

# Sakura



*Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce*

Mahalo to the General Co-Chairs, Steering Committee, and volunteers who donated their time and exemplified this year's theme "Unity in Spirit" to make this year's Cherry Blossom Festival such a success!

## 55th Cherry Blossom Festival

The Hawaii Prince Golf Club hosted the 55th Cherry Blossom Festival Golf Tournament on Friday, February 23. It featured a 3-man scramble format, with the shotgun start at noon, followed by the "19th Hole" awards banquet.

The next day featured the Festival Fashion Show at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. The 55th Contestants and the 54th Cherry Blossom Court showcased collections by designers such as Bridal Emporium, Cinnamon Girl, and Anne Namba, in addition to trendy outfits provided by The Butik and Split Obsession. There was also wine and sake-tasting, heavy pupus, and a silent auction.

The fourth and final Public Appearance took place on March 3 at Ala Moana Centerstage. The program opened with a taiko performance by Taiko Center of the Pacific. This was followed by the introduction of the 54th Cherry Blossom Queen and Court and the presentation of the fourteen Queen Contestants.

The Heritage Fair at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i on March 10 featured local crafters and food vendors, appearances by the 55th CBF contestants and 54th CBF Queen and Court, as well as mochi pounding by the Tenrikyo Church.

The Contestant Reception at The Ocean Club on March 18 was a memorable evening, thanks to emcee Justin Cruz of 93.1 The Zone and the Ocean Club staff.

### Inside this issue:

CBF Recap	1
Photos	2-4
New Member Profiles	5
New Member Installation	5
HJCC Events	6
Upcoming Events	7
HJCC Elections	7
2007 Goodwill Tour	8
Engage Mentorships	8
Happy Birthday	8
New Members	6
The Jaycee Creed	9
About the Sakura	9

## 55th Cherry Blossom Festival Ball

The 55th Cherry Blossom Festival culminated on Saturday, March 31 at the annual Festival Ball at the Sheraton Waikiki. The program included two phases: a western (evening gown) and eastern (authentic furisode kimono). The kimonos worn by the contestants were specifically chosen for them by Sensei Kumiko Sakai and provided by Watabe Wedding, a festival Diamond Sponsor. Festival Ball was also the last official appearance of the 54th Cherry Blossom Festival Queen Desiree Yamamoto and the members of the 54th Court. At the end of the evening, a panel of distinguished judges selected the new Cherry Blossom Festival Queen and Court.

## Cherry Blossom Festival



## Cherry Blossom Festival Heritage Fair



## Cherry Blossom Festival Contestant Reception



Photos: (Top Left) Registration Table crew at Golf Tournament, (Top Right) Emcee Kanoa Leahey asks a Contestant her impromptu question, (Middle Left) 54th Queen Desiree Yamamoto and Princesses Whitney Asao and Kara Iwasaki pound mochi, (Middle Right) HJJCC waffle dog booth, (Left) Sonya, Michele, Lisa, Kim and Pono smile for the camera

## Festival Ball



## Kobe Jaycees



## Kobe Jaycees

Photos: (Top Left) The 54th Queen and Court farewell speech, (Top Right) The 55th Contestants wearing their kimonos, (Middle Left) Group photo including Japan Cherry Blossom Queen, Kobe Jaycees, Seattle, Northern California & Nisei week Festival Courts, (Middle Right) And the winners are..., (Right) Last karaoke song till October in Kobe



## Kurashiki-Kojima-Tamashima (San Jaycees)



## Kurashiki-Kojima-Tamashima (San Jaycees)

Photos: (Above Left) The Presidents of Tamashima, Kojima, and Kurashiki present Jon with a omiyage at the Welcome Party, (Above Right) San Jaycees and HJJCC members at Diamond Head, (Middle) San JC members and their families with 54th Court members



## New Member Installation

Seated, (front row), left to right: Geraldine Jordan, Patty Low, Rattana Soubandith, Patricia Suenaga, Cheryl Sora, Randi Tsushima.

Standing, left to right: Rodney Batara, Hawaii State Jaycees Executive Vice President Thayer Goya, HJJCC President Jon Murai, Aaron Kanemaru, Shauna Goya, Greg Shiu, Dustin Horie, James Kaneshiro, Cathy Cruz, Allen King, Tiffany Kuraoka, Daniel Terada, Michael Nakamura, Dean Uyeda.

(See article on page 5.)



### New Member Profile: Geraldine Jordan

Geraldine Jordan is the restaurant manager for Shokudo Japanese Restaurant and Bar. She has 14 years of experience in the food and beverage industry, including with the Sheraton and Ala Moana Hotels. Her love of food, spirits, and cooking have contributed to her success in this competitive field.

A single parent, Geraldine appreciates the support and love of her two beautiful children; spending time with them is her number one priority. She also enjoys reading and preparing delicious meals for friends and family. Geraldine thanks the HJJCC for broadening her perspective of her chosen industry, and looks forward to a long and fruitful relationship.

### New Member Profile: Davin Hamada

Davin Hamada is a valued employee of the University of Hawaii Federal Credit Union. A Kauai boy and graduate of the University of Oregon, Davin spent time working on the mainland, but the lure of paradise brought him back home. He occasionally returns to his native Kauai to golf, fish, and play tennis. The happily single Davin enjoys spending time with friends, family, and co-workers.

Davin joined the HJJCC because of his interest in the Young Business Roundtable and related business activities. As he becomes more familiar with his fellow members, Davin hopes to become more active in other projects.

### New Member Installation

Eighteen "new" members were officially sworn in to the HJJCC at an installation dinner in Hawaii Kai on March 24. Thayer Goya, Executive Vice President of the Hawaii State Jaycees, presided over the official installation. Our own President Jon Murai presented each new member with his/her own HJJCC pin. Congratulations to all of our "new" members (see photo, page 4)

The evening also featured a slideshow dedicated to Eric Nishioka, a long time member, who has "graduated" from the Junior Chamber but will still be around as an associate member. The Junior Chamber also wishes to thank Eric's parents for allowing us the use of their clubhouse many times for various occasions.

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## Taste of Marukai

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Taste of Marukai on April 12 featured contemporary Japanese cuisine, sake tasting, prizes, and event night special prices on Marukai merchandise. In addition, Marukai Executive Vice President Richard Matsu presented a check to our Junior Chamber, Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.



## JN Automotive (Audi of Hawaii)

On April 25, JN Automotive, a sponsor of the Cherry Blossom Festival, hosted an event at their Audi showroom with ono pupus and displays of their exotic cars. JN also presented **Richelle Nakata**, the 55<sup>th</sup> CBF Queen and Miss Congeniality, with a 2007 Audi A4, donated for her use during her reign.

Also pictured: **Melissa Fujimoto**, First Princess; **Tiffanie Luke**, Princess; **Julie Yoshioka**, Princess; **Christin Sumida**, Princess; and **Melody Yoshimura**, Miss Popularity.

Greg Jackson from JN also discussed what to look for when buying a luxury car.



## Kodomo no hi (Children's Day)

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii hosted their annual Children's Day Keiki Fun Fest on April 29. HJJCC members volunteered at various booths as part of the monthly community service project. The 55<sup>th</sup> Queen and Court were also on hand to help with the HJJCC Fish Pond children's game:



## Upcoming Sister Chapter visit

Please join us in welcoming our sister chapter to Hawaii.

Who: Odawara Jaycees (our 3rd sister chapter city from Japan)

What: a few days of fun and R&R

When: June 6-11, 2007

Where: Stay tuned for the schedule of events

\*Welcome party on evening of June 6th, Wednesday

\*Aloha party on evening of June 10th, Sunday

## Upcoming Events

The **2007 Visitor Industry Charity Walk** is coming up on **Saturday, May 19**. For more information on the Charity Walk, go to <http://charitywalkhawaii.org/index.html>

The **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Lantern Floating Hawaii festival** is coming up on **Memorial Day, Monday, May 28**. Volunteers are needed from 4pm-6:30pm to assist VIPs to the stage. More information on the event can be found at [www.naleialoha.org](http://www.naleialoha.org).

**Elections of Officers & Board Members** at Momoyama Restaurant at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani Hotel, **Wednesday, May 30th** at 6:00pm (Elections to be held at 6:30PM). (See below)

**MDA Summer Camp Casino Night, June 12**, 6:30pm-9:30pm at Camp Erdman

**Young Business Roundtable**: Robin Campaniano, CEO of AIG, **June 20**, 6:00pm at The Wedding Cafe

**Karaoke Mixer with HJCC** aka "Senior Chamber" **June 28 (tentative)**, details TBA

## Elections of Officers and Board Members

Please join us for the annual election of the HJCC Board to be held on May 30th at the Momoyama restaurant. The event begins at 6:00 and will feature delicious Japanese cuisine. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. RSVP's and payment are due by May 22nd.

The elections will be held at 6:30. The following 4 positions are carry-overs from this past year of have been appointed already: Chairman of the Board: **Jon Murai**, President: **Justin George**, Queen's Advisor: **Brenda Nomura**, CBF General Chair: **David Kaneko**.

The following positions are up for election with the confirmed nominees: Executive VP **David Kaneko**, Secretary **Kris Miyamoto**, Treasurer **Wedge Lee**, International Relations VP **Allen King**, Membership VP **Dustin Horie**, Community Development VP **Rattana Soubandith** and **Cheryl Shintani**, Management Development VP **Patty Low**, Board of Director At-Large **James Kane-shiro**

If you are interested in running for a particular Board position, submit a petition with 10 member signatures to our Secretary, Kris Miyamoto, by **May 23**.

Nominations from the floor for the 8 positions being voted on at the May 30th event will also be accepted. In order to nominate someone or accept a nomination from the floor, you must be present at the event.

Members must also be present to vote; Proxies are not permitted.

## 2007 Japan Goodwill Tour

The dates for this year's HJJCC goodwill tour to Japan have been set for September 29-October 14, 2007 so please clear your calendar for these weeks!! It's an excellent opportunity to enjoy the beauty and culture of Japan, make new friends, and develop a stronger relationship with our sister chapters. If you haven't experienced the goodwill tour or haven't been to Japan yet, this is your chance to partake in an experience that will last a lifetime.

The purpose of the tour is to visit and thank the sponsors of our Cherry Blossom Festival, and to visit with our sister chapters. While we are with the sister chapters, they will take time out of their busy schedules to drive us around to the activities they have planned and ensure we are having a good time. As such, goodwill tour participants are expected to reciprocate when the sister chapters visit Honolulu. In fact, one of the chapters, Odawara, will be here at the beginning of June and it would be great if you can come to our hosting events and meet them!

If you will be joining us, please send a \$200 deposit by June 8, 2007. There are a limited number of spots available and after June 8, the remaining seats will be offered to parents of the Cherry Blossom Festival court members. Checks can be made payable to HJJCC and mailed to: HJJCC attn: Staci Yoshihara, 2454 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96826.

If you have any questions, please contact Staci Yoshihara, International Relations VP, at [stacisak@hotmail.com](mailto:stacisak@hotmail.com)

## Ingage

INGAGE is a local company that supports and fosters Hawaii's next generation of business leaders through business mentoring. Its mission is to build bridges between individuals and create environments that sustain effective mentoring relationships that support an individual to successfully meet life's challenges, master life's lessons, and capture life's opportunities.

**Four HJJCC members** will receive a three-month, one-on-one mentoring program with a seasoned business professional at no charge. **Each mentoring program is valued at \$1,500 - \$2,000.** This offer will be available to 4 qualified applicants who submit their completed application, along with a resume, by **Wednesday, May 30.**

As a HJJCC member, we support your professional development and goals. If you have a need for career or leadership development, learning or fine-tuning business skills, or increasing your productivity, we strongly encourage you to take advantage of this offer and to apply as soon as possible. The applications have been emailed to all members. If you have any questions, please call Staci Yoshihara at (808) 265-2699.

## Happy Birthday

May: Bradley Maruyama, Mark Nordick, Randi Tsushima, Sharene Urakami-Oyama, Traciann Watanabe,

June: Seiji Aspengren, Kristi Hirota, Jason Koyanagi, Stan Masamitsu, Kevin Matsuda, Devon Nekoba, Yasuo Ogawa, Mitsuhiro Ono, Todd Shishido

July: Joseph Corbaci, Davin Hamada, James Kaneshiro, Kyle Kato, Dawn Kawada, Tiffany Kuraoka, Wedge Lee, Kris Miyamoto, Neysa Park, Daniel Terada, Staci Yoshihara

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

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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 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 service to humanity is the best work of life.*

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## **About the Sakura**

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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