

## President's Message



Aloha HJJCC Members!

Thank you for making FY2021-22 a great one! Over the last 12 months, we were able to hold a mixture of in-person and virtual membership and sports committee events, community service projects that supported our local communities, and Young Business Roundtable presentations with a great lineup of speakers who are experts in their respective fields.

We were very fortunate to be able to celebrate the 70th Cherry Blossom Festival with an in-person Festival Ball this year! This year's General Co-Chairs and their Steering Committee did such a wonderful job organizing a very fulfilling contestant experience for our 14 Queen Contestants, all culminating with an amazing Festival Ball. We are very excited for the 70th Cherry Blossom Queen and Court as they embark on their journey representing the Cherry Blossom Festival this year.

We were also able to bring back our highly anticipated Nijikai fundraiser this year at full capacity! Our VP of Management Development and her Nijikai Committee worked tirelessly in the planning stages and the night of to ensure the event went smoothly for everyone.

While we weren't able to see our sister city chapters from Japan this year, we made sure to still keep in touch with them virtually and continue to foster our long standing relationships. We are hopeful that we will all soon be able to see each other and enjoy one another's camaraderie in person!

Thank you to all the members who came out to events this year. It is truly our membership that continues to make the HJJCC such a great organization.

I would like to say a very special thank you to the 2021-2022 Board of Directors. I am so grateful for all your support throughout the year. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication that went into organizing all of the events for our members to enjoy this year. Words can't express how amazing each of you are and it has truly been an honor to serve with you all!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at future events!

**Sincerely,**  
**Kari Kiyota, 72nd President**



## Community Development

By Ross Kohara – VP of Community Development

The final quarter of our fiscal year brought a return of volunteer opportunities at large community events. In April, our members spent two weekends providing help to the Sullivan Family of Companies with their Mahalo Event. First, members visited the SFOC Warehouse in Waipahu and helped pack 300 adult and 175 keiki “Thank You” gift bags filled to the brim with goodies. The following weekend, our volunteers traveled out to Turtle Bay Resort to work the food booths.

In June, we joined our communities in welcoming back the local tradition of the in-person bon dance at Hawaii’s Plantation Village’s 32nd Annual Obon Festival in Waipahu. Our volunteers helped man the food booth and sold food and drinks to visitors. A few members were also provided the opportunity to cook the famous KC Waffle Dogs!

To wrap up the year, our members volunteered at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii’s Sharing the Spirit of Aloha Gala at the Sheraton Waikiki, their first Gala since 2019. The Gala planning committee included several HJJCC members and our setup volunteers did an excellent job of executing their vision. Our members also worked the event as Ushers and VIP Hosts to help ensure the event operated smoothly.

We thank you all for another great year! We are always interested in hearing from you about new opportunities or organizations in need of our support. If you have any suggestions or are interested in getting more involved, please contact your new Vice President of Community Development, Garrett Lau at [community.service@hjjcc.com](mailto:community.service@hjjcc.com).



## International Relations

By Garrett Lau – VP of International Relations

We are preparing care packages to send to our Sister City Chapters in Japan to show that our friendship continues even though they could not visit us in Hawaii this year. The care packages include local snacks, CBF souvenir books, and a letter of friendship. We look forward to the future when we can once again interact with our Sister City Chapters!



## Membership Development

By Heather Furutani – VP of Membership Development

We celebrated 'May Day is Lei Day' together by creating beautiful lei po'o at Magic Island Beach Park. Reean Minatoya was our amazing instructor and she walked us through the process and gave helpful tips throughout the event. It was great to see how unique everyone's lei po'o was. Members and guests enjoyed learning how to make this handmade piece of art that is popular to wear in Hawaii.



Towards the end of May, we gathered online to have our annual General Membership Meeting and Elections. It was so great to see so many members online! We started off our program with update reports from each Vice President and the different committees. Members got to take part in online voting and welcomed the incoming 2022-2023 Board of Directors. Thank you to JCI Hawaii President, Gina Maeda, for swearing in our new members in attendance. Gina is a part of the HJJCC and it was a treat to have her swear in our new members.



Our last event of the fiscal year was Gyotaku Class and Fish Cutting Demonstration. Tracy Katano taught us his love for Gyotaku, and he provided all the materials and fish for members to use during the event. He took us through the process on how to do the fish printing, which took a lot of patience. As we waited for our prints to dry, Seiko from Cakes by Seiks taught us how to debone and skin a slab of salmon, how to cut sashimi from a slab, and how to plate the fish to make it look presentable. The best part of the demonstration was getting to taste the various slabs of fish that she brought, from King Salmon to Otoro. We definitely didn't go home with an empty stomach! Once our fish prints dried, we added color which made everyone's look very unique. We are so grateful to Tracy and Seiko for taking the time to teach us how to make Gyotaku and how to cut fish.



Thank you to all the members who came out and supported the membership events this past year. Huge thank you to the Membership Committee for all your hard work and commitment to helping plan or participate in various events throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you at events in the next fiscal year!





## Management Development

By Tobie Egami – VP of Management Development

After two arduous years of being “socially distanced” from one another, NIJIKAI 2022 hosted 500 guests at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Ballroom on Friday, June 17th. It was an exciting evening filled with delicious food and drink samples from 11 local eateries: Bamboo Catering, Kahai Street Kitchen, Karai Crab, La Tour Café, PAI Honolulu, Lanakila Kitchen, Roy’s Waikiki, Shokudo Japanese Restaurant & Bar, Square Barrels, STRIPSTEAK, and Pint + Jigger, and three beverage vendors: The Cherry Co., Johnson Brothers, and MolsonCoors.

Patrons were ushered into the ballroom as Ryugen Taiko set the mood with an exhilarating taiko performance. The entertainment continued throughout the night with live music by Micah Ganiron. Guests also enjoyed a themed photo booth with props, provided by Expressions Hawaii, and had the opportunity to win a lineup of great prizes during the fan-favorite, lucky number drawings!

Proceeds from the event go to support our various HJCC programs that provide our members with leadership, networking and professional development opportunities through our Young Business Roundtable, International Relations, and Community Service projects/events. A portion of this year’s proceeds were given to support the Lanakila Pacific Foundation.

Thank you to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Bamboo Catering, our generous NIJIKAI 2022 Gold Sponsor – First Hawaiian Bank, Silver Sponsor – Austin Tsutsumi & Associates, Inc., and Bronze Sponsors – KAI Hawaii, Hawaii United Okinawa Association, Rainbow Drive-In, Ronald N.S. Ho & Associates, Inc., Ross K. Shimokawa - Ameriprise, and WSP.

A special thank you to this year’s Nijikai Committee and Advisors for your time, dedication, and diligence in helping to create this successful event! We are so thankful for everyone’s support of our annual Nijikai fundraiser and can’t wait to see you next year at NIJIKAI 2023!

Please join us at our Installation & Awards Banquet on July 23rd at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii as we welcome and install our 2022-2023 Board of Directors and say “arigatou” to our outgoing Board. We will also be announcing and recognizing our HJCC Director of the Year, HJCC Member of the Year, and 70th CBF Steering Committee Member of the Year at the banquet. We hope to see you there!



Photo Credit: Ryan Ohara



## Young Business Roundtable

By Claire Fukuoka – Young Business Roundtable Chair

On March 31st, we hosted our third Young Business Roundtable (YBR) event of the fiscal year with an in-person presentation, “Cryptocurrency 101,” featuring Kenny White. Kenny, the founder and chief economist of Shell Protocol, a Hawaii-based decentralized finance platform, gave members a quick lesson on the basics of cryptocurrency, covering blockchains, smart contracts, non-fungible tokens (NFTs), decentralized finance (DeFi), decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs), and more. Members got the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussion with Kenny, who was more than happy to share his knowledge and expertise of this growing field. As the first in-person YBR of the fiscal year, members were also excited to network with each other before and after the presentation.



We rounded out the final YBR of the fiscal year on June 23rd with “Branding Aloha,” featuring Steve Sombrero. Steve is the president and owner of Cushman & Wakefield ChaneyBrooks and founder-owner of Aloha Beer Co. Steve shared his story of founding Aloha Beer Co. and the importance of branding throughout – not only when starting the company initially, but also as he infuses it within the company’s work culture and perpetuating it to keep the company relevant and thriving. Steve also pulled from his experience in real estate to grow the Aloha Beer Co. brand. Members and guests enjoyed networking and each other’s company before and after the presentation. Mahalo to Steve and Aloha Beer Co. for hosting us at their Queen Street location and to all the members who attended YBR events this year!

Please be on the lookout for next year’s lineup of YBR events!



## Sports Committee

By George Takase – Sports Committee Chair

With the pandemic restrictions easing, the Sports Committee was able to have two well-attended events to close out the fiscal year. On April 8th, we had a very successful joint mixer with the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce at a University of Hawaii baseball game. Almost 70 people attended the event, with over half coming from the HJJCC. We had lots of fun networking with members from both chambers while eating stadium food and drinking a beverage of their choice before the game. To top the event off, attendees got to see UH win the baseball game against UC Riverside!

Our last event of the fiscal year was bowling at Aiea Bowl on June 10th. It was another well-attended event with 35 attendees. Many new HJJCC members attended, along with current and next year's board of directors, so it was a good chance for members to meet each other while showing off their bowling skills.

For the past couple of years, we'd been hoping to bring back in-person events as restrictions eased. From the turnout of the last two events, it looks like members were also wanting to meet again in-person. Thank you very much for the support over the past year and please look out and attend next fiscal year's Sports Committee events!



## Happy Birthday!

### APRIL

Brandon Lam  
 Nicole Nishihara  
 Joseph Furutani  
 Ashley Higa  
 Ronson Fox  
 Garrett Matsumoto  
 Mariana Ho  
 Kira Moriguchi  
 Eric Takahashi  
 Jewel Mahoe  
 Ruth Taketa  
 Donovan Morimoto  
 Holly Fujishige

### MAY

Colin Shinsato  
 Kristine Wada  
 Rosten Tsuha  
 Ryoko Kawabata  
 Kelly Ann Fujioka  
 Eric Akamine  
 Liqi Huang  
 Megan Tabata  
 Ryan Saito  
 Reyn Sugai  
 Krista Ann Lee  
 Christopher Buto  
 Pierson Oyama  
 Jesse Zhai  
 Lynn Miyahira

### JUNE

Aimee Nelson  
 Ashley Ishimura  
 Brandy Okuda  
 Yurika Hatsumura  
 Bryson Kihara  
 Anderson Nguyen  
 Ritsuko Hess  
 Jordan Hiroe  
 Jeddie Kawahatsu  
 Jayson Fukumoto  
 Terrence Cuyo  
 Lori Higashi  
 Sheri Morishige  
 Mari Fujimoto  
 Brian Hirono  
 Kathryn Fujitani  
 Chad Yamamoto  
 Jennifer Okubo  
 Tiffany Mitani





## 70th Cherry Blossom Queen & Court

By Ashley Higa  
70th Cherry Blossom Festival Queen & Court Advisor

The 70th Cherry Blossom Festival Court kicked off their Court experience by heading to San Francisco for the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival. They had the opportunity to meet their fellow Cherry Blossom sisters from San Francisco and the Los Angeles Nisei Week Festival. The Court spent the weekend sightseeing throughout San Francisco and experienced the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival in Japantown.

Back in Hawaii, the Court was honored with a special recognition by the Honolulu City Council. They also helped out at the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce's Samurai Classic Golf Tournament where they sold raffle tickets at the awards ceremony.

In May, the Court attended Kuakini Home's 90th anniversary celebration. They enjoyed entertainment and a special lunch with residents of Kuakini Home. It was really nice connecting with the residents and making them smile!

June kicked off a busy summer for the Court. First, the Court volunteered at the Hawaii's Plantation Village's 32nd Annual Obon celebration. They partnered up with members of the HJCC and Sakura Hawaii Alumnae to make KC Waffle Dogs and sell refreshments. Then they welcomed back the first in-person Nijikai in two years by helping to sell raffle tickets to guests. At the end of June, the Court volunteered at the JCCH Spirit of Aloha Gala where they sold their Golden Ticket raffle and escorted VIP guests.

The Court is eager to continue their busy summer with some fun volunteer events in July. They will be volunteering at the Haleiwa Jodo Mission's lantern floating festival. You can also catch them doing promotions for the 71st Cherry Blossom Festival at the Mo'ili'ili Summer festival and on Instagram!

