

# Sakura



*Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce*

## 55th Cherry Blossom Festival General Co-Chairs Letter

Neither of us imagined we'd ever take on the arduous task of general chair.

Though we had both headed committees during past Cherry Blossom Festivals, we never thought our responsibility would go beyond that. We saw how hard the general chairs worked, how much time it took. We weren't crazy! Well, here we are. And we'll both admit: while it's just as challenging as we had anticipated, it's a lot more rewarding than we could've ever imagined.

We are humbled by the generosity and commitment of everyone involved, from sponsors to instructors, from volunteers to people like you. Everyone plays a vital role in the festival's success and longevity. We are constantly amazed by the enthusiastic outpouring of support for what has become the longest-running, uninterrupted ethnic celebration in Hawaii.

We are united in our common belief in what this festival stands for: perpetuating and celebrating the Japanese culture and heritage in Hawaii. But it's more than just a belief. It's a spirit that connects us. To honor that, we came up with the theme, "Unity in Spirit."

So while we spend more time checking e-mail and going to meetings at Starbucks than we had anticipated, we've also gained a greater appreciation for the festival and the support it has received over the decades.

And for that, we are eternally grateful.

Sonya Kimura and Catherine E. Toth  
General Co-Chairs

55th Cherry Blossom Festival

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## Upcoming Cherry Blossom Festival Events

Golf Tournament at Hawaii Prince Golf Club: Friday 2.23.07; 12 noon

Fashion Show at The Royal Hawaiian Monarch Room & Ocean Lawn: Saturday 2.24.07; 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Ala Moana Center Public Appearance: Saturday 3.3.07; 12 noon to 1:15 p.m.

Heritage Fair at Japanese Cultural Center: Saturday 3.10.07; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Contestant Reception at Ocean Club: Sunday 3.18.07; 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. (21+)

Festival Ball at Sheraton Waikiki: 3.31.07; 5 p.m.

For more information please see [www.cbfhawaii.com](http://www.cbfhawaii.com).

## Cherry Blossom Festival Opening Ceremony



## Cherry Blossom Festival Public Appearances



## Cherry Blossom Festival Public Appearances



Photos: (Top Left) 54th Court, 55th Contestants and Sakai Sensei of Watabe Wedding, a Diamond Sponsor. (Top Right) Taiko Center of the Pacific performs for the audience. (Middle Left) Liz Chun and Steve Uyehara from KGMB-9 emceeing at Windward Mall. (Middle Right) Hanayagi Mitsusumi Dance Studio at Pearlridge Uptown. (Left) 54th Princess Kara Iwasaki and Princess & Miss Popularity Whitney-Reigh Asao share their Japan Goodwill Tour experiences with the audience.

## 54th Cherry Blossom Court Update and Kansha

Happy 2007! It's definitely been a busy and fulfilling year for the 54<sup>th</sup> Cherry Blossom Court. We've participated in many events and community service projects that lie dear to our hearts, but it would all not be possible without the constant support of the HJJCC.

Thanks again to all who have shared these great memories with us. With only 1 more month in our reign, we are looking forward to the busy schedule of events ahead. Hope to see you all there!



## 2006 Nissei Week Trip

Back in August, the Court, Eric Nishioka, Justin George, and a few of our parents made our way to the busy city of Los Angeles for Nissei Week. We were reunited with our sister courts in one last trip to the mainland. Memories were made with excursions around Japan Town, a visit to the Japanese-American Museum, Disneyland, and the Nissei Week parade.



## 2006 Japan Goodwill Tour

The Goodwill Tour to Japan is definitely a highlight of our reigning year. Not only were we able to gain a greater appreciation for our culture by experiencing Japan's amazing beauties, but it also gave us the opportunity to express our gratitude to our corporate sponsors and sister chapters for their support and involvement in the Festival. Kaiseki meals, the onsen, the Imperial visit, home-stay in Kurashiki, famous temples, and the Hiroshima Peace Park were just a few of our fond memo-

ries. A special thanks to Brenda Nomura and Lance Oba for their amazing organization and executing our adventure with perfection! Our heartfelt thanks to new mommy-Staci Yoshihara for planning the tour! We'd also like to thank Darren Ota for his wonderful job as our acting Queen's Advisor! Jon, Patty, Jenn, Dave... thanks for also helping to make this trip unforgettable.

## MDA “Visit Japan”

We had the privilege of working with MDA once again in our very own “Visit Japan” theme night. The court, along with HJJCC volunteers Wedge Lee and Lance Oba, gathered at the Susanna Wesley Center in Kalihi to host the monthly MDA party. We were able to set up various activity stations, including ikebana, face-painting, and origami samurai hats and carp fish decorating, sharing a bit of Japanese culture with the attendees. To end the night, we held a carp fish decorating contest for our participants.



## 2006 HJJCC Christmas Party

An evening filled with friendship, food, fun and a... Mr. Cherry Blossom King? HJJCC members broke into groups and carefully selected their most elite, attractive and intelligent men to compete in three categories: wearing of the traditional yukata kimono, poise, and answering impromptu questions. Prepared by First Princess Tiffany and Queen Desiree, contestants answered a variety of questions, ranging from the increase in our state's sales tax to describing what kind of sports car they would be. We would like to congratulate, Mr. Cherry Blossom King 2006, Mr. David Kaneko!



## 2007 Sony Open Pro-Am dinner

Volunteering at the Sony Open Pro-Am dinner was a night for us all to remember. The Court, along with HJJCC volunteers, helped to greet guests in the beginning of the night and finished off with assisting in the award ceremony. We did manage to squeeze in our moment of fame as we spotted actors Adam Sandler and Kevin James. Thank you, Justin, for having us a part of this exciting event!



*“We did manage to squeeze in our moment of fame as we spotted actors Adam Sandler and Kevin James.”*

## Upcoming Sister Chapter visits

Please join us in welcoming our sister chapters to Hawaii. The Kobe Jaycees will be here from March 30th through April 3rd to participate in the Cherry Blossom Festival.

The San Jaycees (Kurashiki, Tamashima, Kojima) will be in Hawaii from April 19th through the 22nd.

As their visits near, please look out for the emails as we ask for your help in hosting our sister chapters.

Also, don't forget to visit our waffle dog booth at the Heritage Fair on March 10th, Saturday. All proceeds will go towards the sister chapters hosting. Mahalo!



## Upcoming Events

Heritage Fair at the Japanese Cultural Center (Cherry Blossom Festival): Saturday 3.10.07; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

New Member Installation at Kuapa Isle clubhouse (Hawaii Kai): Saturday 3.24.07; 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Kobe Jaycees Hosting: Friday 3.30.07 through Tuesday 4.3.07.

Taste of Marukai: Thursday 4.12.07

San Jaycee Hosting: Thursday 4.19.07 through Sunday 4.22.07

Kodomo no Hi (Children's Day) at Japanese Cultural Center: Sunday 4.29.07

## Chapter Snapshots: YBR & Christmas Party



## Deb Noji joins Special Olympics Hawaii

Deb Noji, HJJCC Vice-President of Management Development, has left Aloha United Way after 8 ½ years of service to become the director of development and marketing for Special Olympics Hawaii (SOHI).

Special Olympics Hawaii's mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competitions for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Deb's responsibilities include developing new funding programs so that SOHI can expand its outreach into the intellectually disabled community. SOHI also hopes to add more programs to its current curriculum.

If you are interested in volunteering with or contributing to SOHI, contact Deb at 943-8808 ext. 24 or at [deborah@specialolympicshawaii.org](mailto:deborah@specialolympicshawaii.org).

## Happy Birthday

February: George Gusman III, Patty Ann Low, Patrick Matsumoto, Keven Matsuura, Cory Mitsui, Craig Nishio, Frank Wirt.

March: Todd Hashimoto, David Kimura, Grant Kubota, Sherrie Sonomura, Cheryl Sora, Catherine Toth.

April: Shannon Ball, Tiffany Kaneko, Jonathan Murai, Scott Murakami, Michael Nakamura, Scott Nishimoto, Greg Shiu, Patricia Suenaga, Jasmine Tanioka, Michael Yoshino.

Happy Birthday to all our members. Please wish them a Happy Birthday when you see them at one of our events.

## New Members

The following individuals joined our organization in the last quarter of 2006. Please welcome:

Shannon Ball, Daniel Chen, Spencer Lau, Bradley Maruyama, Mitsuhiro Ono, Andrew Stewart, Patricia Suenaga, and James Weisman.

Mark your calendars for 3.24.07 for our New Member Installation party at Kuapa Isle in Hawaii Kai. Stay tuned for more information.

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*Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of  
Commerce*

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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  
brotherhood 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 service to humanity is the best work of  
life.*

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## **About the HJJCC**

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, annual Cherry Blossom Festival, and sister chapter hostings while having fun at the same time.

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