



JASH Newsflash

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

Spring 2023

JASH New Year's Reception at Washington Place

On January 25, 2023, Governor Josh Green and Mrs. Jaime Green graciously opened Washington Place to the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) for our annual New Year's Reception celebration.



The evening began with a thunderous performance by Chinagu Eisa Hawaii as they performed contemporary Okinawan eisa drumming. Chinagu Eisa Hawaii's mission is to promote and perpetuate the Okinawan Culture to younger generations and the local community.

To kick off the "Year of the Rabbit", JASH President Ms. Reyna Kaneko along with Governor Josh Green, Consul General Yutaka Aoki, Admiral John Aquilino, JASH Board Chair Alex Jampel, Mayor Rick Blangiardi and Ms. Linda Rodrigues of Hilton Grand Vacations, Presenting Sponsor of the reception participated in a traditional *Kagami Wari ceremony* to ring in the New Year.



(L-R) Ms. Kaneko, Governor Green, Consul General Aoki, Admiral Aquilino, and JASH Chair Jampel.

We were honored to welcome Ms. Madison Mattoon and Ms. Jenelle Wong, cast members from Ohana Arts production, *Peace On Your Wings*. *Peace On Your Wings* began its Tri-City Tour beginning here on Oahu, then moved to Los Angeles and final performances in



(L-R) Ms. Lynnette Dinell, JASH Director Mr. Daniel Dinell, Ms. Amber Nishimura and Mr. Roy Nishimura.

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President's Message

Aloha JASH Ohana,

This issue of our JASH Newsflash is so jammed packed full of the many facets of JASH—programs around education, culture, world affairs and membership networking.

I hope you enjoy reading about all we do together as much as I did. The key is what we have and continue to do TOGETHER, our JASH community, working tirelessly toward our mission of being the bridge of friendship and understanding between Japan and Hawaii.

At our many events, what I enjoy the most is seeing all of you and talking about our shared experiences, our joyful trips to Japan, and what we hope to do together in the near future.

Doomo Arigato Gozaimasu for your continued support and dedication to our Japan-America Society of Hawaii! Looking forward to seeing you at our next JASH event!

With Aloha,
Reyna

Ehime Maru Memorial Ceremony

On Thursday, February 9, 2023, the Ehime Maru Memorial Association (EMMA) held a remembrance ceremony for the 22nd Anniversary of the tragic 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.

While none of the bereaved families and officials from Ehime Prefecture and Uwajima City were able to



attend this year's ceremony due to the pandemic, representatives from the Uwajima Lions Club and the Uwajima City Hospital who were in Honolulu to participate in exchange programs with the Manoa Lions Club and the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine respectively joined

the ceremony. Consul General Yutaka Aoki, Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke, and Mayor Rick Blangiardi along with over 50 members of the community also attended the ceremony to pay tribute to the nine souls who were lost in the tragic accident 22 years ago.

The ceremony was not only a reminder of the tragedy, but also the deep ties between two nations made stronger after the tragedy. "The tragedy of Ehime Maru is a sorrowful and important part of our history that we must not forget," said Lieutenant Governor Luke. "Guided

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JASH New Year's Reception

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Hiroshima, Japan. Guests enjoyed delicious dishes prepared by ALOHA TABLE, ALOHA STEAK HOUSE, Goofy café & dine, HEAVENLY Island Lifestyle, ZIGU, CAMADO RAMEN TAVERN, The Seaside and natuRe waikiki. All eight restaurants are part of Zetton, Inc. who recently became a new JASH corporate member.

In addition, we were excited to introduce Tanaka 1789 X Chartier, the first hand-crafted sake blended by renowned sommelier Francois Chartier and produced by the respected Tanaka

Shuzo brewery in Fushimi, Kyoto, Japan to our guests.

Our sincerest gratitude to our members, partners and guests who helped make our New Year's Reception a success!

Mahalo to our Presenting Sponsor:



Mayor Blangiardi, Governor Green, Admiral Aquilino, Ms. Kaneko and the JASH Officers & Board Directors.

2023 EMMA Ceremony

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Lieutenant Governor Luke offers words of remembrance.

by patience, integrity, and Aloha – the United States and Japan emerged from this tragedy by forging a stronger, more resilient bond,” Luke added.

Messages of remembrance from Governor Tokihiro Nakamura of Ehime Prefecture and Mayor Fumiaki Okahara of Uwajima City were also read. 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 community volunteers including students from Saint Louis School who have continued to take care of the memorial and keep the memory of the nine souls alive. “It is a day when we remember the pain we went through, but it is also a day when we recognize again the kindness of those who have supported us through the years.”

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.



Dr. Glenn Medeiros, President, and Mr. Tim Los Banos, Vice Principal of Saint Louis School offer flowers of remembrance.

Scholars Selected for Hiroshima Peace Program

JASH is pleased to announce the selection of two Oahu high school juniors to receive our 2023 Hiroshima Peace Scholarship (HPS), funded by the Adventures in Japanese Peace Fund by Ms. Hiromi Peterson and Ms. Naomi Hirano-Omizo. Through a competitive selection process, one junior representing a public school and one representing a private school were selected for this scholarship.

Our 2023 scholars are: Ms. Reina Gammarino from Punahou School and Ms. Yuuka Brown, from Kalani High School. They will be accompanied by chaperone and JASH Program Specialist Ms. Christianne Ono.

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(L-R) Ms. Yuuka Brown and Ms. Reina Gammarino.

Scholars Selected for Hiroshima Peace Scholarship

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The HPS program provides high school juniors residing on Oahu an opportunity to study peace-related resources in their community and to participate in an educational trip to Hiroshima, Japan, where they will explore the history and effects of World War II, engage in collaborative activities with students in Hiroshima, and share their peace messages in Hiroshima and Hawaii.

This scholarship program includes a 10-day trip to Hiroshima where students will visit the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, participate in events commemorating the August 6, 1945 bombing of Hiroshima, present their research projects at a Peace Forum for high school students, and experience homestays with host families and exchanges with Japanese students. Scholars will be received in Hiroshima by the Hawaii Heiwa Scholarship Committee, who are coordinating an inaugural program for Hiroshima students to be received in Hawaii in Spring 2024.

As part of their preparations for their summer study trip, our scholars and their friends and family volunteered with the Sadako Peace Projects at Pearl Harbor National Memorial, coordinated by JASH and Pacific Historic Parks. They taught visitors the story of Sadako Sasaki and her

message of peace and reconciliation through the sharing of *orizuru* 'peace cranes'.

Visitors learned to fold their own cranes and also received cranes donated by students in Japan to further spread Sadako's wish for peace with their friends and family at home. Other Peacebuilders from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Matsunaga Institute; University of Hawai'i West Oahu; Hawaii Baptist Academy; and Farrington High School also joined in that day.

The Hiroshima Peace Scholarship was founded in 2009 by Ms. Hiromi Peterson and Ms. Naomi Hirano-Omizo, retired Japanese language faculty of Punahou School and co-authors of the "Adventures in Japanese" language textbook series, to encourage young PEACEBUILDERS and strengthen relationships between Hawaii and Hiroshima. JASH took over administration of the program in 2021.

If you have a potential scholar or chaperone interested in learning more about the HPS program, please visit the JASH website at <https://www.jashawaii.org/hps>. You may also contact Program Specialist Ms. Christianne Ono at cono@jashawaii.org.

Rose Garden at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

For those of you who have visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan, did you notice roses growing there? They are located in a small rose garden of probably about 100 roses next to the Children's Peace Monument.



The monument was created to commemorate Sadako Sasaki and the thousands of other children who died in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and its aftermath. An inscription for the monument reads, "This is our cry. This is our prayer. For building peace in this world."

Very little information was found regarding the **Rose Garden at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park** but it was determined that the roses were received from multiple sources over the years. Relationships that were established because of the bombing, garnered gifts of roses from

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Youth Artists Spread Peace at Sadako Peace Projects

On March 25, 2023, JASH, in collaboration with Pacific Historic Parks, welcomed the cast of Ohana Arts' *Peace On Your Wings* as volunteers for our Sadako Peace Projects at Pearl Harbor National Memorial. *Peace On Your Wings* is inspired by the real-life story of Sadako Sasaki and her one-thousand paper cranes, sharing her message of courage, love, and peace.

The young artists, composed of talent from 6th-11th grade, spread the story of Sadako Sasaki and her

message of peace and reconciliation by sharing *orizuru* 'peace cranes' with park visitors. They shared Sadako's story and powerful message and taught visitors how to fold their own peace crane.



Visitors were also encouraged to take home cranes donated by students in Japan to further spread the importance of peace with their friends and families at home.

The cast also paid their respects at the USS Arizona Memorial and deepened their understanding of the events of Pearl Harbor.

To wrap up the morning, the cast performed songs from *Peace On Your Wings* in front of the USS Arizona Bell.

Mahalo to the *Peace On Your Wings* cast, Ohana Arts Co-Founders Ms. Jenny Taira and Ms. Laurie Rubin,

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20th Annual Japan Wizards Competition



Congratulations to the 108 students who represented 18 high schools from Oahu, Hawai'i and Maui at the 20th Annual JASH Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition (JWC) on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at UH Mānoa Campus Center!



Teams were comprised of three students each with a total of 36 teams competing. The student-teams 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 theme for the 2023 competition was *Sister State/City Relationships between Hawaii and Japan*.

Students were divided into two levels: Level A or Level B, depending on their current Japanese language level. Level A students are enrolled in Japanese I or II, and Level B students are enrolled in Japanese III or IV.

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE OVERALL FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD PLACE WINNERS BY LEVEL:

Level A

1st place, Tateuchi Memorial Award and ICU Special Award winner (For highest number of points in the overall competition):

‘Iolani School
2nd place: Punahou School
3rd place: Waiakea High School

‘Iolani School Level A and B Teams, winner of the Tateuchi Memorial Award and ICU (International Christian University) Special Award.

Level B

1st place, Tateuchi Memorial Award and ICU Special Award winner (For highest number of points in the overall competition):

‘Iolani School
2nd place: H.P Baldwin High School
3rd place: Mililani High School

Each year, JASH awards trips to Japan to the top scoring public and private school teams in each level. Please note, the school whose team won a trip to Japan through competition scores in 2022 JWC is not eligible to win a trip this year via competition scores. We are pleased to announce the JWC Japan trip winners as follows:

Level A: **‘Iolani School** (private) and **Kalani High School** (public)

Level B: **‘Iolani School** (private) and **H.P Baldwin High School** (public)

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Rose Garden at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

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the German Rose Society, former West German Government, and Czech Republic to name a few. Mr. Jan Letzel, was a Czech architect who designed the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall. The now infamous remnants of that dome-shaped building still remain today as a reminder of the atomic bombing in 1945.



While not a cheerful rose garden one normally would seek out to visit, the **Rose Garden at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park** serves an important purpose. It symbolizes tranquility and peace and is a welcome sight when compared to all of the somber

Sadako Peace Projects



The cast members in front of the Sadako museum exhibit.

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and their friends and families who supported this volunteer project. To learn more about *Peace On Your Wings*, including their upcoming tour dates in Hiroshima, please visit <https://www.peaceonyourwings.com/>.

The Sadako Peace Projects were co-founded by retired Punahou Japanese language faculty Ms. Hiromi Peterson and Ms. Naomi Hirano-Omizo. JASH took over coordination of the projects in 2021.

The projects are held monthly during the academic year. If you or your youth organization are interested in volunteering, please visit <https://www.jashawaii.org/sadako-projects> or contact JASH Program Specialist Ms. Christianne Ono at cono@jashawaii.org.



monuments and statues that sit in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. When viewing the beautiful roses, one not only reflects on the painful past but we are able to look to the future as we come to the realization that we can never let this happen again.

20th Annual Japan Wizards Competition

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Kalani High School
Level A Team



H.P Baldwin High School
Level B Team

In addition, JASH Board Director and Youth Education Committee Chair, Jean E. Rolles sponsored a fifth award for a trip to Japan in honor of her friend and fellow JASH Board Director, 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 scored at least 120 points and be in the top 20 scoring teams at the competition. The four teams who had already won Japan trips were not eligible for this drawing.

The winner of the **Dr. Michael Leineweber award** was: **Waiakea High School, Level A.**



Kapolei High School, Level B was also 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.

These six teams of three students and their advisors will travel to Japan to experience firsthand what they studied in the classroom and through independent research.

This year, students were also invited to create a video that illustrates how youth leaders can get engaged in developing or maintaining strong and meaningful sister state/city relationships between Hawaii and Japan. JASH received a total of 25 video entries, and 14 of those were selected as "finalists." Of these final 14, four were given top awards in the following categories:

Most Representative of the Theme/Topic: Waiakea High School Level A

<https://youtu.be/sUwB3OLHGWo>

Most Inspirational: H.P. Baldwin High School Level B

https://youtu.be/0t_S8erCZnk

Most Educational: Leilehua High School Level A

https://youtu.be/Fa_hPsRRnY0

Best Produced: Waipahu High School Level B

<https://youtu.be/d1KY1c54PL8>

Between competition rounds, students were kept busy with numerous activity stations in the Activity Center. These included hanafuda by Hanafuda Hawaii, Pictionary, the chopsticks game, ohajiki, kendama, origami and other fun activities.

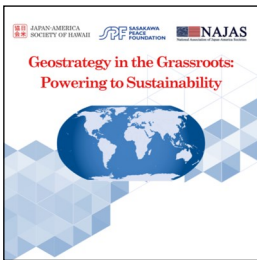


Students were also provided opportunities to explore higher education options in Japan and Hawaii at our College Fair between competition rounds. The following JASH corporate members and supporting institutions participated in the College Fair: Bunsei University of Art; Hawai'i Tokai International College/Tokai University; International Christian University; Japan Exchange and Teaching Program Alumni Association of Hawaii; License Academy; Meikai University; Soshi Educational Group (International Pacific University and Tokyo Management College); Temple University Japan Campus; and University of Hawai'i Mānoa, College of Social Sciences.



Mahalo to title sponsor Hawaiian Airlines and the rest of the sponsors and volunteers who contributed to our 2023 Japan Wizards Competition! We truly could not have done this without your help.

Geostrategies in the Grassroots: *Powering to Sustainability*



On Wednesday, March 1, 2023, JASH, in partnership with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and the National Association of

Japan-America Societies (NAJAS), convened for a panel discussion on **Powering to Sustainability** at the Hawaii Prince Hotel, Pi'inaio Ballroom. A networking reception followed the panel discussion for approximately 60 guests.

The war in Ukraine has created a great energy crisis being felt worldwide and it will have lasting effects for an indefinite period of time. Hawaii and Japan are particularly vulnerable due to our lack of natural energy sources and our reliance on imported energy.

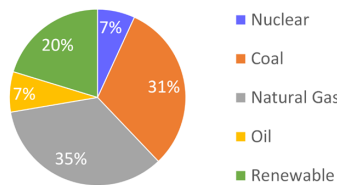
Geostrategy in the Grassroots: Powering to Sustainability provided up-to-date information on energy security and how we can apply this information in Hawaii's quest to lessen our reliance on unsustainable imported energy sources. With electricity and gas prices at a record high, along with the already high cost of living in Hawaii and Japan imports over 80% of its energy resources, our distinguished panelists addressed topics such as:

- Japan and Hawaii reduction in their reliance on imported energy
- Alternative energy sourcing methods
- Climate action in Hawaii and Japan

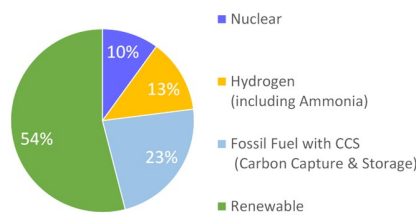
We were honored to welcome our distinguished panelist from Japan, Mr. Takahiro Ueno, Senior Researcher & Research & Development Manager, Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI) who opened up the discussion. Mr. Ueno shared with the audience two pie charts.



(L-R): Mr. Takahiro Ueno, Ms. Jane Nakano, Ms. Connie Lau and Ms. Karen Knudsen.



The first illustrated Japan's mix of energy sources in 2021.



The second pie chart illustrated the mix of energy sources that Japan is working towards by 2050.

Ms. Jane Nakano, Senior Fellow, in the Energy Security and Climate Change Program at the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) spoke about renewable energy resources such as Carbon Capture and Storage and referred to some of her recent work such as Geopolitics of Hydrogen in the Indo-Pacific Region and the Geopolitics of Critical Minerals Supply Chains.

Lastly, Ms. Connie Lau, former President and CEO and Director of Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc. spoke about Hawaii as a leader in the quest for clean energy and decarbonization, and the signing of Hawaii's 2008 Clean Energy Initiative. This initiative helped Hawaii become the first state in the U.S. to adopt a 100% renewable

energy mandate and carbon neutrality by 2045.

In addition, Hawaii has led the U.S. in regulatory reform, becoming one of six states to adopt performance-based utility regulation which allows the alignment of public policy objectives like clean energy, reliability and resilience, cost control and affordability with financial rewards for the utility.

Ms. Lau also spoke about the many challenges that both Hawaii and Japan face both politically and culturally in its quest for clean and renewable energy. For example, in both Hawaii and Japan, geothermal energy is a form of energy that is available. But in Hawaii, the native Hawaiian community strongly



(L-R) Ms. Knudsen, Ms. Nakano, Ms. Lau, Mr. Andrew Wylegala, Ms. Kaneko and Mr. Takahiro Ueno.

opposes tapping into this energy resource due to cultural values and beliefs. In Japan, the hot springs are an important part of the entertainment and culture among the people and they too like the native Hawaiian community oppose to tapping into this energy resource.

We also welcomed new NAJAS President, Mr. Andrew Wylegala who took over from Mr. Peter Kelley on March 1, 2023. This was Mr. Wylegala's first event as the new NAJAS President.

2023 APCC Junior Ambassadors Named



The Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in FUKUOKA

JASH is pleased to announce the selection of four Junior Ambassadors (JAs) to represent JASH and Hawaii at the 35th Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) in Fukuoka, Japan in summer 2023. This year will be the first year JAs will be able to travel to Fukuoka since the 2019 program due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The APCC is a cultural exchange program that deepens participants' appreciation for the cultures of other nations and regions, promotes mutual understanding and friendship, nurtures international awareness in young people, and works towards world peace and co-existence. It is hoped that the JAs will build an international network of friends.

For the next several months, the four Junior Ambassadors—two boys and two girls, all aged eleven at the time of travel—will participate in a JASH-designed training program for their Japan experience this July. In Fukuoka, the students will meet over 160 fellow Junior Ambassadors from over 60 countries and cities in the Asia-Pacific region in a global youth camp. This will be followed by a homestay where they will each live with a Japanese host family. It is our hope that our Ambassadors will mature into adults with a strong sense of social responsibility.

The 2023 Junior Ambassadors for the United States of America-Hawaii Delegation are:

1. Ms. Kyrie Chen from Momilani Elementary School
2. Mr. Rylen Isobe from 'Iolani School
3. Mr. Sano Blailes from Ala Wai Elementary School
4. Ms. Vaiva Peroff from Waikiki Elementary School

They will be accompanied by chaperone Ms. Sandy Takeda, who has been actively involved with the JASH APCC program since her children also participated in the program as JAs.

The USA-Hawaii Delegation also has the honor of sending our APCC alumnus and current Bridge Club Hawaii President to join the delegation to participate in the 5th Bridge Club Presidents Meeting. Bridge Club are APCC alumni organizations that are established to further offer and promote additional bridge-building and youth leadership initiatives. This year, Ms. Betsy Wo (Junior Ambassador 2011; Peace Ambassador 2022) will represent Bridge Club Hawaii.

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, please visit the JASH website at <https://www.jashawaii.org/apcc>, or please contact JASH Program Specialist Christianne Ono at cono@jashawaii.org.

Hinamatsuri at the Japanese Consulate

On March 7, 2023, Consul General Yutaka Aoki and Mrs. Takako Aoki graciously opened their residence to JASH for our annual Hinamatsuri celebration in honor of Girl's Day.



(L-R) Mrs. Aoki and Ms. Reyna Kaneko.

It was a very special occasion and a full house of approximately 45 guests. The last in-person Hinamatsuri celebration was in 2020.



Hinamatsuri (Doll Festival) also known as Momo-no-sekku (Peach Festival) is traditionally celebrated by Japanese families to wish for happiness and healthy growth of their daughters. In homes, elegant dolls called *hina ningyo* dressed in ancient court costumes of the Heian Period (794-1185) are displayed.



(L-R) Mr. Walter Ozawa; Ms. Natsuko Tateishi; Mr. Akemi Kurokawa; Ms. Misako Kurokawa; and Ms. Hiroko Dewitz.

JASH Newsflash

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

33rd Annual Friendship Golf Classic



On Monday, March 20, 2023, JASH held its 33rd Annual Friendship Golf Classic at the Mid-Pacific Country Club. We are so grateful to our Presenting Sponsor, Pacific Guardian Life, a longtime supporter of JASH and tournament sponsor for nine consecutive years!

This year, we were excited to welcome 42 Three-Player Teams! Our players enjoyed a day filled with many on-course activities such as Closest to the Pin Challenge sponsored by Goodwill Anderson Quinn & Stifel; Most Accurate Drive Challenge sponsored by Outrigger Hotel & Resorts and our Hole-in-One Challenge sponsored by Lexus Hawaii by Servco among other games.

Our famous on-course food and beverage menu included onolicious sliders, Portuguese Sausage dogs and fish tacos from Dave & Buster's; takoyaki and inari sushi from Zetton, Inc.; and refreshing beverages from Aloha Beer Company and Kirin

Presented by  PACIFIC GUARDIAN LIFE



Above & Below: Pacific Guardian Life Teams



Ichiban just to name a few! Each of our players left with a full belly, take-

home dessert from Liliha Bakery and a door prize!

Over 40 volunteers led by long-time JASH member, Ms. Arlene Shimokawa helped to make this another fun and successful tournament!

Players ended the day with cheers from the 70th Cherry Blossom Festival Court and kanpai toast with their teammates. Awards were announced at our virtual Pau Hana Awards Ceremony on March 27, 2023.

MAHALO NUI LOA to our fantastic volunteers, prize donors, food and beverage donors and tournament team sponsors for your generous support!

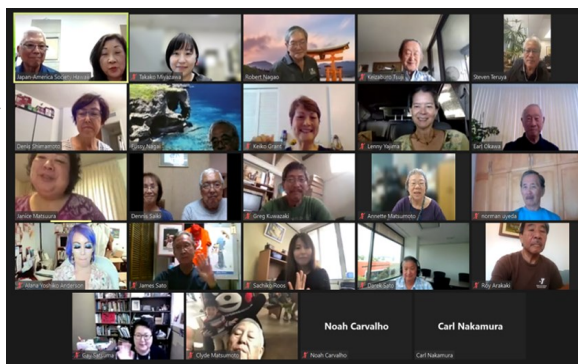


New JASH Corporate Member, Zetton, Inc. was part of the line-up of great on-course food.

EMMA Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

On Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 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. Thanks to weekly cleaning by these volunteers, the memorial remains pristine after over 20 years to honor the memories of those who were lost in the tragic accident.

During the virtual luncheon, a slideshow of this year's memorial ceremony and new footage of the ceremony in Hawaii and Japan were shared with our volunteers. For lunch, volunteers picked up special bento from Kokoro-Tei via drive-through pick-up at the Japanese



Cultural Center of Hawaii earlier in the morning.

EMMA President, Ms. 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 in 2002 and encouraged them to continue nurturing the relationship with Ehime Prefecture and Uwajima City

as more in-person exchanges resume. 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. In addition, volunteers gave special thanks to Mr. Saiki for his dedicated services to support and care for the memorial and in turn, the bereaved families.

The Ehime Maru Memorial Association would like to thank all the volunteers again who continue to keep the memories alive and pass them on to the next generation. 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.