honor and thank the issei who had sacrificed for the betterment of future generations. We have made a full circle now as we have the opportunity to honor those who helped build the Hawaii Okinawa Center – the Home for Hawaii’s Uchinanchu community. Okage Sama De – Because of you, the past, present and future. Although it is important where we are from, it is equally as important to recognize and honor those who have helped make us who we are. For all Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu At Heart, let us continue to perpetuate the Okinawan culture in Hawaii by remembering the past, demonstrating the Uchinanchu Spirit and insuring that our following generations will have the opportunity to identify with their heritage.

Ippee Nifee Deebiru... Mahalo!
How About A Taste Of Okinawa?

By Vice President Courtney Takaha

If you are interested in learning about our Okinawan history, culture (performing arts and FOOD), please join us at our first ever “Okage Sama De Virtual Leadership Study Tour: Bridging the Past, the Present and the Future” at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on August 7 and 8, 2010.

Since 1993, HUOA has conducted Leadership Study Tours to Okinawa for young adults. Participants who were immersed in the Okinawan way of life returned enthused and eager to make great contributions to their own clubs and HUOA. Unfortunately, in these difficult economic times, we are unable to engage in these successful Leadership Study tours to Okinawa. Therefore, the Club Development and Sustainment Committee has decided to provide an opportunity to those of you who wish to accept the challenge of spending a Friday night and full day on Saturday at the Hawaii Okinawa Center along with members of other clubs.

Our goal is to have representation of at least two members from each club to participate.

Clubs are encouraged to help search for interested future leaders and subsidize their registration fee of $75 per person. Participants must be at least 21 years of age and must commit to the entire event. Imagine that if you were in Okinawa on our Leadership Study Tour, you couldn’t fly back home when you felt like it, right?

Members of previous Leadership Groups are planning exciting activities for all of you.

If you are interested, please call your club president and nominate yourself to attend our virtual leadership tour.

Registration forms will be sent to each club president. For more detailed information, check our website www.huoa.org after March 15.

HUOA DONATIONS

November 16, 2009 - January 15, 2010

HUOA sends a sincere ippee nifee deebiru to the following donors:

- Aiea Copy Center
- Amy Y. Ambrosch
- Helen Aragaki
- Royce T. & Helen M.N. Ebesu
- Tomoaki Hara
- Hawaii Taiko Kai
- In Memory of Lyman Higa by Hawaiian Malacological Society & friends (Don & Helen Hemes, Richard Wata, Fran and son, Scott Wrights)
- Royce E. Higa
- H&U Inc., dba Sun Noodle
- Hui O Laulima
- Nobuyoshi Inafuku
- Takeo Kaneshiro
- Shintetsu Kuniyoshi, President-Pacific Hotel Okinawa
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- In Memory of James “Maliko” Seizen Miyashiro by Jane F. Serikaku, Steve & Michelle Serikaku Whaley
- In Memory of Shizue Kohatsu Nakasone by Alice Uyehara & Mildred Matchick
- In Memory of Shizue Kohatsu Nakasone by Fumiko Tamanaha Darryl & Mindy Oumi
- James & Florence Sakai
- In Memory of Robert Seikichi Shiroma by Rose T, & Nick Shiroma & Diane K. Morihara
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Join Us At Taste Of Marukai

Marukai Corporation, in celebration of the “Taste of Marukai’s” fifth anniversary, will once again provide an awesome array of delicious Japanese cuisine and great sake. Come and experience the Taste of Marukai on Thursday, April 8, 2010. The event will be located at Marukai Wholesale Mart – Dillingham location – from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

In celebration of the half-decade anniversary event, this year’s Taste of Marukai will feature special dishes by D.K. Kodama of Sansei, Kurosawagyu beef prepared teppan-style by Benihana, great Japanese sake and beer, and other delicious foods and drinks unique to Japanese culture.

HUOA President Paul Komeiji invites everyone to participate: “Hey foodies... Come and have fun while supporting HUOA. Last year was our first opportunity to participate in the Taste of Marukai and the attendees raved about the fun, food, drinks and entertainment. Last year, Marukai donated $5,000 to HUOA. This year, we would like to encourage more Uchinanchu to enjoy themselves and learn about this event. To do this, we will be giving a $10 Marukai gift certificate for the first 200 tickets bought through HUOA.”

“All events in the past four years have come to appreciate the great food and sake that has made the Taste of Marukai an event never to be missed!” says Roy Ishihara, vice-president of operations at Marukai Corporation. “Marukai is happy to support the four organizations that promote the culture and heritage of Japan.”

Pre-event tickets are available now for $85 ($95 at the door). The first 200 tickets purchased from HUOA will receive a $10 Marukai gift certificate! For more information about the event, visit www.huoa.org, email huoa@huoa.org, or call us at (808) 676-5400.

On Thursday, April 8, 2010, the 5th Annual Taste of Marukai will offer a taste of Kurosawagyu amongst a wide array of mouthwatering Japanese dishes.

Kurosawagyu is a highly prized, extremely unique type of beef categorized as Kobe-style beef. Kurosawagyu beef is known for its intense flavor, unsurpassed tenderness, and high degree of marbling.

Prized Kurosawagyu cattle are raised on Japanese-based rations on Rangers Valley Farm in the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales in Australia. The year-round cool climate makes for a stress-free environment, one of the many variables that have been painstakingly selected to deliver the absolute highest quality beef. Nearly 200 years of cattle raising experience goes into today’s raising of Australian Wagyu.

Starting in the 1960s, Australia has been on the forefront of beef quality control and inspection innovations. Kurosawagyu cattle are raised under exacting care and control measures, and fed a precise blend of hormone- and chemical-free feed. Japanese experts were consulted to develop feed rations to ensure natural growth rates and to maximize marbling, flavor, and tenderness, and produce the world’s highest quality beef with a superior taste. The cattle are also fed longer to ensure these qualities.

Come experience the prized Kurosawagyu beef at the Taste of Marukai!
Spotlight: Ronald Miyashiro

It was the night before the deadline and all through the Legacy Ballroom, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse... Ahh, but wait, what is that sound? It’s the murmur of a speech being trimmed, the tightening of the gap between dance numbers and more clicking on the keyboard... slide-click-capture, slide-click-capture. An episode of HUOA’s Hawaii Okinawa Today was in its creation. Sitting at the edit bay, Ron Miyashiro is busy at work, editing tons of footage into a trim one-hour program for HUOA’s weekly program, Hawaii Okinawa Today. He is an original member of HUOA’s Video Production Team, a team of dedicated volunteers who have skillfully planned, captured, edited and presented video programs on Olelo and other projects for more than a dozen years.

Ronald Miyashiro is the second son of the six children of the late Zentaro and Shizuko Miyashiro. From a very young age, he has had a keen interest in films. His dad recorded his trips to Japan and families in Okinawa and Hawaii on a 16mm movie camera from the 1950’s and Ron would help his dad in many aspects of camera work, including the splicing of tape. Ron smiled and said that he is not in many family photos because he is the one who took the photos. His interest in video work was doubtlessly influenced by his father and enhanced further with his passion and acumen for working on computers. He is truly a magician at both. You can be sure his academic background is in mechanical engineering and he has worked at Pearl Harbor for nearly 41 years. In addition to his volunteer work for the HUOA, he and his wife Carol are busy grandparents who help their children care for the five little ones.

Ron’s academic background is in mechanical engineering and he has worked at Pearl Harbor for nearly 41 years. In addition to his volunteer work for the HUOA, he and his wife Carol are busy grandparents who help their children care for the five little ones. Should you pass by the Hawaii Okinawa Center and notice the light shining through the windows of our edit bay upstairs, more than likely it’s a sign that Ron’s working on a video project for everyone to enjoy. The HUOA is so fortunate to have such a committed volunteer like Ron Miyashiro, who often works unseen like a shadow warrior (kagemusha). Therefore, we are so pleased to have this opportunity to shine the spotlight on him and say Ippee Nifce Dohiru! Thank you very much, Ron!!

Okinawa’s Vice Governor Zenki Nakazato Heads Group To Hawaii

March 6, 2010 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program. Joining the Honorable Vice Governor Nakazato for the celebration will be Mr. Seishiro Kin, Superintendent, Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education, and Mr. Kenyu Yonaha, Deputy Councillor, Prefectural School Education Division.

A contingent of 22 high school students accompanied by three adult chaperones will arrive on February 27 and experience homestay with families while attending school with their host student. Field trips to Kualoa Regional Park, the Polynesian Cultural Center, State Capitol, Iolani Palace and the Arizona Memorial are planned. These lucky students will also travel to Kona and Hilo, experiencing exchanges with their host school with their host student. Field trips to Kualoa Regional Park, the Polynesian Cultural Center, State Capitol, Iolani Palace and the Arizona Memorial are planned. These lucky students will also travel to Kona and Hilo, experiencing exchanges with students at Konawaena High and Waiakea High School. Boarding at Kilauea Military Camp, they have all been invited to a Pot Luck Dinner Party with members of the Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education, and Mr. Kenyu Yonaha, Deputy Councillor, Prefectural School Education Division.

Benefit Concert

Updates to 2010 Tobe Uta-sanshin/ are being made as more information arrives from Okinawa. Please check our website (www.huoa.org) and listen for announcements on our HUOA hour on Sundays, 5:30 - 6 p.m. on Radio KZOO for more updated information.

2010 Tobe! Uta-Sanshin in Hawaii!

Monday, March 29, 2010
7 p.m.
Hawaii Okinawa Center
Tickets: $25 per person
(tickets will be available at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, Off the Wall Restaurant and from Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai members). Call 676-5400 or email edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com for more information.
A Wonderful Gift!

A special thanks to the Kuba family for their generous gift to Hawaii Okinawa Center. The mirror in the men’s restroom at Legacy Hall had been vandalized with the unpleasant sight of etching. When Ed Kuba, HUOA President 1986-1987, noticed the vandalized mirror when he attended a recent Board of Directors meeting, action man Ed returned home that evening knowing what he would like to do for HOC.

The families of Ed and Bobbi Kuba, Sonny and Nellie Borja, Robert and Ida McGarry, Randy and Frances Kuba, and Brian and Miki Maeshiro, together with Arnold Ichimasa of A-Glassco Inc. replaced the vandalized mirror with a brand spanking new one. Gone are the illegible scribbling and etching. Gentlemen, thanks to Ed’s thoughtfulness, he and his family’s generosity, you can now see your handsome selves. Not to worry ladies, they’re fixing themselves up for you.

Our organization truly benefits from the support of individuals, families and companies like the Kubas and A-Glassco. Their wonderful gift reminds us that we are our strongest when we work together.

HUOA Study Tour To Okinawa June 2 – June 13, 2010

Join President Paul Komeiji on an exciting Study Tour of Okinawa this June! Komeiji selected the month of June to encourage students and teachers to also participate in this tour. You will be visiting historic sites such as the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Museum, the Cornerstone of Peace, and Himeyuri No To, which is dedicated to hundreds of high school students who were recruited as nurses and aides and lost their lives during the Battle of Okinawa.

You will also be visiting Ryukyu Glass Factory, where you will be blowing your own glass creation; exploring Churaumi Aquarium, the second largest aquarium in the world, and much more.

Banner Carriers! Parade Marchers!

Let’s show our Uchinanchu Pride!

Hawaii United Okinawa Association is invited to participate in the JTB Honolulu Festival Grand Parade!

PARADE INFORMATION

Date: Sun, March 14
Assembly Time: 3:30pm
Staging Area: Ft. DeRussey
Parade Start Time: 4:30pm
Parade Route: Kalakaua Avenue, ends at Kapiolani Park

WHAT TO WEAR

Long black pants or black Bermuda shorts (length right above the knee) and any HUOA logo or your Club t-shirt. HUOA vests (uchikake) and purple sashes will be provided for banner carriers and marchers on a first-come, first-served basis. Don’t forget your sunscreen!

BUS SERVICE

Free Bus Service to and from the parade will be provided as follows:

Leaves Hawaii Okinawa Center: 2:15pm
Leaves Pearl City Recreation Center: 2:30pm
Leaves Jikoen Temple: 2:50pm
Leaves Waikiki: 6:00pm

To participate and to ride the bus, please contact the HUOA Office at 676-5400 by March 5.

Ippee Nifee Deebiru - Mahalo Nui Loa!

Spring Craft Fair is coming ...

May 1, 2010
Hawaii Okinawa Center
9am - 3pm

Shopping galore with Hawaii’s best crafters, silent auction, ample parking
Contest the HOC at 676-5400, for additional information.
Fair organized by Ishikawa, Iizumi, Hanegusuku, Rin and Onna.

Optional event and tours:

Celebration of Choichi Terukina sensei’s 50th Anniversary as a sanshin teacher, a recital at the National Theatre Okinawa in Urasoe City, June 12.

Hawaii’s Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai members will also be part of the program.

Yaeyama Islands – overnite tour to Ishigaki and Taketomi

Japan tour after Study Tour (June 13 – June 18) to Tokyo, Yokohama, Kamakura, Hakone and Mt. Fuji

WOW! HOW NICE!

We'd like to thank the person who dropped off a lovely zamia plant at HOC in February! A relative of the Japan sago palm, otherwise known as the sotetsu plant, the zamia plant was left with a nice note by the front door to the Higa Building. If you are the donor, please let us know; we would love to send you a proper thank you!
Hui O Laulima
‘Giving a Helping Hand’

In the language of Hawaii, laulima speaks of “many hands working together” in the spirit of cooperation. True to their name, HUOA member club Hui O Laulima and its generations of many hands of dedicated women are recognized as leaders in the promotion of the Okinawan culture in Hawaii through exhibits, demonstrations, cultural grants – and most recently as publisher and author of “Chimugukuru, the Soul, the Spirit, the Heart.”

Hui O Laulima was organized in 1968 as a women’s auxiliary of the United Okinawan Association of Hawaii. The evolution of this organization continues 42 years later, keeping true to its primary purpose to promote, preserve and perpetuate the Okinawan culture among its members and in the surrounding Hawaiian community, with renewed vigor and “yuimaru,” the spirit of cooperation.

Every year, Hui O Laulima members are given the opportunity to participate in various events that strive to fulfill the purposes of the organization. There is an international lecture series with speakers linking their expertise to the Okinawan culture. Field trips are also offered to neighbor islands to participate in events like the Haari Boat Festival in Hilo, with sightseeing on the side and a tour of Cherry Blossoms in Waimea. Members have also had the opportunity to tour historical landmark sites in the continental United States, with a stop at Las Vegas before returning home. The Garage Sale at Jikoen Temple is the major annual fundraiser.

Chimugukuru, the soul the spirit the heart, Okinawan Mixed Plate II, is the third generation (1975, 2000, 2008) of Hui O Laulima’s cultural cookbooks. Proceeds from the sale of these books funds Hui O Laulima’s Cultural Grants awarded annually to recipients with genuine interest in promoting, preserving and perpetuating the Okinawan culture. Since 1984, over 125 cultural grants have been awarded to individuals or groups to further their promotion and understanding of the Okinawan culture. Awards have sponsored cultural training and certification in Okinawa, educational workshops, concerts and cultural exhibits.

Churakaagi Angwata, HOL’s odori performing group, visits senior care/nursing homes and community centers to present songs, dances and interactive activities for residents throughout the year. In addition, they have regularly performed at the Okinawan Festival.

In support of HUOA initiatives, HOL members are in charge of the Cultural Tent at the Okinawan Festival, which includes an artifacts display, kimono dressing photo shoot, bonsai display, genealogy, Uchinaaguchi and more. The members also volunteer at many other HUOA events, such as the Senior Fair, craft fairs, recitals, parades and fundraising. Oahu’s “Warabi Ashibi-Children at Play, Okinawan Cultural Day Camp for Children,” is another event coordinated and operated by Hui O Laulima volunteers.

Hui O Laulima is what it is because of its members, dedicated and committed to the purposes of this organization. Each new leadership team and new members bring new energy, enthusiasm and effort. Every member has an opportunity to contribute – no contribution is too small not to be counted!
Ikuyu Madin

Envision a child sitting alone on the steps of the Kapiolani Park Bandstand at the Okinawan Festival, playing her sanshin— not noticing the chaos around her, but only the melodic Okinawan sounds she hears from her strumming...this is the image that captures the purpose of the Ikuyu Madin Hawaii United Okinawa Association Donor Wall Recognition Program 2010. She reminds us that we must secure the future for the HUOA and our Okinawan culture in Hawaii.

On January 5, members of the HUOA were introduced to a new program designed to raise enough funds to retire the mortgage on the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza property. This ambitious program hopes to raise $2 million by the end of the year. A part of this project allows both previous and new donors who have contributed to the Capital Campaign an opportunity to be recognized on an individual, family, club or corporate plaque. Displayed in the Hawaii Okinawa Center Legacy Ballroom, our donor wall will show your commitment to the preservation and perpetuation of our Okinawan culture.

As part of this campaign, informational club meetings are scheduled to discuss the progress of the campaign. Open to all members, our first meeting was held on January 20, with additional evening meetings scheduled on February 24 and March 25 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Response to this new campaign has been very positive, with families contacting the HUOA office daily for additional information. As Grant Sandaa Murata, Director of Ryukyu Koten Afuso-Ryu Ongaku Kenkyu Hawaii Choichi Kai, states, "The wonderful HOC stage is the home for Okinawan performing arts in Hawaii. Buying the land across the street will help keep the stage alive and well." HUOA is very gratified for the support it has received for this program.

Additional information about the recognition wall can be answered by calling the HUOA office at 676-5400. The following briefly encapsulates the program:

- Donations from $1,500 and over will be recognized
  - $1,500 or more – 1 line 30 characters
  - $3,000 or more – 2 lines 30 characters each
  - $5,000 or more – 3 lines 30 characters each
  - $7,500 or more – 4" x 16" plaque
  - $10,000 or more – 6" x 16" plaque
  - $20,000 or more – 8" x 16" plaque
  - $30,000 or more – 10" x 16" plaque

Names will be printed on a clear plexiglass plate mounted on a koa base. Recognition size determined by the amount of the donation serves as an everlasting gift to your parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren.

From the 26 original immigrants who came to Hawaii in 1900 seeking better opportunities, to the nearly 50,000 Okinawans today, the Uchinanchu spirit remains strong, growing from generation to generation.

Together, the Hawaii Okinawa Center and the future Hawaii Okinawa Plaza will be the foundation for continuing the dream of preserving our Okinawan culture for Hawaii.
Chimugukuru – Of Hearts As One for Ikuyu Madin
Generosity for the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza

The Tedako Concert Hall in Urasoe City, Okinawa, was packed to a capacity of 1,200 guests on November 14, 2009. Good karaoke friends from Okinawa and Hawaii exemplified the epitome of chimugukuru through their beautiful renditions of nostalgic songs—all for the benefit of HUOA’s Ikuyu Madin Capital Campaign for the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Project. We are overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone to have raised and contributed the proceeds of $25,000 from this benefit concert to the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Project.

Fifteen singers from Hawaii, including karaoke instructors, Marion Arakaki, Elsie Kawamoto, Dennis Oshiro and Brian Suzuki and their performing members combined with 16 luminaries from Okinawa for a stunning performance of popular melodies from the past. Mr. Keiju Kakimohana and his Okinawa Aloha Kayou Tomo no Kai and Mr. Akira Makaya, President of the Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai, co-sponsored this event. Besides the performance, the two gentlemen led their respective groups and made every effort for the success of the event. Additionally, they were instrumental in ensuring that all the guests from Hawaii experienced a special welcome to their ancestral homeland. Organizers for the event from Hawaii were former HUOA president Ryokichi Higashionna and Keiko Ura.

In strong support for the Ikuyu Madin, Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Project, Okinawa’s Vice-Governor Katsuko Asato began the program with a greeting on behalf of the prefecture followed by a heartfelt thank you from our Land Acquisition Chair, George Tamashiro. He also expressed his gratitude to the large audience and the entourage of 70 from Hawaii who added their hearty applause that day.

After the formalities, a hush echoed through the concert hall as all eyes and ears were focused on the stage. As the curtains were drawn, the illumination from the spotlight seemed to pour out into the audience and that brightness also came from the spectacular opener by Hawaii’s own Dazzman Toguchi.

What followed was a tremendous three-hour extravaganza that included a guest performance by the ever-popular Mamoru Miyagi who has graced our Okinawa Festival stage on several occasions.

President Nobuo Utsugi and his lovely wife, Kumu Hula Mariko Utsugi, and members of their halau, Leinani Hula Group, also added their talents to the concert. The HUOA is grateful for their earlier donation of $22,000 through their own fundraising hula performances in Okinawa for the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Project.

We are truly humbled by the ongoing efforts by our “brothers and sisters” in Okinawa who continue to generously support our Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Project and all of the activities of the HUOA. Ippee Nifee Ddeebru to all of you!!
The following donations were received from November 16, 2009 to January 15, 2010.

**DIAMOND ($5,000 AND ABOVE)**
- In Memory of Jesse C. Takara by Nancy M. Takara
- In Memory of Tom T. Higa (Nago) by Laverne Higa

**PLATINUM ($2,500 TO $4,999)**
- In Memory of Henry S. Koga by the Estate of Henry Koga
- In Memory of Kiyoe & Susumu Yamasaki
- In Memory of John H. Oshiro by Wayne & Joan Kurosawa

**GOLD ($1,000 TO $2,499)**
- In Memory of Bobby Toma by Agnes Toma
- In Memory of Harry & Sylvia Ehara
- In Memory of Edward T. & Glen S. Arakaki

**SILVER ($500 TO $999)**
- In Memory of Robert & Bernice Isa by Barbara Isa
- In Memory of Yasuo & Shigemi Koyama by Robert Kiyama
- In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. John K. Kimura by Joseph & Kin Kimura
- In Memory of Kame Shimabuku by Marie & Sally S. Kaneshiro

**BRONZE ($250 TO $499)**
- In Memory of Ernest Guan by Carol Kaneshiro
- In Memory of Takoda, Kochi & Candilasa by Seiko Tokuda
- In Memory of Kame & Shikina Kaneshiro by Pamela Kaneshiro
- In Memory of John H. Oshiro by Wayne & Joan Kurosawa
- In Memory of Harry & Sylvia Ehara
- In Memory of Edward T. & Glen S. Arakaki

**Continued on Page 11**
SUPPORTER ($50 TO $99)
Anonymous
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Stanley & Dorothy Arakaki
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Toyoko Kamiya
Sumire Jones
Eleanor Ing
Florence Arakawa Iida
Nancy Kazuko Ikeda
Eleanor Ing
David Jones
Sumire Jones
Toyoko Kamiya
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George & Grace Nakama
Betsy M. Nakamoto
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Lloyd M. Nakasone
Haruko & Thomas I. Nakara
Masashi Nakata
Haruno Nagami
Adyle Y. Nomura
Herbert H. Ogasahara
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Fuuako Oyaato
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Shigeo Teruya
D. Tokuhara
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Greg & Kristine Uematsu
Nobuo & Kumi Uchida
Muriel Y. Wehrman
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In Memory of Koyei “Robert” Matsumoto by Ryan Sagamuto
In Memory of Akira Sakuma by Alice Maloney
In Memory of Raymond Sakamoto by Alice Sakamoto
Support Coach Dana Day

By Cyrus Tamashiro

The Hospitality Room at the Stan Sheriff Arena was standing room only as the Wahine Basketball Head Coach Dana Takahara-Dias addressed supporters from the Hawaii Okinawan community. Jan. 18, 2010, was “Support Coach Dana Day,” an event organized in the spirit of yuimaru, or members of a community supporting each other in their endeavors. The first year head coach gave an inspiring speech about her family, what she learned about Okinawan culture and values, and how it has helped her as a basketball coach. She emphasizes to her team the importance of unity and communication. Play hard, but have fun. Try to win. Make your team proud even if you don’t win. Represent your community well.

The Wahine was stylish, wearing a green Mitsuko Yamauchi-designed three-quarter sleeve blouse and pants, caps, visors and even a sequined cowboy hat worn by James Iha. Coach Dana’s purple headwear including Eisa head scarves, lei, headbands, Christmas garland, caps, visors and even a sequined cowboy hat worn by James Iha. Coach Dana was stylish, wearing a green Mitsuko Yamauchi-designed three-quarter sleeve blouse when her players took the court, then changing into a black Mitsuko Yamauchi design at halftime.

Coach Dana hosted the pre-game reception and asked the chefs at Sodeko to prepare an Okinawa-inspired menu. Attendees were treated to yaki-seoba, mashed sweet potatoes, miso garlic steak, shoyu pork with lotus root and daikon, and dessert. The spread was supplemented by a wide array of food provided by generous individuals. The Wahine held the lead for most of the first half but their opponent, Utah State, staged a late run to tie the score at 31 by halftime. Thanks to the generosity of game sponsor First Hawaiian Bank (who graciously offered to shorten their halftime promotional activity), Van Shimabukuro and Hawaii Eisa Chikumuguku Dukou entertained the audience along with a Shishimai performed by Jon and Darlene Iomura of the Young Okinawans of Hawaii during the intermission. Following the KFVE telecast, Jim Leathy commented how much he enjoyed the halftime show, especially the “sheepdog.”

In the second half, the lead changed hands several times. Cheers on by the “Purpleheads” in the stands, the Wahine took a six-point lead with two minutes left and surged to a 69-56 conference win.

It was a gratifying victory in front of a vocal, colorful and animated crowd. Shari Y. Tamashiro, Dorene Niibu and Karen Kuba-Hori of Live Yuimaru did a wonderful job coordinating this event. Following the customary post-game exchange of high fives between teams, Coach Dana turned to the “Purpleheads” and, with a big smile, waved in appreciation.

A strong base of vocal fans can do much to energize players on the home team. Please continue to support Coach Dana Takahara-Dias and the Rainbow Wahine by attending home games in the future…. and don’t forget to wear purple on your head! 🌈

HUOA Mixed Volleyball League


For those of you interested in watching, games are held on Sunday at Waipahu High School Gym every hour from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. For a complete schedule, check out HUOA’s website at www.huoa.org.

Good luck to all you energetic volleyball players! 🍃

40th Annual Hawaii United Okinawa Association Invitational Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 29, 2010 & Sunday, May 30, 2010
at Pali Municipal Golf Course

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 (60 and over): 0-30 36 holes Low Net
- Guests (Women 0-36; Men 0-30): 36 holes Low Net
- Optional: Super Seniors (75+) 0-30 18 holes Sunday- 5/30 Low Net

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 at Jikoen Temple, Sunday, May 30, 2010, with cocktails starting at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Additional parking available at Kapalama School, 1601 North School St., from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

ENTRY FEE: $125.00 includes green fees, cart fees, City and County of Honolulu user fees, and awards banquet. Additional banquet tickets are available at $15.00 each. Super Seniors: $60.00 greens and cart fees, Sunday user fees and awards banquet.

STARTING TIMES: Starting times for all flights will be from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. 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.

FOR INFORMATION CALL: WES TERUYA at 235-3117 or 228-8696 or call HUOA at 676-5400.
Hui Okinawa Club News

By Margaret Torigoe, President

II Soogwechi Shimisoochi!

Hui Okinawa’s Shinnen Enkai and Koreisha was held on January 24 at Mr. Maye’s Luau Hale. Honored guests included two of our Kajimaya members and Koreisha. Also in attendance were Hilo’s First Lady Mrs. Takako Keno, HUOA President Paul Komeiji, Senator and Mrs. Dwight Takamine, President of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce President Alan Onishi, President of the Japanese Community Association of Hawaii Glenn Hirata, and Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai representative Sam Gushiken. “Working” guests were Okinawa students attending UHH.

First time Koreisha were specially recognized with a certificate from the State Senate presented by Senator Takamine. About 75 of our 220 Koreisha were in attendance. They each got to take home a lovely centerpiece of bamboo, matsu sprig, paper lanterns, and folded tsuru set in a bamboo vase.

The Kajimaya members, serializers, and Mr. Ronald Miyasato, were presented a certificate by Sen. Takamine and celebrated this auspicious milestone with a birthday cake complete with 9 and 7 candles, singing of Happy Birthday and the dancing of family members dancing around them with the pinwheels.

Our third Kajimaya member, Mr. Kiyotsugu Oshiro, was not able to be with us.

Lunch was prepared by Robert Sanborn & Co. Ono pupus and desserts were donated by club members.

Entertainment during lunch was provided by Nidaime Teishinkai Hawaii Shibu led by Amy Moyer Sensei.

Installation of our Officers and Board of Directors was conducted by HUOA President Paul Komeiji. Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko was the entertainment. The festive event ended with the Kachashi.

Cherry Blossom Festival in Kamuela: Hui Okinawa members got together with 30 Hui O Laulima and 12 Yomitan members from Oahu under the cherry trees after the Waimea Cherry Blossom Festival on February 6. Fun time getting together!

Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange: Plans are being made by Chairperson Patti Taira-Tokueke to host the students from Okinawa on March 11 with a potluck dinner and social at the Church of the Holy Cross from 5:30 p.m.

Merrie Monarch Parade on April 10 will feature two floats from Hui Okinawa: the Haari Boat Festival and Kobudo Taiko.

REMINDER: Please plan to attend the Haari Boat Festival on August 20-21 at Wailoa State Park. Check haariboatfestival.com for an entry form and for updates.

Please read our January 2010 Hui Okinawa Newsletter on the HUOA website: www.huoa.org; which includes complete details of our past and future activities.

Call Margaret Torigoe at 895-0994 or email at matorit8@msn.com if you have any questions or comments for the Hui Okinawa.
Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai Congratulates Michael Hondo

By Jason Hondo, Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai Newsletter Chair

It was a night to remember for Michael Hondo, his family and friends, and the Maui Okinawan community. A dedicated member of the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai for more than 20 years, Hondo was presented with the Japanese Cultural Society of Maui’s prestigious Nihon Bunka (Japanese Culture) Award at their annual Shinnen Enkai on January 30.

Each year, JCS Maui recognizes individuals for their excellence and contributions to the arts and for their unselfish willingness to share their talents with the community. This year, the JCS Maui board selected Hondo as its sole honoree.

A retired art teacher of 25 years, Hondo and his wife Christine have three children, Wade, Jason, and Tamie, and four grandchildren. Born and raised on Maui, Hondo’s Uchinanchu roots came through his Nisei mother, Natalie Hondo Yonahara, but by other respected “MOKK elders” like Shozen Yogi, Wallace Higa, who visits the Maui Okinawan Cultural Center monthly.

Surprisingly, however, Hondo has not always played an active part in the Okinawan community, nor has he been a lifetime member of the MOKK. Looking back, he attributes his initial involvement to the late Roy Yonahara, a revered member of Maui’s Okinawan community, whom he befriended while a fellow teacher at Baldwin High School. “After many small-kine talks and discussions about whatever was current and even some dinner invitations,” Hondo recalls, “I must have mentioned that my mom was of Okinawan ancestry and even lived in Okinawa when she was young. This tidbit must have clicked in his mind, ‘Aha! A prospective club member!’ Later, Roy approached me with something like this, ‘Hey, how about helping out the Okinawa Club with the scholarship committee? I think you would be a good addition. What do you think?’ Kinda hard to turn him down, right?”

To the benefit of Maui’s Okinawans, once Hondo started, he never stopped.

From his introductory days into the MOKK as a member of their scholarship committee, Hondo has since served as MOKK president, scholarship committee chair, co-chair of the Maui Okinawa Festival (including the inaugural festival in 2001), and chair of the annual Maui State Okinawan Golf Tournament. He currently serves on the MOKK Board as the facilities chair, an advisor to the MOKK Senior Citizens Club, and advisor to the numerous club fundraisers and cultural events.

Hondo’s Uchinanchu roots also continue to grow deeper through learning the art of Keten (classical) Taiko with Hawaii Taiko Kai under the direction of Sensei Terry Higa, who visits the Maui Okinawan Cultural Center monthly.

Truly an Uchinanchu, Hondo is quick to deflect praise or recognition, instead crediting his motivation to serve the Okinawan community through the MOKK to the camaraderie and cultural knowledge passed on to him not only by his mentor Yonahara, but by other respected “MOKK elders” like Shoozen Yogi, Wallace, Edwin and Nobu Miyahira, Norman and Patsy Nakamura, Robert Miyashiro, Hirotada Toyama, Yoneko Higa, Kiyoshi Miyahira, Tony Arakaki, Sumiko Kunyoshi, Koki and Helen Tamashiro, Roy Fusato, Helen Kawahara, and June Konno.

Darren Konno, the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai member who nominated Hondo for the award, said, “I have known Michael for over 15 years and his leadership and dedication to the Okinawan culture have earned him the respect of the entire Okinawan community both here on Maui and on Oahu. Michael is deserving of this award because of his tremendous efforts to ensure the Okinawan culture continues to thrive and be shared with the community. He realizes the importance of Okinawan arts & music, but also the importance of the maintenance of the facilities, the fundraising, and the annual events that are all necessary to help preserve and promote the Okinawan culture.”

Other distinguished guests at the Shinnen Enkai event included Maui’s State Representative Gil Keith-Agaran (representing State Senator Shan Tsutsui) who presented Hondo with congratulations from the Hawaii State Senate, and Maui County Councilmember Mike Victorino, who presented an official commendation from the Maui County Council.

In celebration of Hondo’s achievement, the program for the near 300 people of Maui’s community in attendance included performances by the Maui Ryukyu Culture Group (sanzhin and eisa) and Hawaii Taiko Kai.

10 Questions & 10 Minutes to Define Who We Are as a Nation

Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) is assisting the U.S. Census inform everyone about the upcoming national Census. The U.S. Constitution requires a national Census once every 10 years, and 2010 is a Census year! Questionnaires will be sent out in March. Just fill it in and mail it back to the U.S. Census.

It’s Easy! Unlike past years, every household in 2010 will receive a short form. With only 10 questions, it will take only about 10 minutes to complete. But the results will benefit Hawaii for the next 10 years.

It’s Safe! Every Census Bureau worker takes an oath for life. By law, the Census Bureau does not share your answers with anyone.

It’s Important! Every year more than $400 billion in federal funds are awarded to states and communities based on Census data.

Please Be Counted in Census 2010. Questions? Call 1-866-872-6868 (toll free) for more information.

For more information, call 676-5400
Sponsored by Hawaii United Okinawa Association
www.huoa.org

$10 Marukai Gift Certificate for you

when you buy your ticket from HUOA for the 5th Annual Taste of Marukai on April 8, 2010, 6pm – 9pm

You will receive a $10 gift certificate for each $85 ticket purchased.
Limited to the first 200 tickets sold.
See page 4 for event information.
Camps for other communities are being planned and additional information will be released in our next issue of Uchinanchu. Please contact the HUOA office at 676-5400 or at kuba-huoa@hawaii.rr.com, should you have any questions.

Application information will be released in our next issue. So join us as we explore the many facets of the Uchinanchu culture.

Warabi Ashibi – Children at Play

Parents – want your children to learn about your Okinawan heritage and culture? Want them to learn that Okinawan is not just “andagi.” During the early months in summer the HUOA along with member Okinawan clubs are again planning for “Warabi Ashibi – Okinawan Cultural Day Camp for Children.”

Warabi Ashibi literally means children at play. This summer, Warabi campers will be exposed to Okinawan/Japanese dancing, drumming, crafts, language, history and games in a fun learning atmosphere. Camps will range from two to six days, depending on the island and camp they participate in.

All camps are in the planning stages – so save these dates of the camps currently confirmed:

Oahu – June 1- 4, Tuesday to Friday
Hawaii Okinawa Center
9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
(overnighter planned on Thursday evening)

Hawaii – Hilo – May 30 - June 4, Sunday to Friday
Hilo Hongwanji Betsuin YBA Hall
9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(excursion planned for Thursday)

Camps for other communities are being planned and additional information will be released in our next issue of Uchinanchu.

Please contact the HUOA office at 676-5400 or at kuba-huoa@hawaii.rr.com, should you have any questions. Application information will be released in our next issue. So join us as we explore the many facets of the Uchinanchu culture.

New Books at the Hawaii Okinawa Center Gift Shop

We would like to feature two books by Okinawan authors. The first book, “Ikusayuni Ichitii, A Mother’s Story of the Battle of Okinawa,” by Oshiro Junko, was published in 1989 and reprinted in 1995. Originally published in Japanese, “A Mother’s Story” chronicles firsthand the tragedies of war. With the encouragement of her son, Oshiro Junko, at 70 years of age, shares a very personal account of her experience during the war. As written in a prologue by her son, Minoru, “...her story could serve to remind people of the importance of peace.” Your heart will grieve for the atrocities the Okinawan people experienced and rejoice in this family’s survival.

Titled, “May-Li”, locally born author Mildred Higa shares with us a light short story about her time growing up in rural Oahu, and her famous water buffalo, May-Li. Dedicated to her parents, this story reflects upon the hardships endured by her Okinawan immigrant parents and the story of their pet buffalo. Like many families, their elders overcame adversity and paved the way for future generations to have every opportunity to reach their dreams.

Both books are available at the Hawaii Okinawa Center Gift Shop. You can purchase “A Mother’s Story” for $10 and “May-Li” for $6. The Gift Shop is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. If you wish to place an order, please contact HUOA at huoa@huoa.org or (808) 676-5400.

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Uchinaa-guchi
(Okinawan language)
Word of the Month
January
taki-fudu, n. Physique; body build; physical constitution; body structure; frame.
February
tura, n. [tora] 1 A tiger; 2 The Tiger; third of the twelve calendrical animal signs.
Watch “Hawaii Okinawa Today,” Monday evenings at 7 p.m. on ‘Olelo–Oceanic Cable Channel 53. You can also view our shows on Olelonet – simultaneous Web streaming. For updated information contact: hot@huoa.org or visit our website; www.huoa.org for detailed information.

Mar 1
With Appreciation to Aunty Chiyo,” a benefit dance concert by Keiko Miyagi & students from Okinawa, Part Two, held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on August 23, 2009 (Premiere)

Mar 8
Chu Hisa Na, “Fulfilling Dreams One Step At A Time,” Frances Nakachi Dojo’s first Okinawan dance recital held at the Hawaii Theatre Center on May 13, 2000 (Part One)

Mar 15
26th Okinawan Festival 2008 at Kapiolani Park - Show No. 9, featuring Haitai Miyarabi, Halau Hula O Na Leionalani; Radio Okinawa’s Miuta Taisho Winner Tatsya Shimabukuro and the Tokonatsu Band; and the Royal Hawaiian Band (Premiere)

Mar 22
“Bridge to the Future” Okinawan Performance at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on March 12, 2000 (Part One)

Mar 29
“Bridge to the Future” Okinawan Performance at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on March 12, 2000 (Part Two)

Apr 5
Hui Makaala Fashion Show held on October 18, 2009 at the Waikiki Sheraton Hotel. (Part One) (Premiere)

Apr 12
Maigokoro, Spirit of Dance (Part One),” an Okinawan Dance Performance by Shinyo Ryu Dance Academy of Okinawa, Iemoto Yoshiko Majikina, 1999 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center

Apr 19
Hui Makaala Fashion Show held on October 18, 2009 at the Waikiki Sheraton Hotel. (Part Two) (Premiere)

Apr 26
Maigokoro, Spirit of Dance (Part Two),” an Okinawan Dance Performance by Shinyo Ryu Dance Academy of Okinawa, Iemoto Yoshiko Majikina, 1999 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center

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