



# SAKURA

Newsletter of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce

May 2006  
Volume 2006, Issue 2

Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce, 2454 S. Beretania St., Honolulu, HI 96826  
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## HJCC Celebrates its 54<sup>th</sup> Cherry Blossom Festival Congratulations to the Semifinalists & the 55<sup>th</sup> Queen & Court!



The 55<sup>th</sup> CBF Court (L to R): Princess Tiarne Yamashita, Princess Kara Iwasaki, First Princess Tiffany Mitani, Queen Desiree Yamamoto, Princess & Miss Popularity Whitney Asao, Miss Congeniality Danika Kim



At Closing Ceremony, the 54<sup>th</sup> Contestants honor CBF Photographer Lance Oba, Contestant Coordinator Stacie Sato-Sugimoto, Contestant Advisor Lisa Kitagawa, and Contestant Coordinator Heather Nekoba.

EXCITEMENT, HONOR, HUMILITY, GRATITUDE. Four simple words with such deep value and meaning. Four words that sum up our 54<sup>th</sup> Cherry Blossom Festival experience.

We were filled with EXCITEMENT as we stood there on the night of Festival Ball in front of over 1,200 people who shared our excitement. After several months of hard work and preparation, weekly public appearances and events, the contestants' big night had finally arrived. This year's group of contestants was truly an exceptional one and we thank them for making this year's festival a memorable one.

It has truly been an HONOR to serve as this year's General Co-Chairs. Thank you to the HJCC Board of Directors for having the faith in us to coordinate this year's festivities. Thank you also to our awesome CBF Steering Committee. We were blessed with and honored to lead such an awesome steering committee made up of dedicated individuals, all volunteering their time and energy to make the festival a reality.

As we reflect upon the magnitude of the festival, how many people are involved, and the number of lives that are touched, we are filled with HUMILITY. It is truly amazing when you think about how many people and organizations support the festival. We would especially like to recognize and thank the instructors, award donors, and sponsors for their support. Without their generosity, the Cherry Blossom Festival would not be what it is today.

Words cannot express the GRATITUDE that is felt for everyone connected to the festival. Now that the festival has come to an end, we hope that everyone will remember it's theme: Kansha - Gratitude, which expresses our appreciation to everyone who shared in our vision for a successful festival and helped make it a reality.

*Kokoro kara Kansha Shite orimasu. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.*

*Sincerely,*

*Brenda Nomura and Darren Ota*

General Co-Chairpersons of the 54th Cherry Blossom Festival

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## HJJCC & the 54<sup>th</sup> Cherry Blossom Festival



## Sister City Hostings



Kobes JCs & Mainland Courts are welcomed to Hawaii

### Kobe Jaycees

At the end of March, 18 members from our sister chapter in Kobe visited Hawaii. Following a recent tradition, the Kobe Jaycee members also participated in the 54<sup>th</sup> Cherry Blossom Festival festivities. Members attended a party welcoming the Kobe JCs as well as the visiting Mainland Courts. One of the highlights of the Kobe JC visit is their participation in the Festival Ball, by escorting the Contestants on stage during the Western Phase of the pageant. Although Hawaii experienced unusually rainy weather, the men were able to squeeze in a round of golf, some shopping, and a little sun at the poolside. The HJJCC Goodwill tour will be hosted in Kobe for a few days in the fall.

### San Jaycees

Just a month later, we were visited by our sister chapters from Kurashiki, Tamashima, and Kojima, collectively known as the San Jaycees. Nine San-Jaycee members, along with their families, enjoyed four sunny days in Hawaii. During their stay, our guests from Japan made courtesy visits to the Lt. Governor and the Mayor's Managing Director. Along with HJJCC members and the 53<sup>rd</sup> Cherry Blossom Court, our guests also spent a day at Hanauma Beach, experienced one of Hawaii's local fish auctions, took a ride on the Pineapple Express Train at Dole Plantation and shopped. For many, this trip was full of first time experiences such as dancing the hula and swimming in the Pacific Ocean.



HJJCC members join San-Jaycee members and their families for an Aloha Party

Thank you to all who helped with the hosting of both the Kobe and San Jaycees. We look forward to seeing everyone again when we host our sister chapter from Odawara on May 31-June 4.

For more information, please email us at: [hjjcc@hotmail.com](mailto:hjjcc@hotmail.com) Attention: Odawara Hosting

## Next Year's Board of Directors to be Elected

Elections for next year's Board of Directors will be held on May 25, 2006 at Sake restaurant at 6 pm. The cost for this event will be \$15. The nomination committee has presented the slate of candidates listed below to the current Board. Additional nominations may be made by either of two methods:

- 1) Nomination by Petition
- 2) Nomination from the Floor

To be nominated by petition, a petition with the Nominee's name and at least **ten** signatures of current members must be sent to the chapter secretary no later than one week prior to the election meeting, which is May 18, 2006. Petitions may be sent to the chapter address on found on the back of this Issue.

Nominations from the floor will be taken at the election meeting. The Nominee must be present or able to prove in writing that the nomination is accepted.

There will be three ballots at the meeting. The first will be for Executive Vice-President, the second for Vice-President offices, and the third for secretary and treasurer.

The Candidates for the positions are as follows:

Executive Vice-President -

Vice-President of Management Development - Patty Low

Vice President of Community Development - Melanie Shishido

Vice-President of Membership Development - Deborah Noji, David Sanden

Vice-President of International Relations - Staci Sakoda

Treasurer - Scott Yoshihara

Secretary - Kris Miyamoto



Our next President is searching for 'Loyal' members to be on his Board.

## Announcements

This section is a great way to celebrate a promotion, wedding, milestone, etc. With 100+ members, this is a great way to get to know each other one member at a time.



In April, HJJCC Chairman Steven Kaneko was promoted to Assistant Vice President and Business Banking Officer for Bank of Hawaii. Steven works at Bank of Hawaii's Wai'aleae - Kahala Business Banking Center and has been with the bank for 5 years.



Proud parents Travis & Misa Umemoto celebrate the birth of their first child. Weighing in at 5 lbs. 14.6 oz, Aaren Tsugio Umemoto arrived at 7:01 am on March 7, 2006.

If you have an announcement to share, please email us at: [hjjcc@hotmail.com](mailto:hjjcc@hotmail.com) Attention: Newsletter

## Birthday Wishes for our Members

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

### MAY

Burt Fujimoto  
Nathan Gyotoku  
Keith Inouye  
Jerilyn Itamoto  
Joy Kobayashi  
Sonya Kimura  
Ayja Nakasone  
Traciann Watanabe  
Sharene Urakami

### JUNE

Chad Iida  
Randy Lu  
Jason Koyanagi  
Stan Masamitsu  
Kevin Matsuda  
Devon Nekoba  
Yasuo Ogawa  
Todd Shishido

### JULY

Dawn Kawada  
Kris Miyamoto  
Neysa Park  
Staci Sakoda  
Daniel Terada

## New Member Profiles

We would like to introduce you to our newest members. If you see them around at our events, please introduce yourself to them.

JENNIFER MURATA is an attorney with the law firm of Marr Hipp Jones & Wang. She received her BBA in Accounting and International Business from the University of Hawaii and her JD from the William S. Richardson School of Law. Jennifer is also a CPA and worked in the audit department of KPMG LLP prior to attending law school.

## Upcoming Chapter Events

Here is a list of what is coming up and more details will be sent to you later.

May 25: HJJCC Elections (2006-2007), Sake Restaurant, 6:00 pm

May 29: Memorial Day Lantern Floating Festival, Magic Island, 3:00 pm

May 31-June 4: Odawara Hosting

June: YBR Event - TBA

July 13: A Taste of Marukai, Marukai Wholesale Mart, 6:00 pm

For more information on these events, please call 949-2255 or email [HJJCC@hotmail.com](mailto:HJJCC@hotmail.com).

# Chapter Snapshots

February 2, 2006



 **YBR - EVENING w/ REPRESENTATIVES**  
Bronson's at the Executive Centre

March 26, 2006



 **FESTIVAL BALL - Hawaii & Kabe JC Members**  
Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom

April 10, 2006



 **MARUKAI PREVIEW EVENT**  
Marukai Wholesale Mart

April 22, 2006



 **SAN - JAYCEE ALOHA PARTY**  
The Nekoba House

April 26, 2006



 **YBR - REAL ESTATE w/ MYRON & MICHELLE**  
The Mandalay Restaurant

April 30, 2006



 **KODOMO NO HI**  
The Japanese Cultural Center of Honolulu

## 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 that of men;  
That the earth's greatest treasure lies in human personality;  
And that 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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