

TOMODACHI – Aloha Leadership Program Reunion Party



On June 20, 2015, JASH partnered with the Bridge Club Hawaii (BCH) to create the first annual TOMODACHI – Aloha Leadership Program Reunion Party. About fourteen delegates from the 2013, 2014, and 2015 trips to Tohoku attended the potluck lunch at the JASH office. This inaugural party featured two guests: Giovanni Douresseau, a TOMODACHI Inouye Scholar from Los Angeles, California; and Atsushi Takebayashi, the founder of Move4Japan, from Honolulu. BCH members shared popular dishes with Mr. Douresseau to allow him to experience some of the local culture. Mr. Takebayashi generously shared some of his famous

yakisoba, which he cooks for the people affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in the Tohoku region through his non-profit organization, Move4Japan.

Following a delicious meal, BCH members, Mr. Douresseau, and Mr. Takebayashi shared their personal experiences in Tohoku through their respective programs and the importance of volunteering in their communities. Mr. Douresseau gave a motivational speech to attendees to continue to do good work in order to build stronger connections and relations with Japan and the United States.

Later that afternoon, BCH members watched videos they had received from 2015 Rainbow for Japan Kids (RFJK) delegates in preparation for the 9th RFJK Camp in July. JASH staff then helped BCH members create their own videos to send back to RFJK delegates before their visit to Hawaii in July.

Both BCH and JASH would like to thank Mr. Douresseau for taking the time out of his schedule to meet with BCH members and to Mr. Takebayashi for preparing his delicious *yakisoba* for lunch.

Kathryn Murata, Bachelor of Arts degree in Japanese Studies and a Minor in Politics from Willamette University



It has been an enlightening and rewarding experience interning and working part-time at the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH). From beginning my internship with only knowledge of Japanese language and culture, I have grown to truly value the hard work and effort of the JASH staff and the events they organize in order to cater to a variety of public audiences and perpetuate the U.S.-Japan relationship. (*continued on page 3*)



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Having spent just over a year with JASH, I was involved in many of their events, from membership events such as the Hilton 5:01 and Hinamatsuri to fundraisers such as JASH's Annual Dinner and Golf Tournament. One of my first major tasks as an intern was to create a short video highlighting Annual Dinner honoree Hawaiian Airlines' contributions to the U.S.-Japan relationship. My primary role, however, was to serve as the Educational Program Assistant, so I was deeply involved in programs such as Japan Day, the TOMODACHI-Aloha Leadership Program, Japan in a Suitcase, and JASH's largest educational program, the JASH Japan Wizards Academic Team Competition. I was also given the responsibility of coordinating the Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) Mission Project in Honolulu, Hawaii, where students from Fukuoka, Japan participated in a 5-day homestay with volunteer host families from around the island. Despite not knowing

each other's languages, both host families and Japanese students were able to communicate in different ways, and I had the pleasure of witnessing their relationships grow from awkward silences at the Welcome Ceremony to warm embraces and tearful goodbyes at the students' departure. Participating in these programs and observing the impact these programs make on students and their families was especially gratifying. The cross-cultural relationships established by these programs transcend language barriers and are instead built upon the innately human relationships and emotions all people share.

I would like to thank my supervisors and the JASH staff and Board of Directors for giving me this extraordinary opportunity. I will cherish these experiences as I pursue my future career goals.

Ehime Maru Memorial Association – Memorial Visit



June 3, 2015: Officers and cadets from JS Kashima and JM SDF (Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force) Training Squadron visit Kaka'ako park to pay respects at the Ehime Maru Memorial with prayers and a beautiful wreath.

JASH Holds Annual Hilton 5:01 and Beach Cleanup

On June 12, 2015, 120 JASH members and guests gathered at the Rainbow Suite in Hilton Hawaiian Village for JASH's annual Hilton 5:01 hosted by Hilton Hawaiian Village.



*(L) Hilton Hawaiian Village General Manager Tracy Walker welcomes JASH to the Rainbow Suite.
(R) APCC and TALP delegates pose for pictures outside.*

The evening started out with welcome remarks from JASH President Lenny Yajima, Hilton Hawaiian Village General Manager Tracy Walker, and JASH Chair and recently appointed President of the Hawaii Coffee Company Mr. Daniel Dinell. 2015 Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) Chaperone Kevin Matsuda briefly introduced this year's APCC delegates, who treated the audience to a hula and chant they will perform while at the convention. Attendees also enjoyed delicious pupus and drinks provided by Hilton and also music performed by Puuhonua, led by singer Puu Tazhi.



*(L) Hilton 5:01 guests enjoy the evening's music entertainment and APCC performance
(R) APCC delegates perform chant*

Following the Hilton 5:01, APCC delegates and their families along with participants from the Tomodachi-Aloha Leadership Program (TALP) woke up bright and early the next morning to clean Waikiki Beach. Equipped with trash bags, gloves, and nets, participants

began the cleanup at Hilton lagoon and picked up rubbish all along the beach up until reaching the Duke Kahanamoku statue.

JASH would like to send a big mahalo to the Hilton Hawaiian Village for generously hosting the Hilton 5:01, and Ms. Tracy Walker for welcoming JASH to the Hilton. Mahalo also to Mr. Kevin Matsuda and the rest of the 2015 APCC delegation for such an impressive performance.

Hawaii 5:01 Programs are presented exclusively for Corporate, Board, and Lifetime members. The 5:01 provides an informal setting to meet new friends, renew acquaintances, and introduce potential members to the Society.

Junior Ambassadors Bond in the Mountains of Camp Timberline

Since being selected as Junior Ambassadors (JAs) representing Hawaii in February 2015, the six JAs have been learning more about Japan and the other countries that will be sending delegates to the Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in Fukuoka from July 10 – 22, 2015. Each month since being selected, they have attended a workshop at the JASH office which taught them a Japanese language lesson and some interesting cultural aspects about Japan. They have also practiced their hula performance that they will share in Fukuoka.

In addition to their regular monthly workshops, during the weekend of May 2 – 3, the six Junior Ambassadors and Peace Ambassador Wesley Lum took part in an overnight stay at Camp Timberline in Makakilo. They

were accompanied by 2015 chaperone Kevin Matsuda, 2016 chaperone Dori Kim, JASH Educational Program Director Liz Stanton-Barrera and JASH Intern David Nakanishi. It was our first time at Camp Timberline (previous camping trips took place at Camp Erdman in Mokuleia) but this annual camping trip helps the JAs bond with one another through outdoor activities and team building exercises. While at the camp, the JAs participated in a "low ropes course" where they focused on building trust with one another. They also enjoyed hiking in the mountains, eating smores while sharing stories around a campfire, and practicing their hula performance. The experience helped the group connect together and better prepare them for their journey to Japan in July.



(L-R): Parents and family members drop off their children for overnight at Camp Timberline; Chaperone Kevin Matsuda with the six Junior Ambassadors at the Camp Timberline low ropes course.