

# 2009 UCHINANCHU OF THE YEAR

## HAWAII SHURI NAHA CLUB

### RYAN NAMAKA

The Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club proudly honors Ryan Namaka as its 2009 Uchinanchu of the Year. Ryan, who is Hawaiian-Chinese, typifies many Uchinanchus-at-Heart who have devoted much of their valuable time and energy to their club and HUOA.

Ryan has been married for over 15 years to Cheryl Goya whose parents have been long time members of the club. It wasn't until 2006 when Ryan was introduced to club activities at its annual summer picnic. He decided to join the club to show his family the value of participation and the importance of learning and perpetuating his adopted Okinawan heritage.

When asked to serve as Vice President of the club, Ryan humbly accepted. Under the tutelage of club president Doris Arakaki, Ryan learned the many facets of the club and HUOA by volunteering at the craft fairs, Okinawan Festivals, club picnics and the Senior Fair, as well as attending HUOA Board of Directors meetings. He recently accepted the position of President of the Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club, a role he is most qualified to serve due to his many volunteer experiences and commitments to the club and HUOA.



## HUI ALU, INC.

### ROYCE EBESU

Hui Alu's Uchinanchu of the Year 2009 is Royce Ebesu. A retired Post Master, Royce is experienced working with people and has made his contribution to the organization by starting our annual fund raising golf tournament. Initially the purpose of the golf tournament was to fund restoration of the Hui Alu clubhouse. This project went on for many years and was completed in phases. In recent years, proceeds received from our golf tournament provide \$1000 scholarship opportunities to five of our membership's graduating high school seniors. Students who excel in Math and English at our public high schools are recognized by their respective departments and Hui Alu provides one of each Excellence Award in the amount of \$300 to each public high school based on their recommendation. We have recently completed the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Hui Alu Golf Tournament in August of this year of which Royce was chairperson for the first seven years. Royce is a very active member helping to coordinate food preparation for our many activities. Royce along with the "Huli Gang" is always there to provide a great meal for the membership and guests.



## HUI MAKAAALA

### AL Y. KAKAZU

Hui Makaala is proud to have Al Y. Kakazu representing us as our Uchinanchu of the Year. Al has served Hui Makaala in every capacity: past President in 1996; Vice President & Treasurer; and Director for the past 11 years. Al is a CPA with a Masters Degree from UH Manoa, who greatly contributes his expertise in the handling of Hui Makaala's finances and investment funds. Al is the President of B. Hayman Co. Married to wife, Michelle, they are the proud parents of Ashley (12) and Audrey (11). Al and family, are always there to participate and donate their time and energy to Hui Makaala's causes. After being begged and prodded, Al, being so humble sent us his personal information under extreme protest. His hobbies listed were in this order: Vegas, cigars, scotch, beer, golf—what an honest guy!



## HUI O LAULIMA

### BETSY MIYAHIRA

Betsy Miyahira joined HOL during the 1970's and served as President from 1981-1983. She served in other capacities throughout the years and continues to be active with the Ginowan Shijin Kai, Gaza Doshi Kai, Lanakila and Moanalua Senior Center and with her church, Community of Christ.

She was selected as Woman of the Year from Hui O Laulima, and Uchinanchu of the Year from Ginowan and Gaza Clubs. In early 2000, she was named Senior Volunteer of the Year for the City and County of Honolulu. She enjoys travelling, especially to Las Vegas where she follows the UH football team. She enjoys the Okinawan dancing, hula, line dancing, bowling, card playing, karaoke, singing, doing craft projects, attending her grandchildren's sporting events and volunteering at Kuakini Hospital. Her philosophy of life is to be involved and to be active. Betsy and her husband Robert have three children and six grandchildren. Betsy retired from Kuakini Medical Center's Radiology Department in 1981. Both are enjoying their lives and leisure to the fullest.

