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Dear Valued Supporters and Friends of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association,

In consideration of the global concerns related to COVID-19, HUOA has reluctantly decided that it is in the best interest for the health and safety of its members, volunteers and general public to postpone the 120th Anniversary of Okinawan Immigration celebration covering May 14-17, 2020.

HUOA discussed and gave much consideration to numerous factors including the postponements and cancellations of many other public events including the 2020 Honolulu Festival (March), the 11-day Festival of the Pacific (June), Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Conference (May), and the East-West Center Association International Conference (June/July). Also, the Hawaii State Department of Education and numerous private schools have been issuing stern policies related to any potential exposure to COVID-19.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, degrees of concern have been rapidly changing over a short period of time regarding the health and safety of Hawaii residents and foreign visitors. Currently, there are only two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Hawaii. However, apprehension and concern continue to rise as new cases of the virus are identified across the United States, as close as Seattle, Washington.

Thus, HUOA has decided to postpone the 120th Anniversary celebration to promote a responsible and cautious approach and to minimize hardship or inconvenience for those who were intending to register for any or all of the 120th Anniversary celebration events and are beginning to make relevant travel arrangements.

Postponing our 120th Anniversary celebration was a difficult decision. Volunteers and HUOA staff have been planning this event since Spring 2019. HUOA will now redirect its focus to incorporate portions of this celebration with its 38th Okinawan Festival. HUOA will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation over the coming months. At this time, however, please note that planning for the Okinawan Festival will continue uninterrupted. The 38th Okinawan Festival will be held at the Hawaii Convention Center on September 5-6, 2020.

I ppee Niffee Deebiru for your understanding. If you have any questions, please contact Jon Itomura or Lynn Miyahira at 676-5400 or via email: anniversary@huoa.org.

Lynn Miyahira
President