Strengthening Our Sister-State Relationship in Okinawa

Hawaii Delegation Journeys with HUOA to Commemorate 30th Anniversary

By Mark Higa

A

approximately 50 of Hawaii’s top representatives from various disciplines escorted Governor David Ige on an economic, trade and cultural exchange mission in October to Okinawa. This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Sister-State Relationship between Hawaii and Okinawa, and how fitting that Okinawa’s Sansei immigrant son, the first U.S. Governor of Okinawan descent, would lead the delegation to Okinawa on his first trip there in his inaugural year. The purpose of the mission was to explore the similarities and challenges that both of our sister states face, to examine and find ways to strengthen the many collaborative efforts in place, and to explore even larger efforts together in the future. These goals were packed into an intensive schedule over four days.

With a specific focus on Education and Renewable Energy, Governor David Ige, First Lady Dawn Amano Ige, and the diverse contingent were able to observe Okinawa’s approaches and share Hawaii’s efforts in a series of site visits and conferences in different locations around Okinawa.

The Hawaii delegation included Senator Gil Kahele, Representative Ryan Yamane, state Department of Business Economic Development & Tourism (DEBDT), leaders from all of Hawaii’s higher education institutions: the University of Hawaii, Chaminade University, and Hawaii Pacific University, as well as a cross section of Hawaii’s leaders in energy industries. Site visits and interfaces included University of the Ryukyus, Meio University, Naha Kokusai High School, Okinawa J-Power Plant, Okinawa Power Company, and Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology. Seminars were held on education, international exchange and renewable energy. Our own Executive Director Jane Serikaku served on a panel of distinguished speakers covering the importance of educational exchange.

Governor Ige and Okinawa Governor Takeshi Onaga addressed a crowd of about 500 at a reception hosted by Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai. Throughout the trip, Governor Ige delivered moving speeches that showed commitment to the bond between our two states, and impressed how our collaborative spirit is akin to connection between family.

With the events overlapping the start of the HUOA Study Tour, a Sister-State relationship was held with all of the Okinawa’s participants and a total of about 80 from Hawaii. What an honor it was for HUOA to be able to represent Hawaii Uchinanchu and be recognized alongside with Governor Ige, Governor Onaga and U.S. Japan Ambassador Caroline Kennedy. Each gave their respect and gratitude to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association for our unwavering efforts to keep this friendship alive.

Please know that this message goes out to each of you reading this, your families, the community, and every volunteer at the Hawaii Okinawa Center and our events.

With Governor Ige and Naha Mayor Mikiko Shiroma wanted to be sure that Governor Ige would be able to enjoy the unique experiences of Okinawa while sharing Governor Ige with so many in Okinawan public who were anticipating this visit. Aside from the public addresses, Governor Ige spent time with TV and radio interviews, marching in the Naha Matsuri Parade, and attending the Naha Otsunabaki – Great Tug-Of-War!

Aside from the courtesy visits, conferences and addresses, our Governor was able to share very special moments with his brothers and family who connected with their relatives for the first time in Okinawa. A delicate moment that many of us have experienced, we can relate to our Governor and his family as they met face to face for the first time with cousins and relatives, paying their respects at the “Ige” Family tousoume. Governor Ige also set aside a morning to visit Heiwa No Ishiji, paying his respects on behalf of himself, his family and all of us, for the thousands who perished during the Battle Of Okinawa.

Thirty years ago, Hawaii legislators Dwight Yoshito Takamine, Marshall Ige, Charles Toguchi, Ken Kiyabu, Dennis Nakasato and Robert Nakata laid the ground-work with Governor George Ariyoshi to form this Sister State Relationship. With the hopes of strengthening the bonds through the commonalities of our island communities, so many programs and initiatives have spurred from this relationship ever since.

Exchange through education, travel industry, medicine, agriculture, aquaculture, renewable energy, technology and culture are just a few of the many facets of collaboration that continue to grow. Many thanks go to DEBDT’s Dennis Ling and Marlene Hirao, Governor Ige and his staff for their continued conviction in this relationship, in their rigorous planning and for working to have supplemental funding for this year’s events. This year’s exchange in Hawaii in July, and Okinawa in October have renewed our efforts and set the tone for the next 30 years! 🎉
President’s Message
By Mark Higa

Happy Holidays Hawaii United Okinawa Association, Families and Friends!

Eleven of our senior leaders took initiative to form our 50th HUOA Club, Shinka - dedicated to the growth of young adults and their awareness of our Okinawan culture. They eagerly stepped up to participate in various HUOA events and coordinated the Yuntaku 2 Social Mixer. Finally, hundreds of visitors from Okinawa found ways to enjoy our craft fairs and cultural performances from Fukushima, Okinawa and Hawaii. And as we read this, the holiday season is in full swing with our Member Clubs actively coordinating our popular Craft Fairs and Bonenkai celebrations!

The imprints we make for the future can be seen in our commitment to our youth and the strengthened bonds with Okinawa. The 25th Anniversaries of the Children’s Cultural Day Camp and the Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program touched many due to the hard work of our volunteers who continue to find fresh new ideas each year. About 50 participants of the HUOA Study Tour connected to the Okinawan culture through their minds, emotions and spirits! Many of our cultural performers displayed their dedication achieving their goals while sharing their stories and experiences with us for a moving memorial on its 70th Anniversary. Just this past month, we honored individuals and families who were instrumental in shaping our communities at the Legacy Awards Banquet: Mahalo to Past Governor George Ariyoshi, Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa, Gwen Fujie, Masakazu Teruya Sensei and Highway Inn’s Toguchi Family for the imprint you have made on our Hawaii landscape!

Together we continued the work that shares our culture with the greater community, and reinvested in the imprints left for us. Thanks to our many volunteers, assistance from various grants and generous HUOA donors, we were able to provide upkeep to our home. Volunteers continued keeping our grounds pristine and we were also able to tend to landscaping, pathway and maintenance projects. Through the generosity of Mac Yonomine and his late wife Patsy, we now have a new lift that allows us to be safe, efficient and mobile. The 33rd Okinawan Festival brought our favorites to Hawaii residents and visitors, and also introduced a number of fun attractions and inspirational seminars regarding issues that affect our island communities today: renewable energy, education and economic development. In July, a collaborative roundtable for over 200 Okinawa and Hawaii members allowed participants to openly discuss thoughts on culture, education and caring for seniors. The "Drums of Hope" production treated us to a collaboration of our local geinou performers with cultural performances from Fukushima, Okinawa and Hawaii. And as we read this, the holiday season is in full swing with our Member Clubs actively coordinating our popular Craft Fairs and Bonenkai celebrations!

The year at a glance!

President’s Message

Let’s put our souls together along with the hearts of everyone, to work to protect and perpetuate the Spirit of Ryukyu. It has been a true honor to serve as your Hawaii United Okinawa Association President. Let’s continue paddling together as Tom Yamamoto steers us with the help of all those who have left their imprints before us.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Mark Higa

2016 Calendar of Events
The year at a glance!

- Installation of Officers & Recognition of UOY Honorees
- Exhibit in Serikaku Chaya: Children’s Peace Messages from Okinawa
- 25 students from Okinawa - High School Student Exchange Program
- HUOA Club Leadership Training
- HUOA Goodwill Golf Tournament
- Children’s Cultural Day Camp at HOC
- Hawaii High School Students - Exchange to Okinawa
- Senior Fair
- Okinawan Festival
- HUOA Study Tour/World Wide Uchinanchu Festival in Okinawa
- Winter Craft Fair
- Evening in Waipio Craft Fair

Please Kokua

Production costs for Uchinanchu have escalated due to increases in circulation, labeling expenses and postage. Your contribution to help defray some of the expenses is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Mikes
First Name Last Name
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Enclosed is my donation of $ Home Tel: 

Please include this form with your donation and send to:
HUOA Newsletter Fund: 94-587 Uike Street, Wai'alu, Hawaii 96797

Uchinanchu

Uchinanchu is the newsletter of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. Although subject to change, issues will be published bi-monthly. Volunteer writers are welcome. Send your name, address and telephone number to Uchinanchu, 1835 Aloha Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817. E-mail articles to huu@huoa.org. Uchinanchu reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

HUOA President: Mark Higa
Executive Director: Jane F. Seriakaku
Editorial/Production Services: MBFT Media: Arnold Hiura, Elise Hiura and Hilma Fujimoto

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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Tel: (808) 676-5400 Email: huoa@huoa.org - www.huoa.org
66th HUOA Installation Banquet & Recognition of
Uchinanchu of The Year
Hawaii Okinawa Center
Saturday, January 16, 2015

Officers to be installed are:

President ......................................................... Tom Yamamoto
President-elect .................................................. Vince Watabu
Vice Presidents ................................................. Lynn Miyahira, Brandon Nakasone, &
Courtney Takara
Executive Secretary ........................................ Sandra Yanagi
Asst. Executive Secretary ................................... Terry Goya
Japanese Language Secretary ............................ Kumiko Yabe-Domingo
Treasurer ......................................................... Stephanie Katayama
Asst. Treasurer .................................................. Norman Nakasone

Hawaii United Okinawa Association

2015 Uchinanchu of the Year Honorees

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to all the honorees who have contributed unselfishly to their respective clubs and the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. The following will be recognized at the Installation & Uchinanchu of the Year Celebration on January 16, 2015. List of clubs and names as of November 27, 2015

- Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai ........................................ Leslie Dang Nagamine
- Aza Yogi Doshi Kai .................................................... Douglas Miyasato (deceased)
- Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai ............................................ Frances Yamamoto
- Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai ............................................ Mildred Nagatori
- Club Motobu .............................................................. Lori Nakamura Higa
- Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai ......................................... Mildred Kikue Kobashikawa
- Ginowan Shijin Kai ..................................................... Thomas "Tom" Tasato
- Ginoza Sonjin Kai ...................................................... Misao Yara Asato
- Gushichan Sonjin Kai ................................................ LYN Uesato Nishida
- Gushikawa Shijin Kai ................................................... June Tokuda
- Haebaru Club .............................................................. Ranko Oshiro
- Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai ............................... Charles and Jean Tsuda
- Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club ............................................ Cyrus Tamashiro
- Hui Alu, Inc ................................................................. Gloria Hiranaka
- Hui Makaala .............................................................. Michael Ito
- Hui O Laulima ............................................................ Laura Ajimine
- Hui O Laulima ............................................................. Lillian Hokama
- Hui Okinawa ............................................................... Dwayne Miyashiro
- Itoman Shijin Kai ...................................................... Chisato “Chili” Takeda
- Kin Chojin Kai ........................................................... Mamo and Arlene Emi Kuniyoshi
- Kitanakagusuku Sonjin Kai .......................................... Christine Higa
- Kona Okinawa Kenjin Kai .......................................... Patrice "Pat" Nagy
- Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai ............................................ Jason Hond
- Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai ............................................ Christine Hondo
- Nago Club .............................................................. Ed and Helen Ginoza
- Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai .............................................. Howard Asato
- Nishihara Chojin Kai ................................................ Goro Arakawa
- Okinawa City-Goeku Son ......................................... Stephanie Higa
- Okinawa Genealogical Society of Hawaii .................. Sally Matsumoto
- Oroku Azajin Club ..................................................... Myrtle Yoshioka
- Osato Doshi Kai ........................................................ Toyoko Miyashiro
- Tamagusuku Club .................................................... Nancy Oshiro
- Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai .............................................. Willie Nagamine
- Usaoe Shijin Kai ....................................................... Wes & Lynn Masuda
- Wahiawa Kyo Yu Kai ................................................ Shigemasa Tamanaha
- Yomitan Club ............................................................ Mildred Chibana
- Yomitan Club ............................................................ Roy Higa
- Yonashiro Chojin Kai ................................................. Cassandra Sherod
- Young Okinawans of Hawaii ...................................... Glenn Hirano
- Young Okinawans of Hawaii ...................................... Lynn Harada
The 2015 Legacy Award Banquet began with a resounding Call to Celebration with Chinagu Eisa Hawaii performing Hinamoto. They were followed by a Shishimai performance by Hawaii Okinawa Creative Arts (HOCA). And thus opened the gathering of 350 people on November 1st at the Sheraton Waikiki Ballrooms to congratulate and honor six (6) exceptional individuals for their contributions to the Okinawan community and Hawaii communities at-large: The Honorable George Ariyoshi, Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa, Gwen Fujie, Sensei Masakazu Teruya, and Seiichi & Sachiko “Nancy” Toguchi.

MCs Moani Kea Nabarro and David Arakawa opened the program by introducing special guests, Governor and Mrs. Ige, Consul General and Mrs. Misawa, and Georgette Deemer, who represented Mayor Kirk Caldwell. HUOA President Mark Higa welcomed the guests and gave a heart-warming message of congratulations and appreciation to the honorees. Governor Ige then offered his congratulatory message and shared a few very moving experiences from his first ever trip to Okinawa in October. HUOA President-elect Tom Yamamoto followed with a doxology and it was time for lunch.

Following the delicious meal, the program began and guests were able to enjoy videos of the honorees created by Steve Arashiro, Ron Miyashiro and Toby Anguay that were both inspiring and very touching. Following each person’s video, entertainers selected by the honoree performed for the audience. Through each honoree’s segment, familiar Okinawan melodies were played by Dale Senaga on piano.

The first honoree recognized was The Honorable George Ariyoshi, who served as the governor of Hawaii from 1974 to 1986. With the support of several Okinawan legislators, Governor Ariyoshi established the Hawaii-Okinawa Sister State relationship in 1985. He felt very strongly that this relationship would give the young people of Hawaii and Okinawa the opportunities to be proud of and get involved with their ethnic heritage, to develop relationships with each other, and to share ideas and collaborate on issues that would affect their future. After 30 years, it is a continuing success story of how very strong and extraordinary a Sister State relationship can be. Reverend Takamasa Yamamura sang beautiful operatic renditions of “My Way” and “Koko no Sachi Ari” for Governor Ariyoshi.

The second honoree recognized was Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa. Mayor Arakawa, a sansei whose paternal grandparents are from Onaha Village in Nishihara, is a longtime member of the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai and served as its 2000-2001 President.
He works tirelessly to pass on his knowledge of Shorin-Ryu karate and is presently Kancho (Director) of the Shorin-Ryu Hawaii Seibukan dojo. Nina Teruya (daughter), Masaki Teruya (son), and Tsuneo Kinjo Sensei from Okinawa performed a variety of karate demonstrations, the finale of which was a breathtaking sparring session between Nina and Masaki.

Our final honorees were Seichi and Sachiko “Nancy” Toguchi, original founders of one of Hawaii’s most successful Hawaiian food restaurants, Highway Inn. Their son, Bobby, and granddaughter, Monica (current President & CEO of Highway Inn), accepted the award on their behalf. Seichi and Nancy opened the original Highway Inn in 1947 and were forced to relocate the original restaurant from Farrington Highway to Waipahu Depot Road near Arakawa’s because of a highway widening project during the ’70s. Seichi’s sons, Gary and Bobby, took over the business in 1979 after Seichi underwent a kidney operation. In 1984, the restaurant moved to its current Waipahu location on Leoku Street. Highway Inn came to another crossroads in 2003 when Bobby suffered a stroke. That’s when the third generation stepped in as Regina Toguchi became vice president and general manager. Monica Toguchi took over in late 2009 becoming President & CEO in 2012. The evolution of Highway Inn continues. It opened a new location in Kakaako in October 2013 and is this year beginning operations at the new Bishop Museum Café. Three generations later, Highway Inn continues a family tradition of great Hawaiian food. The trio of dancers, Akemi Azama Sensei from Okinawa, Allison Yanagi, and Dazzman Toguchi performed to “Kariyushi No Mai.”

To bring the banquet to a close, retired Judge Herbert Shimabukuro offered the karii toast to the honorees and everyone participated in the traditional kachashi. A big Ippee Nifee Deebiru to our honorees, sponsors, donors, committee members, and volunteers for making the 2015 Legacy Award Banquet a very memorable one!
Mayor Caldwell meets Naha Mayor Shiromia
By Cyrus Tamashiro

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell visited Naha City from November 2-6 to meet Naha Mayor Mikiko Shiromia and participate in ceremonies to commemorate the 55th Anniversary of the Naha-Honolulu Sister City relationship. The delegation included Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney Keith Kaneshiro, who also had a separate meeting with public officials to discuss law enforcement issues. HUOA Past President Yoichiro Higashionna coordinated the itinerary with the Naha City office with support from HUOA Past President Laverne Higa who now lives and works in Okinawa. Honolulu Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting, George Arta, who was born in Okinawa, provided Mayor Caldwell with valuable insight and assistance.

Mayor Caldwell was knowledgeable about the Battle of Okinawa, so the visit to the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum in Itoman was memorable and moving. He read all of the English translations of the Battle of Okinawa exhibits, then placed a bouquet of flowers at the Cornerstone of Peace, and prayed. On the mini-bus, he asked to stop to visit the caves where civilians hid from soldiers, and to move up for the lost time, have lunch on the bus with musubi and sandwiches from Family Mart.

Mayor Caldwell requested that HUOA past presidents with ancestors from Naha join his entourage so Randy Kuba, Dexter Teruya, and Cyrus Tamashiro also participated in the official events. November 3 was Busuka no Hi, a national holiday, and the date of the Ryukyu Kingdom Festival Parade, an authentic recreation of royal processions from the 15th to 19th centuries. Mayor Shiromia spotted Mayor Caldwell along the parade route and invited him and his wife, Donna Tanoue, to join her in the parade. Afterward, the delegation visited Shuri Castle. That evening, the Okinawa-Hawaii Kyokai hosted a wonderful reception that filled the Miyako Hotel Ballroom.

The official courtesy call to the Naha City offices was the next day. As the delegation walked to Mayor Shiromia’s conference room, city employees lined the corridors, applauding enthusiastically for their guests. This was one of many examples of omotenashi meetings with Mayor Shiromia and Naha Assembly Chair Toru Kinjo, the delegation was escorted to a regular session of the Naha City Assembly where Mayor Caldwell was presented with an impressively framed certificate proclaiming him an International Goodwill Honorary Citizen of Naha City. In his acceptance remarks, Mayor Caldwell spoke of his visit to the Peace Museum and how important it was to promote peace, and demonstrated his knowledge of history and compassion for the Okinawan people. It was a moving speech that brought tears to peoples’ eyes and smiles from their hearts.

Mayor Caldwell was able to learn more about Okinawan history by visiting the Naha City Museum and the Okinawa Prefectural Museum. But this trip was also to learn how Naha was addressing the challenges of an urban area on a small island. The visit to the state of the art Naha-Haebaru Clean Center was to see how Okinawa was handling trash disposal and recycling. It was remarkable how clean the waste treatment facility was. In the upper level meeting rooms and observation area, visitors are asked to remove their shoes and wear provided slippers to keep the sparkling floors clean! A visit to the Okinawa Urban Monorail maintenance building also showed the Japanese mindset of cleanliness and regular maintenance of equipment. Mayor Caldwell had many questions for the facility managers who were impressed with his knowledge of the technical aspects of environmental engineering and transportation design and management. It was a productive visit for Mayor Caldwell and one that further strengthened the bonds between Honolulu and Naha. Mayor Caldwell expressed that he hopes Mayor Shiromia will make her first visit to Honolulu soon, perhaps for the 2016 Okinawan Festival!

Study Tour Full of Once in a Lifetime Experiences
By Mark Higa

The much anticipated 2015 HUOA Study Tour was a life-changing experience for many of the 49 who joined the trek. Chima Ni Sama was the theme of this year’s tour, and the desire for everyone was to have Imprints on their hearts.

Transpacific Tour’s Barbara Maeshiro and Frances Yamamoto diligently met with tour members since March of this year to plan, collaborate and learn in preparation for the tour. We had members who were first time visitors to Okinawa, but also had many who had been to Okinawa multiple times. We were pleasantly surprised at the turnout the year before many who had been to Okinawa multiple times. We were pleasantly surprised at the turnout the year before many who had been to places before, we would share our knowledge and experiences with each other. This was truly a tight knit Ohana.

We got a glimpse of the early settlers of Okinawa at the 2,000-year-old earthen structures at Nakabaru Ikéi, and walked in time gaining a better understanding of the rich history of Ryukyu at Katsuren Castle, Shikina En, Tama Udun and of course Shuri Castle.

During this 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa, we dedicated time at the various museums and memorials to understand how this event affected Okinawa and its people forever. Members shared their family experiences and searched for names of their relatives. We also saw how tragic events such as the sinking of Tsushima Maru affected families even before the Okinawan landscape was devastated.

Bridging the past with contemporary urban Naha truly showed Okinawa’s “living culture”: Many joined the 270,000 packed to partake in the Naha Great Tug-of-War and then checked out Naha Matsuri. Exploring the centuries old Tsuboya pottery village then venturing for the best izakaya at night. And while Governor Ige and our Hawaii State entourage are there to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Hawaii-Okinawa Sister State Relationship, why not march with them in the parade? We were able to see Governor Ige, Governor Onaga, U.S. Japan Ambassador Caroline Kennedy speak at a reception and stand front and center for a BEGIN concert for attendees! Day’s later, National Living Treasure Choichi Terukina welcomed us to his dojo to show how he has dedicated himself to preservation of the art of Uta Sanbûh

Relocating our tour to the Central Okinawa landscape provided a different perspective. Resorts, shopping areas, military bases, along with tourist and cultural attractions demonstrated the diversity and influences that today’s Uchinanchu live in. Many participated in glass blowing, mini-kimono and obi making, and other crafts. We were able to observe and partake in the processes of making Awamori and Orion Beer!

After observing the various ways Okinawa was historically ahead of its time, we also looked at its commitment to world-class facilities and research today through visits to Churaumi Aquarium, and a special tour to the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST). Many were amazed and proud that we could have such facilities and opportunities in today’s Okinawa.

For those who wanted a little “aji,” there were many optional tours thanks to Grant Sandaa Murata Sensei and Chikako Shimamura. After very cordial meeting in shops to understand their foods, products and being able to find the best merchandising and deals! Members explored and shared experiences on various izakaya and minyo bars where they could enjoy and sometimes even participate in the music!

Continued on page 7
Linking all of our bus rides, we learned from our Hawaii and Okinawa tour guides, and participated in sanshin sing-a-longs. Of all of the unique experiences, the best was observing the closeness of all the families. Most attendees came in family groups of six to 10 members, and made efforts to connect to their Okinawa relatives. All appeared to be moving experiences—some meeting family for the first time, visiting haka and paying respects at the family toutoume. Tour members ranged from ages 5 to 80 years old with six people flying in from the West Coast, and one flying in to join us from Tokyo! A rare experience in itself, all on the trip were very grateful to share this unique time with each other. Okinawa families, friends and supporters joined us at our Aloha Party, where Sebaru Eisa and Okinawa Prefectural University of the Arts (Okigeidai) blew us away with rousing performances! What an unforgettable send-off we received, locking all of that learning and thoughts into our hearts and minds. Our members shared their experiences and perhaps 15-year-old Rebecca Brewer from Portland captured the essence in saying that the best part of Okinawa is its people! We all vowed to find more ways to connect to, learn and grow in our culture, and that we will all be back again! In 2016 perhaps? Some are already set to go!

Study Tour...continued from page 6

In 2013, HUOA launched the inaugural edition of the annual Uchinanchu magazine, a compilation of the very best, full-color images from the entire year’s activities. It became an instant hit. This yearly album captures the spirit and energy of our HUOA members, from installation of officers and Uchinanchu of the Year celebrations, through shinnen enkai parties, community outreach projects, craft fairs, Okinawan Festival, sports, recitals, concerts and club picnics, just to name a few highlights. This beautifully produced memory book will make a great keepsake or gift. Uchinanchu 2015 is coming soon. Cost is $10 an issue. Clubs should inquire about discounts for orders of 25 or more. Clubs and companies can also show their support by placing a full-color ad in Uchinanchu 2015. Proceeds benefit the HUOA.

For information, contact Jane Serikaku at jserikaku@hawaii.rr.com or call 676-5400.

Uchinanchu 2015 is Coming!
Bridging from Generation to Generation - For Our Children!

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

Our Supporters

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The Hawaii United Okinawa Association would like to acknowledge the following individuals, families, organizations and companies who have donated or pledged to our Campaign. Since our last report, we received a special gift from the Kaneshiro Family in honor of Sann and Ushi Kaneshiro and 500,000¥ from the Okinawan Prefectural Assembly. A special mahalo to those who visited us at our Capital Tent at the Okinawan Festival.

Our 200 FOR 2M CAMPAIGN continues to grow, we would like to welcome Lawrence and Alice Morisako and Mitsuko Toguchi Nakasone to our 46-member family. The HUOA is truly grateful for your support and the confidence you have displayed through your generous donations and humbly ask for your continued support.

**Donations listed below were received from September 16, 2015 to November 15, 2015.**

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<tr>
<th>Aloha Tofu Inc. (2)</th>
<th>Karen K. Kosasa</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thelma Arakawa</td>
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<td>Jerry &amp; Eva Bohannon</td>
<td>Denise Liu</td>
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<td>Lani Tamanaha Broadbent</td>
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<td>Catherine S. Morishige</td>
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<td>Frances M. Ginoza</td>
<td>Takafumi Okonomi</td>
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<td>Nora Goya</td>
<td>Takeo &amp; Betty Y. Shimabukuro (2)</td>
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<td>Jayne Hirata</td>
<td>Shigeiko Shiramizu</td>
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<td>Ralph &amp; Jean Ige</td>
<td>Christine S. Taylor</td>
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<td>Ken Kato</td>
<td>The Benevity Community Impact Fund</td>
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<td>Masuo &amp; Alice Kino</td>
<td>matching for Jason Tokuda</td>
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<th>Robert Uehara</th>
<th>In Memory of Robert Miyahara by Ginowan Club</th>
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<td>In Memory of Robert Hiroshi Miyahara by Betsy Taye Miyahira</td>
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<td>In Honor of Richard &amp; Kyoko Kuba Family by Mae Chung</td>
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<td>In Honor of Richard &amp; Kyoko Kuba Family by Karen Kuba-Hori</td>
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<td>In Honor or Parents Ryoyei &amp; Kamado (Okuma) Kuwaye by Glenn M. &amp; Lucille K. Biven</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following list of donors reflects contributions from September 16, 2015 to November 26, 2015.

**GOLD ($2,499 TO $1,000)**

Jane F. Serikaku
To Celebrate the Occasion of Matsue Shimabukuro’s 99th Birthday on Sept. 18, 2015 by R.K. & C. Shimbukuro and Family
In Memory of Holly Emi Takara by Howard and Jane Takara

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In Memory of M. Arashiro by Aileen Arashiro
In Memory of Kamado Koza by Sue Miller
In Memory of Boka and Kamata Nobara by Irene Y. Chua
In Memory of Masachi Oshiro by Sadako Oshiro
In Memory of Satoei and Sue Shiho by Wayne Shiho
**Welcome Takamiyagi-san**

Hiroyuki Takamiyagi, President of Jyutaro Homes, engaged many young leaders of the Okinawa Prefectural Government in exploring many aspects of Hawaii. Takamiyagi-san is a strong supporter of HUDA and Hawaii Okinawa Plaza.

**Friends from Ishigaki**

Members of the Ishigaki Special Product Promoting Association—including awamori distillers, kamaboko, sea salt, black sugar factory owners and more—visited the Hawaii Okinawa Center and also toured Aloha Tofu and Tamashiro Market.

**OTS Women’s Group Visits**

These delightful women of the Okinawa Tourist Service (OTS) came from places like Kin town, Yomitan, Nakagusuku, and other places in Okinawa to explore and get a taste of Hawaii. One of their stops was our Hawaii Okinawa Center, where they were especially excited to see Toyama Kyuzo’s statue standing majestically in our Issei Garden: Kin Town’s pride and joy.

**Ryudai and Meio students**

An energetic group of students from the University of the Ryukyus and Meio University in northern Okinawa visited Hawaii Okinawa Center to learn about the brave immigrant men and women who left Okinawa in search for a better life in Hawaii, as well as the story of second to fourth generations of Okinawan descendents.
A wise man once said, “Good fishermen know how to work together!” Helping and learning from each other makes fishing a success. Hui Alu is one of the clubs among our organization that exemplifies this quality! They have established themselves as a very successful club by organizing well-attended events, which capture the interests of all members, whether Uchinanchu, or in spirit, or whether kupuna or keiki. Kent humbly attributes this success to the different “communities” that he and other Hui Alu leaders helped to organize within the club, who spearhead annual events such as their fishing and golf tournament, shinnen enkai, the Kauai Okinawan Festival, and other activities. In fact, as a way to draw in membership, one of the stipulations for the fishing tournament starting this year is, if you enter the tournament as a non-Hui Alu member, you need to join the club in order to enter the tournament next year. What an awesome idea to help build membership and capacity of leaders within. I would like to thank the Yamauchi “Resort,” Kent and Esther for their amazing hospitality and three-day accommodations!

What’s the ‘Big Catch’ on Kauai?

By Tom Yamamoto

On the weekend of November 13-15, dozens of anglers aboard the SS Hui Alu, steered by their “Captain” Kent Yamauchi, set ashore to land the “big one.” No, this is not a scene from “Gilligan’s Island” nor does it pertain to any ship. This event was the 2015 Third Annual Hui Alu Fishing Tournament, organized by Kauai’s pioneering Hui Alu, led by their president Kent Yamauchi. And I had the privilege to experience all of this as one of the entrants of this tournament.

The tournament encompasses three days of shore fishing starting from 6:00 p.m. Friday to 2:00 p.m. Sunday with the entire shoreline of the Garden Isle as the boundaries. As open as it may seem in terms of limitless fishing grounds and allotted time, there are a set of 12 strict rules to which all entrants must abide by using good ‘ole fashion honor system. At the 2:00 p.m. deadline on Sunday, all anglers pack up their catches of moi, ulua, papio, oio and other species, and head to the Kekaha Neighborhood Center for some “R & R,” food provided by Kent’s mother, and the anticipated weigh-in of the five fish categories. Tremendous support comes from Garrett Agena and his ohana who coordinate the gathering and distribution of prizes purchased from the Nakagawa Family’s Rainbow Paint and Fishing Supply. As a contribution to the club’s fishing tournament, the store generously donates much more supplies than what Hui Alu pays for. What makes this a fun fishing tournament for all generations is that even the keiki receive an assortment of fishing supplies. Among the winners were Esther Yamauchi with her first place oio weighing 3.64 lbs. and Kent’s grand prize lucky number win of a brand new Penn reel!

Esther Yamauchi holds her First Place oio weighing 3.64 lbs.

Esther Yamauchi holds her First Place oio weighing 3.64 lbs.
A Gift Binding Okinawa and Hawaii

Last year, the Okuhara and Kinjo Families visited the Hawaii Okinawa Center and briefly toured the Gallery. At first, they appeared to be typical visitors who were curious about our Center and community. Unbeknownst to us they had another mission for their visit. They were looking at our display and found their answer.

Our Okinawan guests wanted to see something in the Gallery that conveyed a message of friendship while being something uniquely Okinawan. The lightning bolt of answer was a hanagasa. While many Ryukyuan Dolls on display were adorned with them, they returned to Okinawa and asked a cousin, Haruo Kinjo, to craft one.

Cousin Haruo is an atasanshin and very deft with his hands.

In their recent visit to the Hawaii Okinawa Center, they took great care to hand carry their precious gift. In their explanation they felt that the hanagasa was an appropriate symbol to strengthen the connection between Okinawa and Hawaii. In ancient times, the royal court developed classical dances and operas to entertain important guests, especially from China. As good hosts, the ancient Ryukyuans integrated elements and auspicious Chinese symbolisms to honor these guests. One of these items is the hanagasa. It is representative of the peony flower, a flower of grandeur and deep respect.

We are truly delighted to accept the beautiful hanagasa as a gift from the Kinjo and Okuhara Families of Okinawa as a bond of a special friendship in the spirit of chimugukuru — ippee sopee deebiru!!

Fostering Ginoza-Hawaii Relations

Mayor Atsushi Touma and his entourage from Ginoza Village in Okinawa spent a whirlwind three days in Hawaii to pursue their dream of establishing a strong bond between Ginoza Village and Ginoza Sonjin Kai, Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the State of Hawaii. They visited Kapiolani Community College and Tokai University searching for possible partnerships and sites for their Student Study Abroad Program and Homestay and/or Student Exchange Program.
# 2016 SHINNEN ENKAI SCHEDULE

(information received as of 11/29/15)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HUOA CLUB</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awase Doshi Kai</td>
<td>3/13/16</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Natsunoya Teahouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai</td>
<td>1/30/16</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Jikoen Hongwanji Social Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aza Yogi Doshi Kai &amp; Bito Doshi Kai</td>
<td>3/19/16</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Masa's Cafeteria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai</td>
<td>3/19/16</td>
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<td>Hawaii Okinawa Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gushichan Sonjin Kai</td>
<td>2/27/16</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Masa's Cafeteria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gushikawa Shijin Kai</td>
<td>1/23/16</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Masa's Cafeteria</td>
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<td>Haebaru Club</td>
<td>2/21/16</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii</td>
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<td>Haneji Club</td>
<td>2/14/16</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Hawaii Okinawa Center</td>
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<td>2/27/16</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
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<td>2/28/16</td>
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<td>Hui Okinawa</td>
<td>1/31/16</td>
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<td>Aunty Sally's Luau Hale</td>
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<td>Hui Uruma</td>
<td>3/5/16</td>
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<td>2/20/16</td>
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<td>5:00 pm</td>
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<td>Okinawa City-Goeku Son</td>
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<td>Oroku Aza Jin Kai</td>
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<td>2/20/16</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Masa's Cafeteria</td>
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Andrew J. Sato
Attorney at Law

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Brandon Marc Higa

Many young Okinawan Americans growing up in Hawaii, I first learned about my ancestral roots from elders and the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA). I grew up in a household that only spoke English, so everything I first learned about my Okinawan heritage was hearsay. I often wondered about where my family first came from and was thrilled when mom asked if I wanted to host an Okinawan exchange student. Without hesitation, I obliged.

The exchange student, Toshimichi Arakaki, arrived in Honolulu from Ozato-son, Okinawa, during the busiest time of year for me—with Hawaii Youth Symphony and Hawaii All-State Select Band concerts—so I ended up meeting Toshimichi backstage after one of my concerts. He had a darker tan than I did, so my friends quickly pointed out that he looked more like the local student and me the exchange student.

After reaching my parents’ house, Toshimichi went to his room, unpacked, and came downstairs. He looked serious and wise beyond his years. Then he formally introduced himself again and brought out his instrument, the sanshin, and performed a classical piece. I had not heard anything like it before, even as a classical musician. At the age of 16, Toshimichi was already a renowned sanshin player throughout Okinawa. His voice was powerful and pure. It truly felt like the spirit of Okinawa filled our entire house.

From that moment on, Toshimichi and I bonded over our mutual interest in music during our short two-week homestay. Although Toshimichi and I could not speak each other’s languages fluently, we were able to piece together the music and eventually perform a duet together.

Toshimichi returned to Okinawa, and, just months later, I visited Okinawa that summer before my junior year in high school. I was finally able to see Toshimichi’s high school and meet his family. Surprisingly, Okinawa was strikingly similar to Hawaii. The white sandy beaches were pristine and the landscape looked similar to home without any mountain ranges.

Toshimichi took me to my ancestral village in Nakagusuku, which was large and had a castle. My family connection is with HUOA’s Kuba Roses Kai which is part of Nakagusuku. Before heading back to Toshimichi’s house in Ozato-son, we stopped at a local restaurant to have a bowl of Okinawa soba. When the two-week homestay program ended, I was sad to leave Okinawa, but more determined than ever to learn Japanese.

The Okinawa homestay experience influenced my decision to study International Relations at the University of Southern California in hopes of fostering mutual understanding between the U.S. and Japan. I enrolled in Japanese my first semester and studied hard until I was able to place into advanced Japanese class at Waseda University. Toshimichi visited me in Tokyo with his family, and it was like old times except we were finally able to converse in Japanese. To say that was a surreal moment is an understatement and I will never forget the feeling of connecting in a different way with my host brother.

Ultimately, the homestay in Okinawa through the HUOA awakened me to think about my Okinawan identity and exposed me to bilateral issues in U.S. and Japan relations. My career led me to work at the U.S. Embassy at Tokyo, where I participated in discussions about Futenma Base relocation in Okinawa. These life experiences gave me a better sense of my Okinawan identity and family ancestry. Most importantly, the homestay taught me core values such as okage sama de ("my thanks and gratitude to you") that are so critical to pass along to future generations.

Twelve-five high school students will arrive from Okinawa on February 20, 2016, to participate in a two-week student exchange program. In June, our Hawaii students will have the opportunity to spend two weeks in Okinawa living with host families just as the Okinawa students do when they visit Hawaii. Friendships that are developed when the students spend time with families and go to high schools here are further nurtured when our Hawaii students are hosted by the same students in Okinawa.

This is a wonderful opportunity for any high school student—please encourage your child or grandchild to participate in this Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program from February 20 - March 5. The Okinawa students will spend two nights (February 24 and 25) at Camp Erdman. For more information call Jane Serikaku at 676-5400 or email: edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com or check our website: www.huoa.org

Interested in Hosting a High School Student from Okinawa?

Please send us your club news items and photos.

Email us at info@huoa.org

Mahalo!
Courtney Takara: Nakagusuku Village Kenshusei

Like most Uchinanchu kids in Hawaii, I grew up eating andagi, going to the Okinawan Festival, and learning about my great-grandparents who immigrated to Hawaii. I took my first trip to Okinawa in 2007, when I visited the major tourist attractions, learned about the history, and fell in love with the motherland. But none of this compared to actually living in Okinawa! My name is Courtney Takara; I am a fourth-generation Uchinanchu and member of Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai. I had the amazing opportunity to live in Okinawa for three months as a kenshusei and would like to share my experience with you.

Each year, Nakagusuku Village hosts a three-month training program for young descendants of Nakagusuku Village immigrants. The purpose is for young Uchinanchu to learn about the culture, history, language and experience Okinawa first-hand; then, return to their respective home countries to share what they have learned. In Okinawa, participants in this program are known as kenshusei (trainees). I had the honor of being Nakagusuku Village’s first kenshusei from Hawaii, or even the United States. This year, there were also kenshusei from Argentina, Akira Iguchi, and Peru, Juan Carlos Nakamatsu.

We attended Japanese language school, shōdo (calligraphy) lessons, uchignuchi classes, and learned about Okinawa culture, history, and Uchinanchu identity at the University of the Ryukyus. We learned and practiced sanshin, wadaiko, and eisa. I used to play the koto as a child, so I also took koto lessons from a sensei in Nakagusuku Village. While I was at koto practice, Akira and Juan Carlos practiced karate. I also had two weeks of job training at the Nakagusuku Middle School, where I helped teach English.

Of all our activities, I enjoyed eisa the most! We got to practice with a young eisa group in Nakagusuku Village. Our sensei was only 24 years old and he was the elder of the group. There are a lot of these young eisa groups throughout Okinawa. It was so amazing to see so many young people promoting and perpetuating the traditional culture.

We also had time to attend various local events such as the Zento Eisa Festival in Uruma City and the Tsunahiki Eisa Festival in Naha. We took a three-day trip to the Yaeyama Islands and visited Ishigaki, Iriomote, and Taketomi. I was also very fortunate to have a great host family, Howard Asato and Laverne Higa, who took me sightseeing on the weekends.

Okinawa is such a beautiful place, but the best thing about Okinawa is the people! They are friendly, kind, and truly exhibit the Uchinanchu spirit of ichiba chode (once we meet, we are brothers). From our sensei, Mayor Keisuke Hamada and the staff at the Nakagusuku Village Office, and local friends we made along the way, everyone made us feel welcomed and treated us like family. I loved living in Okinawa and never felt homesick. This was truly an ichigo ichie (once in a lifetime) experience and I am so thankful that I was able to participate. I think everyone needs to go to Okinawa to experience it for themselves; and, for young Uchinanchu, the kenshusei program is the best opportunity to do this.

Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language)
Word of the Month
November
yushi-ashi, n. [yoshiahi] Good and evil; virtue and vice; right and wrong.

December
chiki-tuduki, n. [tsuketodoke] 1 A gift; a present. 2 Winding-up; clearance; settlement.

(Excerpted, with permission, from the Okinawan-English Wordbook, by Mitsugu Sakihara, edited by Stewart Curry, University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu, 2006)
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Dec 5, Sat., 7 pm & Dec 10, Thurs., 5 pm - Part Two of “Drums of Hope” connecting Hawaii, Okinawa and Fukushima – all people of the sea. A production directed by Daiichi Hirata and performed at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on July 12, 2015.

Dec 12, Sat., 7 pm & Dec 17, Thurs., 5 pm - Part Two of Sadao China Anniversary Recital on March 29, 2015 in Okinawa.

Dec 19, Sat., 7 pm & Dec 24, Thurs., 5 pm - 80th Anniversary and History of the Rinzai Zen Mission on Maui.

Dec 26, Sat., 7 pm & Dec 31, Thurs., 5 pm - Highlights of the 1984 Okinawan Festival at McCoy Pavilion, Ala Moana Beach Park.

Jan 2, Sat., 7 pm & Jan 7 & 14, Thurs., 5 pm - Hawaii Okinawa Today presents a New Year’s Special - Omoide: Down Memory Lane.


Feb 6, Sat., 7 pm & Feb 11 & 18, Thurs., 5 pm - Part One of the HUOA Installation Banquet and Recognition of Uchinanchu of the Year Honorees, held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Saturday, January 16, 2016.

Feb 20, Sat., 7 pm & Feb 25 & Mar 3, Thurs., 5 pm - Part Two of the HUOA Installation Banquet and Recognition of Uchinanchu of the Year Honorees, held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Saturday, January 16, 2016.