

President's Message



And just like that, our 2020-2021 fiscal year has come to an end!

Aloha HJCC Members!

Our last few months were jam packed with awesome events and opportunities for our members and friends! We held membership events including haku lei making, a "Round 2" event at Bay View Driving Range, a tennis social, and our Smile and Mingle mixer. Our community service projects included volunteering at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's Craft Fair, working at the Ka'onohi Farm Lo'i, and organizing a cleanup of Nu'uuanu Valley Stream. We hosted two Young Business Roundtable events on Japanese Business and Social Etiquette and Building Collaboration. We held a casual international relations pau hana mixer and sent care packages to our five sister cities in Japan. And finally, we topped off the year with the introduction of our first HJCC Discount Card, fundraising events at Aloha Beer and Beer Lab, and of course, held our highly anticipated MINijikai, mini Nijikai event!

As I was writing this final message as HJCC President, I started reflecting back on all we did this year. I looked back at photos and flyers, and reminisced the memories we created together. When I started my term back in July 2020, I knew this year would be different and sometimes difficult, however, I challenged our members to be positive and to focus, not on what we can't do, but what we can. With that, we all rose to the challenge and adapted to these unique and trying times. We held events both virtually and in person. We were innovative and creative, forced to think differently and try new things, taking all of us out of our comfort zones, which in turn, helped us to grow and evolve, both as individuals and as an organization. At the end of the day, it is not just about all the amazing things we accomplished, but about all the obstacles we faced and overcame. As a chamber, we created a year we could be proud of, together.

Words can never express how grateful I am for our remarkable, resilient Board of Directors. Thank you for all of your positivity, hard work and dedication to the HJCC.

I would also like to thank all of you for being members of the HJCC and for your continued involvement and support. Thank you for believing in this organization and for trusting me to safely and successfully lead us through the obstacles and challenges that were presented to us over the last 12 months.

Our goals this year were to engage and provide value for members, build and create leadership opportunities, and to support the community, and I am humbled and happy to report that we have successfully accomplished all of these goals and more. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your HJCC President. It was truly an honor.

With gratitude,

Crystine Ito, 71st HJCC President



Community Development

By Ross Kohara – VP of Community Development

Since our last newsletter, our members continued to show their support for our community with three events in the Spring.

In April, we were provided the opportunity to help the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, a long time friend and supporter of the HJJCC, with their new monthly craft fair. Over two days, members helped the JCCH with craft fair setup, cleaning, temperature checks and contract tracing, along with folding kimono.

Our May service project took us to Ka'ono'hi, in the ahupua'a of Kalauao - a place we know today as "next to Pearlridge Shopping Center." Here, our members had a great opportunity to work in a local lo'i, and helped by stomping the mud, softening it in preparation for planting. Others helped to clear an irrigation ditch which allows the water from the taro patch to drain properly downslope.

June brought us together for the final event of our fiscal year with our largest turnout. Our members teamed up with the Honolulu Botanical Gardens and cleared all types of trash along the banks of the Nu'uaniu Stream within the Lili'uokalani Botanical Garden. After, attendees were able to enjoy a nice bento lunch in the Garden.

As we reflect on this past year, a year like no other in recent history, we are grateful for all the support our members have shown for the community during these trying times. We will continue to move forward and search for opportunities or organizations to support.

If you have any suggestions, or are interested in joining the Community Development Committee, please email community.service@hjjcc.com.



Membership Development

By Sheri Morishige – VP of Membership Development

Membership kept its active pace by ending April with our Tennis Social planned by the Sport Committee. We gathered at Pearlridge Elementary School Tennis Courts to hit balls and play doubles. The experienced tennis players gave the first-timers instructions and tips to help them out, and the night ended in an exciting match between four members game enough to play!

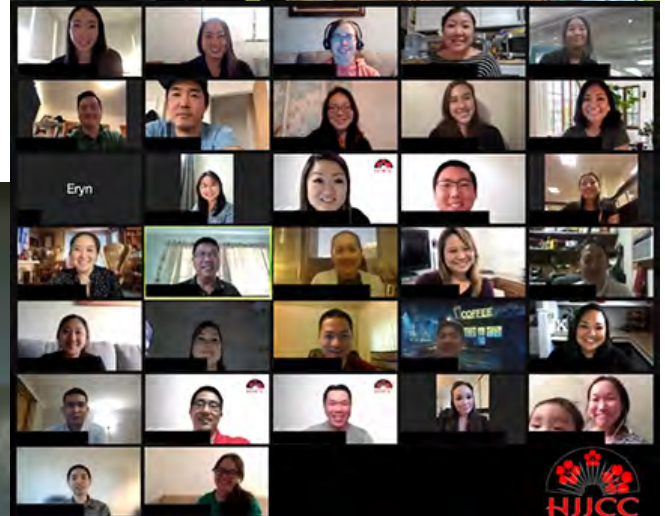
To kick off May, we held our first May Day is Lei Day Haku Lei Making Social event. Four of our HJCC members taught attendees how to create and put together their own beautiful lei po'o at Manoa Valley District Park. Thank you to Reeann, Traci, Ashley, and Crystine for being our instructors!

Due to high demand, our Sports Committee put together "Round 2" of our Bay View Driving Range event. It was another success as members filled all three private rooms practicing their golf swings, enjoying the variety of drinks provided, and socializing with other members.

Closing out our busy month of May was our annual HJCC General Membership Meeting & Elections. This event was open to members only, who got to hear about what each committee has been doing since the start of the year, what they have to look forward to, and participated in elections. Congratulations to the newly elected 2021-2022 Board of Directors and thank you to Bixby Ho, JCI Hawaii President, for attending and swearing in our new members in attendance!

We ended this fiscal year with a smile at our June Smile & Mingle event at Gytaku. Members had the opportunity to take a free professional headshot from photographer, and past HJCC Member, Brandon Miyagi. While headshots were being taken, we played a quick game getting to know one-another before we all sat down for dinner and dessert. Special thanks to Brandon for offering this great opportunity for our members!

Thank you to all the members who came out to events over this past fiscal year! We hope you enjoyed them and look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming events!



Management Development

By Claire Fukuoka – VP of Management Development

Although local pandemic guidelines affected our traditional Nijikai fundraiser this year, we were excited to launch some different fundraising activities for members and the community at large.

On Thursday, April 15, we hosted our first beer tasting fundraiser at The Hi Brau Room. Partnering with Aloha Beer Company, HJJCC held a small private event in the swanky speak-easy for a night of food, beverages, games, lucky draw, and networking per table. Table #1 crushed it at the Gimme Gimme game and scored bragging rights for the rest of the night!

On Sunday, May 30, we hosted our second larger beer tasting fundraiser at Beer Lab Hawaii. Members and friends were able to enjoy heavy pupus, drinks, lucky draw, and networking per table at this private event during Memorial Day weekend. Congratulations to Tyler Navarro who won the highly coveted Waialeale Country Club lucky draw prize and will now be enjoying a round of golf for two! Special thanks to Nick and Kailey Wong, owners of Beer Lab Hawaii, for partnering with us for this event!

We are grateful to our community partners who helped us in the development of our new fundraising venture this year, the HJJCC Discount Card! The HJJCC Discount Card is a collection of offers and discounts from various businesses on the island and on the web, exclusive to cardholders. Sales launched on May 10 and cards are valid from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. If you haven't picked one up yet, please visit our website to view all the offers and buy yours today!

Although we couldn't host Nijikai in a similar fashion this year, we were able to host a smaller private event for some of our Nijikai 2020 sponsors. Our Mini Nijikai (MINIjikai) was an all-seated event this year held on Thursday, June 24 at Natsunoya Tea House. Guests enjoyed a buffet dinner from Natsunoya Tea House, appetizers from Karai Crab and Roy's, dessert from La Tour Café, beverages from Miller-Coors, Johnson Brother's, and Cherry Company, and music entertainment from an old friend, Micah Ganiron (throwback to Nijikai 2019)! The 69th Cherry Blossom Court was also in attendance and helped with our lucky draw. Thank you to our MINIjikai sponsors – First Hawaiian Bank, Austin, Tsutsumi & Associates, Inc., Lisa & Jason Ito, Rainbow Drive-In, Ronald N.S. Ho and Associates, Inc., and WSP – for helping make our modified MINIjikai a success!

All in all, it's been a great year and a good opportunity to challenge ourselves with new activities. Hope everyone who came to our events had fun, and thank you to all who supported our fundraising activities this year that helped benefit the HJJCC and our programs!

Up next, we will be hosting our Installation and Awards Banquet on Saturday, July 17th at Dave and Buster's where we will welcome and install our 2021-22 Board of Directors and say mahalo to our outgoing Board. We will also recognize award winners and our graduating members!



Installation and Awards Banquet - Saturday, July 17th

Dave & Buster's | 6pm-8:30pm | \$40

Click here for more information

RSVP to management.development@hjjcc.com by Friday, July 2nd!

International Relations

By Garrett Lau – VP of International Relations

In April, we helped our sister city chapter, Kojima, celebrate their 65th Anniversary, sending a congratulatory video message from President Crystine Ito to be included in their virtual presentation.

This month, our friends from the Odawara JCs sent us a friendship video including messages from their President – and from both old and new members in their chapter! In addition to these messages, they included a fun video slideshow and their firework show they hosted in Japan!

We ended our fiscal year with an International Relations Pau Hana Mixer at Pitch Sports Bar. Members joined us to learn about our International Relations Committee, casually chat about our Japan Sister City Chapters, and reminisce past Japan trip memories.

On behalf our President and our HJJCC members, we sent a small care package with cookies and a message to each of our Sister City Chapters in Kobe, Odawara, Kurashiki, Tamashima and Kojima. We hope they enjoy it and we are looking forward to seeing them again soon!



Chairman of the HJJCC Committee
Natsuki Matsuga



[Click the image above to view Odawara's video message to the HJJCC!](#)

Japanese Culture

Beat the Heat with *Kakigōri*!

By Kathryn Fujitani – Historian



Summer is sweltering and we all know that nothing is more refreshing to beat the heat than shave ice! Japan has a similar offering called *kakigōri* that is very popular in the summer months and at summer festivals (*matsuri*). Local-style shave ice is believed to have descended from this Japanese dessert that dates back to the *Heian* period (794-1185)! *Kakigōri* is shaved ice flavored with syrup, and sweetened oftentimes with condensed milk.

Do these images look familiar? You may recognize the *kakigōri* banner of the *kanji* for ice (*kōri*), which is a commonly recognized sign that indicates an establishment is serving *kakigōri*. You may also recognize (or have even tried) the green tea and *azuki kakigōri* called *Uji kintoki*. *Oishii!*



Young Business Roundtable

By Masato Itoh - YBR Chair

Last month, the Young Business Roundtable (YBR) committee hosted their first in-person YBR event of the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The event was titled Japanese Business and Social Etiquette featuring guest speaker Takaho Iwasaki. Takaho is the owner of Maji Connection which connects Japanese and Hawaii-based startups with investors. She presented various business etiquette scenarios emphasizing the importance of respect based on seniority and position in Japan. She also discussed proper etiquette for dinner and social situations which will be useful when interacting with our sister city chapters in Japan. During the presentation, several brave attendees volunteered to role-play the newly learned etiquette in front of the group and we all enjoyed an hour of networking where we practiced our kampais and business card exchanges.

In June, the YBR committee held their final YBR event of the fiscal year featuring Warren Daubert, Founder & Creative Director of Daubert Design Co. presenting on the importance of collaboration to “Bring ‘em all with you!” at the Entrepreneurs Sandbox in Kaka‘ako. Members and their guests were able to listen in how utilizing a Discovery Session can help teams align, inspire, and collaborate with one another to evaluate processes, find consensus, and streamline their goals. Attendees were able to get a glimpse of Warren’s creative process on branding some of Hawai‘i’s local organizations (Hawaii Business Magazine, Mana Up, Le Jardin Academy, and more), and get a glimpse into the “creative realm” of branding, marketing, and design.

Thank you Takaho and Warren for sharing your knowledge, expertise and experiences with us!



Happy Birthday!

JUNE

Aimee Nelson
 Anderson Nguyen
 Ashley Ishimura
 Brandy Okuda
 Bryson Kihara
 Chad Yamamoto
 Jayson Fukumoto
 Jeddie Kawahatsu

JUNE (cont.)

Jennifer Okubo
 Kathryn Fujitani
 Lara Karamatsu
 Lori Higashi
 Mari Fujimoto
 Sheri Morishige
 Terrence Cuyo
 Tiffany Mitani

JULY

Heather Omori
 Jadyne Yomono
 Jonathan Taketa
 Kristin Alm Kamakahi
 Kurt Nagamine
 Reean Minatoya
 Roxanne Takaesu
 Starla Takara
 Tori Miyagi

69th Cherry Blossom Festival

By Kristin Alm Kamakahi – 69th Cherry Blossom Festival Queen & Court Advisor

The 69th Cherry Blossom Festival Court has been busy since Festival Ball supporting and giving back to the local community! They had a wonderful Contestant experience and are excited for their upcoming year.

In April, the Court had the opportunity to appear in the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival Virtual Festival and Queen Program. While travel to Northern California wasn't possible this year – the Court had an opportunity to meet and connect with the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival Court online and watch their fantastic online programming!

The Court also volunteered with Hawaii United Okinawa Association Andagi and Andadog Drive-Thru Event. They had a blast directing traffic and handing out freshly made andagi and andadogs to all of the excited customers!

In May, the Court had a great time taking part in the 44th Annual Samurai Classic Golf Tournament, hosted by the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce. They welcomed golfers and handed out gifts to the tournament participants.

The Court also had the pleasure of helping the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii at their Craft and Collectibles Fair. They made KC Waffle Dogs for the hungry shoppers and helped to check in guests at the gift shop.

At the end of May, the Court also had the opportunity to appear on KZOO Radio with the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. They were able to share about their contestant experience and the impact that the Cherry Blossom Festival has here in Hawaii.

Over the last several months, the Court volunteered at several HJJCC projects. The Court enjoyed learning about and cleaning the Ka'onohi lo'i as well as Nu'uuanu Stream at Lili'uokalani Botanical Garden. Both places offered the opportunity to give back to the local community and reminded all of us about the importance of learning about the rich culture and taking care of the beautiful place that we call home.

The Court also had a blast supporting the HJJCC MINijikai event! They helped to greet guests, sell lucky draw tickets and volunteer during the event.

Continued on next page



69th Cherry Blossom Festival (Cont.)

To wrap up June, the Court participated in their first virtual Meet and Greet event for the 70th Cherry Blossom Festival. They were able to share their Contestant experience with potential applicants, encourage them to apply, and reminisce about their journey so far.

The Court continues to keep busy planning upcoming community service events including the Blood Bank of Hawaii Blood Drive on July 3rd, as well as other projects that they are passionate about.

The 69th Cherry Blossom Festival Court is looking forward to continuing to give back! In the spirit of Kibou, or Hope, they are excited to continue to perpetuate Japanese Culture and share their experience to inspire others!



70th Cherry Blossom Festival

NOW ACCEPTING QUEEN CONTESTANT APPLICATIONS FOR THE 70TH CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL!

The Cherry Blossom Festival is proudly sponsored by the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce and is one of the longest, continuously running ethnic festivals in Hawaii. The Festival is an important cultural event in our local community, supported by numerous businesses, generous individuals and dedicated volunteers.

Please visit our website at cbfhawaii.com for more information, including a list of qualifications, the application form, and application deadlines.

**BE A PART OF THE
70TH CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL!**

Learn about your culture **Develop** Leadership Skills **Improve** in Public Speaking **Build** New Friendships

 cbfsearch@hjcc.com  facebook.com/cbfhawaii  [@cherryblossomfestivalhawaii](https://instagram.com/cherryblossomfestivalhawaii)

LEARN MORE AT CBFHAWAII.COM

The Cherry Blossom Festival is a project of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce 