



Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce, 2454 S. Beretania St., Honolulu, HI 96826
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A Message From the President

By Jon Murai

Members of the HJJCC,

It is my pleasure and a distinct honor to be writing to you as the 57th President of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce. I was recently installed at our awards and installation banquet and would again like to thank last year's Board for their dedication and congratulate the incoming Board on their offices. I am fortunate to have returning Board members to provide continuity with previous years and also new Board members with fresh ideas and perspectives. I know they will do a great job of directing the chapter.

The upcoming year will hold numerous community service projects, Young Business Roundtable speakers, cultural activities and socials to keep everybody involved. Many of the organizations we will be helping with our service projects have specifically requested our assistance again because of our work with them in the past, and that speaks volumes to the types of members I am proud we have in our chapter. We are also targeting a few new organizations so we can provide a diverse spectrum of interesting and fun

Presenting the 2006–2007 Board of Directors

With ono pupus and drinks to spice up the event, the annual election of officers for the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce was held at O' Sake Sushi Bar on Thursday, May 25, 2006.

The new officers were then officially sworn in at the Installation Banquet on July 27, 2006 at the Manoa Grand Ballroom. Special guests for the evening included HJJCC President Wendy Abe and Chairman Glenn Nakamura, as well as Hawaii Jaycee Executive Vice President Eddie Kam and the 54th Cherry Blossom Festival Court.

The new Board has already begun planning service projects, socials, and personal development programs for the chapter, as always with the enthusiastic optimism that members will support and participate in 100% of the activities!

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service projects. One of the tasks we will be (finally) completing is the launching of the HJJCC website. With this new tool we hope to improve our communication with you by having a centralized location to find our event notices, contact information and Sakura newsletter.

The chapter membership has really grown in the past few years and I'm glad to say I've met most of you. I look forward to seeing you at our next event and introducing myself to those whom I've not had the pleasure of meeting yet.

Best regards,
Jon Murai



**Chairman of the Board
Lori Fujikawa-Casey**

Lori is a financial services associate with Prudential Financial. She graduated from McKinley High and the University of Hawaii with a degree in Food Science and Human Nutrition. Lori is married with two children, ages 6 and 4.



**President
Jon Murai**

Jon graduated from Konawaena High School and received his degree in engineering from the University of Washington. He enjoys jogging and going to the gym in his free time and completed his first marathon last December.



**Executive Vice-President
Justin George**

Justin graduated from Quince Orchard High School in Maryland and University of Hawaii at Manoa with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. He is an Account Services Manager with 141 Premiere Sports & Entertainment. His hobbies include golf, football, jogging, and traveling.



**Treasurer
Scott Yoshihara**

Scott graduated from Mid-Pacific Institute and obtained his bachelor's degree from Whitworth College in Business Management and his MBA from the University of the Pacific. Scott is a vice-president and branch manager with Bank of Hawaii.



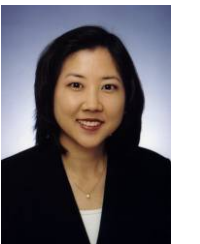
**Secretary
Kris Miyamoto**

Kris graduated from Maryknoll High School and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is employed at Kaiser Permanente Hawaii. Her interests include working out, running, "retail therapy", and meeting new people.



**Vice-President of
Membership Development
Debbie Noji**

Debbie is Vice President of Planned Giving/Major Gifts at Aloha United Way. She graduated from John's Creek High School in Pikeville, Kentucky and obtained her bachelors degree in management from Arizona State University.



**Vice-President of Community
Development
Melanie Shishido**

Melanie graduated from Pearl City High School and Seattle University with a Bachelor's of Business Administration in accounting. She is a Vice President and Commercial Banking Officer at American Savings Bank. Melanie is also a Certified Public Accountant.



**Vice-President of
Management
Development
Patty Low**

Patty graduated from Kaimuki High School and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is Director of Promotions and Special Events at Hawaii Pacific Entertainment and Technology News Network. Her hobbies include spending time with her two dogs, reading, and karaoke.



**Vice-President of
International Relations
Staci Sakoda**

Staci is a graduate of Waiakea High School and attended the University of Oregon, where she received her bachelor's degree with a major in Japanese and minor in Business Administration. She is a supervisor at Alluvion, Inc., and enjoys dancing the hula in her free time.



**Chairperson of the Young
Business Roundtable
Wedge Lee**

Wedge graduated from Mid-Pacific Institute and is the owner of Craftco. In his free time he enjoys golfing and fishing.



**Historian
David Sanden**

David graduated from Hawaii Baptist Academy and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He is a Real Estate Appraiser with Second Opinion Hawaii. Outside of HJJCC and CBF, he enjoys running, basketball, and is a fan of UH Wahine volleyball and football.



**Queen's Advisor
Kimberly Hanaoka**

Kim graduated from Roosevelt High and the University of Hawaii. She has a master's degree in speech pathology and is a speech pathologist at Kamiloiki Elementary School. Her hobbies include traveling, spending time with her friends, and going to bon dances.



**Co-General Chairperson,
55th Cherry Blossom Festival
Catherine Toth**

Catherine graduated from Roosevelt High and the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a BA in English and master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University. She currently works as a feature writer at The Honolulu Advertiser and teaches journalism at Hawaii Pacific University. When she's not working, or busy with CBF, Catherine enjoys surfing, running, or reading.



**Co-General Chairperson,
55th Cherry Blossom
Festival**

Sonya Kimura
Sonya graduated from St. Andrews Priory and University of Hawaii at Manoa with a BA in Communications. She is the Convention Services & Catering Sales Manager at Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Her hobbies include event planning and crafts. She has two children, Joshua & Haylie-Anne.

HJJCC Members honored in 2006 PBN "Forty Under 40"

On Thursday June 22, 2006, Pacific Business News honored the 2006 "class" in their annual "Forty Under 40" awards ceremony, at the Hawaii Convention Center. Among the 40 awardees were HJJCC members Steven Kaneko (55th President), Debbie Noji (current Membership Vice President), and Stan Masamitsu. The "Forty Under 40" awards recognize nominees from private, public, and non-profit sectors who meet the following criteria: 1) Less than 40 years of age as of June 22nd. 2) A recognized industry leader with a consistent "take charge" attitude and with the overall respect of his/her colleagues. 3) A commitment to the community beyond the requirements of his/her job and industry. 4) A high degree of business acumen and sharp business like approaches to efficiency and change.

Debbie Noji, Vice President of Planned Giving and Major Gifts at Aloha United Way, helped raise \$1.7 million last year and generated \$800,000 in grants from trusts and foundations. She also is overseeing a new initiative to mobilize women on Oahu to become more powerful philanthropists through fundraising, advocacy, and leadership.

Steven Kaneko, a Business Banking Officer at Bank of Hawaii, was promoted to Assistant Vice President this past April. For his outstanding performance, he received the company's Chairman's Circle Award in 2004 and 2005. The Chairman's Circle recognizes the top sales producers in Commercial Banking, Retail Banking, and Investment Services Group.

In addition to these achievements in their respective professional careers, both Debbie and Steven have served on the HJJCC Board of Directors the past several years and given generously of their time and energies to the organization.

Stan Masamitsu, President of the Tony Group Autoplex, was the 2006 PBN Forty Under 40 Young Business Leader of the Year Award recipient. Under his leadership, Tony Group moved to its current location in Waipio in 2001. 2005 was a record year with \$205 million in sales, eclipsing 2004's \$166 million. Stan is also active in the community, including the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Hawaii.



Children's Day at Punahou School



Japanese Women's Society Adopt-a-Mom

A Word from the 54th Cherry Blossom Court

Two days after being recognized as the 54th Cherry Blossom Court, we had our first official visit to the Lt. Governor's office. Not knowing exactly what to expect, we anxiously met in the lobby of the State Capitol, rushing to perfectly place on our crowns and sashes for the first time after Festival Ball. It was also in the lobby that we met the famous Uncle Bobby and Aunty Marian for the first time!

In early May, we were invited to celebrate Children's Day with the eager kindergarten students at Punahou School. Mr. Yorck, a former teacher of Desiree Yamamoto, welcomed us into his classroom brimming with colorfully decorated paper cars and children wearing large origami samurai helmets. We were equally impressed with the spectacular Taiko performance by kindergartener Evan! After an afternoon of activities, snacks and spending time with these great kids, we didn't want to leave!

Mrs. Lillian Yajima, a long time supporter of the HJJCC and the Cherry Blossom Festival holds an annual "Adopt a Mom" program at Hale Pulama Mau retirement center at Kuakini Hospital. This event was started because Mrs. Yajima felt that no mother should be lonely on Mothers day. We were privileged to spend the afternoon with our adopted Mom's and well...two Dad's! Over a delicious Japanese lunch, we were able to talk story with our adopted "parents", and they had a great time sharing their "small kid time" stories with us!

These are only a few of the many wonderful experiences we've shared together as the 54th Cherry Blossom Court. We are thankful for the opportunity we've been given to help touch the lives of others, as well as enhance our own. We look forward to our future service events, as well as the highly anticipated Japan Goodwill Tour trip! Thank you to Jon and Eric for accompanying us on our service events and our trips. And a very special thank you to our Queen's Advisor Kim, for her dedication to making our experiences memorable and her commitment to fulfilling the mission of the HJJCC and the Cherry Blossom Festival. Kim is our fearless advisor, willing to jump in and help whenever needed, always with grace, and always keeping an eye on us!

54th Cherry Blossom Queen and Court,

Desiree, Tiffany, Whitney, Kara, Tianne and Danika

Birthday Wishes for Our Members

The following members celebrate birthdays in the upcoming months. If you see them, wish them a Happy Birthday!

AUGUST

Justin Dotson
Clint Hamabata
Kim Hanaoka
Lyndsey Haraguchi-
Nakayama
Wendy Ikemoto
Steven Kaneko
Chris Kanemura
Deborah Noji
Brenda Nomura
Lance Oba
Erin Okuno
Dean Uyeda

SEPTEMBER

Shane Arakaki
Manabu Asaoka
James Atkinson
Derrick Iwata
David Kaneko
Wes Mikuni
Brandon Miyagi
Tracy Okubo
John Shigenaga
John Strandberg
Jena Tanaka
Clifton Yasutomi
Lance Yoshihara

OCTOBER

Keith Asato
Lori Fujikawa-Casey
Charis Fujimoto
Len Fukushima
Dustin Horie
Scott Kamiya
Nolan Kido
Heidi Kimura
Naomi Kuwaye
Quinn Nii
Darren Ota
Melanie Shishido
Toby Tamaye
Robb Taone
Reid Tatsuguchi
Kylie Yamatsuka

Upcoming Events

Here is a partial list of what the new Board has planned for the next few months. More details will be forthcoming.

September 4: Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon, KITV Studio, noon-5:00 p.m.

October 18: Chopsticks and Wine, Sheraton Waikiki, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

October 22: Flavors of Technology, Sheraton Waikiki, 5:30 -10:00 p.m.

November 8: 3rd Annual Wine, Dine & Shop at Flora Dec Sales, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

For further information, please send an email to HJJCC@hotmail.com.

Announcements

HJJCC member Tracy Hanayo Yuk Lan Okubo is running for the State House seat in the Makiki-Tantalus area. Volunteers and donations are always greatly appreciated. To volunteer and/or donate to Tracy's campaign, or for more information, please call 808.550.2691 or e-mail team.tracy@yahoo.com.

Congratulations to HJJCC members Scott Yoshihara & Staci Sakoda, who were married on August 13, 2006 at the Kahala Resort & Spa!

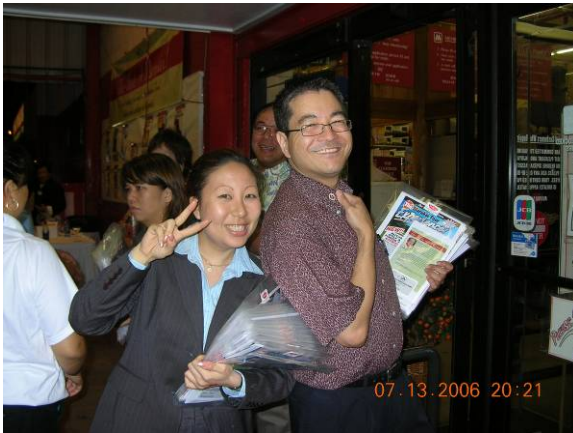
Chapter Snapshots



June 3, 2006: Odawara JC Farewell Party



July 7, 2006: HJCC Installation Banquet



July 13, 2006: Taste of Marukai



July 27, 2006: HJCC Installation Banquet



July 27, 2006: 56th HJCC President Casey and 54th Court



August 5, 2006: Board of Water Supply Un-thirsty plant sale

HJJCC

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The Jaycee Creed

We believe:

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;

That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;

That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;

That government should be of laws rather than of men;

That the earth's greatest treasure lies in human personality;
And that the service to humanity is the best work of life.

The Sakura is a quarterly publication of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce. For information on our activities or to become a member, please contact us via one of the ways above. We are always looking for new members to participate in our community service projects while having fun at the same time.

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