



# The Newsletter

JAPANESE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

ハワイ島日系人協会

December 2020

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## Outgoing President's Message – Mike Miyahira

現会長挨拶

December 2020

As this year draws to a close, so does my tenure as president of our association. I am thankful to all of you for allowing me to lead our association.

There are a lot of people whom we need to thank beginning with the volunteers who have helped to plan, organize and carry out the various programs and events that the association has sponsored over the years. We could not have accomplished so much without your involvement and hard work. Domo arigato gozaimasu.

Thank you also to the officers and directors for their unselfish service to our association. It is their

experience and wisdom that have guided us over the past two years. Especially this past year as we endured and worked our way through the effects of the COVID19 pandemic on our organization.



It was unfortunate that the pandemic made its appearance this year. It not only caused us to cancel some of our programs but we also lost several members to this devastating virus. Our condolences and sympathies to the families of our deceased members.

The pandemic also motivated us to explore using technology to continue our work. Video conferencing was adopted to facilitate

our meetings  
moving forward

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## Incoming President's Message – Dwayne Mukai

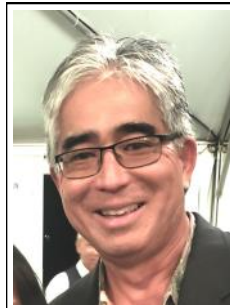
新会長挨拶

Merikurisumasu and Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu! I hope that this newsletter finds you all healthy and joyous during this Holiday Season.

2020 has been a year like no other. The Coronavirus has impacted us all, in more ways than we could have ever imagined. I pray and hope that your family and loved ones have not been adversely affected by this virus. My thoughts and prayers go out to you if it has.

Once again, I want to thank you all for entrusting me to be the President of your Japanese Community Association of Hawaii for the next two years. Rest assured that I do not take this

responsibility lightly and will do my best to uphold the traditions and reputation of this illustrious organization.



In January, date to be determined, I will become your President during a most unprecedented time. This year many community events have been cancelled, postponed or, when possible, gone virtual with no attendees. Similarly, the Japanese Community Association of Hawaii's Installation will be done virtually.

Going forward, it is difficult to predict what the future has in store for us all. Life, as we have known it, may be permanently altered. Having said this, it behooves us

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## Ashikita Relief Fund Drive

The City of Ashikita, Japan is located in the Kumamoto Prefecture. It sits on the coast of Kyushu Island and, like Hawaii, is famous for their beautiful coastline and beaches.

A very special bond exists between Ashikita and the Big Island. This was most recently evidenced by the participation of the World Famous Ashikita Rifle Company in the Big Island's 2018 Gannemono Celebration, 150th Anniversary of the first Immigrants arrival in Hawaii. The Rifle Company's mission is to preserve the tradition and culture of the "Ashikita Ogo'orizutsu" of the Edo Period 240 years ago. While on the Big Island, they performed to huge crowds in both Hilo and Kailua-Kona. They did not perform on any other Island.

On July 4, 2020, record torrential rains triggered the overflow of the Kuma River which caused extensive flooding, mudslides and broken riverbanks. Located on the coastline along the Kuma River, Ashikita suffered unimaginable damage. Residents had to evacuate their homes and businesses. Both of which were either severely damaged or totally destroyed.

## 芦北復興支援活動

Many families are still living in temporary shelters amid COVID-19 concerns. While work is being done on the city's infrastructure, local citizens are in dire need of basic supplies such as food and household products.

Thus, the Hawaii Shima Kumamoto Doshi Kai, whose ancestors are from Kumamoto Prefecture and who also assisted with the Ashikita Rifle Company's visit in 2018, conducted an Ashikita Relief Fund Drive.

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## Outgoing President, from Page 1

and video filming of our events was also started beginning with the Nikkei Kigyo and the Irei Sai Hoyo Memorial Service in August. We thank Na Leo TV for helping us make that possible.

The pandemic also caused the cancellation of this year's Merrie Monarch Festival and the visit by our friends from Shibukawa, Japan. The pandemic also affected Shibukawa's King Kalakaua the Merrie Monarch Hawaiian Festival and caused its cancellation this year. It also forced us to cancel the Student Artwork Exchange program that we have with elementary schools in Shibukawa and Hilo.

We saw the departure in September of Consul General and Mrs. Ito as they returned to Japan prior to departing for New Zealand where Mr. Ito will assume new responsibilities as Japan's Ambassador. We welcome newly arrived Consul General Yutaka Aoki and look forward to more years of cordial



Delegates from JCAH and COH visited Shibukawa in 2019.

relationships with the Consulate of Japan.

We do need to express our thank you and mahalo also to Jane Miyasaki for her dedication to providing voluntary administrative support for our association's work. She is our backbone. She makes sure that things get done on time.

And thank you to all of you for being members of our association. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without your support.

I hope that you will give your support and guidance to our incoming President Dwayne Mukai as we hopefully move beyond the pandemic this coming year and resume our programs and events.

Ja mata nei.

Mike Miyahira



"2019 Shinnen Enkai; L-R, George Ito, Toby Taniguchi, Shirley Ito, Colbert Matsumoto, Sandy Taniguchi, Barry Taniguchi, Stella & Mike Miyahira, Steve Ueda, and Ivan Nakano.





**THE 7TH ANNUAL NIKKEI KIGYO BANQUET HONORING YAMADA & SONS, INC. AND CAFÉ 100 WAS HELD ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2020 AT NA LEO TV IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**



JCAH's 7th Annual Nikkei Kigyo program honored Yamada & Sons, Inc. (established 1925) and Cafe 100 (established 1942) live on Na Leo TV on Friday, August 7, 2020. Originally planned to be a banquet dinner at Nani Mau Gardens, the program was re-engineered into a televised event in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. The presentation may be viewed on the Na Leo website at <http://naleo.tv/nltvexclusives/>.

The Nikkei Kigyo Recognition Banquet was started six years ago to recognize companies of Japanese ancestry in East Hawaii. Many of these companies were started by first generation immigrants who came to Hawaii to seek a new future. They arrived with their creativity, willingness to work hard, and perseverance, to carve a place in our community for themselves and their families.



The program kicked off with a video performance from Puna Taiko. After introductory remarks by M.C. Lincoln Ashida, Reverend Hotta of Hilo Daijingu gave the blessing. This year's event was dedicated to Bobby Fujimoto, Barry Taniguchi, and Brian Kitagawa - three iconic local businessmen and long-time supporters of the JCAH who passed away recently.

JCAH President Mike Miyahira led the traditional Kagami Biraki, or breaking of the sake barrel. L-R: Gloria Kobayashi representing Café 100, Donna Miller and Shellbylynn Yamada representing Yamada & Sons.



Café 100, home of the Loco Moco, was started by Richard and Evelyn Miyashiro. Named after the 100th Battalion that Richard had served in, Café 100 was started in 1946 shortly after Richard was discharged. The family persevered through two tsunamis that destroyed the cafe's two previous locations. Cafe 100 is now run by Richard and Evelyn's granddaughter, Mari Kobayashi-Leung.

Yamada & Sons, Inc. was founded by Bob Yamada in 1925 when he was 16 years old. Starting as a trucking company that handled deliveries between Hilo and Laupahoehoe, the company later diversified into construction materials and civil contracting. The company is now run by fourth generation Shellbylynn Yamada and third generation Donna Miller.



After video presentations of the histories of both companies, the awards were presented to the honorees by Mike Miyahira and event co-chairs Jan and Roland Higashi. Gloria Kobayashi accepted on behalf of Café 100, and Shellbylynn Yamada represented Yamada & Sons. After congratulatory presentations from Mayor Harry Kim, state legislators, and the county council, the evening concluded with the traditional kampai and tejime.

These families and their companies have helped to shape the Big Island over the years. We wish them continued success and a long and prosperous future.



Thank you to all of our Sponsors for their financial support, as well as all of the members of the committee that helped to put this year's event together. Special thanks to the staff at Na Leo TV for helping us transition to a televised presentation in these unprecedented times.

Proceeds from this event enables our association to offer programs to our community to perpetuate our Japanese cultural heritage, and also to our Scholarship Fund which annually provides scholarships to students whose major or minor is in Japanese studies.

L-R: Toby Taniguchi, KTA Super Stores; Donn Mende, HFSFCU; Steve Ueda, Suisan; and, Lincoln Ashida, Master of Ceremonies.

*Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the Nikkei Kigyo program.  
Roland & Jan Higashi, co-chair*

The Japanese Community Association of Hawai'i observed its Annual Ireito Memorial Service at 'Alae Cemetery on Sunday, August 23, 2020 from 2:00 pm.

The video of the service may be available on demand at Na Leo TV website:

<http://naleo.cablecast.tv:8081/CablecastPublicSite/show/7791?channel=1>



This was a modified memorial service during COVID-19 Worldwide Pandemic with restrictive measures enforced.

This observance marked the 81st year of the Annual Ireisai Hoyo Memorial Service. This service is to honor our Issei, first generation Japanese immigrants. These contracted plantation workers endured a harsh life in Hawai'i, in order to provide a better life and opportunity for our future. The spirit of sincere appreciation for the courage shown and sacrifices made by those who established the foundation for the liberties and opportunities we now take for granted. Honoring our immigrants as an essential part of life.

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### Incoming President, from Page 1

to be flexible, think out of the box and adapt to whatever is presented before us. The best in us all, shines brightly, when we are faced with challenges and adversity. Let's us all take up the challenge and do what's best to ensure that your Japanese Community Association of Hawaii remains vibrant and an integral part of the community.

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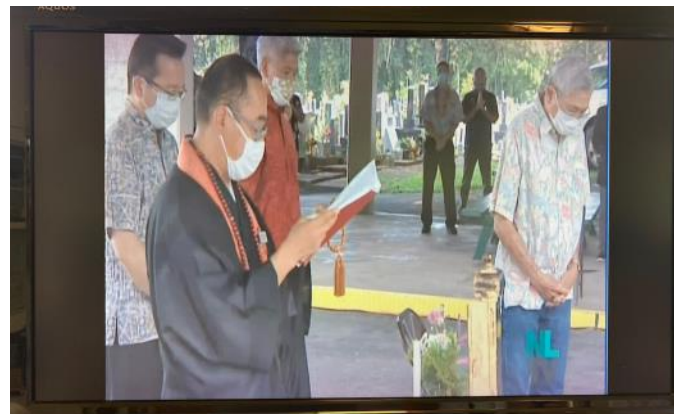
### Ashikita, from Page 2

Thanks to the generosity of the Big Island community, as well as your Hawaii Japanese Community Association of Hawaii, an estimated \$15,000 has been collected to assist in their relief efforts. Special "Domo Arigato Gozaimasu" goes out to Art Taniguchi, Tommy Goya, Jane Miyasaki and

"A monument paying tribute to our immigrant pioneers, honoring those who have departed before us and giving those who still remain a sense of closeness and belonging", commented JCAH President Michael Miyahira. "We are also honoring two Japanese sailors who died at sea and are buried at 'Alae Cemetery".

The Ireito Memorial was the inspiration and was initiated by the late Hawai'i Territorial Senator Sanji Abe. Senator Abe appreciated the immigrant's unselfish contribution and was grateful for their accomplishments and wished to comfort their spirits. This thankfulness is expressed in the Ireito Monument that stands today in 'Alae Cemetery.

The service was a joint effort between the Japanese Community Association and the Big Island Buddhist Federation, Toban Temple was Higashi Hongwanji Mission. Reverend Marcus J. Sawada lead the memorial service.



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The words "Gaman & Ganbatte" will be the foundation of my term as your President. My understanding is that "Gaman" is a Zen Buddhist term which roughly translates to "enduring the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity". "Ganbatte" translates to "let's do our best". "Gaman and Ganbatte"!

Domo arigato gozaimasu!

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the Hawaii Japanese Center for their unwavering support of this humanitarian effort.

Please keep Kumamoto in your hearts and prayers.

Dwayne T. Mukai, Interim President  
Hawaii Shima Kumamoto Doshi Kai



The Japanese Community Association of Hawaii announced that Luke Hamano and Jillian Mitsuda were awarded scholarships of \$1,500 each for the coming school year.

Hamano is the son of Paul and Reiko Hamano. He will recently graduated from Hilo High School and plans to attend the University of Hawaii at Hilo. While at Hilo High, Luke was a member of the Key Club and the Vikings Tennis Team for four years. He is also a member of the Hilo Junior Tennis Club where he first started to learn the sport and then became a teacher-coach to younger members of the club. Luke's leadership, energy and positive coaching style are appreciated by his students, other coaches and parents alike. Hamano plans to major in Business Administration and Finance at UHH.

Mitsuda is the daughter of Jon and Melissa Mitsuda. Jillian graduated from Waiakea High School in 2019 as a valedictorian and is currently attending the University of Nevada at Reno. While at Waiakea High School, Jillian had a GPA of 4.10 and maintains a 4.0 GPA at UNLV Reno. She was a member of the Key Club, Golf Team and the National Honor Society. Jillian also served as class treasurer from 2016-2019. Mitsuda is majoring in Speech Pathology at UNR and her academic performance has earned her a spot on the Dean's list. She helps at UNR's English Learning



Center Conversion Partner Program, where she helps foreign exchange students practice English. Her trip to Japan in 2018 led her to volunteer at the learning center. She plans to pursue a masters degree and eventually return to Hilo and serve our community through the Hawaii Department of Education.

### The 2021 scholarship application

is accepted through April 2, 2021.

#### Schools Qualified

- Any accredited College or University in the USA or Japan.

#### Purpose:

- To increase access for high school graduates and post-secondary students from the Island of Hawai'i whose interest is primarily in Japanese studies.



#### Qualifications of Applicant:

- Resident of East Hawai'i (Kohala-Naalehu). Preference will be given to graduating seniors whose major or minor is in Japanese studies. Post-secondary students, formerly from the island of Hawaii may also be considered.
- Enrolled or planning to enroll at a college or university.
- Preference will be given to an applicant whose parent or guardian is a member of good standing of the Japanese Community Association of Hawai'i.

#### Criteria:

- Academic merit as demonstrated by a minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Some degree of financial need, not necessarily determined by federal guidelines.
- Two letters of reference.

Visit <http://www.jcahawaii.org> for details and for downloading the application form.

### JCAH Installs New Officers January 2021

The Japanese Community Association of Hawaii will be installing its new officers in January 2021. The installation will be virtual due to the Covid19 pandemic related restrictions. A date and time will be announced via email soon.

Being installed will be Dwayne Mukai, President, Lincoln Ashida, Vice President, Susie Dill, Treasurer, Jane Miyasaki, Secretary, Naomi Menor, Japanese Secretary, and Ivan Nakano, Auditor. Directors include Sadao Aoki, Amy Aoyagi, James Arakaki, Jill Atwal, Janet Fujioka, Dean Fuke, Tommy Goya, Reiko

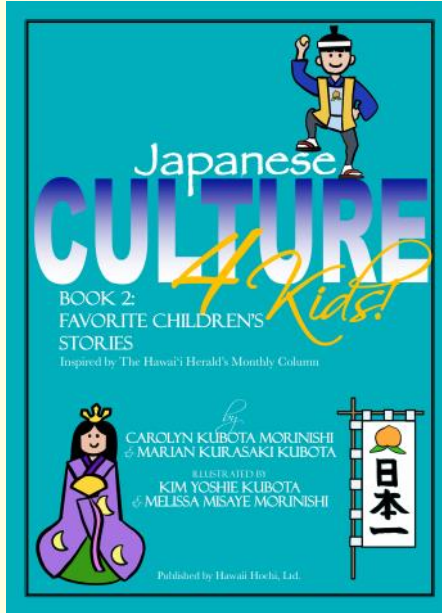
### JCAH新役員

Hamano, Jan Higashi, Roland Higashi, Arnold Hiura, Naohiro Hotta, Gareth Makino, Delbert Nishimoto, Junichi Noumaru, Alan Okinaka, Dennis "Fresh" Onishi, Aya Shehata, Paul Sakamoto, Art Taniguchi, and Jere Usui.

These officers and directors will serve our association from 2021 through 2022. We wish to thank them for their service and leadership.

Remember to keep an eye out for the announcement of the date and time of the virtual installation and instructions of how to participate virtually.

## New Children's Book



Hawaii Hochi, Ltd has just published a book, "Japanese Culture4Kids! Book 2: Favorite Children's Stories" -- twelve stories that have been passed down for generations, followed by crafts, puzzles and/or vocabulary activities. Share traditional stories like Momotarō, Issunbōshi and Hanasaka Jiji with your children or grandchildren and help share our culture with the yonsei and gosei generations! This book was written by Carolyn Kubota Morinishi and Marian Kurasaki Kubota, the same creative team behind the Hawai'i Herald's "Culture4Kids!" monthly column, and includes original illustrations by Kim Yoshie Kubota and Melissa Misaye Morinishi. You can purchase this book for \$19.95 plus postge (\$16.95 for Hawai'i Herald subscribers). To order, please call the Hawaii Hochi office at 808- 845-2255 or email them at [culture4kids@thehawaiihochi.com](mailto:culture4kids@thehawaiihochi.com)



Marian & Carolyn



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