



JASH Newsflash

A Summary of Recent Events of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii

Fall 2023

Hawaii-Japan Sister State & Sister City Summit

President's Message



Governor Green (standing left 1st row) and Mayor Blangiardi (standing left top row) with other Governors and Mayors from Japan at the Opening Ceremony.

JASH had a VERY busy Summer as we were finally able to hold the inaugural JASH Hawaii-Japan Sister State & Sister City Summit at the end of July after a two-year delay due to the pandemic!

Twenty-two Japanese governors and mayors, along with our own Governor Josh Green and Mayors Rick Blangiardi, Derek Kawakami, Richard Bissen and Mitch Roth attended the two-day Summit to exchange ideas on sustainable energy, tourism, education exchange, cross-border commerce and sustainable agriculture. Leaders in these fields from Hawaii and Japan were also in attendance.

Similarly, also after a long delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, JASH was finally able to send our winning teams from the 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Japan Wizards Competition to Japan! Please check JASH's Facebook page for accounts on their travels!

Through the articles in this issue, you will hear about our APCC Junior Ambassadors' and Hiroshima Peace Scholars' summer trips. Please read about these outstanding educational programs and the life-changing opportunities they bring for Hawaii students!

As always, we are ever grateful to you, our JASH Ohana, for your ongoing support which enables us to host all JASH programs and events. We remain committed to be the bridge of friendship and understanding between Hawaii and Japan and the U.S. and Japan. Dooomoo Arigato Gozaimasu.

With Aloha, Reyna

The *JASH Newsflash* newsletter is published quarterly. Visit our website at www.jashawaii.org for more information.

The inaugural Hawaii-Japan Sister State & Sister City Summit was held on July 27-28, 2023 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom, Honolulu, Hawaii.

With the theme, "The Ties That Bind", the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Mayors of the City & Counties of Honolulu, Kauai, Maui and Hawaii, and the Governors, Mayors and designated representatives of the six sister prefectures and sixteen cities and towns in Japan participated in this Sister Summit.

The purpose of the Sister Summit was to explore common issues to further deepen and strengthen sister and friendship relationships by setting goals to increase exchanges between our governments and municipalities and share information of the respective exchange programs.

A VIP Reception hosted by Governor Josh Green & Mrs. Jaime Green at Washington Place was held the evening before the start of the Summit on July 26 to welcome
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Long-Awaited Japan Trips for 2020-2022

Japan Wizards Competition Winners

After a prolonged period of travel restrictions due to the pandemic, the winning teams of the 2020-2022 Japan Wizards Competitions finally had the opportunity to travel to Japan this Spring and Summer. These students had been eagerly awaiting the chance to experience the rich culture, vibrant traditions, and natural landscapes of Japan. Their memorable adventures exploring Japan's exciting cities and peaceful countryside impacted their lives in more ways than one. The following are excerpts from summaries of their trips.



together from June 5-17, 2023. Only one member from their 2020 team was able to travel on their award trip, due to their busy college schedules. For nearly two weeks, the teams traveled from Kanto to Kansai with stops in Tokyo, Nagano, Ishikawa, Toyama, Kyoto, Nara, and Osaka. Student Ciara Oka commented on their trip, "...throughout the futuristic architecture and busy cities, I found temples and shrines, traditional wear, and festivals celebrating ancient traditions. That allowed me to realize how we balance preservation and progress in Hawaii
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Hanalani School 2020 Level B and 2021 Level A teams traveled

Sister State & City Summit

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visiting Governors, Vice-Governors and Mayors from Japan, Hawaii's four



Mrs. Jaime Green and Governor Green greeting JASH Chair Alex Jampel.

county Mayors, top sponsors and JASH Board of Directors.

Consul General Yutaka Aoki also welcomed all Summit attendees to his residence the following day, July 27, for an evening of friendship exchange and entertainment by Hokkaido's Ainu dancers.



Consul General Aoki welcoming former Governor David Ige and Mrs. Ige.

The Sister Summit Program was comprised of three parts: Panel Discussions, The Marketplace, and Executive Sessions.

Panel Discussions

Five panel discussions were presented in the two-day program, covering topics such as *Sustainable Energy, Tourism, Education Exchange Programs, Cross-Border Commerce, and Sustainable Agriculture*. Moderators and panelists were subject-matter experts from Hawaii, the U.S. mainland and Japan.

The panel discussions were designed to be conversational to allow for panelists to share deeper insights with each other and the audience.



Panel Discussion: *Education - Nurturing Global Talent* with (L-R): Dr. Denise Konan, UH Manoa Dean of Social Sciences; Dr. Keiko Ikeda, Professor at International Affairs Division Kansai University; Ms. Suzanne Vares-Lum, President East-West Center; and Mr. Keith Hayashi, Superintendent Hawaii Department of Education.

The Marketplace

The Marketplace consisted of vendor booths from Japan and Hawaii featuring products and services as well as showcasing the prefectures and cities in Japan.

There were 20 exhibitor booths plus local Japanese radio station KZOO. Located in the foyer area of the Coral Ballroom, The Marketplace was a vibrant addition to the Sister Summit, and was constantly buzzing with activity throughout the two-day Summit. Made-in-Hawaii products as well as services, tour operators, non-profit organizations and prefectures and cities in Japan were represented. Sister Summit attendees perused through the Marketplace.



Executive Sessions

Exclusive closed-door sessions were held for the elected officials. A key element of the Sister Summit was to provide the governors and mayors of Hawaii and Japan face-to-face meeting time, as some were meeting



for the very first time and others had not seen each other or interfaced for over three years of the pandemic.

On the final evening of the Summit, attendees were treated to a closing reception and mini concert featuring local boy band, *Crossing Rain*.



(L-R Foreground): Keiko Arikawa and Atsuko Igarashi pose with *Crossing Rain*.

The inaugural Hawaii-Japan Sister State & Sister City Summit was a huge success and set the stage for positive and meaningful post-pandemic activities between Hawaii and Japan. [Click here](#) to view the recap video.



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and how it can also contribute to other countries' unique identities and traditions.”



Hanalani 2021 team having fun in Tokyo.

Hawaii Baptist Academy 2021 Level B team traveled from July 11-19, 2023. The team spent their week-long trip mainly in Tokyo and Nikko. On their first day, they had a fun time at Tokyo DisneySea. Then, they went on to explore various areas in Tokyo, including Asakusa, Ginza, Harajuku, Shibuya, and Odaiba. Student Sarah Ushigome reflected on how the trip exposed her to more of her heritage, “As I was experiencing this trip, I felt more connected to Japan because I fell in love with experiencing the culture and learning about Japan’s history. Now that I have thought about my future, I want to be a bridge that can help Hawaii people and Japanese people connect.”

Hawaii Baptist Academy 2022 Level A team traveled from June 9-17, 2023, to Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima, and Tokyo. They also had the opportunity to have an educational visit at JASH partner organization, Temple University, and learned more about their programs and campus. Student Jadyann Wong commented on the visit, “The thing I’m most grateful for is going to Temple University. Thanks to that visit, I’m now considering studying in Japan and applying to Temple.”

Hilo High School 2020 Level B team, recipient of the Anonymous Donor Award, traveled to the Kansai region of Japan from June 11-17,



Hilo team visiting Kyoto Tachibana Junior and Senior High School.

2023. First, they headed to Kyoto to see the endless *torii* gates at Fushimi Inari Taisha and view the architectural mastery at Byodo-in Temple. The next day, they visited Kyoto Tachibana Junior and Senior High School, where they conversed with students on various topics, including their views on Hawaii and the U.S. Student Lauren Spencer reflected on their exchange, “Our visit to Kyoto Tachibana was one of the most memorable moments of the trip for me, and it made me not only reflect on the connection between Japan and the United States, but on how that connection manifests itself in the citizens of both nations.” The team spent the rest of their time exploring Osaka, with shopping in Umeda and delicious seafood at Kuromon Market.

James Campbell High School 2021 Level B team traveled from June 22-27, 2023 to the Kansai region of Japan. They started off their trip in Osaka, exploring the busy streets of Dotonbori and Shinsaibashi. The next day, they headed to Nara and immediately noticed the difference from being in a big city. The team enjoyed taking their time absorbing the city’s rich history in a calm and quiet environment. The last destination to explore was Kyoto. The team tried their hands at making their own chopsticks at Marumasa Nishimuraya, then proceeded to learn more about Japan’s history at Nijo Castle. Student Gil Gajardo commented on their trip, “The entire experience was life changing; I had seen, done and eaten so many new things that I will always remember throughout my life.”

Kapolei High School 2021 Level A team, recipient of the Dr. Leineweber Award, traveled from June 18-28, 2023. Due to their busy college schedules, only one member could attend their award trip. He traveled alongside their 2023 Level B team, recipient of the Anonymous Donor Award. They spent most of their time around Tokyo and Yokohama. The teams went on to have their educational visit at Temple University, where they toured the campus and met students from Hawaii currently studying there. They indulged in a delicious meal at a *kaiseki* restaurant. Student Geric Abe reflected on his trip, “From these various experiences over the course of my trip, I’ve realized how much Japan values respect. From shopping experiences to riding the subway, to being hosted by others, respect is found everywhere and is ingrained in Japanese culture.”

King Kekaulike High School 2020, 2021 (Anonymous Donor Award), and **2022 Level B teams** all traveled together from June 19-30, 2023 to Tokyo, Kurashiki, Hiroshima, Kyoto, and Osaka. As this was their first time in Japan, the students were surprised by the fast-paced and convenient lifestyle of Tokyo. The teams continued on to Hiroshima and were deeply affected by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum. Student Radharani Singh commented, “Although the stain in history will never be wiped away, the results of both countries striving to



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restore their connection can be witnessed through many gestures.”

King Kekaulike High School 2022 Level A team, recipient of the Dr. Leineweber Award was the first and only group to travel to Japan in the spring from March 8-18, 2023. They had a busy 10 days traveling to Tokyo, Nagoya, Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Nara, and Osaka. A major highlight of the trip was their spontaneous bike riding at Uminonakamichi Seaside Park, where they made lasting memories. The next day, they paid a visit to the U.S. Consulate in Fukuoka, where they had the chance to talk with some government officials regarding ties between Japan and the U.S. They had an eye-opening experience at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum. Student Keona Long reflected on her first time traveling outside North America, “I always thought that everyone all around the world did things the same way as we do in America. Now that I have broken out of that bubble, I feel the need to travel all around the world to experience new things.”

Konawaena High School 2020 Level A team traveled from June 6-14, 2023, to Tokyo, Kanagawa, Osaka and Nagoya. After landing in Tokyo, they met up with their third team member who is currently



Konawaena team at Ghibli Park in Aichi.

studying in Japan and explored some spots in Kanagawa, including Enoshima, Kamakura, and Yokohama’s Chinatown and Ramen Museum. In Ginza, the team met with the chairman of Mi Cafeto, Mr. José Kawashima. There, they were able to try his company’s take on the Greenwell Farms Kona coffee. Since the team members used to work at Greenwell Farms in Kona, it felt extra special knowing that the local coffee made its way to Japan. Student Lacey Young commented on her experience, “To me, this shows that there are connections to Hawaii in so many different ways. Whether that be from Hawaii-influenced restaurants, relationships with sister schools, or imported coffee, Hawaii and Japan have various ways of influencing one another.”

Mililani High School 2020 Level B team, recipient of the Anonymous Donor Award, traveled from June 26-July 5, 2023. Due to their busy college schedules, only two members were able to attend their award trip. They spent most of their time in Tokyo, with day trips to Kamakura, Yokohama, and Kawagoe. While in Tokyo, the team members mentioned how different it felt being in the big city compared to their hometown in



Mililani 2020 team at Daibutsu in Kamakura.

Mililani. They also enjoyed exploring the Japanese countryside, especially in Kamakura and Kawagoe. They were able to view picturesque scenery

and feel the rich history in older towns. Student Mia Murasaki noticed how Japan adapts to cultural influences and commented, “Growing up in Hawaii’s melting pot, I always found it interesting to pick apart the different components that made up *local* culture. Doing so in Japan proved to be incredibly fascinating, especially looking at architecture.” This trip was a culturally significant experience for the team as they made many comparisons to their own culture while gaining a better understanding of Japan.

Mililani High School 2021 and 2022 Level A teams traveled together to Japan from June 3-14, 2023. The teams traveled to Osaka, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Nara, and Tokyo. After landing in Osaka, they quickly made their way to Hiroshima to tour the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum. Their visit left a lasting impression as they were given more insight on the effects of the atomic bomb. The teams then visited Mililani High School’s sister school in Japan, Fuchu High School where they interacted with local students and learned about school life in Japan. Student Kamryn Lapinid shared her thoughts after visiting Hiroshima, “Visiting Fuchu High School was a reminder that despite living in different countries, we are all human at the end of the day; we can have the same hobbies, we can share the same interests, and we can all laugh at the same joke.”

St. Joseph School 2022 Level B team traveled from May 31-June 11, 2023. Due to the team’s busy schedules, only one member was able to travel on their award trip. She was instead accompanied by two other friends from her school. They spent most of their time in Tokyo with a few days in Kansai. After arriving in Tokyo, they visited St. Joseph School’s sister school and experienced living with host families in Saitama. Student Zalia Olivera

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expressed her thoughts about the homestay, “I saw how different the foods in Japan are from here in Hawaii. The breakfast foods were especially surprising to me. The host family introduced me to *natto*...” Then, they traveled to Kyoto, Himeji, Nara, and Osaka.



St. Joseph team member with a friend at Kiyomizu-dera.

Waiakea High School 2022 Level B team, recipient of the Anonymous Donor Award, traveled from June 18-28, 2023, to Osaka, Kobe, Nara, Kyoto, and Tokyo. Student Tia Teramoto commented on public

transportation, “While in Japan, something that amazed me that could definitely be applied to Hawaii or even the United States is the rail system as it made it so convenient to travel all over Japan. Instead of just going to Tokyo and Osaka we were able to explore multiple prefectures, even traveling to three in one day.” A highlight of the trip was spending a night at a family friend’s *monjayaki* restaurant, interacting with the locals.

The long-awaited journeys of the JWC 2020-2022 winning teams to Japan this past year have deepened their understanding and appreciation of Japan and its culture. From the bustling streets of Tokyo to the serene temples of Kyoto, the experiences gained and memories created will forever hold a special place in their hearts. Japan has left a lasting mark on each team member, as they all reflected on how they can strengthen the relationship between the U.S. and Japan.

JASH would like to thank our overall

sponsor, Hawaiian Airlines, for coordinating and donating the winning teams’ air transportation, and our other major supporters – Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation; Friends of Hawaii Charities; Freeman Foundation; Halekulani Corporation; Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation; International Cultural and Friendship Association; JTB Hawaii; Kosasa Foundation; Shidler College of Business; Takuyo Corporation (dba Lighthouse); The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles; Temple University Japan; International Christian University; Ms. Jean Rolles, and our anonymous donor – for continuing to encourage Hawaii’s high school students to study about Japan, its fascinating culture, and the U.S.-Japan relationship.

Because of the generous support of our donors and supporters, these students were able to have life-changing experiences and immeasurable opportunities to learn about Japan firsthand.

2023 JWC Winners Travel to Japan



On February 25, 2023, 108 students representing 18 high schools from Oahu, Hawaii, and Maui participated in the 20th Annual Japan-America Society of Hawaii’s (JASH) Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition (JWC). Students were tested on their knowledge of various Japan-related topics such as art and culture, daily life and customs, economy, food, geography, history, politics and government, religion, U.S./Hawaii-Japan ties, and of course language.

The winning students and their advisors traveled to Japan this past summer to experience firsthand what they studied in their classrooms and independent research. Each team created their own itinerary, incorporating an educational

program visit that JASH arranged which was hosted by our colleagues in Japan.

Kalani High School Level A team visited Japan from May 31-June 9, 2023. The students spent a little over one-week exploring areas in Yamanashi and Tokyo. In Yamanashi, they visited the popular Fuji-Q Highland amusement park and multiple sites around Kawaguchiko near Mount Fuji. In Tokyo, the team enjoyed looking around Shinjuku, Shibuya, Harajuku, Ikebukuro, Asakusa, Ueno, and a memorable visit to the Ghibli Museum in Mitaka.

The team also had the privilege of spending one day with staff from the America-Japan Society of Tama Tokyo, including Mr. Ryuichiro Tanabe, President and Mr. Shoichi Suzuki, Executive Director. They

stopped by various spots at Mount Takao, including a monkey park and enjoyed a traditional Japanese meal at a restaurant called Ukai Toriyama. Student Xinyi He commented on their exchange, “By the conclusion of our lunch and dialogue, we had gained a profound comprehension of Japanese daily life and the ever-present bond between Japan and Hawaii.” The

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(L-R 1st Row): Mr. Ryuichiro Tanabe and Mr. Shoichi Suzuki with the Kalani team.

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team ended their journey on a magical note at Tokyo Disneyland.

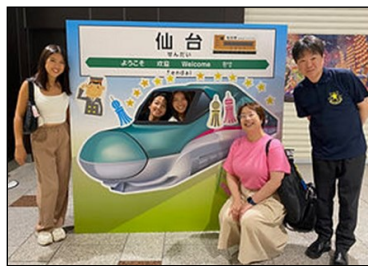
Iolani School Level A and B teams traveled together to Japan from July 24-August 1, 2023. The teams spent a week-long trip in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Yokohama. They started their trip off with their educational visit at Temple University, where they took a campus tour, learned about opportunities they offer, and met with a current student.



The teams then explored various areas in Tokyo including Shibuya and Akihabara. The next day, they boarded a *shinkansen* to Kyoto and enjoyed a delicious *kaiseki* meal at a traditional Japanese *ryokan*. After a restful night, the teams visited historical sites including Kiyomizu-dera, Nijo Castle, Kinkakuji, and Fushimi Inari Taisha. They then headed back to Tokyo with a day trip to Yokohama, where they visited the Cup Noodle Museum, Chinatown, and caught a glimpse of the Gundam Statue from afar. On their last full day, they stopped by Ikebukuro for shopping and had a fun time at the Trick Art Museum in Odaiba. Student James Ohta Pai reflected on his experiences, "From *gashapon* to green cars, temples to trains, and baths to endless streets, I've come to appreciate every facet of Japanese culture (especially those trains!)."

H.P. Baldwin High School Level B journeyed across Japan from July 10-24, 2023. They began their two-week journey by heading up to Sendai for their educational visit at

Sendai Ikuei Gakuen. The team experienced Japanese school life and interacted with some students at the school. Student Mina Suzuki commented on the exchange, "This experience taught me that bridging Japan and Hawaii cultures together is as easy as teaching someone a hand gesture." The school staff also took them to Aoba Castle Ruins and had a delicious *gyuutan* lunch at the station. The team then hopped on a



train to Hokkaido. There, they tried to catch the famous night view in Hakodate, though due to cloudy weather they unfortunately could not see much. Over the next few days, they traveled to Sapporo, Otaru, Biei, and Noboribetsu. From there, they headed down for a quick stop in Morioka, then took a long ride on the *shinkansen* to Kyoto. The next morning, they decided to take a day trip to Aichi to see Nagoya Castle and enjoy Ghibli Park. Back in Kyoto, the team visited Arashiyama Bamboo Forest and explored the traditional streets of Gion. They ended their journey back in Tokyo with visits to Ikebukuro, Shibuya, Harajuku, Asakusa, and Ginza.

Waiakea High School Level A team traveled from June 1-10, 2023. The team, along with their school's Japan Club, visited various prefectures including Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Tokyo. Starting their trip in Kyoto, the students visited various historical sites including Kinkakuji, Kiyomizu-dera, and Fushimi Inari Taisha. Then, they traveled to Hiroshima and met with students from Hiroshima University of Economics, who took them to experience making Hiroshima-style *okonomiyaki* and *momiji manju*, and

enjoyed a day on Miyajima Island. The group also visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum, and presented their 1,000 cranes at the Children's Peace Monument.



Student Ava Ignacio reflected on her time there, "My exposure to Hiroshima and its past made me rethink a lot of things, especially the relationship between Japan and the U.S. In order to preserve the peace and safety for our citizens, it's vital that we strengthen the ties between Japan and Hawaii, and work hard to have a good relationship with one another." The group made their way back to Tokyo, where they then traveled to Hachijojima Island to have a lovely exchange with students at Hachijo High School. Although the team planned to have a JASH-sponsored educational visit at International Christian University, they were unable to meet due to a sudden situation related to COVID-19. Nonetheless, the team expressed their gratitude for this opportunity and will never forget their valuable experiences.

Kapolei High School Level B team visited Japan from June 18-28, 2023. The 2023 team, along with a member from their 2021 team, recipient of the 2021 Dr. Leineweber Trip Award, spent most of their time around Tokyo and Yokohama. In Tokyo, they explored Shinjuku, Shibuya, Harajuku, Ueno, Akihabara, and Asakusa. They visited various landmarks, including the Imperial Palace, Tokyo Tower, Tokyo Skytree, and Ghibli Museum. In Yokohama, they tried some *dim sum* in

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Chinatown and picked strawberries at Yokohama Strawberry Park. The teams went on to have their educational visit at Temple University, proceeded with a campus tour, as well as meet some current students from Hawaii studying there. After an insightful experience, they headed to Ikejiri Inari Shrine to participate in Japanese cultural activities, which included wearing yukata and participating in a tea ceremony.



They continued on to visit teamLab Planets and Diver City Mall in Odaiba. Before returning home, they indulged in a delicious meal at a *kaiseki* restaurant. Student Aurora Blakely reflected on her travels, “This trip was so beneficial for me in so many ways, with all the foods I got to try, the places I got to visit, and all the Japanese language practice I got. With all these things, I got comfortable traveling on trains, navigating Tokyo, speaking with locals, and overall just being in Japan.”

JASH would like to thank our overall sponsor, Hawaiian Airlines, for coordinating and donating the four winning teams’ air transportation, and our other major supporters – Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation; Freeman Foundation; Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation; JTB Hawaii; Kosasa Foundation; The

Japan Foundation, Los Angeles; Temple University Japan; International Christian University; Ms. Jean Rolles, and our anonymous donor – for continuing to encourage Hawaii’s high school students to study about Japan, its fascinating culture, and the U.S.-Japan relationship. Because of the generous support of our donors and supporters, these students were able to have life-changing experiences and immeasurable opportunities to learn about the country firsthand. Student Aliyah Haili from Waiakea High School reflected on her valuable experiences, “The opportunity to connect with people my age from a different culture is something that I will never forget. Our sister-state relationship drives the connection between us. It gives us opportunities to better ourselves and make friendships with people we would have never imagined ourselves talking to.”

35th Annual Asian Pacific Children’s Convention in Fukuoka



This July, our four Junior Ambassadors (JAs) for the 35th Asian-Pacific Children’s Convention (APCC) traveled to Fukuoka with chaperone Sandy Takeda and Bridge Club Hawaii (BCH) President Betsy Wo to represent Hawaii at the ten-day international children’s camp and homestay.



The weekend before they departed Honolulu, our JAs and their families met at the JASH Office for their last preparatory workshop to review their final departure information. They shared ideas about omiyage and other packing essentials for their trip; tried on their beautiful aloha wear graciously sewed by Sandy; and presented their final report presentations. For the second half



of the workshop, they were joined by members of Bridge Club Hawaii who shared their reflections and suggestions as program alumni. Everyone was very excited for our Hawaii delegation to travel to Fukuoka again!

The group was in Fukuoka from July 14-24. During their trip, they met their peers from over 40 countries and regions throughout Asia and the Pacific at the Marine House global camp; represented Hawaii and the APCC program during a meeting with the Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture, Governor Seitaro Hattori; and experienced daily life during a week-long homestay with local volunteer

families. The JAs also performed oli *E Hō Mai* and hula *‘Ulupalakua* during the *We are the BRIDGE Festival 2023*, where each delegation performed a song or dance from their culture at the Solaria Plaza in Fukuoka.

Upon returning to Honolulu, our JAs met for the last time at our JASH Office to share all of their exciting experiences and to hear feedback from the families for how JASH can continue to improve the program. The group also was introduced to the alumni group Bridge Club Hawaii during a post-program potluck held at Kapiolani Park in early August.

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Peace Scholars Welcomed in Hiroshima

Our 2023 Hiroshima Peace Scholars, Yuuka Brown of Kalani High School and Reina Gammarino of Punahou School traveled to Hiroshima from July 30 to August 9 to learn about the history of World War II, learn from *hibakusha* atomic bomb survivors, and discuss current events and peacebuilding activities with their peers in Japan. The group was chaperoned by JASH Program Specialist Christianne Ono. Since this was the first year JASH has sent students to Hiroshima for this program, President Reyna Kaneko also joined the group.

The scholars and their families met at the JASH Office for their final preparatory workshop on July 15. They put the finishing touches on their many presentations and projects for the trip, including their 1,000 cranes for the Children's Peace Monument. To wrap up the workshop, they had a Zoom meeting to chat with their host families for the first time!



The group's first full day in Hiroshima kept them busy as they started their morning joining a group of students from Bowling Green State University at Hiroshima Jogakuin

University for a talk by *hibakusha* Mrs. Keiko Ogura. Prior to the trip, Yuuka and Reina watched some of Mrs. Ogura's recorded testimonies, and they truly appreciated the opportunity to meet and hear from her firsthand.

Then, the group started on a long field trip to trace the memory of Sadako Sasaki, a victim of the atomic bombing and symbol of world peace. After a quick break at Shukkeien Garden, the group walked to Sadako's school Noboricho Elementary School, where they met Mr. Okabe, a volunteer who manages

their peace reference room. They were very impressed by all of the stories and information Mr. Okabe had collected over the years that outlined the experiences of many families throughout that neighborhood. Next, the group visited Mrs. Tomiko Kawano, who was one of Sadako's best friends. Yuuka and Reina were honored to meet with someone who was personally friends with Sadako. To end their first day, they visited the Red Cross Hospital where Sadako was hospitalized. They toured the sample room, which displays organs and bones donated by *hibakusha* for the purpose of medical advancement.

Over the next couple of days, the scholars met with their peers from Hiroshima Nagisa Junior High School and High School who gave them a tour of the Peace Memorial Park; the museum; the A-bomb Dome; the cenotaph; and the Children's Peace Monument, where Yuuka and Reina delivered their *senbazuru* 1,000 cranes. The group also visited Nagisa's campus, where they met with members of their International Club and Chorus Club.



The itinerary also included time to volunteer at a non-profit welfare organization called Hagukumi-no-Sato, which provides support and job skills training for people with disabilities. As part of their activities, they sort and recycle cranes dedicated to the Children's Peace Monument and turn them into new origami paper. The group worked with everyone at Hagukumi-no-Sato to unfold and sort cranes, and also helped pack some of their completed origami paper. This visit

was one of the highlights for the trip for everyone. They truly enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to work with the Hiroshima community.



The day before the memorial ceremony, Yuuka and Reina met with 20 Japanese high school students for a

Peace Forum. During this forum, Yuuka and Reina shared about daily life in Hawaii and compared their schools to those in Japan. They also presented their research project, where they interviewed family or close family friends who have experienced the impacts of war.

Reina interviewed her grandparents on her American and on her Japanese sides of her family to compare and contrast their family's experiences during and following World War II. Despite their differences, all of her grandparents reached a similar conclusion: that as humans, we all need to respect and understand others to achieve world peace.

Yuuka interviewed close family friend and community leader, Reverend Irene Enshin Matsumoto. Through Rev. Matsumoto's story, Yuuka shared the history of World War II through the perspective of Hawaii's Japanese American community. Many of the anecdotes shared were new to the Japanese students, and they were curious to learn more about the *nikkei* experience. To wrap up the Peace Forum, Yuuka and Reina asked everyone to write down



what peace means to them on paper flowers to make a beautiful "peace lei."

The morning of August 6, the group gathered at the Hiroshima Memorial

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Park to attend the Peace Memorial Ceremony. In their reflections of this day, Yuuka and Reina expressed how powerful it was to be gathered with everyone at the exact timing of the atomic bomb. They were especially touched by the speech given by two local elementary school children. After the ceremony, our scholars met with elementary and junior high school students who were visiting Hiroshima as part of the Chigasaki Peace Train. They shared their reflections on what they had learned in Hiroshima, and compared and contrasted the way American and Japanese schools teach about the war.

To end the trip, the group learned about Hiroshima after the war, the history of nuclear policy, and impacts on global *hibakusha*. They met with Matthew Bateman of the World Friendship Center to learn how American activists supported Hiroshima. They also heard a lecture from Dr. Robert Jacobs of Hiroshima City University's Hiroshima Peace Institute, who taught the scholars about the history of nuclear policy and its effects on communities around the world. These meetings gave the group much to think about

as they reflected on the current state of nuclear policy, world peace, and what actions they could take in their daily lives to make an impact.

JASH extends a big THANK YOU to everyone who supported this year's program. Special thanks to the scholarship's Japanese counterpart, the Hawaii Heiwa Scholarship and its organizing committee: Nao Fukuoka; Momoka Narasaki; Mirei Tashiro; Masumi Takabayashi; Hisae Hiraki; Shinichiro Kurose; Akiko Furutani; and Katsukuni Tanaka.

The Hiroshima Peace Scholarship (HPS) (est. 2009) and the Hawaii Heiwa Scholarship (HHS) (est. 2020) were founded by Hiromi Peterson and Naomi Hirano-Omizo, retired Japanese language faculty of Punahou School, to encourage young peacebuilders and strengthen relationships between Hawaii and Hiroshima. The program is supported by the proceeds from their textbook series, *Adventures in Japanese*. JASH began managing HPS in 2021 but was unable to send scholars to Hiroshima until summer 2023. JASH is excited to receive the inaugural HHS scholars in late March 2024. To learn more about the Hiroshima Peace Scholarship, visit jashawaii.org/hps.

APCC in Fukuoka



All of the 2023 JAs
Photo courtesy of APCC.

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This year's return to Fukuoka was a huge success, filled with laughter and happy tears! JASH is honored to have served as the Liaison Office for the Hawaii delegation since 2003. If you wish to know more

about the APCC program, or if you'd like to receive information regarding the 2024 program, please visit the JASH website at jashawaii.org/apcc or contact Program Specialist Christianne Ono at cono@jashawaii.org.

Halekulani 5:01

5:01 On Thursday, September 7, 2023, JASH members were able to gather together thanks to the generous support of JASH GIN-level Corporate Member Halekulani Corporation. Mr. Shigeto Aoki, Senior Vice President, and his team at Halekulani welcomed over 60 JASH members who enjoyed delicious pupu and drinks.



(L-R) JASH Directors: Ms. Atsuko Igarashi, Ms. Barbara Tanabe and Ms. Sachi Braden.



(L-R): Consul General Yutaka Aoki, Ms. Shinobu Fukakusa, Mr. Alex Jampel and Ms. Reyna Kaneko.

At this exclusive event, JASH members expressed their thanks and well wishes to Consul General Yutaka Aoki and Mrs. Takako Aoki who were soon leaving Hawaii and heading back to Japan. JASH President Reyna Kaneko presented Consul General Aoki with a beautiful wooden bowl to express JASH's sincere gratitude for the work and support he provided while here in Hawaii.

MAHALO to Mr. Shigeto Aoki, and Mr. Peter Shaindlin, COO of Halekulani Corporation for their generous support and for hosting JASH corporate and lifetime members at this exclusive event.

