

# SHOKO

HONOLULU JAPANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## 67th Annual Shinnen Enkai (New Year's Banquet)

Members of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce (HJCC) and their guests helped ring in the New Year on January 6, 2012, at the annual Shinnen Enkai (New Year's Banquet).

One of the highlight of this year's event included special dinner prepared for Imperial Table Sponsors by guest chef **DK Kodama** of **Sansei Seafood Restaurant and Sushi Bar**. Cocktail hour festivities included **Kenny Endo's Taiko Center of the Pacific's** performance of the Edo Kotobuki Jishi, the traditional lion dance from Edo, the former name of Tokyo during the Edo era (1603-1868). The Lion Dance is indispensable for the Japanese at New Year. It is also performed for auspicious occasions when people want to beckon good luck and good fortune. One of HJCC's traditions included the **Daikon Sale**, courtesy of **Marukai Corporation**. For 67 years, the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce and its members have graced the Gonin Otoko cast with daikon --- it is a way to heckle the performers, much like Americans will throw tomatoes at poor stage performers. New this year, participants enjoyed the **Japan Prestige Sake Tasting**, handmade candy by **Candy Art**, and Year of the Dragon Japanese *ofuro* towels. A certified calligrapher was available to write the Japanese kanji characters.

Master of Ceremonies **Taylor Kirihara** welcomed special dignitaries, including Honolulu

City & County Mayor **Peter Carlisle** and Consul General of Japan **Yoshihiko Kamo**. Bishop **Ara** of Tendai Mission of Hawaii provided the New Year's blessing; HJCC Chair **Christine Kubota** provided welcome remarks; Mayor **Carlisle** provided celebratory remarks; *kanpais* were presented by Consul General of Japan **Kamo** and Past Chair **Kathryn Inkinen** and tejiime by past Chairman **Wayne Kirihara**.

The highlight of the banquet was the **Shoko Shiranami Gonin Otoko** kabuki play, the Chamber's adaptation of the 1960s movie *Shiranami Gonin Otoko: Tenka No ô-Dorobô*. The play, which is narrated by the kojyo, tells the story of notorious thieves who brag about their accomplishments before being captured by a policeman. Starring in this year's production were **Dave Erdman, Jon Tsukamoto, Staci Yoshihara, Emi Espinda, Andrew Stewart, James Dixon and Kenneth Yamato**. Producers **Walter Saito, Minoru Ueda, and Ron Ushijima** once again provided direction for this year's play with the support of understudies **Bob Nagao, Gregg Mueller and Shigeo Hone**.

**Dave Erdman**, President / CEO of PacRim Marketing Group, Inc. performed the kojyo shares his experience - "This opportunity to participate in the Gonin Otoko performance was a great way to give back and support the important Chamber activities, meet other members of the chamber during our practices, and learn about Japan traditions and culture and the Nikkei traditions passed down through the Chamber over the past 67 years. I was really out of my comfort zone, and it's important to do that once in a while. I would recommend participating to any member. It was fun for us as actors and for our families



2012 Shiranami Gonin Otoko Cast  
Left to Right: Kenneth Yamato, James Dixon, Andrew Stewart, Emi Espinda, Staci Yoshihara, and Jon Tsukamoto. Seated: Dave Erdman.

and friends to watch and laugh."

"Thank you for setting up the Marketing Committee Table. It was a fun event. Even though I didn't know any of the players, it was really funny!" - *Stacie Koike, Principal & Creative Director, Orasi Design*

"As a new member attending the first big event of the year, I had a great time. I appreciated the atmosphere, the laughs, and how well everyone in the chamber gets along. I like the close-knit, community involved group of people and look forward to future events." - *Allen Komori, Financial Strategist, Mass Mutual Financial Group*

"Having celebrity Chef DK Kodama prepare the Imperial table dinner was an exciting new addition to the event. The quality of food and presentation was terrific." *Arnold Hirotsu, President, PSH Insurance, Inc.*

Special thanks to Event Co-Chairs **Roy Ishihara** and **Rika Hirata**, Program and Community Affairs Committee Chair **Terry Noyama**, the Shinnen Enkai planning committee members **Kumiko Burns, Mark Ibara, Courtney Kajikawa, Mike Nomura, Darren Ota, Richard Park, Tyler Tokioka, Darrell Yamagata**, and all the volunteers and generous donors who made this event possible.

### MAHALO

#### IMPERIAL TABLE SPONSORS

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# Honolulu Festival

Honolulu Festival organizers promise another exciting and captivating weekend of events March 2-4! Celebrating this year's theme, Bonding together, hand in hand, artisans and entertainers from Asia and the Pacific Rim will enchant both visitors and local residents with their presentations. Countries and regions contributing at this 18th annual exhibition are Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Australia, The Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Canada, Alaska and Hawaii.



The weekend kicks off with a wonderful opportunity for school kids to learn about various cultures through Educational Tours (by invitation only). As part of the 'behind the scenes' tour, the Japan dance group Sugaren will feature their Yosakoi workshop *Transcendance*.

Five locations around Waikiki will showcase demonstrations and performances. At Hawaii Convention Center first floor will be Ennichi, Anime, Bon Dance and a Craft Fair. Drop by to see the unveiling of the brilliant creation of the students of St Anthony School, winners of the Maui Mikoshi design contest. Once again collaborating with Honolulu Festival, the melodious sounds of the Hawaii Music Festival will waft through the third floor at HCC, including a band, chorus, and cheer competition. You won't want to miss it!

The culmination of the weekend will be a dramatic and explosive finale to the Grand Parade in Waikiki - the famed Nagaoka Fireworks will light up the skies! Scheduled to appear last year, this display was cancelled in respect

for the victims of the tsunami and earthquake in Japan. The fireworks show is a symbol of the city's rebirth from the destruc-

tion of World War II, dedicated to honoring those who lost their lives, and to promoting world peace. As an appetizer before this event, a movie preview about the fireworks will be shown at Hawaii Convention Center.

Get ready for an extraordinary encounter! All events are FREE to the public. For details and information log on to [www.honolulu festival.com](http://www.honolulu festival.com).

...a dramatic and explosive finale to the Grand Parade in Waikiki the famed Nagaoka Fireworks will light up the skies!

## SAVE THE DATE



### 35th Annual Samurai Classic Golf Tournament

Thursday, May 10, 2012

12 PM Shotgun, Pearl Country Club

*Presented by Ways & Means Committee*

## SHOKO NEWSLETTER

SHOKO NEWSLETTER is the official publication of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce (HJCC), a non-profit organization.

**Chair of the Board**  
Christine Kubota

**President**  
Wayne T. Ishihara

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# Moving Forward in 2012 and Beyond: Hawaii's Economic Future

By: James Shigeo Dixon, Event Chair, Assistant Vice President Compliance and Governmental Affairs, Island Insurance Company, Ltd.

On Thursday January 12, 2012, the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce along with the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii, and the Hawaii Association of Realtors hosted two distinguished speakers to discuss the future of State and University policy and its impact on the local business environment. Governor Neil Abercrombie and University of Hawaii President M.R.C. Greenwood spoke on their respective visions for Hawaii's economy, and the University of Hawaii's role in developing Hawaii's research industry.

The event was chaired by HJCC Government Affairs Committee Member Jim Dixon, and Howard Dicus served as the moderator.

Approximately 110 persons attended the Luncheon including HJCC President Wayne Ishihara, and Chair Christine Kubota who provided opening remarks.

Howard Dicus summed up the days discussions in his closing remarks.



Governor Neil Abercrombie

Governor Abercrombie spoke on his administration's efforts to develop underutilized public lands to develop work force

housing, and developing opportunities to develop transportation alternatives such as rail and inter-island ferry transport. The Governor argued that the State of Hawaii needed to position itself not only as the western-most edge of America in the Pacific, but also as the eastern-most edge of Asia in the Pacific.

President Greenwood



University of Hawaii President M.R.C. Greenwood



Governor Abercrombie addressing HJCC members and partner organizations

followed the Governor and spoke on the University's beneficial impact on the economy and her vision to develop the University's capacity as a global leader in scientific research.

If you did not get a chance to attend this event, the entire program was filmed on 'Olelo Community Media. Airdates to be publicized in upcoming HJCC email bulletins.

## Welcome New Members

### Hidemitsu Ebara

President  
EKU USA, Inc. (Izakaya Gazen)  
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### Malcolm Leong

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Sponsor: Stewart Sato

### Brian Zagami

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Sponsor: Noelle Condon

## REPLACEMENTS

### Curtis Kogami

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### Keith Sakamoto

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Replaced: Dennis Teranishi

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Replaced: Jason Richard

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Replaced: Katsuya Nishimori

### Ryushi Wada

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Replaced: Hajime Ueno

## DONATIONS

### HJCC CHARITABLE CORPORATION

Glenn Nakamura

Tentacle, LLC dba BRYCL Resorts International

Jane Ushijima

in memory of Earl Ushijima

7<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Taste of Marukai

## Save the Date

April 12, 2012  
6 pm - 9 pm

Enjoy a wide array of Japanese food and sake

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[www.honolulu-japanese-chamber.org](http://www.honolulu-japanese-chamber.org)  
or call 949-5531 for any questions.

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# 67th Annual Shinnen Enkai

Photographs courtesy of Jim Dote



Mrs. Kamo, Consul General Kamo, HJCC Chair Christine Kubota, Sadao Takahashi and CBF Queen Jennifer Sur ringing in the new year.



Kenny Endo's Taiko Center of the Pacific's performance of the Edo Kotobuki Jishi, the traditional lion dance from Edo.



Shinnen Enkai Event Co-Chairs Rika Hirata and Roy Ishihara.



Japanese Calligraphy during cocktail hour. Mahalo volunteers Yuichi Katayama and Mitsue Varley.



Daikon Sale by volunteer Scott Barlow with Vice Chair Candice Naito.



Past Chairman Wayne Kihara and Emcee Taylor Kirihara.



2012 Cast Members with Mayor Carlisle. Left to Right: Kenneth Yamato, Jon Tsukamoto, James Dixon, Andrew Stewart, Mayor Peter Carlisle, Emi Espinda, Staci Yoshihara, and Dave Erdman



Lucky Draw sale by Program and Community Affairs Committee Chair Terry Noyama and Board Member Mark Ibara with volunteer Patti Fukada.



Dave Erdman performing as Kojo in front of 400+ participants.



Japan Prestige Sake Tasting volunteers Vice Chair Darrell Yamagata, Vice Chair Tyler Tokioka, CBF Princess and Miss Popularity Traci Hamamoto and Manpower Chair Richard Park.

# History – Hiroshima Torii Gate Donation to City and County of Honolulu

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of its founding in the year 2000, the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce (HJCC) announced a revitalization program directed at the Moiliili district of Honolulu. This revitalization program, which may be the most ambitious and long-range program for the Chamber, is aimed at developing a multiethnic, multi-cultural business district for Moiliili. The headquarters of the HJCC has been based in Moiliili for nearly 40 years, so it was a natural decision to revitalize the immediate neighborhood where the Chamber is a resident.

The Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, in celebrating its 100th anniversary and its past, wanted to contribute and give back to the business community. So, the “Moiliili Revitalization Project” was developed to rejuvenate the district for the future.

The history of Moiliili includes the settlement of Japanese immigrants and businesses to this central area of Honolulu. Today, Moiliili is home to several Japanese-related community organizations including the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, the United Japanese Society, the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce.

While the Chamber’s membership consists of businesspersons of all nationalities, one of the focal points of the HJCC has been to promote business relationships between Japan and Hawaii. Therefore, while the Chamber is attempting to enhance the Moiliili business district through the development of a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural business district, its initial emphasis will be on Japan.

With these combined goals of developing a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural business district with a flavor of Japan roots, the HJCC began pursuing donations of cultural artifacts from the three Prefectures in Japan which have established “sister-state” relationships with

the State of Hawaii. These three prefectures are Fukuoka, Okinawa, and Hiroshima. The concept was to attract donations of cultural artifacts from these Prefectures that could be situated in the Moiliili district. These artifacts, which would represent the particular Prefecture, would help to enhance and beautify the business district, attract visitors and local residents to enjoy the artifacts, and strengthen the bonds between Hawaii and Japan.

Beginning in 1999, the HJCC, as part of its trade missions to Japan, began approaching Hiroshima Prefecture to consider the donation of a cultural artifact that could be placed in the Moiliili district. Hiroshima Prefecture was approached first due to its long standing “sister” relations in place including:

- 1) A “sister-city” relationship between Honolulu and Hiroshima City, which was established in 1959;
- 2) A “sister-state” relationship, established in 1997; and,
- 3) The HJCC’s “sister-chamber” relationship with the Hiroshima Chamber of Commerce & Industry, which was created in 1981.

100th Anniversary chairman, Wayne Miyao, who previously served as chairman of the HJCC, in reflecting on their approach to Hiroshima said, “From the onset, it was our plan to ask for a donation of a replica of the world-famous torii gate, which fronts Miyajima Island. It is our belief that the torii gate represents not only Hiroshima, but also Japan.

Through various meetings with Hiroshima Prefectural and City government officials and the leadership of the Hiroshima Chamber, we were pleasantly surprised and pleased that their sentiment was strong enough to contribute to and to build a replica of the Miyajima island torii gate in Moiliili”.

The torii gate, which fronts Miyajima Island in Hiroshima, is considered one of the three

most scenic vistas in Japan. The Hiroshima torii has been placed on the United Nations World Cultural Heritage list. The torii gate in Hiroshima was first erected in the 12th century and is made of wood.

In May, 2000, at the 100th Anniversary Banquet of the HJCC, a commitment or “moku roku” was made jointly by the Hiroshima Prefectural Government, Hiroshima City, and the Hiroshima Chamber of Commerce & Industry to raise and commit funds to build a replica of the Miyajima island torii gate in Moiliili. Approximately \$135,000 was raised jointly by the three Hiroshima entities to build the torii gate. “We were and continue to be honored by this commitment by the people of Hiroshima to build the Hiroshima torii gate in Moiliili,” commented Ronald Ushijima, then President of the HJCC.

With this commitment by the people of Hiroshima, Miyao and Ushijima then began to work with numerous sectors of our community on the building of the torii gate. They worked with Mayor Jeremy Harris and his various department heads to plan and accept this gift from Hiroshima. They met and communicated with the McCully-Moiliili Neighborhood Board on several occasions and received their conceptual approval for the project. Finally, they met many businesses in the immediate area that were excited with the addition of the torii gate in Moiliili.

The design and construction of the torii gate was started in June 2001 in Hiroshima. Upon completion, the torii gate was shipped to Honolulu and arrived in October 2001. The gate was constructed and a dedication ceremony attended by more than 70 Hiroshima officials was held on **January 22, 2002**.

The Hiroshima torii gate is situated in the “triangle” park, which is bordered by King and Beretania Streets and the former Star Super Market (now Longs). The torii gate is half the size of the actual torii gate in

Hiroshima (approximately 26 feet in height and 37 feet in circumference) and is constructed of steel and titanium.

The location of the Hiroshima torii gate in the “triangle” park in Moiliili is appropriate as there are historical perspectives that lend themselves to this project. In the triangle park are two large trees. One giant tree is dedicated to the late Kihachi and Shika Kashiwabara, who are believed to be the first Japanese immigrants to settle in Moiliili in 1893. The Kashiwabaras were originally from Yamaguchi Prefecture, which borders Hiroshima Prefecture and is part of with Hiroshima of what is popularly called the Chugoku Region of Japan. The second giant tree is dedicated to Harry Yoshimura, a community leader in Moiliili, who is still living and is from Hiroshima Prefecture. The placement of the Hiroshima torii gate in the center of the two giant trees is fitting due to the Hiroshima and Chugoku ties that complement each other. Ronald Ushijima said, “On behalf of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, we are pleased to present the City and County of Honolulu with this “gift” of the Hiroshima torii gate so the people of Hawaii as well as visitors to our shores can enjoy this beautiful landmark.”

“The Hiroshima torii gate will be a constant symbol of the friendships between Hiroshima and Hawaii. Hopefully, it will promote further cultural, educational, and business exchanges between our two States and serve as a lasting reminder of peace. It will serve as a gateway for Hawaii to Hiroshima and Japan,” concluded Wayne Miyao.

In 2008, following up on a commitment made to the city of Hiroshima, the HJCC Charitable Corporation adopts the torii gate from the City & County of Honolulu in order to maintain and preserve its legacy.