

February 2025 - Newsletter



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 7 - 9

Honolulu Festival

Where: Hawaii Convention Center

May 2

Senior Health Fair

Where: HOC

May 31

Please help spread the word to high school seniors and college students that we are currently accepting 2025 Hui Makaala scholarship applications. The application form can be found on our website

www.huimakaala.com.

Applications are due by May 31, 2025. Completed hard copy applications can be submitted via mail to the Hui Makaala Scholarship Committee P.O. Box 2604 Honolulu, Hawaii 96803. We are also willing to accept completed applications as a PDF email attachment sent to info@huimakaala.com; however hard copy applications are preferred.

June 13 - 15

Pan Pacific Festival

July 27

HM 54th Annual Scholarship Fund Luncheon & Fashion Show

Where: Hilton Hawaiian Village,
Coral Ball Room

In collaboration with HUOA's 125th celebration of Okinawa immigration to Hawaii.

August 16

Haari Boat Race in Hilo

August 30 - 31

Okinawan Festival

Hui Makaala has manned the Oki dog booth on Sunday for many years

September 19

HM Golf Tournament

Where: Ewa Beach Golf Club

SPORTS ARTICLE

From the sports desk of Ryan Okunaga

Hui Makaala had its 24th Annual Golf Tournament at Ewa Beach Country Club on September 22, 2024. Kudos to Al Kakazu and his team for putting on a wonderful tournament with over 144 golfers! A good time was had by all, and it was nice to see the grand prizes for individuals and teams go to Hui Makaala members.

Hui Makaala participated in the 2024 HUOA Softball league, and on September 22, 2024, came up short in the championship game, to finish 2nd. If you are interested in joining the Hui Makaala softball team in 2025, please contact Ryan Okunaga at 808-741-1797. League meetings are held in February and the league can start anywhere from March to June depending on the field availability and league decisions.

Hui Makaala did not have a volleyball team in the 2024 HUOA volleyball league. If you are interested in playing in the HUOA volleyball league, please contact huoamixedvballleague@gmail.com. If you are interested in making a team, please contact Hui Makaala President Jan Toma and she can coordinate with Hui Makaala officers. Past seasons were held in the spring at community/school gyms.

HUOA bowling remains on hiatus since the pandemic - we will provide an update if, and when, the league resumes.

Final notes; we lost 2 long-time softball players/coaches in 2024 and 2025. We will miss them, but applaud their contributions to Hui Makaala. Clifford Fukuhara was a long-time player and Coach of the Hui Makaala Softball team; winning multiple HUOA league championships.

Corey Shibata was another long-time player and Coach of the Hui Makaala Softball team; also participating in multiple championships.

Have a great 2025!

2025 President

JAN TOMA

Hai-Tai and Aloha!

Welcome to a New Year celebrating the 125th year of Okinawa immigration to Hawaii, and emigration of the world. We celebrate the Uchinanchu spirit by working together in spite of challenges and differences to build a strong community.

My name is Jan Toma, and I am honored to be 2025 President of Hui Makaala of Hawaii. I have been happily volunteering for over 30 years serving this wonderful organization. My husband Ed and daughter Sara regularly help out as well.

I thank our current and past officers, board members, committee chairs, and the many volunteers who spend hours to keep the scholarship programs and cultural events going. We are blessed that many past scholarship recipients in turn become hard working and generous members. Working together we can accomplish anything.

We invite all to come to this year's fashion show, highlighting a unique mix of Okinawa and Hawaii. I look forward to seeing everyone there to enjoy fashion, fun, culture, food, and of course to celebrate the scholarship recipients in their achievements.

It's always fun to shop at our wonderful vendor tables and the silent auction features unbelievable treasures as well. Lastly, one of the main highlights of our wonderful show, are the many performers who grace the stage, sharing our Uchinanchu heritage.



The annual scholarship golf tournament is always a roaring success and is filled with fun competition and great prizes for everyone. What a great way for everyone to spend the day while supporting the scholarship program.

I hope you will join us at the Okinawa Festival, where we man the Oki-dog booth, or our athletic clubs. There are many events we host and participate in. We would always love to see new members and friends. Please reach out if you would like to volunteer or to make a welcomed tax deductible donation of goods, services, or funding to benefit the scholarship and our other cultural programs.

Blessing to everyone for a prosperous and healthy 2025.

Warmest Aloha, Jan

2023-2024
Immediate
Past President
LISA SHISHIDO



Hui Makaala Uchinanchu of the Year 2025

MICHELLE KAKAZU

Michelle Kakazu has been a loyal member of Hui Makaala for over a decade. While not Okinawan by blood, she is 100% Uchinanchu in spirit. Born and raised in Hilo, as the eldest daughter of Wayne and Marie Onomura, she has been active behind the scenes, especially with the Annual Hui Makaala Golf Tournament. Although her husband, Al Kakazu, get's the glory of being chairman of the Annual Tournament, Michelle is the true driver of the event. Her organization talents keep the fun-loving golf committee on track and on schedule and allows the team to enjoy the process. Her computer skills has elevated the golf outing to higher levels and allowed us to increase the player count to record highs this past year. She is not only a back-office worker, but also runs the registration table for the golf tournament and greets each and every participant with a smile.



Michelle and Al are proud parents of two adult daughters, Ashley (28) and Audrey (26). Michelle and Al reside in Manoa.

Michelle is multi-talented in her work and play - she dances hula and is an avid golfer. She sang in the local TV show "Hawaii Stars" and won a women's karate tournament in her 40s. Her career spanned Executive Director of One Kalakaua Senior Living (assisted living medical facility), Vice-President of Finance for Hawaii Pacific Health, Director of Finance for Marriott Hawaii Region, and Financial Investments for Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate. She was also named Pacific Business News Top 40 Under The Age of 40 while at Hawaii Pacific Health and has been one of Hawaii Business Magazine's Top 250 Executives over the past decade.

Michelle was first introduced to Hui Makaala in the late 1990's while participating in HUOA's Haari Boat Race in Hilo.



Michelle was honored and distinguished as Hui Makaala's Uchinanchu of the Year (UOTY) on January 18, 2025 at the HUOA Installation Banquet. Hui Makaala thanks Michelle for her hard work and dedication.



Getting to Know Your Members

JANE & WON LEE

We are proud to have you learn and get to know esteemed members, Jane Tamanaha Lee and Won Lee, on behalf of Hui Makaala.

Jane was born in Okinawa and came to Hawaii when she was 8 years old. She received the HM Scholarship when she graduated from McKinley High School in 1967. She graduated from UH Manoa with a BS degree in nursing and specialized in Ostomy and Wound Care at MD Anderson in Houston and worked in San Antonio and Austin, Texas. After retiring, she returned to Hawaii. Jane is married to Won Kuk Lee, a former professional baseball player, who played in Japan, US, Mexico and Korea. Won was the first Korean Nationalist to play in the US National Baseball League as a member of the San Francisco Giants Organization. They have been married over 50 years and have two sons and one grandson.

Jane and Won have a beautiful home in Manoa Valley which is listed in the State's Historical site registry; Puahu'ula built in 1926. They maintain healthy and active lives by doing their own gardening, yard work and eating nutritiously.



SUNDAY - JULY 27, 2025

HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE, CORAL BALLROOM

**HUI MAKAAALA 54th ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP
LUNCHEON & FASHION SHOW**

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) will be celebrating its 125th Centennial Celebration of Okinawa Immigration from Okinawa to Hawaii. As part of this year-long celebration, the Hui Makaala Fashion Show will be showcased as one of the major events.

Hui Makaala is proud to present the 54th Annual Scholarship Fund Luncheon & Fashion Show to be held on **SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025** at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom. The Committee is proud at work for a successful and inspiring event.



**OKINAWA -
KANNA (YOKANG)**



**HAWAII -
SONNY CHING**



YOKANG - KANNA YAMAUCHI

By popular demand, Hui Makaala is proud to welcome back YOKANG and the spectacular designs of Kanna Yamauchi. It is just fitting that Ms. Yamauchi represents the Okinawan community in this special 125th commemorative celebration of immigration of Okinawans to Hawaii.

Kanna Yamauchi was born in 1973 in Naha City, Okinawa, Japan; being raised with the artistic influences from her mother, Mitsuko Yamauchi, who is the pioneer of introducing the traditional Okinawan "Bingata" dyeing technique into western-style clothing designs.



HO'OLOLI - SONNY CHING

The name Sonny Ching is usually associated world-wide, in conjunction for his work with the award winning and critically acclaimed Hālau Nā Mamo o Pu'uanahulu; a school of Hawaiian Chant & Dance . . . We will be able to share in his continued transformation and efforts to maintain the traditions and culture of his ancestors. His connection to the Hawaiian culture and its traditional way of viewing the world that allows him to continually renew, evolve, change, alter and transform from one media of artistic expression to the next . . . Teacher, dancer, chanter, writer, composer, recording artist, performer, producer, jewelry designer, textile and apparel designer.



Please come and enjoy all that is being offered—silent auction, baked goods, sushi, 35+ vendors/boutiques, raffle prizes, served full-course lunch, Okinawan entertainment, scholarship awards, and full-on Fashion Show. Reservation flyer is enclosed.

