

Tokuichi "Dynamite" Takushi

1910 - 1977

TOKUICHI "DYNAMITE" TAKUSHI 2016 LEGACY AWARD



A True Uchinanchu Trailblazer,

Tokuichi "Dynamite" Takushi was a man ahead of his time.

His vision, charisma, passionate work ethic and force of personality inspired and rallied others, and allowed him to lead by example, and implement programs that continue to have a positive impact today. As a founder of

Hui Makaala and principal of the then-bourgeoning Democratic Party in Hawaii, Takushi accomplished his goals to create a better Hawaii.

He provided opportunities for Okinawans to grow, succeed and become leaders through social interaction, academic achievement, and government and community service, while maintaining their Uchinanchu heritage.

Many say Dynamite earned his name for his "dynamic enthusiasm, energy, loyalty and support of things he believed in." Tokuichi Takushi was born in Waipahu in 1910 to parents, Ushi and Kana, as the first son of seven children. After graduating in 1931 from Mid-Pacific Institute, he met and married Doris Kimie Shimabukuro from Hilo in 1939. Together they raised two sons, Morris and Floyd, and daughter, Karen Takushi Shishido.

His family includes grandchildren Brent (Faye), Wendi (Alfonso), Dean (Lisa), and Cindy Shishido, and four great grandchildren

Blaise and Tani Takushi, Treyson Furuta, and Evan Shishido, who continue to learn from Dynamite's examples. Dynamite, along with a few other young Uchinanchu, founded Hui Makaala in 1946, an organization for young Okinawans to succeed in a quickly developing cosmopolitan Hawaii-American environment, while maintaining pride in their culture. Hui Makaala quickly established its Scholarship Program in 1947, awarding thousands of dollars to

Uchinanchu students to help them attain higher education. The Hui Makaala's Fashion Show, a fundraiser for the Scholarship, has featured the latest in Hawaii fashion styles with both professional and amateur local models since 1969.

The Hui Makaala Softball League was formed in 1949,



providing opportunities for interaction, friendly competition and instilling a sense of pride between members and Uchinanchu Village organizations. It quickly grew to 68 teams with over 1,000 participants for approximately 20 years; and was considered the largest Softball League in the World, helping Takushi earn recognition as "Sportsman of the Year" from the Honolulu Advertiser.

During the same period, many in Okinawa struggled to recover from impoverished conditions after the devastation of the Battle of Okinawa. Many groups in Hawaii were formed to provide relief, sending hogs for food, medical and school supplies. Dynamite served on the "Goat Brigade," accompanying a shipment of 650 milking goats to Okinawa in 1949, and the U.S. Army sent him on a Friendship Mission to Okinawa, bestowing upon him privileges of a Brigadier General in 1970.

Over the years, Hui Makaala hosted countless Okinawan events, cultural classes, Miss Hui Makaala beauty pageants, sports and musical events and goodwill missions to Okinawa. Many couples met at Hui Makaala activities, resulting in many weddings and Uchinanchu families!



During Hawaii's formative years as the 50th State, Dynamite also held many government leadership positions, including on the City & County of Honolulu Parks & Recreation Board, and years of service on the Transportation Commission and Liquor Commission.

Dynamite's life was also immersed in politics and community affairs. He was appointed as Administrative Aide to U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye and elected as one of the first two Asians in the Nation to vote in the U.S. Presidential Electoral College! He was also appointed as Sergeant-at-Arms for the Hawaii State Senate, awarded "Outstanding Democrat of the Year" by the Young Democrats of Hawaii, proudly attended the Washington D.C. Inauguration of President John F. Kennedy and was an elected delegate to the National Democratic Convention for many years. Dynamite also served as a confidant to many officials, including Governor John A. Burns and Governor George Ariyoshi, and used these experiences to mentor to many Nisei who became successful government and community leaders.

Morris Takushi recalls "We always knew that Dad was very busy, but we didn't know at the time all the things he was doing that made such a difference in people's lives." Through the vision of Dynamite Takushi, and the dedication of organizations like Hui Makaala, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the Takushi Family, his programs have continued to positively affect thousands of Okinawans many years after his passing. This year, through its 47th Annual Fashion Show, Hui Makaala awarded \$20,000 to eight students who will no doubt give back to the community like their predecessors and founders of the scholarship.



"With little money to his name, Dynamite had in fact, left a wealthy legacy to all...a man ahead of his time! We are proud that his legacy lives on through HUOA and Hui Makaala," explains daughter Karen Shishido. The Takushi family is honored and privileged to have shared and continue sharing Dynamite with the entire community.

