

Hawaii Federation of Junior YBAs

Serendipity
FALL EDITION

Hawaii | Honolulu | Maui | Oahu | Kauai

October 2022



Presidents Message

Hi Everyone ~!

It is hard to believe this year is my last year in Jr. YBA. To close off a six-year journey, it is an honor to serve as your Federation President this term! I am excited to see more of you in person this year as we transition back to in-person meetings starting with our Winter Federation Meeting next semester!

This year, I look forward to making our organization as holistic as possible. Last year we made big strides in gender inclusivity by updating the Mr/Ms. Jr. YBA Award into the Jr. YBA Buddhist of the Year and passing a resolution to make our registration forms more gender-neutral. We also passed a resolution allowing members outside of Hongwanji or Jr. YBA to join, removing the need to join a temple. Hopefully, we can put these into action this year. I would also like to attempt to create something that assists with mental health.

Presidents Message

Continued...

As some of you may know, I am a taiko drummer. After playing and performing this art form for seven years, I feel the principle encapsulating taiko and Buddhism- impermanence. In our style, Kumi-Daiko, everyone plays a different pattern to contribute to the piece. Together, this creates a cohesive melody. This melody is only possible if everyone plays in unison. If someone plays something different or is offbeat, it can have the possibility to ruin the piece. as it teaches players to be resilient after making a mistake. It reflects on our organization as it is always changing with society. As communities become more gender inclusive, we acknowledge that principle and create a resolution.

Involving resilience, even though you may feel that you can't make a difference in the world, you can. Even if it's small scale, that's okay! I would like to encourage everyone if they have an issue they want to be aware of to let us know! Always remember that your YBA members and advisors will support you! Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu! (I look forward to working with everyone! :-)



Chad "Chihiro" Okawa
2022-2023 Federation President

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello everyone! I hope you are all doing amazing and I hope the new school year is treating you all well. If you don't know me already my name is Kaylie Okuni and I am a part of Maui United Jr.YBA. If you told me five years ago I would be federation vice president I would have told you you were absolutely crazy. When I first joined, I was a shy kid who was forced to join because my brother was in it. I remember my first meeting was at a beach in Lanai and I had no idea what was even going on. I slowly understood the purpose of Jr.YBA and grew to love it. I've made lifelong friends along the way and have made many core memories that I will never forget. Jr.YBA has taught me many valuable lessons that I will keep with me forever. Always remember to keep your head up and if you put your mind to it, you can do it!



Kaylie Okuni
Federation Vice
President



*United
Reports*

Hawaii | Honolulu | Maui | Oahu | Kauai

United of Hawaii

On Sunday, July 31st, United of Hawai'i held their officer installation at the Hilo Hongwanji Temple after Sunday service. Thanks to the help of Rev. Kamuro, we were able to have a beautiful installation, lit with the candles in the hands of the newly installed officers. On September 24th, our united made manju with the help of Jr. YBA parents and advisors. We successfully made enough manju for 162 people in time for the Keirosha Service. It was a fun event where we were all able to work together as a team and get our hands messy!



-Sara Igawa
United of Hawaii
President

United of Honolulu

Hello Everyone!

I hope everyone is doing well! The United of Honolulu has been planning socials, doing service projects, and most importantly, fundraising for HBY month!

On July 2nd we helped Moiliili Hongwanji make spam Musubi's for the summer fest! We had a lot of fun making them and definitely became musubi making professionals after that day. The members were very kind and even invited us to a Thank You party for our help!

On July 31st, we had our installation ceremony and then hosted our first meeting of the 2022-2023 year. Many members took on new roles, including myself, and we were able to gain many new members! After the meeting and ceremony, we ate dinner and even had some ice cream after! At the end of the night, we also had a little speed competition as a fun ice breaker!

During the month of August, we were able to assist the Oahu United at the Mililani Hongwanji Bon Dance and helped with drink sales! We also helped at the Aiea Bon Dance on August 27th. The PBA kids in YBA helped with packaging karaage bentos, spam musubis, and yakisoba! Dojun was the only Honolulu member helping in the shave ice booth, with was very crowded! On the 28th at our monthly meetings, we finished the rest of the onenjus for the Sadako Legacy Project and sold it to friends and family members!

In September, we did a small service project at a meeting and colored pictures for Color-a-Smile! We were able to finish all of the coloring sheets and they were sent to Color-a-Smile.

On October 2nd, we had a shave ice fundraiser at the Moiliili Hongwanji Bazaar. We didn't sell much, but members like Dojun had a lot of fun The money we raised will be going along with our HBY month money.

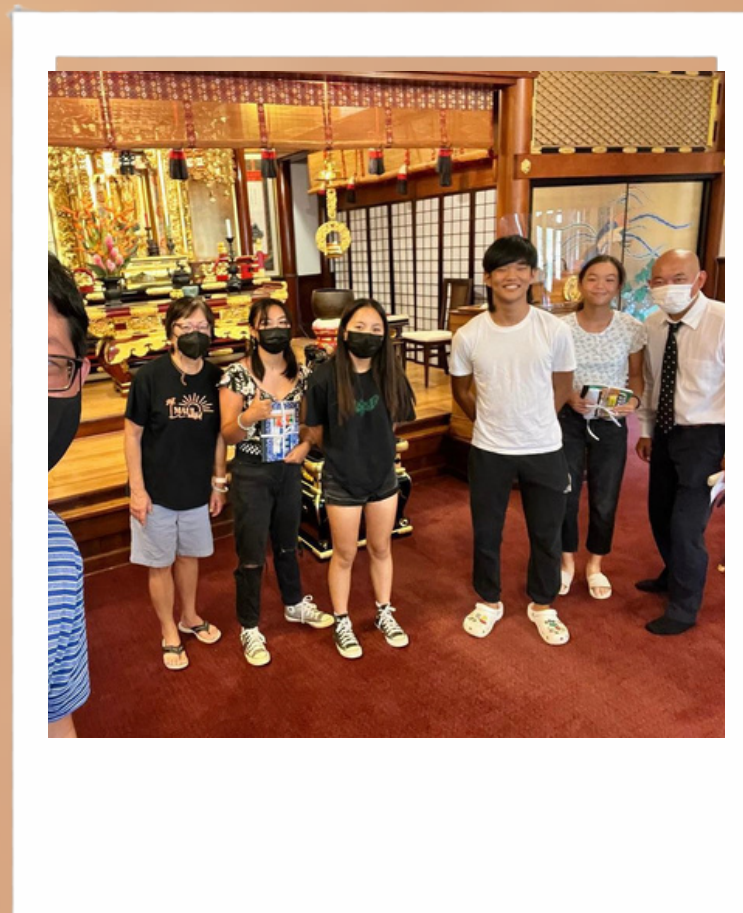


-Karfi Koyanagi
United of Honolulu
President

United of Maui

Hello everyone!

United of Maui has been keeping busy with our monthly meetings and various activities! With the help of Rev. Ai Hironaka on July 10, 2022 Maui United had its first ever installation of officers. We followed the installation with delicious and ginormous burgers from Teddy's Bigger Burgers. On July 16, 2022 former and current juniors helped Kahului Hongwanjis Bon dance by selling shave ice and chilled drinks. After our shifts were done we all had some fun dancing to some bon odori classics! Then on August 12, 2022 we held an online Panda Express Fundrasier in which all proceeds went to help Maui United. Lastly, on September 4th and 5th for HBY month we baked about two huge batches of sweet potato manju and sold them to our temples and at the same time we held our Maui United retreat. We all bonded by playing Mario Kart and playing volleyball till one am and then fell fast asleep on the judo mats.



-Kaylie Okuni
United of Maui
President

United of Oahu

Since the summer Federation meeting, the United of Oahu has been planning next year's convention! Our theme is "Sangha: Our Interdependent Environment", based on ideas from the series Avatar: The Last Airbender. More information will be coming soon! Hope to see you all there.

Our new officers for this year were initiated at Aiea Hongwanji. United of Oahu members also helped make musubis at Moiliili Hongwanji's bon dance, sold drinks and assisted with the lantern parade at Mililani Hongwanji's bon dance, and sold shave ice at Aiea Hongwanji's bon dance. We all enjoyed dancing and eating good food. Some of our members performed at these bon dances too. We would also like to say thank you to the United of Honolulu members who came out and helped. We also said goodbye and thank you to both our senior Kana Suzuki and our minister advisor Rev. Yagi. We went roller skating for Kana's graduation/goodbye

Hope to see everyone soon!



Ty Wakahiro
United of Oahu
President

United of Kauai

This school year is off to a great start, as one of our members began her senior year! We've had our monthly meetings where we talk about community service events, recruitment, and new announcements. We're hoping to participate in more community service projects as the year progresses. We hope everything is well and you are enjoying your semester. Thank You!

August 6, 2022 there was a meeting where we talked about recruiting new members, upcoming services, peace day, and welcomed our new advisor. On October 3rd, 2022 there was a meeting where we informed our new advisor of their duties and responsibilities, community service events, and recruiting new members.



Madison Doo
United of Kauai
President



**Meet your
2022-2023
FEDERATION
OFFICERS!**

What made you join Jr.YBA? What are you most excited about for this year? What are your plans for Halloween this year?

FEDERATION PRESIDENT



Hi everyone,

I am Chad, and I will be your Federation President this year! I joined Jr. YBA in the seventh grade after being encouraged to join through my United Advisor, Aunty Claire, after being a member of the Aiea Hongwanji and Dharma School for around a year. I wanted to interact more with my community and connect with others in my age group, as I was surrounded mostly by older temple members. I have stayed with Jr. YBA for so long because of the comradery. I appreciate how accepting everyone is despite their differences. I am excited to see everyone at our Winter Federation Meeting this year! It was nice to see everyone in Hilo last June at the Convention, and I look forward to our future interactions. I do not have many plans for Halloween, but I intend to dress up as Kazuha from Genshin Impact! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, suggestions, ideas, or just want to talk. We're here for you!

Chad "Chihiro" Okawa



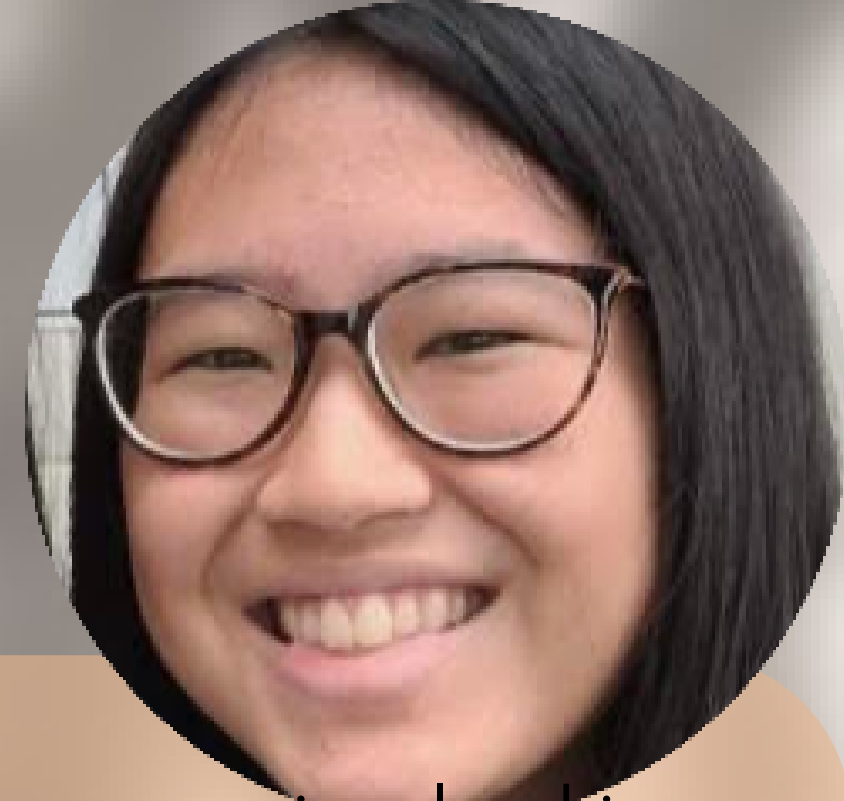
FEDERATION VICE PRESIDENT

Hello again! You probably know me quite well by now but if you don't my name is Kaylie Okuni! I joined Jr.YBA because I was involved at Makawao Hongwanji Temple as well as dharma school and when my brother mentioned I should join I said "Okay!". I'm excited to finally meet and connect with more people face-to-face and to finally get off our zoom meetings! In-person federation meetings and conventions have always had a special place in my heart. I've made memories I will never forget and have made friends that I know will always have my back. My plans for this Halloween are to dress up with all of my friends and go trick-or-treating! If you have

Kaylie Okuni

any questions feel free to contact me anytime!

FEDERATION SECRETARY



I originally joined Jr. YBA as a way for (my mom to get) me to be more involved in church and have a chance to be apart of this kind of organization. But I can say that it's been really fun to stick with and go out to events and meetings with people I would never have known otherwise. This year I am most excited about hopefully being able to do more things in person, as I had a really great experience at the in-person convention this past summer, and am looking forward to what other possible things we can do as more options become available again. Of course, I'm also excited for the opportunity to be federation secretary this year! For Halloween this year, I'll admit I don't have any grand plans, but I am looking forward to seeing all the decorations that people put up for Halloween. It's really amazing to see how all out people go on decorating their yard, and it's also just another thing to look forward to during these types of holidays! I'm looking forward to a good year as your new secretary :).

Emma Fujikawa



FEDERATION TREASURER

Hey guys my name is Jay and I am th current Federation Treasurer. What made m join Jr.YBA was the people who were already in it and wanting to be apart something bigger than myself. I am most excited with working and meeting all of you this year. This Halloween plans is to get as much candy as possible but we shall see!

Jay Yokoyama

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Thanks for Reading !



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