

Bito Doshi Kai
P.O. Box 283148
Honolulu, HI 96828

July 8, 2007

Dear Bito Doshi Kai Member,

I hope you and your family are enjoying the summer. I wanted to pass on some important information to you, especially about the upcoming Okinawan Festival and status of the Capital Campaign.

Summer Picnic – July 29, 2007

Don't forget our annual summer picnic on July 29, 2007, at Ala Moana Beach Park. It will be in Area 9, the same area we usually use in back of the Diamond Head concession stand. It will be from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, and there will be games and prizes for all participants. You need to provide your own lunch, but extra drinks and shave ice will be provided. Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai and Osato Doshi Kai will be joining us at the picnic. The reminder card was mailed so you can post it on your refrigerator or bulletin board. Come and join us for the fun!

25th Annual Okinawan Festival – Labor Day Weekend

The 25th anniversary Okinawan Festival at Kapiolani Park will be very special. A special play on the life of Toyama Kyuzo and Okinawan immigration will be held at the HOC on Thursday night. Then the festival will open on Friday evening, August 31st, with a parade, the opening ceremony, and a concert. On Saturday night, there will be a bon dance and a concert by Rinken Band from Okinawa. Check your *Uchinanchu* newsletter and the new <http://www.okinawanfestival.com/> website for more information.

We need booth volunteers for:

- 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, Saturday
- 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Saturday
- Or all day

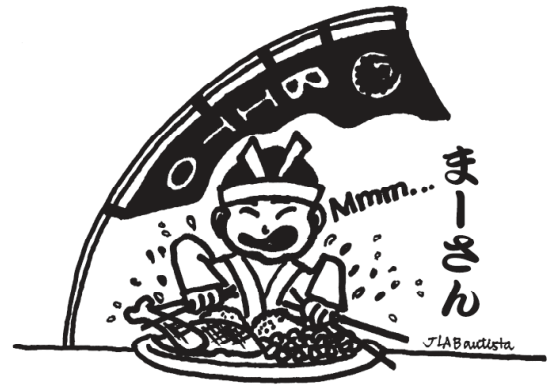
Students can earn community service credit. We'll have documents available to verify their service. Minors need to have parents sign the waiver form before they come to the festival, if their parents are not present to sign them at the booth. We will contact you about volunteering for the booth, or you can call Eunice Dela Cruz at 554-3356 or 942-4320 to volunteer.

I also plan to set up the booth and canopies on Thursday, August 30th, and need some help. We purchased two folding canopies to use to cover the chicken packing area and the sushi selling area. All these years, we have depended on the tents Sashiki-Chinen provided. Since they are not working until Sunday, we have to take care of this ourselves. Please call me at 523-3804 if you are available to help on Thursday. Mahalo.

Please let Eunice know as soon as possible if you need more festival scrips. We have to turn in all unsold scrips to HUOA by August 6th. After that date, you will have to purchase scrips at the festival scrip booths and our club will not get credit for those.

Order Bito Club Festival T-shirts

Karleen Chinen is helping us with a new club T-shirt in time for the festival. The design at right by Jordan Bautista, son of Larry and Jan Bautista and grandson of Sally and the late Reynold Shimabukuro, will be on the back of the shirt. The cost of the shirt will be dependent on how many we order, so please call Eunice Dela Cruz as soon as possible, with the sizes and number of shirts you would like to order. Masan is Okinawan for "ono."



We want a more formal logo we can put on polo shirts. Designs are welcome!

Land Acquisition/Capital Campaign

The fundraising project to pay for the purchase of the parcel across from the Hawaii Okinawa Center (HOC) is at a critical point. As you know, the HUOA took out a US Department of Agriculture loan to purchase the property from Gentry. HUOA has collected about \$1 million in cash donations and \$250,000 in pledges. The State Legislature approved a \$1.6 million grant to the HUOA for the purchase of the property last year, but the State has not released the funds. Those funds are critical for paying back the loan. The State will release the funds when HUOA can show that it has collected enough funds, including the \$1.6 million state grant, to cover the \$3.6 million purchase price. We must do this by the end of this year. The Land Acquisition committee estimates that about another \$1 million needs to be collected to meet this goal. They are asking that the clubs collect another \$300,000 or more in total. Additional funds will still need to be collected next year to start the development phase of the property, after the loan is paid off. This is a multi-year project.

I do not have specific information on our club's donations yet. I know that some of you have made donations and we are very appreciative. I made a donation last year and will do so again this year. It is important for us to support this campaign. HUOA is committed to acquire the property and it must be developed in order to generate the income HUOA needs to maintain the Hawaii Okinawa Center (HOC). HUOA obtains income from the use of the HOC but it is not enough to cover the costs of repairs and maintenance. Over the years, maintenance and repairs have been postponed because of a lack of funds. It's like maintaining your car – if you don't change the oil and filters, check the tires and brakes, and keep it tuned, sooner or later it will break down and will cost you even more to fix. We can't afford to let that happen to the HOC, for which many of you worked so hard and contributed so much to build.

I ask all member families to donate to the Capital Campaign. There is information on how you can donate and on specific recognition awards for contributing in the latest issue of the *Uchinanchu* newsletter and on the HUOA website (huoa.org). The Ginowan club was able to get every family to contribute, and challenged other clubs and the HUOA officers to meet this goal. Even if it is a small amount, please consider making a donation for the future of our association. We must all participate to make this project a success. If you have any questions, please call me. Mahalo.

Ippei nifee debiru,

Walter Ikehara
President
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