



# JASH Newsflash

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

Spring 2022

## 2022 JUMP Program



The Japan – U.S. Military Program (JUMP) is a program-series that was founded in April 2015. The program is a collaborative effort between the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA; the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C.; and the National Association of Japan-America Societies. The goal of the JUMP program is to connect present and past military-service members, families, and civilians who have served in Japan.

Receiving grant-funding for the JUMP program is competitive and any interested Japan-America Society offices must apply and compete for annual funding for the program. The Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) office has been very fortunate to have received funding for this program in June 2017, October 2018, June 2019, February 2021, and this year in February 2022.

There is no doubt that our successful track-record hosting the JUMP program, our close proximity to Japan, as well as our close ties to the country served as significant criteria used in the selection process. We were honored to receive funding for this prestigious program for the fifth-

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## President's Message

Spring 2022—What a difference a year makes! At long last, we find ourselves optimistically moving past the lockdowns and restrictions of the last two years and entering a phase in which we are managing and learning to live with COVID-19 and its variants.

In March, JASH successfully held its first hybrid event of 2022, Japan Currents, at the Cupola Gallery by Stage Restaurant—the beginning for more in-person JASH events to come! Just in the last few weeks, we have slowly resumed in-person meetings and held a small exclusive event for JASH NexGeners.

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## Japan Currents: Political and Economic Challenges in the U.S.-Japan Relationship

This year, on March 16, 2022, due to the lifting of the COVID mandates, JASH had the opportunity to host our Japan Currents program as an Online as well as In-Person Hybrid Lunch Event. Guests who attended the live event at the Cupola Gallery by Stage Restaurant were pleased to see their friends and colleagues in person after an extended time of sheltering. Guests enjoyed a delicious lunch prior to the start of the program.

The program began with welcome remarks by Reyna Kaneko, President of JASH. Following Ms. Kaneko's remarks was Mr. Peter Kelly, President of the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS), who gave opening remarks regarding the Japan Currents program and the work of the Japan Societies nationwide. Barbara Tanabe, Founder of Ho`akea Communications, LLC (a public-affairs company) and JASH Board



L-R: Joshua Walker, Mieko Nakabayashi, Peter Kelly, and Reyna Kaneko

Director again served as the Moderator for the event.

Dr. Joshua Walker, President & CEO of the Japan Society in New York opened by speaking about the topic on everyone's minds: The war in Ukraine and how it is affecting not only the U.S. and Japan, but the world. Dr. Walker commented on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's major address to U.S. Congress, in which President Zelensky related the attacks on his country to the attacks on Pearl Harbor.

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## 2022-2023 JASH Chair's Message



I am honored to have been selected as the chair of JASH, but also feel the huge responsibility to continue the great work JASH has been doing for over 45 years. Since 1976,

JASH has acted as a bridge to promote understanding and friendship between the people of Japan and the United States through the special and unique perspective of Hawaii.

I feel a strong personal bond with JASH having been a member for over 25 years, during which I met and worked with many wonderful people through JASH programs and events.

JASH has been a perfect fit for me as I have also been a bridge between Japan and the U.S. throughout my entire life: Born with Japanese and American DNA from my parents, raised in Japan in a bilingual and bicultural environment until going to

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## President's Message



L-R: Tasha Hayashi, Cassie Rodriguez, Reyna Kaneko, Jeremy Baba, and Kristian Lipumano

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Each time, I sensed feelings of joy, connection and inspiration from all those who attended these gatherings, and it made me very aware of how much we need and sorely missed face-to-face human connection. I am excited for all the things to come in 2022, including resumption of travel to our beloved Japan!

Let's all do our very best to keep moving forward and staying healthy. Ganbatte!

With Aloha,  
Reyna

## Chair's Message

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university in the U.S., and then moving back and forth between the U.S. and Japan as a lawyer representing U.S. and Japanese clients on projects in the U.S., Japan, and elsewhere.

What I believe to be most unique and special about JASH is the breadth of its programs and events, which reach all segments of our community including professionals, government, and military, with a particular emphasis on students—our future—from elementary through college students.

I am hoping that this will be the year we can resume in-person programs and events that were postponed or cancelled during the past two years, and look forward to working with all of you to build on the legacy of JASH.

Sincerely,  
Alexander Jampel  
Attorney at Law  
Jampel Law Firm LLLC

## Storygami with

## Moanalua High

## School Japanese Club

JASH, in collaboration with Moanalua High School Japanese Club, kicked off spring with a fun storytelling-origami session on Saturday, March 19, 2022. Over 20 attendees gathered virtually together for this interactive origami and storytelling program and folded onigiri rice balls out of origami paper while listening to the Japanese folktale "OMUSUBI KORORIN Rolling Rice Balls" read in both English and Japanese.

This was the second time JASH collaborated with Moanalua High School Japanese Club to present a community event for keiki. Japanese Club members met and practiced multiple times prior to the event and

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## Japan Currents



The audience at Cupola Gallery by Stage Restaurant.

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Dr. Walker spoke about how the current situation in Ukraine is reshaping geopolitics and challenging our free markets, and how Japan is following the West in its actions such as issuing sanctions against Russia. The remaining emphasis of his presentation centered around the importance of how now, more than ever, the U.S.-Japan alliance as well as

the rest of the transpacific alliances are critically important. Dr. Walker also discussed the importance of the State of Hawaii, given its geographical location bridging the contiguous U.S. and Japan, and how leaders here play a large role in strengthening the relationship between the two countries.

Dr. Mieko Nakabayashi, Professor at Waseda University and External/Independent Director of TOPPAN INC. opened with her personal experience during the earthquake that had just occurred in Japan the morning of our event. She also touched upon President Zelensky's address to Congress, before discussing how Japanese officials are considering how the U.S., Japan, as well as other countries can be united both domestically and internationally. Dr. Nakabayashi spoke about how Prime Minister Kishida is rethinking Japan's military posture moving forward, beefing up

cybersecurity as well as advancing cutting-edge technology.

The panel discussion concluded with a Q&A session with questions fielded from both the live and online audiences. Please visit the JASH YouTube channel to view this program in its entirety, as well as our other online programs: [Click here](#).

The Japan Currents program is a public affairs series that provides JASH the opportunity to feature guest speakers from both the U.S. and Japan to speak about relevant topics that support U.S.-Japan relations. We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the National Association of Japan-America Societies and the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C. for allowing JASH to share this program with our local, national, and international communities, both online and in person. MAHALO NUI LOA!

## Japan—U.S. Military Program (JUMP)

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time especially after 2021 when social-distancing guidelines mandated that the program be held virtually due to the pandemic.

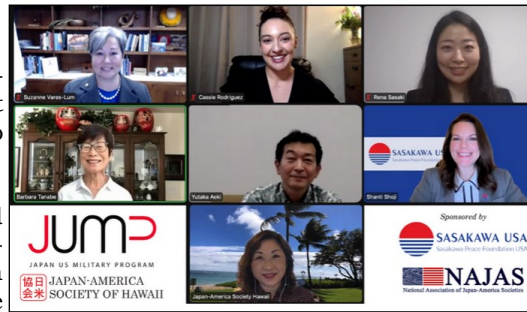
This year, the program again was held via Zoom due to continuing social-distancing guidelines that were still in place at the time. We hosted the program on February 22, 2022 with the intention of encouraging audience-participation. The theme of this year's program was: *The Critical Role of the U.S.-Japan Alliance in the Pacific*. To encourage the sharing of ideas, all comments were kept off-the-record to allow for deeper discussion on this important topic.

We were proud to feature an esteemed panel of speakers which included: Newly-retired Major General Suzanne Vares-Lum who is now serving as the President of the East-West Center; Ms. Rena Sasaki – a graduate student with the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University; and Ms. Casimira Rodriguez – a graduate student with the School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton as well as a current staff member at the State Department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs-Japan Desk.

Our well-versed Moderator was none other than Ms. Barbara Tanabe of Ho'akea Communications. Ms. Tanabe serves as a JASH Board Director and was one of the first Asian-American journalists in the nation winning an Emmy award in the process.

Introductory and overview-remarks were made by Ms. Shanti Shoji of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA and Consul General Yutaka Aoki of the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu welcomed attendees.

Approximately a third of the attendees were military service members or civilian government contractors who served in Japan. Additionally, a quarter of the attendees tuned in from the continental U.S., Canada, Japan, China, and the Philippines.



Top L-R: Suzanne Vares-Lum; Casimira Rodriguez; Rena Sasaki; Barbara Tanabe; CG Yutaka Aoki; Shanti Shoji; and Reyna Kaneko.

Ms. Vares-Lum opened the program with her story about her father who was an American soldier stationed in Japan and her mother who was of Japanese ancestry. She also shared how her life's work began and how it continues to focus on U.S.-Japan relationships. It has also more broadly centered around building people-to-people relationships throughout the Pacific.

From a security point of view, Ms. Vares-Lum spoke about the important work and the great strides that have continued to be made in strengthening the U.S.-Japan bilateral relationship. Currently in her new role as President of the East-West Center and looking from outside the traditional security vantage point, she asked, "Why does Japan matter to America and why America to Japan?"

Ms. Vares-Lum reviewed statistics in the following areas that illustrate the importance of this bilateral alliance: Trade; Jobs; Investments; Visitors; Sister-Partnerships; and Humanitarian Aid. She went on to add that most importantly in working with Japan is the shared Commitment to Democracy, Rule of Law, Open-Society, Human Rights and Open Market. The common theme throughout her presentation was the critical importance of people-to-people and country-to-country relationships.

Ms. Casimira Rodriguez's field of study focuses around the U.S.-Japan Alliance, Alliance Management, and

Security Policy. She divided her presentation into two areas: An Overview of the Indo-Pacific Strategy and the Changing Regional Dynamics in East Asia. Ms. Rodriguez pointed out that she felt that the U.S.-Japan Alliance has never been stronger. However, she believes there is still much more potential for cooperation and partnership.

Ms. Rena Sasaki's presentation focused on two issues: Economic Security and Coordinated Responses by the U.S. and Japan from the Taiwan Strait contingency. On the topic of Economic Security, Ms. Sasaki stressed the importance of the U.S. and Japan's partnership. She commented about the positive steps between President Biden and Prime Minister Kishida who recently established the Economic "2+2" Dialog to track and drive economic cooperation and order in the Indo-Pacific region and the world.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C., and the National Association of Japan-America Societies for allowing JASH to share this program with our local and international community. MAHALO NUI LOA!



### JASH Newsflash

JASH was founded in 1976 to promote understanding and friendship between the people of Japan and the United States through the special and unique perspective of Hawaii.

The *JASH Newsflash* newsletter is published quarterly. Visit our website at [www.jashawaii.org](http://www.jashawaii.org) for more information.

# Taste of JASH Nomu Edition

VIRTUAL TOURS & TASTINGS FEAT. LOCAL DISTILLERS



On January 13, 2022, our first program of the new year was the third installment in our Taste of JASH: Nomu Edition virtual pau hana series, this time featuring Yuki Uzuhashi, owner of Mānoa Honey & Mead in Wahiawa. This program was moderated by JASH NexGen-er Gina Maeda.

Joining us live from his Honey House & Meadery in Wahiawa, Yuki shared all about his own beekeeping journey, and how he and his team manage multiple hives in various locations around Oahu. Yuki was a fantastic teacher as he responded to our audience's curiosity about the ins and outs of bees and honey, illustrating his talk with photos of apiaries collected from his travels around the world.

For the virtual tasting, Yuki and Gina discussed the differences in notes between Mānoa Mead's various flavors

like their Hawaiian Fruit Punch (recommended for fans of rosé) and their Pineapple Sour (good for fans of drier wines). Although mead can often be syrupy and honey-forward, Yuki shared how he has adapted his mead to be light, sparkling, and fruity so as to better match our warm island weather.

If you missed the program, you may watch the recording on our JASH YouTube by [clicking HERE](#). To learn more about Mānoa Honey & Mead, order their products, or book a tasting at their Wahiawa Honey House & Meadery, visit [manoahoney.com](http://manoahoney.com).



## Kicking Off the JASH 2022

### Asian-Pacific Children's Convention Program

JASH is excited to begin our search for this year's Junior Ambassadors (JAs) for the 34th Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC)! Due to the



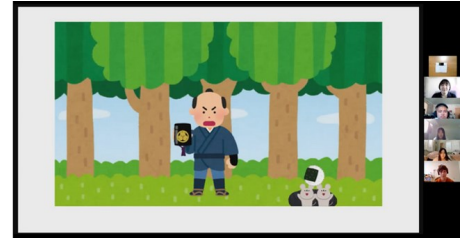
ongoing pandemic, the APCC has decided to hold this year's global exchange virtually via Zoom. Although the delegations will not be able to meet in-person this year, the APCC continues to be an invaluable opportunity for youth to build bridges between the U.S., Japan, and dozens of regions throughout the Pacific.

On April 9, 2022, JASH will interview and select four JAs ages 10-11 to represent Hawaii and the United States in the 34th APCC. This year's JAs will need to excel in individual

interviews and group activities, and be comfortable expressing themselves in-person as well as via Zoom. Our delegation will be chaperoned by David Hayashida, JASH NexGen Advisory Committee Secretary, who assisted with last year's hybrid APCC program. We are grateful to have his support again for this year's group.

The 2022 JASH APCC hybrid program will combine in-person cultural and leadership JASH Workshops with the APCC's virtual exchanges. From April through July, JAs will attend our bi-monthly in-person JASH Workshops, including a three-day trip to the 'Akahiao Nature Institute in Kona, where they will explore Japanese and Hawaiian culture, develop teamwork and communication skills, and grow as global citizens. Then, in July through August, JAs will engage in

## Storygami



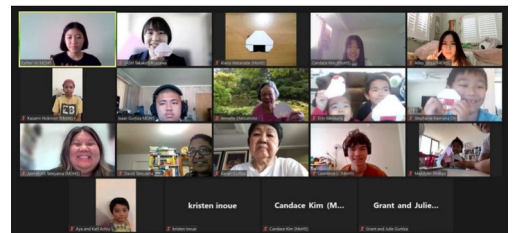
### Question 3 – もんだい3

What was in the bag the mice gave to the Old Man?  
ねずみがおじいさんにあげた ふくろの中には何が入っていましたか?

- 1) Mochi and Gold Coins おもちと きんか
- 2) Mochi and Rocks おもちと いし
- 3) Mochi and Sticks おもちと ぼう
- 4) Mochi and Rice Balls おもちとおむすび

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successfully led the Zoom session. They created the visuals, moderated the meeting, read the story in English and Japanese, did the translations between English and Japanese, and demonstrated the folding process step-by-step.



JASH would like to express a big MAHALO to the members of the Moanalua High School Japanese Club and the club advisor, Ms. Jaimelynn Tateyama for planning and providing a fun and educational opportunity for our members and children.

several virtual global exchanges with over 100 of their peers from over 30 regions throughout Asia and the Pacific, hosted by the APCC Head Office in Fukuoka, Japan.

Mahalo to all of our applicants and supporters for our JASH APCC program! For more information about the program or to join our APCC listserv, contact JASH Program Coordinator Christianne Ono at [cono@jashawaii.org](mailto:cono@jashawaii.org).

## Congratulations to Our 2022 Japan Wizards Competition Winning Teams!

Congratulations to the 72 students who represented 15 high schools from Oahu, Hawaii and Maui at the 19th Annual JASH Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition (JWC)! Teams were comprised of three students each, with a total of 24 teams competing.

The student-teams were tested on their knowledge of various Japan-related topics such as art, culture and tradition, food, geography, history, Japan-U.S./Hawaii ties, literature, politics and government, sports, contemporary Japan, and of course language. Students were divided into two levels: Level A or Level B, depending on their current Japanese language level. Level A students were enrolled in Japanese I or II, and Level B students were enrolled in Japanese III or IV.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the JWC was held virtually again with two rounds taking place on separate days. The Preliminary Round took place between February 18 and 20, 2022 through an online quiz that each team member individually took. Individual test scores were combined towards the total team score to determine the teams that would advance to the Final Round of competition held virtually via Zoom on Saturday, February 26, 2022.

Each year, JASH awards trips to Japan to the top scoring public and private school teams in each level. We are pleased to announce the JWC Japan trip winners:



**Mililani High School Level A**, top scoring public school for Level A



**St. Joseph High School Level B**, top scoring private school for Level B



**King Kekaulike High School Level B**, top scoring public school for Level B



**Hawaii Baptist Academy Level A**, top scoring private school for Level A, winner of the Tateuchi Memorial Award and International Christian University Special Award



In addition, **Waiakea High School Level B** team was awarded a trip to

Japan donated by a retired public school teacher, who chooses to remain anonymous. The donor expressed how her former students benefited from the JASH Japan Wizards Competition and requested that a second public school from Level B travel to Japan.

Finally, JASH Board member and Youth Education Committee Chair Jean E. Rolles sponsored a sixth award for a trip to Japan in honor of her friend and fellow JASH Board member, Dr. Michael Leineweber, who passed away in 2014. Dr. Leineweber was a loyal supporter of JASH who strongly believed in the educational programs that JASH conducts, especially those programs that encouraged exchanges between people from Japan and Hawaii.

In his memory, Ms. Rolles sponsored a team chosen through a random drawing during the JWC awards ceremony. To qualify for this drawing, the team must have been in the top 10 scoring teams during the Preliminary Round of competition. The five teams who had already won Japan trips were not eligible for this drawing. The top 10 teams who qualified for this drawing were (in descending order by score): Hilo High School Level B, King Kekaulike High School Level A, Waiakea High School Level A, Hilo High School Level A, Hanalani Schools Level A, Moanalua High School Level B, Waipahu High

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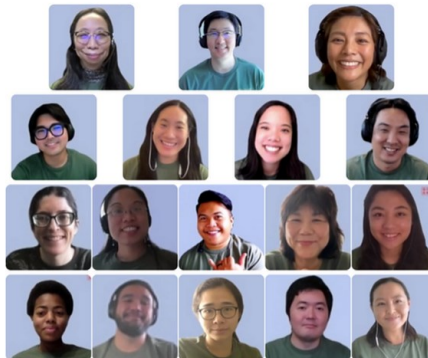
The winner of the Dr. Michael Leineweber Award was: **King Kekaulike High School Level A**

## Congratulations to JWC Winners! Mahalo to JWC Volunteers!

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These six teams of three students and their advisors will travel to Japan when, of course, it is safe to do so to experience firsthand what they studied in the classroom and through independent research.

Thank you to our title sponsor Hawaiian Airlines and other major supporters – ABC Stores; Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation; Freeman Foundation; Halekulani Corporation; Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation; International Christian University; The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles; Jean E. Rolles; License



Academy; Temple University Japan Campus; and our anonymous donor – who through the JWC encourage high school students to study about Japan and the many fascinating topics associated with it.

Also, a HUGE Mahalo to the Competition Panel volunteers who helped the JWC run smoothly and also volunteered their Saturday a few weeks ago for a training session.

Volunteers were from organizations that included the Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association of Hawaii, University of Hawaii at Manoa, University of Hawaii West Oahu, and Kapiolani Community College, just to name a few. A couple of volunteers joined virtually all the way from Japan to help with the competition. Without their tremendous support, the JWC would not have been possible.

## Ehime-Hawaii Online Exchange Program

Following the Ehime Maru tragedy in 2001, the State of Hawaii and Ehime Prefecture established a sister state/prefecture relationship in 2003 to foster friendship and understanding between the two communities.

Since 2013, the Ehime Prefectural International Center (EPIC) has organized the Ehime-Hawaii High School Exchange Program that annually sends students from Ehime to Hawaii. In lieu of this in-person exchange program, which is currently on hold due to the ongoing pandemic, the JASH collaborated with EPIC to host the following online exchange meetings via Zoom between local high schools and high schools in Ehime from October 2021 through February 2022:

- October 19, 26 and November 16, 2021: Uwajima Minami High School – Punahou School
- October 25, 2021: Iyo High School – Moanalua High School
- November 4, 2021: Kawano High School – Waipahu High School
- November 13, 2021 and February 5, 2022: Matsuyama Higashi High School – Mid-Pacific Institute
- November 16, 2021: Niihama Higashi High School – St. Louis School

- January 10, 2022: Matsuyama Minami High School – Moanalua High School
- January 24, 2022: Uwajima Fisheries High School – Moanalua High School
- February 15, 2022: Uwa High School – Nanakuli High and Intermediate School
- February 17, 2022: Niihama Kogyo High School – King Kekaulike High School

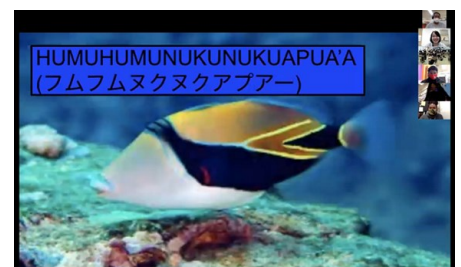
During the online meetings, Hawaii and Ehime students got a chance to share their cultures and traditions as well as their school life and activities with each other. For example, students from Uwajima Fisheries High School's food science course introduced their unique school activities such as tuna cutting shows and seafood processing, which was a great surprise to the students from Hawaii who do not have vocational courses at their school.

Uwajima Minami High School students made a special presentation about their extracurricular club activities including *koto* (traditional musical instruments shown above right), *kendo* and *kyudo* (archery).

In exchange, Hawaii students from Nanakuli High and Intermediate



School introduced their town and school and taught Hawaiian culture and language like the state fish, humuhumunukunukuāpua'a.



Moanalua High School students also shared about family traditions and customs in Hawaii, where many cultures merged to form unique local cultures.

JASH would like to express a big MAHALO to EPIC staff, especially Ms. Noriko Omori, for coordinating this exchange with the Ehime schools. We also thank all the students and teachers in Ehime and Hawaii for participating in this online exchange program.

## Ehime Maru Memorial Ceremony

On Wednesday, February 9, 2022, the Ehime Maru Memorial Association (EMMA) held a remembrance ceremony for the 21st anniversary of the sinking of the Uwajima Fisheries High School training ship Ehime Maru at the Ehime Maru Memorial in Kaka'ako Waterfront Park. The Ehime Maru suffered the loss of nine lives, including four students, two teachers, and three crew members after it was unexpectedly struck by the USS Greenville submarine.



Unfortunately, due to travel restrictions posed by the ongoing pandemic, most of the bereaved families and officials from Ehime Prefecture and Uwajima City were unable to join this year's ceremony. Yet, three family members who lost their loved one traveled from Japan to Honolulu to attend this ceremony.

Consul General Yutaka Aoki, Governor David Ige, and Mayor Rick Blangiardi along with over 40 members of the community also attended the ceremony to pay tribute to the nine souls who were lost in the tragic accident 21 years ago.

While offering their condolences to those who were lost and their families, Consul General Aoki, Governor Ige and Mayor Blangiardi assured all that the Ehime-Hawaii relationship that has developed after this tragedy remains strong and vibrant even during the pandemic through grassroots endeavors and online exchanges. Messages of remembrance from Governor Tokihiro Nakamura of Ehime Prefecture and Mayor Fumiaki Okahara of Uwajima City were also

read, and wreaths and lei were offered in memory of the nine who were lost in the tragedy on behalf of the bereaved family members and Ehime Prefecture/Uwajima City officials.

In his message as the representative of the bereaved families, Mr. Tatsuyoshi Mizuguchi expressed heartfelt gratitude to the people of Hawaii who have continued to take care of the memorial and keep the memory of the nine souls alive.

JASH serves at the administrator of the Ehime Maru Memorial Association and works to preserve the memory of the lives lost in this tragic accident and to maintain the memorial in perpetuity.



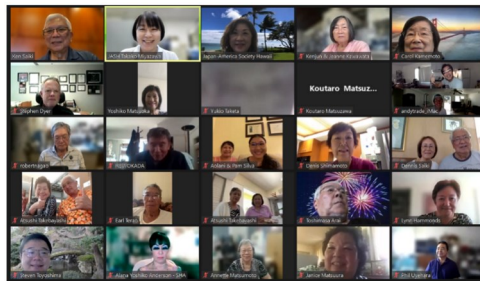
Consul General Yutaka Aoki offers words of remembrance.



Mr. Kazuo Nakata and Ms. Kaori Nakata offer lei in remembrance of Mr. Jun Nakata.

## Ehime Maru Memorial Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

On Thursday, March 24, 2022, the Ehime Maru Memorial Association (EMMA) hosted a special luncheon via Zoom celebrating the efforts of our dedicated volunteers from local Japanese American community groups who have donated numerous hours of service to clean and maintain the Ehime Maru Memorial in Kaka'ako Waterfront Park.



This year marked the 20th anniversary of the unveiling of the memorial in 2002, a year after the sinking of the Uwajima Fisheries High School training ship Ehime Maru which suffered the loss of nine lives, including four students, two teachers and three crew members.

During the virtual luncheon, a slideshow of this year's memorial ceremony; recordings of Ehime-Hawaii

online exchanges coordinated by the Ehime Prefectural International Center (EPIC) and Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH); and video messages of appreciation from Mayor Okahara of Uwajima City and Uwajima Fisheries High School were shared with our volunteers. For lunch, volunteers picked up a special bento from Kokoro-Tei via drive-through pick-up at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii earlier in the morning.

EMMA President, Reyna Kaneko, expressed sincere gratitude to the volunteers from many organizations in Hawaii who have cleaned the Ehime Maru Memorial every Saturday since its unveiling. Mr. Ken Saiki, EMMA Director, who coordinates the volunteer groups for weekly maintenance and cleaning, also thanked the volunteers for their tremendous contributions throughout the years and gave special recognition to the following organizations for their continuous service over the past 20 years: Hawaii Fukuoka Kenjin Kai; Hawaii Meijikai; Hawaii United Okinawa Association; Honolulu Fukushima Kenjin Kai; Honolulu Hiroshima Heritage Study Group; Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjin Kai;

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## EMMA Luncheon

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Honolulu Takata Gunjinkai; Honolulu Yamaguchi Kenjinkai; Wahiawa Nikkei Civic Association; and Wahiawa-Waiialua Hiroshima Kenjin Kai. In addition, special acknowledgement went to Hawaii Ehime Kenjinkai for their dedicated participation in the memorial cleaning and maintenance of the mikan tree every month.

The Ehime Maru Memorial Association would again like to thank all of the volunteers who continue to support and care for the memorial and in turn, the bereaved families. JASH serves as the administrator of the Ehime Maru Memorial Association and works to preserve the memory of the lives lost in this tragic accident and to maintain the memorial in perpetuity.

## Welcome New Corporate Members

### Gin (Silver) Level



PURE Insurance is a member of the Tokio Marine Group and is a member-owned property and casualty insurer for financially successful families. By focusing entirely on this market, PURE Insurance can offer more generous coverage and fair pricing and is seeing a significant growth in the country.

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### Momo (Peach) Level



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Learn more [HERE](#)

## NexGen Movers & Shakers-Let's Talk Series with Steve Sombrero

On March 30, 2022, JASH and Aloha Beer Co. co-hosted the fourth installation of the JASH NexGen Movers & Shakers Talk-Story Series which began in 2019. The NexGen is JASH's group of next generation leaders comprised of young professionals under the age of 50 years old.

These exclusive NexGen Movers & Shakers programs are by invitation-only and are designed to be small group discussions regarding leadership and the path to get there for the NexGen in Hawaii.

This program featured former JASH Board Chair Steve Sombrero, who is the owner and founder of [Cushman & Wakefield I ChaneyBrooks](#) and [Aloha Beer Co.](#), the latter of which is soon to be opening its third location in Waikiki.

Mr. Sombrero opened the evening's conversation by sharing his background. He was born in Okinawa and lived in California before coming to Hawaii. While in California, he met his wife Takako, who is originally from Japan. This was the beginning of Mr. Sombrero's life-long journey of connecting the U.S. and Japan in both his personal and professional life.

Mr. Sombrero spoke fondly about his Okinawan grandmother, who instilled many of the values he shares and lives by today. He spoke about his diverse entrepreneurial endeavors, his struggles, as well as the hard work he invested to get to where he is today.

The term Mr. Sombrero emphasized and shared with the NexGen group was **"Relentless Pursuit"** – never give up! Sometimes it takes three, four, or even five attempts to finally succeed at something you believe in. It's the journey that counts, not the destination.

After Mr. Sombrero's talk-story, the group enjoyed delicious food and drinks and re-connected with one another after a long time of COVID-19 restrictions. To learn more about the NexGen and how to get involved, please contact Lila Frisbie at [lfrisbie@jashawaii.org](mailto:lfrisbie@jashawaii.org).

We would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to Steve Sombrero for sharing his personal story with the group and for graciously opening the Aloha Beer Co.'s HI BRAU Room for this special intimate program. MAHALO NUI LOA!



L-R: Steve Sombrero, David Hayashida, Blair Suzuki, David Watanabe, Monchalee Ota, and Gina Maeda



L-R: Jessica Ogasawara, Shari Nishijima, Michael De Guzman, Taylor Date, Jenna Nakagawa, and Delle Tanioka