



JASH Hosts 26th Annual Friendship Golf Classic



The grand prize trophy was awarded to Mr. John Hamakawa (R) and Mr. Miles Takahashi (L) by the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu Yasushi Misawa and JASH President Lenny Yajima


The JASH 26th Annual Friendship Golf Classic was held on April 21, 2016 at Hawaii Prince Golf Club in Ewa Beach. Mahalo to Tanioka's Seafoods & Catering for providing delicious bentos for lunch and a special thank you to Atsushi and Mayumi Takebayashi from Move4Japan for donating the outstanding yakisoba! Shochu donated from Kai Vodka was used for the JASH-traditional sake *kanpai* at noon, followed by a taiko shotgun sendoff performance by Dragon Beat.



JASH would like to thank our Tournament Sponsor Pacific Guardian Life for making this year's fundraiser a success. Thank you also to our other major sponsors, Titanium and Graphite sponsors, individual players, and many donors that supported our cause.

A big MAHALO to the volunteers that helped bring the tournament together! Thank you to volunteer Ray Tabata for taking photos throughout the hot and sunny day. Thank you to the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu for continued support of the tournament – and special thanks to Consul General of Japan in Honolulu Yasushi Misawa for presenting the trophy during our awards dinner.




We would also like to thank Kimo Kahoano for being a wonderful emcee for our program. His personality and great humor were the highlight of the evening. Finally, JASH extends a very special mahalo to the 2016 Golf Chair Alan Yamamoto, who assisted throughout the entire preparation period of the tournament in securing sponsors, teams and donations. Mahalo, Yama-san! To all the teams and players that participated in the tournament, thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you next year! 

Junior Ambassadors go on a Scavenger Hunt




APCC Delegates share the food items bought at Don Quijote.

On Saturday April 2, 2016, the JASH Junior Ambassadors (JAs) went on a field trip to Don Quijote Store in Honolulu to learn about and try a variety of Japanese foods. The JAs along with the Asian-Pacific Children’s Convention (APCC) Hawaii Peace Ambassador Jocelyn Bonilla, chaperone Dori Kim, and JASH staff members Elizabeth Stanton-Barrera and David Nakanishi participated in a “scavenger hunt” activity to expose the JAs to some of the foods they may encounter during their time in Japan.

The JAs were divided into three groups with an adult leader and given thirty minutes to find a variety of items around the store. Each group was responsible for purchasing specific Japanese food items such as chicken *karaage*, *takoyaki*, and *okonomiyaki*. After returning to the JASH office, each group shared what they had learned from the activity, gave a brief presentation of the items they purchased, and tried each of the unique Japanese dishes. This activity was an excellent way for the Hawaii delegates to start their journey into the Japanese Culture. 

2016 Junior Ambassador Team Bonding




April has been a very busy month for the JASH Junior Ambassadors! From April 30 – May 1, 2016, the JAs had an overnight stay at the YMCA’s Camp Erdman on the North Shore. Their time at camp served to strengthen their relationship as a delegation and to learn to bond as a team. The JAs participated in a Team Development Course run by the YMCA in which they had to solve complex puzzles and games that tested their communication skills and forced them to rely on each other. 

TOMODACHI-Aloha Leadership Prepares for Tohoku Trip




On Saturday, May 14, 2016, delegates of the 2016 TOMODACHI-Aloha Leadership Program (TALP) met at the JASH office to plan and prepare for their trip to Tohoku, Japan in June. TALP envisions creating generations of Japanese and Americans dedicated to perpetuating the important Japan-America relationship, bettering their communities, and empowering themselves to become global-minded leaders in their schools and organizations.

While in Tohoku, the delegates will experience firsthand the devastation wrought by the tragic events of March 2011, witness how the Japanese people in Tohoku are coping with and recovering from this tragedy, reconnect with past Rainbow for Japan Kids (RFJK) participants whom they befriended in Hawaii, meet future RFJK participants, and engage in community outreach to assist the people of Tohoku with their recovery. 

CPASF Scholars Graduate from University of Hawaii



On Saturday, May 14, 2016, two Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation (CPASF) scholars graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Congratulations to Arisa Yoshida (Masters in Communications) and Sakiko Yasuda (PhD in Public Health)! 

5:01 Appreciation Event 2016



On Friday evening, June 3, 2016, JASH held its 5:01 Appreciation Event at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort. The 5:01 program, presented exclusively to Corporate members, Lifetime members, and Educational Program volunteers, featured a performance by JASH's six Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) Junior Ambassadors. 

Export University Series: Japan

JASH Junior Ambassadors Participate in the Visitor Industry Charity Walk



The delegates to the APCC along with families represented JASH at the 2016 Visitor Industry Charity Walk on Saturday, May 21, 2016. The walk started at Ala Moana beach park and continued for over five miles through Waikiki. The VICW raises money for various charities on the island of Oahu and JASH has participated for many years. The APCC delegates had fun stopping at each of the 17 checkpoints where they were given a variety of food and snacks to enjoy.




On Monday, June 6, 2016, the Hawaii Pacific Export Council provided local businesses and interested persons with the opportunity to hear from experienced speakers about the realities of presenting local products and services to the Japanese market in their latest event, “2016 Export University Series: Japan – Connecting Local Business with Japanese Market Opportunities.” As a supporting partner, JASH assisted in making this seminar possible. Three members of the JASH Board of Directors, Mr. Tab Bowers, Mr. Steve Sombrero, and Mr. Sal Miwa, Chair, were joined by Mr. Jorma Winkler and Mr. Neil Arakaki, as panel speakers for this event.


The seminar began with a presentation by featured speaker Ms. Yuri Arthur, Commercial Officer of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Ms. Arthur provided an update on the Japanese consumer of 2016, “trending” products, as well as key points to keep in mind when marketing in Japan, such as the importance of punctuality, constant communication, and face-to-face interactions. Food, Gifts, Travel/Tourism, Outdoor Sports, Cosmetics, and Biotech were listed as promising markets for Hawaii businesses to enter. Of interest were Ms. Arthur’s references to the differences between the U.S. market and that of Japan—the countries differ in market regulations, attention to quality control, and even preferred forms of media (Japan prefers print media, whereas the U.S. relies on digital media). The presentation concluded by emphasizing the competitive nature of the Japanese market, and the importance of trade shows for any local business hoping to expand into the Japanese market. 

JASH Board Member Joichi Saito Receives Kunsho



Congratulations to JASH board member and Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation trustee, Mr. Joichi Saito, who received an imperial decoration from the Emperor of Japan at a ceremony at the Japanese Consulate on Monday, June 13, 2016, for his extensive work in fostering goodwill between the U.S. and Japan. 

JWC Team from Iolani School Visits Matsuyama City

JASH Japan Wizards Competition winners from Iolani School visited the city of Matsuyama on June 10, 2016, where they met with Ehime Prefectural International Center (EPIC) staff Noriko Omori and EPIC interns Yu and Jake. Together they enjoyed authentic Japanese food and tea at Funaya restaurant. After lunch, they strolled through Dogo Hot Spring Shopping Mall and climbed Matsuyama Castle. Although the students' stay was brief, they were enjoyed every bit of what Ehime offered them. 



2016 JASH Japan Wizards Competition Sends Five Teams to Japan in Summer 2016

This summer, JASH gave five teams from Iolani School, Kauai High School, Leilehua High School, and Island Pacific Academy (IPA) the opportunity to travel to Japan and experience first-hand the country and culture they had studied in preparation for the 2016 Japan Wizards Academic Team Competition (JWC) hosted by the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH). The JWC in February gathered 28 high schools to compete in groups of three in two categories, levels A and B, depending on their Japanese language level. The four winning teams of the JWC—Iolani School Levels A and B, Kauai High School Level B, and Leilehua High School Level A—received free trips to Japan for themselves and their advisors. In addition, this year, a generous donation from JASH Board Member and Educational Committee Chair Jean Rolles gave one additional team the chance to go to Japan: Island Pacific Academy Level A. This prize, named the Dr. Michael Leineweber Trip Award after Ms. Rolles' fellow JASH Board member and friend who passed away in 2014, was awarded at random to one team from the top 20 scoring teams with over 100 points.

Thanks to Hawaiian Airlines, who sponsored the winning teams' air fare to Japan, students and their advisors explored a variety of landmarks in Japan while traveling through the regions of Hokkaido, Tohoku, Kanto, Kansai, Chubu, Chugoku and Shikoku. They encountered many of the country's famous temples, experienced cultural activities they had spent months studying, and were able to utilize their cultural knowledge and Japanese language skills in a real-world setting. Iolani School student winner Emily Ching put into words: "In preparation for the competition, we studied about every aspect of Japanese life, but actually being there taught me more than I could ever learn from a book. Seeing

the historical sites and experiencing the culture we learned about gave me a new appreciation for Japan. Not only did I learn so much, but I was genuinely so happy to finally be in the place I had dreamed of for years."



IPA team members learn to play the koto at Temple University in Japan



IPA visits Meiji Jingu Shrine

First to leave were the winners of the Dr. Michael Leineweber Trip Award, IPA Level A, who headed to Tokyo, Nara, and Kyoto, from June 1st to June 8th. Brynn Matsuoka, Kristy Munakata, and Kylie Higashionna, with their advisor, Brent Takenouchi, spent the majority of their time in Tokyo, visiting not only the most famous spots such as Tokyo Tower, Harajuku, Shibuya, and Akihabara, but also the Epon Aqua Park in Shinagawa, University of Tokyo, and Temple University Japan, where they received a special tour arranged through JASH and a short lesson on playing the *koto*, a traditional Japanese stringed instrument. According to Kristy Munakata, “when the instructor played the *koto* for us, it sounded really beautiful and traditional, and the way the instrument was played was really interesting as well. When the instructor let us try out the *koto* for ourselves, it was definitely hard to get used to, but I thought everybody did well.” Student testimonials proved that the trip, and especially the learning opportunities provided, were educational and eye-opening experiences that should be encouraged among high school students.

Next to leave were the two teams from Iolani School: Kela Villalobos, Dane Pham, Emily Ching, Erica Li, Yufei Xiao, and Justin Kogasaka, along with their advisors, Ann Tomatani and Jo Ann Akamine. From June 4th to the 12th, these teams visited Tokyo, Kyoto, Ehime, Hiroshima, Osaka, and Nara. Together, they experienced the astounding view from the Tokyo Sky Tree, tasted the delicacies offered at the Tsukiji Fish Market, walked the halls of the Imperial Palace, and visited many famous shrines. These teams also participated in JASH-organized visits with the America-Japan Society of Tama Tokyo (A team), and the Ehime Prefectural International Center (B team). There they learned of the ongoing efforts to bridge our two countries, and of the importance of sister-city relationships such as that between Honolulu and Uwajima in the Ehime Prefecture. Visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Park also gave students a new perspective on global understanding and peace-building. Yufei Xiao recalled the grief, horror, and hope she felt while visiting the monument, and upon reflection,

discovered that “although we come from different backgrounds, culture is an integral, interwoven part of people’s lives and is a uniqueness that should be celebrated and appreciated. The need to understand each other’s cultures cannot be emphasized enough... Opportunities such as this truly foster a sense of empathy and peace between countries, and I hope to continue promoting goodwill in my own small way.”



JWC Iolani teams at the Hachiko statue in Tokyo



Justin Kogasaka prepares the dough for his hand-made soba!

JWC Level B winners Elizabeth Makizuru, Andrew Beeksma, and Danica Ola, along with their advisor, Kathy Morishige from Kauai High School explored Tokyo, Kyoto, and Sapporo from June 11th to the 19th. The team visited a mixture of modern and historical sites, including the Edo Tokyo Museum, Yomiuriland amusement park, and Fushimi Inari Shrine, allowing them to compare and contrast these two sides of Japanese culture. They even participated in a two-night homestay in Sapporo, organized by the America-Japan Society of Hokkaido. Although this homestay separated the teammates, it enabled them to meet and form bonds with local Japanese citizens and gain an authentic Japanese perspective that would not have been otherwise possible. Eating meals and talking with their host parents and siblings made the students feel at home in a foreign country, and home-cooked food was a welcome sight after a week of dining out. After only two short days, the Kauai students had become close to their families, and expressed their appreciation for this vital glimpse into Japanese household life.

On June 24th, the Leilehua team, with members Justin Toyota, Cody Cacatian, Ethan Toriki, and advisor Brenda Nomura, finally got their chance to travel to Japan, visiting Tokyo, Odawara, Hanamaki, and Sapporo. They began their trip in Tokyo, where they explored the city's modern marvels with stops at Odaiba, Shibuya, Harajuku, Ikebukuro, and Akihabara, to name a few. On Monday, June 27th, the team was graciously hosted by the staff at Tokai University, Shonan Campus, in Odawara. The day included an orientation about the Tokai school system, an official meeting with Chancellor Yamada and Vice Chancellor Yoshikawa, and a campus tour, which allowed them to see Tokai's award winning solar car and their famous *dojo* for judo and kendo practice. While on a tour of this Japanese college, the students discovered Tokai's efforts at internationalization—during lunch at the school's "International Café," where visitors are required to speak English, the Leilehua team was joined by twenty Tokai students excited to practice with English-speakers. Following their visit to Tokai University, the team traveled north to Hanamaki in Iwate Prefecture. While there,

they participated in a two-night homestay and attended classes with their host siblings at Leilehua's sister school, Hanamaki Minami Senior High School. In addition to gaining a look into the minds of local Japanese children their own age, this Wizards team was treated to a school-wide welcome assembly, and even interviewed by a local news station in Iwate. The visit was described by Ethan Toriki as helpful in building relationships with young Japanese people across linguistic and cultural barriers: "The class was very talkative while we were there, as they were genuinely excited to meet people from Hawaii. We taught the students basic Hawaiian words and general facts about Hawaii. We also sang Hawaii Pono'i and danced Hula with the Japanese students. Most of the students spoke English very well, and everyone had a great time... Although I was nervous because I was in a very foreign environment, the hospitality of the students made me feel very welcome." As Leilehua has not had a chance to visit Hanamaki since 2005, the JWC trip was an important event for the sister schools and their students. A final thing, which separated this group from the other teams, was their nightly journal reflection session, built into their schedule by Nomura Sensei. In reflecting on each day's activities, the students undoubtedly gained from their experiences new perspectives and ideas that will stay with them long after their return to Hawaii.




JWC Leilehua team with Tokai University's award-winning solar car



Leilehua visits their sister-school, Hanamaki Minami Senior HS!

JASH would like to thank our overall sponsor, Hawaiian Airlines, for generously donating the four winning teams' flights, along with our other major supporters—ABC Stores, Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation, Freeman Foundation, Friends of Hawaii Charities, Hawaii

Hotel Industry Foundation, JTB Hawaii, Temple University Japan, The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles, and Ms. Jean Rolles—for continuing to encourage Hawaii's high school students to study Japan and its fascinating culture through the Japan Wizards Competition. Without their tremendous support, these 15 students would not have had this life-changing opportunity to learn from and experience Japan. Iolani School student Justin Kogasaka summarized the experience for all participants, describing how it fulfilled a long-held dream of his: "After returning home and settling back into Hawaii time, I looked through some old assignments from previous Japanese classes and found a particularly interesting paper I wrote. It was a reaction paper to a presentation of the Temple University Japan campus. I smiled at my closing sentence: 'I wish to one day pursue my hopes of visiting Japan for myself.' I cannot stress enough how thankful I am to JASH and Hawaiian Airlines to have had this opportunity and I hope to visit Japan again some time in the future." 



April - June 2016

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