



# The Newsletter

JAPANESE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

ハワイ島日系人協会

April 2014

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## President's Message — Hiroshi Suga

## 会長挨拶

Dear members,

It is hard to believe that a quarter of 2014 has gone.

Since the last newsletter, I have been attending several New Year events representing the Japanese Community Association of Hawaii.

The first tea ceremony of the year called "Hatsudate" was celebrated by the Urasenke Hilo Chapter in January. After that, Hui Okinawa, East Hawaii Hiroshima Kenjinkai, Fukuoka Kenjinkai, Niigata Kenjinkai, and Yamaguchi Kenjinkai had their Shinnen Enkai during the first three months of 2014.

All of these Shinnen Enkai honored elderly members 80 and above. I enjoy these events where people of the same roots bid new year wishes and greet each other in celebration of the new year saying, "Yes, we made another year!"

Unlike in Japan, we in Hawaii do not take a short break during the new years. Consequently, for me, Shinnen Enkai is what reminds me of starting a fresh and exciting new year.

The entertainment at these events featured Japanese songs, dances, and

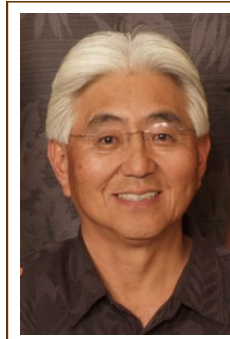
musical instruments. It was wonderful to see the younger generation participating in these cultural performances.

Another important event was our inaugural Nikkei Kigyo Recognition Banquet honoring I. Kitagawa & Company, Limited and Suisan Company, Limited. Both companies with Japanese ancestry have been in business over 100 years. The audio visual presentation depicted the history of these two striving businesses well. The first class fund-raiser for the JCAH Scholarship Fund was a great success. Our appreciation goes to the hard-working committee members headed by Mr. Roland Higashi.

Two of this year's our upcoming major events are "Kodomo no Matsuri - Children's Day" on May 10, and "Treito Memorial" at the Alae Cemetery in August. Committees are preparing for these exciting and meaningful events. Your participation in these events is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Japanese Community Association of Hawaii, we wish each and every one of you a safe, healthy, and prosperous 2014.

Hiroshi Suga ■



## "Journey to Washington" - Senator Daniel K. Inouye DVD

Two copies of a DVD that tells the story of the son of a Japanese immigrant sugar plantation worker who became President Pro Tem of the U.S. Senate and third in succession to the Presidency are available at JCAH office for your viewing. Please call 969-6437 for your reservation.



# kodomo no MATSURI

[ children's day festival ]

## SATURDAY, MAY 10

10:00AM - 2:00PM • SANGHA HALL • FREE ADMISSION

### Make & Take Cultural ACTIVITIES - Free:

Bonsai	Oshibana
Kazeguruma	Chigiri-e
(pin wheel)	Mokuhanga
Kabuto Hat	Takoage
Origami	(kite making)

**Fee:** Sakana Tsuru  
Calligraphy  
Shashin Satsui

### LEARN:

GO, Hanafuda, Taiko Drumming  
(hands-on), Life cycle of a  
silkworm, Somen nagashi



### KENDAMA:

Demo/performance & CONTEST  
by the team from RAZOR! Prizes  
donated by RAZOR, Pearlridge  
Uptown, including **GRAND  
PRIZE - Emperor Kendama!**

Performances by:  
**PUNA TAIKO** and  
**HUI OKINAWA'S  
SHISHIMAI DOG**

**FOOD BOOTHS**  
All kinds of ono food!

Kodomo No Matsuri  
**T-SHIRTS**  
for sale!

## KENDAMA CONTEST!

**RAZOR**  
PEARLRIDGE UPTOWN

### SPONSORS:

**SAKURA:** Big Island Candies,  
Isemoto Contracting Co. Ltd.

**MATSU:** Suisan Company, Limited

**UME:** Bank of Hawaii, Big Island Toyota,  
Fukunaga Electrical Inc., HPM Building Supply  
Foundation, Iris Kuwaye - State Farm Insurance,  
Razor Pearlridge, Robert & Alice Fujimoto  
Foundation, Sidney Fuke Planning Consultant

*Special!!!!*

JCAH  
members only!

Pre-register  
for  
**KENDAMA  
CONTEST!!**

(up to 17 years  
of age)

Pick up form at:  
Hawaii Printing  
Copy Center  
714 Kanoelehua  
8:00 am-4:00 pm  
Mon.-Fri.

*Or request  
via email:*

[jcahawaii@yahoo.com](mailto:jcahawaii@yahoo.com)

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**MUST MAIL**  
completed form to:  
**JCAH**  
714 Kanoelehua  
Suite 202  
Hilo, HI 96720

Deadline:  
postmarked  
Fri., May 2

Questions?  
Call JCAH  
at 969-6437



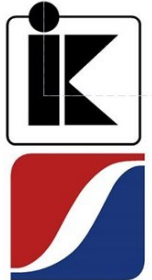


## Inaugural Nikkei Kigyo Fundraising Event HONORING I. KITAGAWA & CO., LTD. & SUISAN CO., LTD. NETS OVER \$10,000 for SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Nikkei Kigyo, translated to English, means “enterprise of Japanese Ancestry,” and the Japanese Community Association of Hawaii’s inaugural event honoring two East Hawaii, specifically, those who have been in business for many generations. The event was a huge success with over 200 in attendance, including Mayor Kenoi and other dignitaries which was held at Nani Mau on January 18.

I. Kitagawa & Company, Ltd., and Suisan Co., Ltd., established in 1905 and 1907 respectively, were honored. Both companies were severely affected by the 1946 and 1960 tsunamis and two wars, but because of their “*gambare*” spirit, hard work, and perseverance, they are both still very viable and vibrant businesses in Hilo, *108 and 106 years later!!*

I. Kitagawa is now headed by fourth generation, Brian Kitagawa, while Suisan is now headed by seventh generation, Glenn Hashimoto, who recently succeeded Rex Matsuno who served as president from 1967-2013.



JCAH President Hiroshi Suga, Suisan President/CEO Glenn Hashimoto; I. Kitagawa President Brian Kitagawa, and Roland Higashi, chairman of event, pose with the diamond shaped trophy and omiyage wrapped in a traditional furoshiki from the organization.



A highlight of the evening was a video presentation of each company’s history. It was a journey back in time to the beginning of each company! Every one at the event was transfixed on both videos and learned what it takes to “survive and thrive “ through all the adversities both companies

### *Mahalo to our Sponsors!*

#### **SAKURA**

KTA Super Stores  
Bank of Hawaii Japanese Chamber of  
Commerce & Industry of HI

#### **MATSU**

First Hawaiian Bank  
HPM Building Supply  
Isemoto Contracting

#### **UME**

Big Island Candies  
Central Pacific Bank  
Ito-En

### ***We received a heartwarming letter which reads in part:***

*....I sincerely thank the Japanese Community Association of Hawaii for the exquisite Nikkei Kigyo Recognition Banquet....honoring I. Kitagawa & Company, Limited and Suisan Company, Limited. It was indeed a high honor to be recognized in the Association’s inaugural Nikkei Kigyo event, and it was very gratifying to know that the funds raised will go to such a worthy purpose.*

*...the evening was equally entertaining and profoundly enlightening....”*

Glenn Hashimoto  
President & CEO  
Suisan Company, Limited

## Nuno Zouri Classes—A Big Hit!

Claudine Fujii, a Hilo crafter and instructor, who took a nuno zouri (fabric slippers) class taught by Haruko Sugitani of Japan which was presented by our organization in June 2012, simplified the making of these Japanese cloth slippers. Claudine demonstrated making of these zouri at Bunka No Hi last November and because of the interest in learning to make these zouri. Claudine agreed to teach classes and recently completed teaching three sold out classes in March to thirty students. Two additional classes have been added and are sold out.

*Mahalo Claudine!!*

## 布草履



## Photos from the most recent Chigiri-e class

New students: Gloria Nault, Lily Nakao sensei and Iris kaneko, youngest student, show their first Chigiri-e art.



Jasmine Iyo shows her recently completed Chigiri-e art.



New students at April Washi Chigiri-e class,

show their first completed artwork. Left to right: Sheldon & Claire Furutani, Lori Kashiwa, Elaine Yamaguchi, Betty Clark and Lily Nakao sensei. Sensei remarked that, "All of her new students who joined in 2014 are very talented and enthusiastic! She looks forward to coming back in September for more classes!" She loves Hilo!



Spring has come to Japan. This year, cherry blossoms sprung earlier in western to eastern Japan. Pictures were taken at Kokura Castle in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka in late March by Chiaki Noumaru.

### Event Calendar

May 10 Kodomo No Matsuri  
August 24 Ireito Memorial  
September or later Chigiri-e class



Welcome new members who joined since last newsletter

Wen-Chi Chang  
Betty Clark  
Claire & Sheldon Furutani  
Lori Kashiwa

Patricia & Paul Koshi  
Mariko Miho  
Dorothea Morris  
Dr. Gloria & Philippe Nault

Jan-Marie & Nathan Osorio  
James & Tonya Ozone  
Craig & Audrey Takamine  
Howard Takata

Roanne Tsutsui  
Andrea Ueno  
Nancy Vereze  
Elaine Yamaguchi



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