

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

September 17, 2008

Dear Bito Club Members,

Hope you had a great summer. There are some important issues which need your attention.

Winter Craft Fair Help Needed!

We were recently notified that our club has been assigned by HUOA to help four other clubs with the Winter Craft Fair. HUOA assigns clubs in rotation to support these important fundraising events. The Evening Craft Fair in 2004 was the last one we did. This craft fair takes place on November 29 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and November 30 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. I already attended the first organizational meeting and we've accepted the Food (andagi booth), Communications, and Advertising committees. Brandon Nakasone will chair the Food committee, I will take on Communications, and I hope that someone will help with Advertising. Sorry that it's so soon after the Festival, but we will be asking for your help again.

Summer Picnic

This year's picnic was at Ala Moana Park on July 27th. The turnout was pretty sparse, with only three families from Bito Club, seven families from Ozato, and 24 families from Sashiki-Chinen attending. Sashiki-Chinen was unhappy about the lack of Bito participation and volunteers. I have to take the blame for part of that because the notice to you went out so late. I apologize for that. If you think we should have a picnic, or not, next year, please vote on the card. If there isn't sufficient interest, perhaps we should cancel the summer activity or have something different instead.

2008 Okinawan Festival

A big Mahalo to all the members, friends, and families who came out to help at the Chicken/Lau Lau booth this year. Per our agreement with Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai, we worked the booth all of Sunday. Although we couldn't sell out all the chicken like we did last year, apparently the festival was still quite profitable for HUOA. Ford Chinen, HUOA President-Elect and Festival Chairman, said that he estimated that the food booths generated almost \$400,000 in revenue, and that HUOA may clear as much as \$75,000 in net income. He thanked all of us for doing a great job.

I want to extend my personal appreciation to all the volunteers who came out to help. I'll list them below, and especially want to recognize the Nakasone and Shimabukuro families for bringing out so many helpers. Special thanks to Eunice Dela-Cruz, Volunteer Coordinator, and Brandon Nakasone, Chicken Manager, for helping everything run smoothly, and some volunteers from Sashiki-Chinen. Iron Men Brandon and Nathan even worked all-day Saturday, helping Sashiki-Chinen. We also sold all of the \$3,500 pre-sale scrips our club was assigned. You are the reason our club can be proud of our contribution to the festival and why the festival is so successful every year. Ippei nihee debiru and Mahalo nui loa!

Andrew	Bautista	Sterling	Leong	Dwight	Sato
Jan	Bautista	Paahana	Leslie	Kylie	Sato
Jordan	Bautista	Gretzsky	Libaldo	Tammy	Shimabuku
Joyce	Chinen	Tanya	Migita	Cory	Shimabukuro
Karleen	Chinen	Irene	Murakami	Jade	Shimabukuro
Winston	Ching	Stanley	Nakamura	Jasmine	Shimabukuro
Carrie	Corcoran	Angie	Nakasone	Jeremy	Shimabukuro
Ken	Corcoran	Ashley	Nakasone	Kristen	Shimabukuro
"Bull"	Dela-Cruz	Brandon	Nakasone	Sally	Shimabukuro
Eunice	Dela-Cruz	Dayna	Nakasone	Emily	Tahara
Michelle	Fujii	Kenneth	Nakasone	Michael	Tahara
April	Goya	Leina	Nakasone	Greg	Tamon
Auston	Goya	Lisa-Marie	Nakasone	Sue	Tamon
Kent	Goya	Nathan	Nakasone	Robert "RJ"	Toguchi
Mackenzie	Goya	Roy, Jr.	Nakasone	Mary	Ueunten
Mavis	Gushiken	Roy, Sr.	Nakasone	Senjin	Ueunten
Emily	Ikehara	Tasha	Nakasone	Brian	Walsh
Thomas	Ikehara	Toshiko	Nakasone	Kelli	Watanabe
Walter	Ikehara	Wayne	Nakasone	Ann	Zakimi
Laura	Ikehara-Martin	Dylan	Sakuma	Zayne	Zakimi
Rodney	Kwock	Chelsie	Sato		
Faith	Leong	Dale	Sato		

Please let me know if I missed your name.

We Need Your Vote on Some Important Club Decisions

We need your review and approval of several important proposals. I'll describe them and then give you some choices. Please check off your choices on the enclosed postcard and mail the postcard to me as soon as possible. *If you do not respond by October 1, it will be counted as a "YES" vote to all the questions, so it is important that you respond.* Thank you.

Revision of Bito Doshi-Kai By-Laws

In order for our club to come under the non-profit status of HUOA, we needed to make some changes to our club by-laws to be consistent with the HUOA by-laws and to conform with the non-profit organization defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service regulations. For example, our by-laws provided for koden for funerals and congratulatory gifts for graduates. Gifts to members from a non-profit organization's treasury are prohibited by the IRS. I also clarified, revised and reorganized other sections of the by-laws, taking some sections from the HUOA by-laws.

I've attached both the original by-laws and the revised draft. The revisions are marked on the draft so it will be easier to see the changes. The revised by-laws must be approved by a majority of the membership to take effect. If you have suggestions, please mark up the revised draft and return it to me, along with your completed postcard, as soon as possible.

Possible Changes in Future Club Functions

For as long as I can remember, we have held our activities jointly with Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai. Over the last several years, it has been suggested to me that our club would benefit from going on our own. For example, our club tends to be overshadowed by the larger presence of Sashiki-Chinen at our joint gatherings. At the Shinnen-Enkai, the closest thing we have to a general membership meeting, it is difficult for us to conduct any club business because it is a joint activity. We have been considering holding our own Shinnen-Enkai so that we could make it both a celebration and a general membership meeting, because it would be difficult to do two separate big meetings in one year. I favor holding at least one general membership meeting every year to conduct club business. Please tell us if you prefer staying with Sashiki-Chinen for the Shinnen-Enkai or whether to try going it alone. If you think we can go separately, would you prefer a lunchtime event or an evening event? Please vote on the card.

The participation of our member families at the annual summer picnic has dropped off. Maybe it has become more of a hardship, especially for our older members, to come out to Ala Moana Park at the hottest time of the year. Perhaps we should consider having some other kind of activity that is more comfortable and convenient for our membership instead of a picnic. What do you think we should do? Please vote on the card.

While our club could forge a stronger identity and plan different activities if we went on our own, it would also require more work and a larger investment of funds to accomplish these things. We would have to be realistic about what we could do. It is also important to recognize how much our association with Sashiki-Chinen has helped us and to maintain good relations with them. If we want to continue our association with Sashiki-Chinen, we need to pull our share of the load and to increase our participation in the joint activities. What do you think we should do?

One alternative we may consider in the future is to merge with a larger club that is associated with our home area of Okinawa, for example, we could discuss this possibility with Okinawa City – Goeku Son. The mayor of Okinawa City in fact suggested such a merger at the last Worldwide Unchinanchu Festival (Taikai) in Okinawa. Let us discuss whether it is time to merge with another club.

Where we go and how we get there will depend on you and your families, especially on the younger members. It is no exaggeration to say that if our younger sansei and yonsei members do not become more active in the club, our club will eventually cease to exist as a separate club.

Nominations for 2009 Club Officers

On reviewing the original club by-laws, I found out that club officers are supposed to serve only three years, although the terms could be indefinitely extended if replacement officers are not elected and installed. I've been president since 2004, so it's been five years. I plan to retire as president at the end of this year. Eunice Dela-Cruz, who has served as treasurer and often as secretary for the last two years, has asked to be secretary alone instead. Karleen Chinen, our long-time vice-president, and Joyce Nakasone, our long-time secretary, would like to retire too. It's time for a fresh slate!

I am very happy to tell you that some members have offered to serve as club officers next year. Brandon Nakasone is willing to be President, Nathan Nakasone for Vice-President, Eunice Dela-Cruz for Secretary, and I will volunteer for Treasurer, at least until someone else can take over. My wife Karen, who has experience with financial recordkeeping, will help me. We will also review our slate of Advisors as well. If there are others who would be willing to be nominated for any of these offices, especially younger members, please contact me. It would be good to have choices.

I plan to produce a winter newsletter and hold an election for the officer nominees at that time.

Installation Banquet and Uchinanchu of the Year Honoree

HUOA wants us to know who our club's Uchinanchu of the Year honoree will be as soon as possible. The UOYs will be honored at the Installation Banquet in December. Please give me your nomination for the UOY. We will need a good photograph and a descriptive paragraph for our chosen UOY honoree.

As always, my door is open to Bito Club members. Please call or email me if you have any concerns, suggestions, or information. I need to hear from you.

Ippei niffee debiru,



Walter Ikehara, President
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