



Sakura

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Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce
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President's Letter

Aloha HJJCC Members,

Welcome. I am Kris Miyamoto, the 60th President of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Hawaii. We have an exciting year with a new Board of Directors who have been very busy making the upcoming HJJCC year successful.

Over the last 3 months, the Board of Directors and chapter members have participated in many activities ranging from donating blood for the Blood Bank of Hawaii, participating in fundraising events and support a local school's civic class with their recycling efforts to go to Washington D.C. I am excited to work side by side with the current board members as they continue to open my eyes and mind to the endless possibilities...as I am reminded to "think outside of the box and nothing is impossible."

As the 2009 year comes to an end, we look forward to the 58th Cherry Blossom Festival starting in late January 2010. The Cherry Blossom Festival Co-General Chairs and their steering committees are "busy bees" as they prepare for a Festival that will be very different, but without a doubt an exciting and memorable experience.

Thank you to all our members for your support and have a Happy Holiday Season!!

Sincerely,
Kris Miyamoto
60th President



2009-2010 Board of Directors



David Kaneko - Chairman of the Board

Dave graduated from Pearl City High School and UHM with a B.S. in Chemistry. He also attended Colorado School of Mines where he received an M.S. in Environmental Science and Engineering. Dave is an Environmental Compliance Engineer with Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. Dave's hobbies are tennis, cars, and science fiction novels.



Kris Miyamoto - President

Kris graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. She is currently employed at Kaiser Permanente Hawaii as a Provider Relations and Contracting Representative. Kris's interests are playing with her two Corgis- Kimo and Kai, working out, running, and meeting new people.



Darren Ota - Executive Vice President

Darren is a Business Banking Manager at the Bank of Hawaii. He graduated from Konawaena High School and Santa Clara University. Darren enjoys gardening and dog sitting.



Colin Touchi - Treasurer

Colin graduated from Iolani High School and Whitworth University with B.A. degrees in Business Management and Sociology. He currently works at Bank of Hawaii in the Personal Banking Division. His hobbies include working out, playing sports, and travelling when time permits. He's currently trying to figure out the mystery of golf.



Leighton Hara - Secretary

Leighton graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Marketing, with distinction. Leighton continued his studies at the University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law where he received his law degree. Leighton is currently an attorney at Marr Jones & Wang, A Limited Liability Law Partnership. In addition to his work, Leighton enjoys spending time volunteering with the HJJCC and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. Leighton is married to Cori Hara and they have a 3 month old son Leland.



Lauren Honbo - Vice President of Community Development

Lauren is a consultant at SH consulting, LLC specializing in business consulting services to healthcare organizations, state government and small businesses in Hawaii. She graduated from the University of Puget Sound with a BS in Computer Science Business. When Lauren isn't working or participating in HJJCC events, you can find her at the gym, stamping at home or shopping.



2009 - 2010 Board of Directors (continued)



Cheryl Sora - Vice President of Management Development

Cheryl is a graduate of Kauai High School. She works in sales for Tori Richard Hawaii. Her hobbies include sports, music, traveling and food.



Shauna Goya - Vice President of Membership Development

Shauna is an online copy editor who works on The Honolulu Advertiser's breaking news. She also writes a blog called Odds and Ends. She is a Journalism and Speech graduate from the University of Hawaii and is active with the Asian American Journalists Association. She enjoys tennis, going to the movies and vacationing in Las Vegas



Kathi Nakayama - Vice President of International Relations

Kathi is a graduate of the American School In Japan, Tokyo. She works as an Administrative Assistant and Eastbound Marketer for Ocean Joy Cruises, a dophin watch company out of Ko Olina Marina, as well as a part time travel agent, and a translator/interpretor for a non-profit organization planSEA.org. Kathi loves to spend time with her teenage daughter whenever she can. She also loves to work on Hawaiian Quilting, ribbon-lei making, singing, and writing.



Tiffany Mitani - Young Business Roundtable

Tiffany is a graduate of Roosevelt High School and is a student at The University of Hawaii at Manoa. She enjoys traveling, volunteering and spending time with family and friends. Tiffany currently works in the Coding Operations Department at Kaiser Permanente.



Cheryl Shintani - Queen's Advisor

Cheryl is a Sales Accounting Analyst at ALTRES, Inc. She is a proud graduate of Mid Pacific Institute and the University of Hawaii, where she received her Bachelor's degree. She also holds a Masters of Business Administration with an Emphasis of Accounting from Chaminade University. Her hobbies includes, baking, cooking, traveling, shopping, and watching K-drama.



2009 - 2010 Board of Directors (continued)



Merrissa Uchimura - Cherry Blossom Festival General Co-Chairperson

Is the Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and also has her own wedding planning business. When she is not working, planning a wedding or doing things Cherry Blossom, she enjoys spending quality time with her boyfriend, friends, and family. She also likes doing yoga, cardio, outdoor activities, and wants to explore the world!



Sonya Kimura - Cherry Blossom Festival General Co-Chairperson

Sonya Kimura is a graduate of St. Andrews Priory & University of Hawaii at Manoa with a BA in Communications. Currently working for Sodexo at Queen's Hospital in the Dietary Department, she is also has her own company in which she plans special events, conventions and weddings. In her spare time she is occupied with her two kids, Joshua and Haylie-Anne.



Historian - Sydette Nekota

Sydette is a Dental Administrative Assistant for Dr. Allan Segawa in Mililani. She also works in the restaurant of The Alley Restaurant at Aiea Bowl. When she is not participating in Cherry Blossom Festival events, she enjoys baking, cooking and playing with her two Jack Russell Terriers, Casee and Colbie.



Director at Large - Staci Yoshihara

Staci is the Fiscal Officer for the University of Hawaii Bookstore system. She graduated from Waiakea High School and the University of Oregon, where she received a BA in Japanese and minor in Business Administration. During her free time Staci enjoys spending time with her 3 year old daughter and husband, and dining at new restaurants with friends.



Happy Holidays!!

From Your
2009-2010 HJCC Board of Directors



57th Cherry Blossom Festival Court Update

Fall 2009

Autumn is a time for giving thanks, and this season, we have been most thankful for family. In September, we joined the teachers, students and families of Mililani Waena Elementary School for McTeacher's Night, a fundraiser in cooperation with McDonald's. The school successfully raised \$3,000.

Later that month, we met the 58th Cherry Blossom Festival contestants and their parents for the first time. We're excited for the start of their journey! On the same day, we attended the Daijingu Temple of Hawaii Thanksgiving Festival, where Reverend Okada showed us that we have much to be thankful for in celebrating our Japanese heritage in Hawaii.

In October we traveled to Japan on the HJJCC Goodwill Tour. Together with four HJJCC members and our parents, we visited Tokyo, Odawara, Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Kyoto, Kobe and Osaka within two weeks, greeted our sister Jaycee chapters and thanking our sponsors. The journey was a special one that we continue to talk about. We are grateful our families could join us, and we left with a sense of having joined new families in Japan.

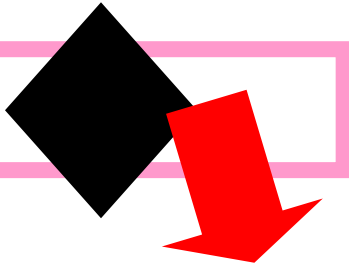
On October 29th, we joined HJJCC volunteers at the Kahala Mall Keiki Halloween Costume Contest. We proudly wore *yukata*, a gift from the San Jaycees in Japan, but were blown away by the young participants who wore creative costumes ranging from baby lau lau to a jellyfish and even a hot air balloonist!

We joined HUGS (Help, Understanding & Group Support) for their annual Thanksgiving dinner on November 7th. This group, which provides support for families with seriously ill children, is one of the many organizations we should be thankful for in Hawaii. Families in attendance enjoyed a delicious meal, games and a magic show.

We attended Diva Days Launch Party at the Wedding Café on November 9th, where we played models for the day! We had fun encouraging everyone to shop, all for a great cause organized by a wonderful sponsor, the Wedding Café.

-Kristine Wada, Traci-Ann Miwa, Kristen Chung, Gina Maeda, Janelle Uchida & Tanya Masunaga





Upcoming HJJCC Events

Recycling Project (now until March 2010) - *GOT CANS??* HJJCC is collecting empty cans and bottles (plastic and glass) to help Ilima Intermediate with their year round recycling project.



10th Annual Gingerbread Family Festival (Sunday, December 13, 2009 at the Neil Blaisdell Center - Exhibition Hall) - Help Easter Seals of Hawaii with their Annual Gingerbread Family Festivals. Volunteers are needed the day before the event (December 12th) to help with set-up as well as on the day of the event. Duties range from packaging kits, decorating, registering guests, passing out packages, and cleaning up when the sessions are over. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers during each shift.



Save the Date!!! HJJCC/CBF Blood Drive on Saturday, January 30, 2010 at Kahala Mall - Take an hour to save 3 lives. Come to the HJJCC/CBF Blood Drive on 1/30/2010 to donate, meet the 58th CBF Contestants and hang out with HJJCC friends. Even if you aren't interested in donating or cannot donate, you can still support us by asking friends/family to donate or donate food/snacks or drinks.



Please call LAUREN at 284-1277 or email info@hjjcc.com if you are interested or need more info. See you there!!

Recent HJJCC Events

Recently we held an HJJCC blood drive at the Hawaii Kai Towne Center. We had 44 people show up and out of those 44 people, we were able to collect 39 pints! 14 of these people were 1st time donors! That's a huge amount of first time donors. If you are still interested in donating, email info@hjjcc.com or call Lauren at 284-1277.





Phone:
(808) 949-2255

E-Mail:
info@hjjcc.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.hjjcc.com

Halloween Keiki Costume Contest

October 29, 2009 - Kahala Mall

HJJCC volunteers helped out at the annual keiki Halloween costume contest that was held at Kahala Mall on October 29th. Children as young as one dressed up and competed to win the best in their age group. Thanks to all of you who came down to help with this *spooky* event!!



November/December Birthdays

November:

Justin George
Allen King
Julie Kiwada
Cheryl Shintani
Lauren Watase

December:

Noelle Condon
Jon Duarte
Deron Kamisato
Stephanie Lee
David Sanden
Jennifer Shibuya

The Jaycee Creed

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