



OGSH
2024
January

OGSH
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Message from Jackie and Ken
Interim Presidents



The word for the month is **Yuimaru**, literally meaning “**the circle of people.**” This is not only a concept about helping others but signifies unity, compassion, and sincerity despite our differences.

Ii Sogwachi Deebiru! Ken and I are looking forward to the New Year while building upon our accomplishments in 2023. The OGSB booth at the Okinawan Festival was visited by over 1,800 people during the two-day period. Our booth was located on the main floor that gave us increased visibility and traffic. We held a successful DNA workshop in September 2023 that was attended by over 100 participants, 60% who were not OGSB members. We made over \$1,300 after expenses.

Our goal for 2024 is to meet the needs of current members, recruit new members, and increase Committee membership and participation. We will be sending a survey out to current members to find out why you joined OGSB, what you are interested in learning, and how the organization can help. The Board is planning a retreat in March to review our Strategic Plan, develop an Annual Plan, and approve the 2024 budget.

The Board decided to temporarily halt access to AI’s database from the OGSB website due to privacy and liability concerns. All references to OGSB will also be removed from AI’s database because the Board did not formally approve it being linked on the OGSB website.

The Board will solicit member input on the issue as a first step. The Board will then consult with experts to determine the risks involved and what mitigations may be needed. The Board will convene meetings with stakeholders (members, HUOA, and OPL) to discuss the findings before taking final action.

The following are the Committee 2024 assignments:

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Hokuzan: A-Kohagura	Festival	Pass	Bonenkai	Festival
Chuzan: Kokubun-Shimata		Bonenkai	Festival	Pass
Nanzan: Shinsato, Amy - Z	Bonenkai	Festival	Pass	Bonenkai

Agenda

- I. Introduce new members and guests
 - II. Treasurer’s Report
 - III. Proposed Upcoming Activities
 - IV. Guest Speaker: Colin Sewake, on the role of Komitans (Family Villages) and recent cases of reuniting with family in Okinawa
- The Zoom portion of the meeting will end.

Congratulations Theresa Tom

Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii's 2024 United Okinawan of the Year

Excerpts from the Hawaii United Okinawan Association Uchinanchu of the Year and 74th Installation Celebration

OKINAWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF HAWAII: THERESA TOM



Theresa Tom is a staunch member, volunteer, and supporter for Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii (OGSH). Her paternal grandparents immigrated from Shuri, Okinawa. Since joining OGSH in 2011, she has immersed herself in all aspects of our mission. She has served in the capacity of Secretary, Board member, and editor of our monthly newsletters and participated as a volunteer or co-chairperson of OGSH's festivals and Bonenkai until COVID and a medical issue intervened. In spite of these challenges, she continues to share her research instincts, writing, design and artistic creativity.

Her insightful documentation was evident as our DNA workshop came to life with her elaborate visual contributions. At our 2023 Okinawan Festival Booth, Theresa collaborated on many of our exhibit's poster displays. She produced our 22nd and 25th Bonenkai Programs in 2015 and 2018 and helped with this year's 30th Anniversary Bonenkai Program as well as the 30th Anniversary, limited edition, Short Story Anthology book cover.

It is an extreme honor for OGSH to recognize Theresa Tom as the recipient of this year's Uchinanchu of the Year for OGSH.

Parts of the write-up for other OGSH members who were also honored.

AZA GUSHIKAWA DOSHI KAI: ROY ARAKAKI

are brothers and sisters). Roy is a prime example artedly supported club events. Our UOY has been the past 53 years through his marriage to Charlotte uro Tokuda, was one of the primary organizers and hi Kai.

awa's summer picnics held at Ala Moana Park. He club members at annual picnics, fundraising events

nation Center (HCC); he was soon invited by the 2018



GINOWAN SHIJIN KAI: JOY SCHOONOVER



Joy (Shimabukuro) Schoonover is a third-generat Ginowan Shijin Kai. She has also served as past V has helped plan numerous Shinnenkai, picnics ar

When the Covid epidemic prohibited "in-person" Club and HUOA. She was Chairperson of the very Program in 2021. She was also on the planning Zoom in 2022. Her latest project was the creat has brought together much information about t current activities and its members. Joy is proud

HANEJI CLUB: BYRNES YAMASHITA



Byrnes is an unusual name, but you reme will see it in the by-line of articles in the Hawaii and Okinawa. The Nisei Soldier dis He is a member of the Okinawan Genea information for future articles and assist is an active member of Haneji Club. He Okinawan Festival at the yakitori booth ar future articles by Byrnes Yamashita, Hane

NISHIHARA CHOJIN KAI: DAVID ARAKAWA

is grateful that his issei grandparents, HUOA Legacy n Onaha, Nishihara, parents Goro and Mary Arakawa, ples of the Okinawan values of Chimugukuru (heart,, i, Nankurunsaisa (If you do your best, for the right reason, e we meet and talk, we are brothers and sisters.), and d his siblings are also thankful that their parents changed nawa to meet their relatives and learn their Okinawan ai grandfather, Goro Taba also immigrated from Hivane, 1 (Josh) Medearis, son Galen, and grandchildren Jacob and HUOA activities. While Dave volunteers and MCs at in officers and children actively involved and makes sure



Who's Who ...HUOA 2024 President and Okinawa Prefecture Governor (non-members)



HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION
2024 PRESIDENT
BRANDON NAKASONE



OKINAWA PREFECTURE
GOVERNOR
THE HONORABLE DENNY TAMAKI



2024 Executive Council

OGSH members who are part of the HUOA 2024 Executive Council.



works as strategic accountants as a club coordinator and doing the club as a recruitment and marketing manager.

VICE PRESIDENT DAVID SHINSATO is a yonsei whose paternal grandmother's family roots can be traced back to Ginoza Village. In 2016, he was Ginoza Sonjin Kai's first kenshusei (trainee) representative to participate in a three-month exchange program in Ginoza Village, Okinawa, and has served as the club president for the Ginoza Sonjin Kai since 2018. Also a member of the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii, David has been passionate about reconnecting Hawaii Ginoza club members with their relatives in Ginoza Village. At the HUOA level, he has served on the Executive Council as a Club Representative from 2019-2021, and as Vice-President (Digital Media) in 2022 and 2023.



PAST PRESIDENT ADVISOR DAVE ARAKAWA is the grandson of Zempan and Tsuru Arakawa from Onaha, Nishihara, Okinawa, who aided Okinawan immigrants in Waipahu, assisted with sending goats to Okinawa after WWII, and helped fund the development of the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Father Goro Arakawa was a co-founder of Hawaii's Plantation Village, including an Okinawan house, and with mother Mary, supported the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza. Dave is past president of HUOA and the United Japanese Society, and member of Nishihara Chojin Kai, Kitanakagusuku Sonjin Kai, Hui Makaala, Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii and Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Group. Dave works for the Land Use Research Foundation as an attorney and serves on the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Aiea Neighborhood Board and the Japanese Cultural Center Board of Governors. He and wife Bertha (Oshiro) are active in Okinawan activities, along with their two children and two grandchildren.



the corporate real-estate, construction, facilities management, security, and procurement at Central Pacific Bank.

AT-LARGE MEMBER ROY ARAKAKI is a member of Kuba Rosei Kai, Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai and the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii (OGSH). Roy has served as an Advisor on the HUOA Executive Council and the Okinawan Festival Core Planning Committee for the past three years. Besides the HUOA activities, he actively volunteers for the YMCA Camp Erdman and is involved with community service projects with his Men's Leadership of Hawaii organization. A retired Telecommunications Manager from the Hawaii Convention Center, Roy and his wife, Charlotte, enjoy traveling and spending time with family and friends. His favorite HUOA activity is working with kids and supporting the "Warabi Ashibi" Children's Day Camp.



BUSINESS ADVISORY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE (BAAC) CHAIR MARK HIGA's paternal grandparents Yeikichi and Kame Higa immigrated from Nago and his mother's Kyan family was originally from Shuri. Mark serves as an advisor for both Nago Club and Shinka, and is a member of Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club and the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii. Born in Okinawa to the late Yeiji and Tsuruyo Higa, Mark spent summers there and was able to study Ryukyuu architecture through a college travel scholarship. He now enjoys learning about and perpetuating our culture with his wife Hanae, also from Okinawa, and their son Nico. Mark and Hanae study uta-sanshin with Ryuku Koten Afuso Ryu Ongaku Kenkyuu Choichi Kai USA. Serving as a board member of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza since 2013 and on BAAC since its inception, Mark previously served as HUOA President in 2015, and on the Executive Council as Advisor, Vice President, President Elect and participated in or led various committees. Mark is President of WCIT Architecture and has enjoyed time on community boards including the Kakaako Improvement Association, Entrepreneur's Organization, and GIFT Foundation.





HUOA is embarking on a strategic planning process to celebrate our history and envision HUOA's future together.



To ensure that we reach as many people as possible, please take this short survey to share your input.

www.huoa.org

Respondents will be entered to win \$50 in Okinawa Festival script.







Hawaii United Okinawa Association Member Clubs

Awase Doshi Kai
Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai
Aza Yogi Doshi Kai
Bito Doshi Kai
Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai
Club Motobu
Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai
Ginowan Shijin Kai*
Ginoza Sonjin Kai
Gushichan Sonjin Kai*
Gushikawa Shijin Kai*
Haebaru Club
Haneji Club
Hawaii Katsuren Chojin Kai
Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai
Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club*
Hui Alu Inc.
Hui Makaala
Hui O Laulima
Hui Okinawa
Hui Uruma
Ishikawa Shijin Kai
Itoman Shijin Kai
Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai
Kin Chojin Kai

Kitanakagusuku Sonjin Kai*
Kochinda Chojin Kai
Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai
Kona Okinawa Kenjin Kai
Kuba Rosei Kai
Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai
Nago Club*
Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai
Nishihara Chojin Kai
Okinawa City-Goeku Son*
Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii**
Onna Sonjin Kai*
Oroku Azajin Club
Oroku Doshi Kai
Osato Doshi Kai*
Shinka Hawaii
Tamagusuku Club*
Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai
Urasoe Shijin Kai
Wahiawa Okinawa Kyo Yu Kai
Yagaji Doshi Kai
Yomitan Club*
Yonabaru Chojin Kai
Yonashiro Chojin Kai
Young Okinawans of Hawaii

* Charter Member Clubs ** Affiliate Member Club

MISSION

To promote, perpetuate and preserve
the Okinawan culture in Hawaii.

HUOA Eight Guiding Principles

These guiding principles are the beliefs and values
of our organization.

- 1) The Hawaii Okinawa Center is the home of the HUOA, which serves the purposes and goals of the HUOA.
- 2) We believe in and are committed to cultivating and perpetuating the "Uchinanchu Spirit."
- 3) We are committed to perpetuating and promoting Okinawa culture and the arts.
- 4) We are committed to honoring our Issei, whose legacy is the foundation of who we are.
- 5) Our strength comes from our member associations. We believe that the stronger our member associations are, the stronger the HUOA will be.
- 6) We believe that the future of HUOA is dependent upon its youth. We are committed to encouraging the involvement of our children.
- 7) Hawaii cultural diversity is its strength. We are committed to participating meaningfully in the wider Japanese and Hawaii community.
- 8) We support and promote Hawaii's relationship with Okinawa.

About the logo



This year's calligraphy is inspired by the Spirit and Strength of HUOA.

The "光 Hikari" kanji uses bold fude strokes, representing the strong foundation laid by our ancestors, members, and leadership.

The kanji and accompanying hiragana are dynamic, showing rising motion while carrying out dreams and goals with a spirit call to action, as suggested in the Uchinaaguchi expression. The swoop of the character closes cradles these pieces together.

**Hwikarasanaya!
Let's Shine Together!**

Thank you to Hanae and Mark Higa for designing this beautiful logo.





Garden at HUOA 2019

2024

January

- 27 OGSB Meeting 9a.m.,
Speaker: Colin Sewake
Serikaku Chaya or on Zoom

February

- 12 Chinese New Year
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 OGSB Meeting 9a.m.

March

- 15 OGSB Meeting 9 a.m.
- 22,23,24 10th Annual Loochoo Identity Summit
Windward Community College
Hale 'Ākoakoa (flyer attached)

 Ukwanshin Kabudan presents

10th Annual Loochoo Identity Summit

Munugatai:

How We Remember
How We Share
How We Create

March 22 thru 24, 2024
Hale 'Ākoakoa
Windward Community College

Details & Registration:
loochooidentity.org

Contact Us:
events@ukwanshinkabudan.org



For those of us who are separated from our ancestral homelands by both generational time and geographic space, stories are often the only connections we have left. In Okinawan, the word for "story" — *munugatai* — also means conversation or dialogue. In this way, stories are not simply recollections of past events, people, or places, but a vital means of communication that helps build relationships with others and the world around us. The understandings we gain from *munugatai*, however, depend heavily on the lens through which we view the information presented to us. Therefore, as we engage in *munugatai* on a daily basis, we constantly rewrite our own stories and co-create stories with others. Come join us for our 10th Loochoo Identity Summit as we delve into the ways we remember, share, and create stories and conversations together.