



The Newsletter

JAPANESE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

ハワイ島日系人協会



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President's Message – Dwayne Mukai

会長挨拶

I hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and joyous as Summer draws to a close and the Big Island's rainy season will soon be upon us. Having said this, please stay dry and drive safely should this Winter be wetter than most.

The Covid situation has turned into a dreaded nightmare that never goes away. When will it end? Due to the emergence of the current Covid Variant, your Japanese Community Association of Hawaii has decided to avoid holding all large in-person events and is hoping that in-person events will begin again soon. Your JCAH Board has held in-person meetings and have been involved in scaled down events or do not involve the General Public. I will highlight a few of them.

The Shibukawa/Hawaii Student Artwork Exchange Program was successfully completed. Artwork from E. B. deSilva School and Shibukawa City student were exhibited in Japan and in Hilo at the Hawaii County Aupuni Center. The Hilo exhibit was held in April in conjunction with the Merrie Monarch Festival. Chairperson for this Student Exchange Program is Aya Shehata.

To promote Japanese Culture, JCAH spearheaded a video program of the Hawaii Japanese Center, utilizing Na Leo TV. Playing a key role in this program were Japanese Club students of both Hilo High School and Waiakea High

School. Chairperson for this event was also Aya Shehata.

Scholarships were awarded to Liza Miyazaki, daughter of Junshin Miyazaki and Liang Zhang, and Daichi Marquis, son of David and Yuko Marquis. Chairperson for this Scholarship Committee is Dean Fuke.



Your Japanese Community Association of Hawaii is the sponsoring organization of Ikaho, now known as Shibukawa City, Sister-Relationship with the County of Hawaii. Due to Covid, representatives of the Ikaho Hawaiian Festival Committee were not able to attend this year's Merrie Monarch Festival. Therefore, I

represented them and presented them at the festival. I also had the opportunity to be a part of County of Hawaii Mayor Mitch Roth's Sister-City Delegation to Shibukawa City and represented JCAH at the Ikaho King David Kalakaua "the Merrie Monarch" Festival.

The 83rd Annual Ireisai Hoyo Memorial Service was held on August 28th at Alae Cemetery. Reverend Satoshi Tomioka of Puna Hongwanji Mission lead the service which was attended by Deputy Consul General of Japan, The Honorable Mikio Izawa, County of Hawaii Mayor, The Honorable Mitch Roth, Hawaii County Council Members Aaron Chung, Sue Lee Loy & Heather Kimball, Temple ministers, organization



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Annual Ireisai Hoyo Memorial Service

The Japanese Community Association of Hawai'i observed its 83rd Annual Ireisai Hoyo Memorial Service at 2 pm., Sunday, August 28, 2022 at 'Alae Cemetery in Hilo. Under a beautiful Hilo day on a manicured 'Alae Cemetery grounds an event of Remembrance of our Issei was observed and honored.

The overall height of the Ireito is 14 feet 7 and ½ inches and weight approximately 15 tons. The round ball at the top symbolized the universal faith for all.

The Big Island Buddhist Federation conducted the memorial service, with Puna Hongwanji Mission serving as the Toban Temple. Reverend Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka jointly conducted the service with BIBF ministers and their temples. They participated by offering the tradition-



al Oshoko, flower bouquets and prayers. Opening Aspiration was conducted by Reverend Sohko Kuki, from Hilo Hooganji Mission. BIBF maximized the ministers and temples participation, on an idea of Reverend Tomioka. The Closing Aspiration was done by Reverend Jigaku Takenouchi, from Taishoji Soto Mission. Many in attendance commented on this innovative honorable technique of participation.

"We also honored two Japanese Maritime sailors who had died at sea and are now buried at 'Alae Cemetery", commented Event Co-Chair Mr. Hiroshi Suga.

shi Suga.

This Ireisai Hoyo Memorial Service became the culmination of the 2022 Obon season and services on Hawai'i Island.

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representatives and volunteers helping with the event. Co-Chairpersons for this event were Delbert Nishimoto & Hiroshi Suga.

This service is held annually to honor our Issei, the First-Generation of Japanese immigrants, that came to Hawai'i in search of a better life and to support their families in Japan. Today, it's hard for us to imagine them making this difficult decision to leave their homeland to face the vast unknown and work in a foreign land but they did just that. This monument pays tribute to all these brave individuals.

As found in today's program, it was Mr. Sanji Abe's tireless efforts that brought to fruition the construction of the original Ireito monument in 1939. As if this was not enough, in 1968, Mr. Abe established a personal trust fund to perpetuate its maintenance. I am glad and honored that Sanji's great grandson, Tim Abe, was here at the service.

The Annual JCAH Kenjinkai Golf Tournament is taking place on September 20th. Tournament results were not available when composing my message.

Many thanks to all the volunteers and organizations for participating in this event. Chairperson for this event is Ivan Nakano.

The Imperial Decoration, The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays, with Neck Ribbon is a national decoration awarded by the Japanese Government to prominent national citizens. Since 1981, this award



became open internationally to individuals who have made significant contributions to perpetuating Japanese culture, promoting international relations and preserving the environment. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Arthur Katsumi Taniguchi for being the recipient of this prestigious award.

Lastly, my term as your President is coming to an end and the dawn of the new Presidentship of Mr. Lincoln Ashida leadership is about to shine brightly. Information regarding the upcoming Japanese Community Association of Hawaii's Shinnen Enkai & Installation will be forthcoming.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to serve as President of such an illustrious organization.

Domo Arigato Gozaimasu.



Photos on the previous page: President Dwayne Mukai who spoke at the Annual Ireisai Hoyo Memorial Service; Hawaii Student Artwork Exchange Program held at the County Aupuni Center. Upper photo: Members of Ka Lei Mokihana O Leina'ala, who were invited to the Ikaho Hawaiian Festival held in Shibukawa, Japan. Lower photo: Medal and pin of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays, with Neck Ribbon, cited from a web site of the Japanese Government.



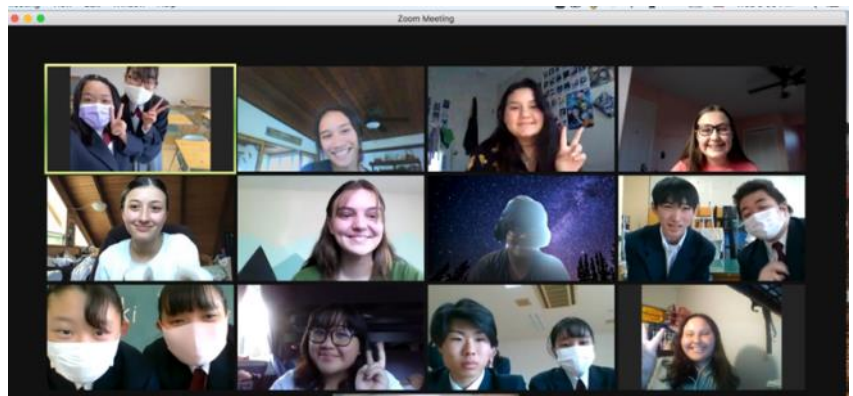
Hilo High Students Building Relationships with Oshima High School Students

Sister City relationship between County of Hawai'i and Oshima Island was established in 1962, and it is the oldest sister-city to County of Hawai'i. Oshima, which means "Big Island," is a volcanic island in the Izu Islands in Tokyo.



Members from County of Hawai'i visited Oshima Island in 1962.

This year marks the 60th anniversary, and a group of students from Hilo HS Japanese class and Oshima HS have been meeting and building relationships via zoom since February 2021. Students learned about each other's islands, school lives, interests, etc. Hilo HS Japanese class students created a video to introduce Oshima Island and our relationships to their peers at their school's KVIKS morning bulletin news: <https://youtu.be/HGyYJeaOOw?t=261> or scan QR code to watch the news.



Hilo HS & Oshima HS Zoom meeting in February 2021

Hilo HS and Oshima HS students are planning to meet via zoom in September and December this year to further deepen our relationships. Oshima HS students and teachers are also hoping to visit Hilo and Hilo High School in December 2022!



The 2022 JCAH scholarship recipients

The Japanese Community Association of Hawaii recently announced that Lisa Miyazaki and Daichi Marquis were awarded scholarships of \$1,500 each for the coming school year.

Lisa Miyazaki is the daughter of Junshin Miyazaki and Liang Zhang. She is a recent graduate of Waiakea High School and plans to attend Brown University. While at Waiakea High School, Lisa was a member of the Japanese Club and Animal Rights Club. She was the Key Club President and Chairperson for the Variety Show, Winter Program, and Cap and Gown Committee. Lisa plans to study Biology at Brown and after receiving her undergraduate degree, she intends to attend Medical School aspiring to be an Emergency Room Physician. Lisa also volunteers at the Meishoin Church, Big Island Marathon and various COVID vaccination and support events. Lisa grandmother's stories and experiences, her passion for science, and her volunteer activities influenced her desire to become a physician.



Daichi Marquis is the son of David and Yuko Marquis. He is a recent graduate of Pahoa High School. While attending Pahoa High School, Daichi served as a student representative and is a member of the National Honor Society. He also Volunteered at the Sacred Heart Church in Pahoa and continues to Volunteer at the Puna Hongwanji. At Puna Hongwanji, Daichi is the Junior Young Buddhist Association President, assists with church functions and completed the Jodo Shinshu Online Correspondence Course. Daichi plans to attend the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Religious Studies. After graduation, he would like to earn a master's degree in Divinity from the Institute of Buddhist Studies located in Berkley, California. Daichi would like to give back to the community where he was raised by being ordained as a Jodo Shinshu Pure Land Buddhist Minister and serve in the Honpa Hongwanji's Mission in Hawaii.



Our congratulations to both scholarship recipients!

Lily T. Nakao
1928 - 2022

Lily T. Nakao, Chigiri-e instructor from Oahu died on June 8th at the age of 94. Ms Nakao's relationship with JCAH dates back to 2002. Being affiliated with the Hakubi Kimono School of Japan, Ms. Nakao was instrumental in bringing the Hakubi Kimono Show to Hilo in 2002 and 2007. From 2007 through 2019, at her own expense, she volunteered to teach the art of Chigiri-e in Hilo at the request of JCAH. JCAH gave her annual "orei" for her volunteerism. Due to poor health, her classes ended in 2019 and a "farewell gift" was presented to her. Ms. Nakao and her students have participated in JCAH's Kodomo No Matsuri and Bunka No Hi, where she was recognized as a "Cultural Treasure."

An example as to how special JCAH's relationship was with Ms. Nakao, outside of Oahu, she only taught Washi Chigiri-e classes in Hilo.

Lily Nakao will always be remembered as being extremely generous, kind, loving and someone who had a special place in her heart for the Big Island.



Lily T. Nakao, left, at the last washi chigiri-e class in Hilo in 2019 with our past presidents Jan Higashi and Mike Miyahira.

President signs the book for PM Shinzo Abe

Hawai'i County, in partnership with the Honorary Consul General of Japan in Hilo, Art Taniguchi, hosted 'Books of Condolences' in memory of fallen Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The books was placed in the Office of the Mayor in both Hilo and Kona and are open to the public for comment. The books were then hand-delivered to the Consul General of Japan in Honolulu and sent off to Japan to be stored and archived for Prime Minister Abe and his 'ohana. Our President Dwayne Mukai signed the book.



Welcome new members who joined since last newsletter

Reverend Kazunori and Noriko Takahashi

Find us on **facebook** Enter "@jcahilo" in a search box of Facebook.

