



# The Newsletter

JAPANESE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII ハワイ島日系人協会

May 2013

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## President's Message — Hiroshi Suga

会長挨拶

Dear members,

Time surely flies. It has been four months since I was sworn in as your President at the Sangha Hall in January. During these three months, I have set up a roster of committees, attended several functions including New Year parties and board meetings of a few Kenjinkai's, and other special events.

Participating in these functions has taught me a lot about our Japanese Community and affiliated organizations. I am committed to learn more about them, and find out how JCAH can better serve our members and our community.

One thing I am sure of is that most of these organizations share very similar challenges. These include aging membership, fund-raising, manpower for projects, activities, and special events, and above all, internal and external communication. Although we all have common goals to serve our community better and provide as



much as we can, it is not as easy as it appears to be.

I will continue to reach out and learn more about our community and its organizations in order to accomplish our purpose as stated below.

**"To encourage, promote and implement programs and activities for the welfare and betterment of the community: to promote and preserve Japanese Culture: and foster harmony and fellowship within its membership in the County of Hawaii"**

I humbly ask for your assistance. Please feel free to contact us if and when you have questions, suggestions and concerns.

In conclusion, I wish you safe, healthy, and prosperous 2013. Please look forward to our upcoming events and communications.

With warmest regards,

Hiroshi Suga

## President of IHSTA and Vice Chairman of Shibukawa City Assembly Attend Merrie Monarch

渋川・伊香保

Mr. Takahiro Omori, President of the Ikaho Hot Spring Tourism Association (IHSTA), his wife Noriko, Mr. Hiroyuki Nakazawa, Vice Chairman of the Shibukawa City Assembly, and Ms. Hiroko Suzuki, a friend of Mr. Sanuemon Chigira, Immediate Past President of IHSTA, attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Hilo Merrie Monarch Hula Festival from April 4 Thursday, through April 6, Saturday.

IHSTA has been inviting winning Halau's of the Merrie Monarch Hula Fest to their Ikaho King Kalakaua "the Merrie Monarch" Hula Fest for the past 16 years. The festival is held in our sister city, Shibukawa, in Gunma prefecture, where Hawaiian Ambassador Robert Walker Irwin built his summer home back in late 1800. The summer home was recently

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## Annual Ireito Memorial Service

This year's Ireito Memorial Service at Alae Cemetery will be held on August 25, Sunday from 2:00 pm. JCAH past President Glenn Hirata is chairing the event.

Starting in 2011, JCAH began holding a short memorial service for two Japanese sea training students who perished during their voyages to Hawaii. Their graves are located near the entrance of the cemetery. Mr. Ryoji Kiyota's grave is chained, and located right at the entrance, and Mr. Enjiro Kikuchi's grave is on the left of the first left turn of the driveway. JCAH is planning construction of plaques in English for the graves.



### HISTORY OF THE ALAE IREI-TO MEMORIAL

The Ireito Memorial was the inspiration of the late Mr. Sanji Abe. Mr. Abe was born in Holualoa, Kona. After having worked for 20 years with the Police Dept., he became the first senator of Japanese ancestry in the Territorial Legislature.

Senator Abe deeply appreciated the efforts of the many deceased immigrants from Japan who made Hawaii a better place for their descendants. He also

### 慰靈塔

realized that many of the early immigrants left this world poor and lonesome before seeing the fruition of their meritorious work. He was one of many people who were grateful for their accomplishments and wished to comfort their spirits. This thankfulness is expressed in the Irei-to.

Senator Abe was instrumental in the planning, fund-raising, and completion of this project. The monument was dedicated on August 20, 1939 (73 years ago).

The marble monument was cast in Japan on August 7, 1938. The overall height is 14 feet 7 and 1/2 inches, and it weighs around 15 tons. The round ball symbolizes the universal faith of all.



The spire contains the wording: Hawaii Nippon-jin Senmo Irei-to, which means Memorial for the deceased Japanese in Hawaii.

Also inscribed: Remembrance of twenty continuous years of service with the Hilo Police Dept., Sanji Abe, Benefactor. Memorial Monument for the Deceased Japanese Immigrants in Hawaii. The structure was built for the residing country members and their descendants. July 1938

In 1968, Senator Abe set up a personal trust fund for the perpetuation, maintenance, and the annual memorial services.

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### Consul General Ran on Marathon

Consul General Toyoei Shigeeda participated in the Big Island International Marathon on March 17th. He and his wife made the banner that he is holding in honor of the people of the Tohoku Area. The banner reads "Gambare" (persevere) Tohoku.

He is holding the banner running to the finish line with Joe Wedemann, the Race Director of the Big Island Marathon.



The Consul General participated in the Honolulu Marathon and will participate in the Kauai and Maui Marathons as well.

His participation was very well appreciated by the Marathon officials.

## Music and Dance Performance by Tsurugaoka Hachiman Shrine

### 鶴岡八幡宮舞楽

The Edith Kanakaole Foundation has invited Mr. Yoshida, the high priest of the Tsurugaoka Hachiman Shrine, at Kamakura, Japan to come to Hawai'i to share the environmental kinship as it persists through the Shinto religion and Hula. Mr. Yoshida and the Gagaku-dan or the ancient court music orchestra and their maiden dancers are coming to Hawai'i Island and will be performing at the UHH Theater on Saturday July 20th, then traveling to Oahu for a second performance on Monday July 22nd.

The invitation to come to Hawai'i was prompted by Halau O Kekuhi's dedication dance in 2008 at the Hachiman Shrine when the halau was there for a series of performances in Japan. The practice of allowing foreigners to dance at the shrine's sacred pavilion is not highly encouraged. But Halau O Kekuhi was allowed to dedicate their dance.

After the dedication, the Halau was invited to lunch and discuss their practices. Both the Halau and the Hachiman people realized that they had so much in common at the core of their practices, they decided



that it would be a "beautiful" thing, spiritually, educationally, socially, and ecologically, if they introduced the Japanese and the Hawaiian fire deities to one another...

From there, they conceptualized this visit of Mr. Yoshida to Hawai'i in 2013, with an intended

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## Shibukawa, From Page 1

restored and will be officially reopened as a historic museum in this May.

Mr. Omori and Mr. Nakazawa participated in the Merrie Monarch Festival Parade wearing Yukata (light cotton kimono) as seen in the photo. Spectators lining the parade route gave a warm welcome to our friends from our sister city from the starting point to the end. Governor Abercrombie greeted them at assembly area as well.



At the award presentation on the last night of the Merrie Monarch Hula competition, Mr. Omori awarded the winning Halau, a travel certificate to the Ikaho Hula Festival. This year will feature a hula competition, held every fourth year, this August. Over seven thousand hula dancers participated in the festival last year. Several Hiloans are planning a trip to Ikaho to attend the festival including our president Hiroshi Suga and his wife Carolyn.

We will have a report on the hula fest in our next newsletter in September. Let's wish our sister city Shibukawa/Ikaho another successful event! ■



Welcome new members who joined since December 2012

Bill & K Eger  
Ian Kitagawa  
Cheryl Nakagawa  
Taka Niimi  
Rev Jeffrey & Kumika Soga

Joseph & Mele Spencer  
Cynthia Tatsuno  
Jonell Uyeda  
Wendy Yoshioka

## Ireito, From Page 2

The structure in the back of the Irei-to is a columbarium for deceased Japanese individuals who have been disinterred from other cemeteries. It was erected in 1960. One of the individuals behind the effort to build the columbarium was the late Mr. Richard Taniguchi. ■

## Music, From Page 3

outcome of bringing his retinue of 30 or so priests to Kilauea in 2015.

More information will be available regarding tickets for this historical event in the upcoming months. If you are interested in sponsorship or for more information, please contact Reiko Yoshida Hamano via e-mail: [reikoyoshidahamano@gmail.com](mailto:reikoyoshidahamano@gmail.com) or by phone: 808-990-4297. ■

## Event Calendar

July 20 Gagaku Performance  
August 25 Ireito Memorial Service  
September 14 Chigirie Class  
October 12 Chigirie Class  
November 16 Japanese Culture Day  
January 11, 2014 Chigirie Class  
January 18, 2014 Shinnen Enkai  
March 8, 2014 Chigirie Class  
May 10, 2014 Chigirie Class

## HILO WASHI CHIGIRI-E CLASS

Sponsored by the  
Japanese Community Association of Hawaii  
& Hakubi Chigiri-e Gakuin of Japan  
INSTRUCTOR: LILY NAKAO  
(teaching in Hilo for five years)

### 2013-14 SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 14

Saturday, October 12

Saturday, Nov. 16

(at Japanese Culture Day at Sangha Hall)

Saturday, January 11, 2014

Saturday, March 8

Saturday, May 10

Time: 9:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Place: Culture & Arts Dept. – 28 Shipman St.  
(Hilo Armory-ocean side)

Class fee: \$10 (JCAH member) / \$15 (non-member)

Basic Kit: \$10 (JCAH member) / \$12 (non-member)

BYOB - bring your own bento

For more info on joining class, call 961-6848 or email:  
[jrhigashi@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:jrhigashi@hawaiiantel.net) ■

## SAVE THE DATE!!

### Japanese Culture Day in Hawaii

Saturday, November 16, 2013 at Sangha Hall.

Shichi-go-san kimono dressing, displays and demos and more. Call if you are interested in volunteering to help on this Bi-ennial event.

More information to follow.



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