

First 20 Rainbow for Japan Kids arrive in Hawaii

On July 27th, the first twenty students from three Japanese prefectures devastated by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami—Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima—arrived in Honolulu to engage in ten days of educational and cultural activities designed to provide physical and psychological relief from their tragic experiences. The students will also visit local schools and children and will be encouraged to establish lasting friendships. All of the students were directly affected by the tragedy; one student was rescued after being swept away by the tsunami.



The first Rainbow for Japan Kids students are introduced to supporters at a welcome reception at the Japanese Consulate

Host Committee member Shige Hone of First Hawaiian Bank acted as emcee for a welcome ceremony at the Japanese Consulate, hosted by Consul General and Mrs. Kamo. The 20 students ranging from 13-15 years old were introduced to supporters who donated items or funds, or otherwise supported this project. The list includes Sony Hawaii's Naobumi Nomura, Hawaii Tourism Japan's Keiko Fujita, Roberts Hawaii's Dean Mori, Pagoda Hotel's Peter Savio, Itoen USA's Leighton Horiuchi, Pagoda Floating Restaurant's Susan Ichor (AIO Group) and Ken Niimura (Obun

Hawaii), Kahala Hotel's Rimi Asano, Kualoa Ranch's Kayo Witty, Bridge Club Hawaii's Colby Takeda, Kids Hurt Too's Cynthia White and Hiro Ito, Rainbow Gakuen's Teruyuki Fukuhara, Polynesian Voyaging Society's Nainoa Thompson, Koaloha Ukulele's Alvin and Pat Okami, Bishop Museum's Docent David Asanuma, Waikiki Trolley/E Noa's Maki Kuroda; donors Hawaii Senior Life Enrichment Association's Ryozo Sakai, Shozo Noda, Masako Nashimoto-Luttrell, JTB Hawaii's Keiichi Tsujino, Tendai Hawaii Mission's Bishop Ryokan Ara, and JAL Hawaii's Ryoichi Okubo Mr. Naoki Schichida of JALPAK International Hawaii covered the entire 10-day itinerary for the visitors and supporters. Bikki no Kai Representative Director and local Miyagi entertainer Muneyuki Sato thanked the assembled group of supporters for launching this project and providing funding to support it.

The RFJK students were hosted that afternoon for a dolphin performance show at Kahala Hotel's Dolphin Quest and then treated to a BBQ dinner there afterwards.



Rainbow for Japan Kids students crowd around the famous “Hitachi Tree” at Moanalua Garden soon after their arrival in Honolulu.