

HAWAII FEDERATION OF JUNIOR YBAS

Serendipity

春

SPRING EDITION 2022

HAWAII | HONOLULU | MAUI | OAHU | KAUAI



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CREDITS

EDITOR

CHAD/CHIIHIRO OKAWA

PHOTOGRAPHY

ABBY CHUNG*

AGUS PANGETSU*

EVIJA DAUKSTE*

EVA ELIJAS*

DA*

DAVID DILBERT*

SATOSHI HIRAYAMA*

RYUTARO SAKATA*

MANAMI ALSPACH

CHAD/CHIIHIRO OKAWA

KIERAN MAESAKA AND THE UNITED OF HAWAII
NAHO UMITANI AND THE UNITED OF HONOLULU

JAIMEE YOKOYAMA AND THE UNITED OF MAUI

MADISON DOO AND THE UNITED OF KAUAI

KANA SUZUKI AND THE UNITED OF OAHU

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IMPORTANT DATES

**MAY
1**

**2022 State-Wide Dharma
School Gathering** on May
1st on Zoom

**65th Jr. YBA State
Convention Hosted by the
United of Hawaii** on June
17-19 in Hilo

**JUNE
17-19**

United Reports Due on
June 10th at 11:59 PM

**JUNE
10**

contact me:

e-mail / chad.okawa@gmail.com

instagram / @sushitaiko808

President's Message

Aloha everyone!

Can't believe that it's already Spring Federation. Just a few more months for our seniors, hang in there! And for the rest of you, work hard and good luck!

We have just wrapped up with hula season and Merrie Monarch so I was busy, busy, busy. I hope everyone enjoyed all three (or four) nights of the competition if you watched it. Watching the competition it made me reflect on the impact that hula has had on my life along with other things as well. My conclusion came to these three things; respect, dignity, and enjoy. Respect your craft. Do it with dignity. And enjoy it.

No matter what it is that you do (art, dance, song, soccer, wrestling, etc.) there is a history and significance it holds to not just you, but to others all around the world. There is absolutely no shame in showing the proper respect for what you do either. What is shameful is when you act irrationally and do something that you may regret. For example, smashing a guitar or tennis racket when upset is not a way of showing respect. Just like the Golden Chain of Love, "try to think pure and beautiful thoughts", "say pure and beautiful words", and "do pure and beautiful deeds".

President's Message

Branching off of showing respect, have dignity. Have a sense of pride in what you do. Everyone goes through times where they feel that they aren't performing to the best of their ability or just want to quit. Other times you'll feel insecure about what you do because of other people. None of that matters. The world is imperfect, as are you. What matters is that you are confident in what you do and have a sense of integrity. No one can tell you what you should or shouldn't be doing if you are doing it with all your heart and passion.

Of course, if you don't enjoy what you're doing... why are you doing it? You should enjoy what you do through thick and thin because there is no better way to be spending your time. Truthfully, this message made more sense in my head but I hope you get the idea. Hope everyone has a fun Spring Fed! Good luck to everyone with the rest of the school year!



In Gassho,
Manami Alspach
2021-22 Federation President

Letter From the Editor

Hi everyone,

I hope you are doing well! Spring is here! In Japan, this season is known as a time of reflection and rebirth. Like the constant cycle of the seasons, we can appreciate the ebb and flow of our lives as we pass various milestones in our lives.

Regarding reflection, I wanted to look back in March when Pacific Buddhist Academy held their 16th Annual Taiko Festival. This year, I had the opportunity to debut two of my original compositions which paid tribute to the victims of the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami, as well as the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster.



Kishikaisei, which was also this year's theme roughly translates to waking up from death or rebirth; an old Japanese Buddhist idiom used to encourage people to recover from a hopeless situation and persevere. This theme attempted to display the permanent scars left on the hearts of the 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster survivors in Japan's Tōhoku region.

Letter From the Editor

The main inspiration for my compositions was to show empathy to not only the victims of the Tsunami but to humanity. When the tsunami hit Tohoku in 2011, I was six years old. I remember hearing about the disaster on national news. Watching the devastation occur thousands of miles away was shocking and heartbreaking even to this day. It is terrifying to see the power of a natural disaster. It's destructive nature left long lasting effects on the people and their culture.

As I got older, I was able to do more research on the situation and how it affected people through papers and interviews. I remember the story of the citizens who were recovering in the town of Ishinomaki in Tohoku. Looking at the pictures, I couldn't believe the destruction. It was in a sense overwhelming. Towns and neighborhoods were destroyed and houses were on their sides.

Despite this, the Japanese citizens were able to pick up the remains and move on with their lives. Businesses and lives were lost, but they salvaged what they could, and worked to put their lives back together. There is a Japanese Phrase- 七転び八起き (Nana korobi ya oki), which means "Fall seven times, get up on the eighth."



Letter From the Editor

This phrase involves the concept of resilience. Like the Daruma doll, no matter how many times you get knocked down or fail, you get up again. When those affected suffered from the drastic effects of the earthquake, they got back up and fought in the face of adversity returning back to a new normal. We can learn from this that there are no quick fixes in life, and anything of real worth will necessarily take much struggle and perseverance. Success does not have to be fast—what's more important is that one simply does their best and remains persistent.

Connecting to Kishikaisei or "Wake from death and return to life," the citizens of Japan were optimistic about the future. Despite their lives being turned around in the worst way possible, they stood together and helped each other get through the difficult times. Their ingenuity, selflessness, and positivity are traits I aspire to adopt. Having nothing, but still being able to find hope in each other will help us become more interconnected as a society. To achieve this, we might need to work together to overcome life's adversity.

Good luck to everyone with the rest of the school year! Gambarimashoo!



In Gassho,
Chad Okawa
Federation Vice President

United of Hawaii

Aloha YBA friends,

Once again, this past quarter has gone by in a flash! As we round the corner into the 5th month of 2022, here's what we've been up to.

To celebrate Hanamatsuri, we got together and decorated the Hanamido with all sorts of foliage. I think it turned out great (although it is a little jungle-esque)!

Of course, we've been keeping up with our monthly Feed the Hungry projects. We've had the opportunity to host these more often and are in the works of returning to our old buffet-style! Hopefully such a shift is a sign that things are improving.



United of Hawaii



We've also been busy planning for this coming convention so stay tuned and please register! We're very excited to have you all and hope we can share the aloha and make some memories. Take care and hope to see you all soon,



In Gassho,
Kieran Maesaka
United of Hawaii President



United of Honolulu



Hi Everyone,

I hope you are doing well! Alongside monthly meetings, the United of Honolulu has been working on various projects.

In February, we helped the United of Oahu clean the Peace Bell at Blaisdell Park. Though it took a lot of hard labor, we were able to remove the graffiti on the bell. Thank you to the United of Oahu for inviting us!

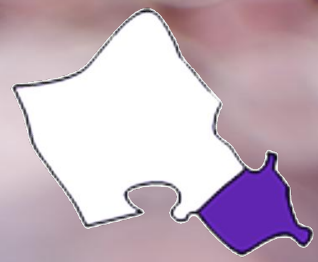


The following week, we had a united meeting, potluck, and movie night at Kailua Hongwanji. We watched Encanto and ate lots of good food!





United of Honolulu



In March, we wrote handwritten Buddha Day cards for Project Dana. They later distributed the cards to Honolulu temples and care homes for Hanamatsuri.

In April, we made yarn leis for the Plaza Waikiki. Next month, we will be baking baked goods, which we will be donating alongside these leis! We are looking forward to the 65th Convention in Hilo this June!



In Gassho,
Naho Umitani
United of Honolulu President

United of Kauai

Hey everyone!

I hope you're all doing well and are thriving during the school year! The United of Kaua'i has been doing the best we can with our current situation. We've continued holding in-person meetings, where we talk about any upcoming events, search for new members, and new community service ideas. We continue recycling cans and plastic bottles collected by temple members and families.

With college classes and planning for their futures, our members have kept busy. Taryn is preparing for graduation and is excited to start college. I hope you're all staying safe and wish you all the best of luck with finals!



In Gassho,
Madison Doo
United of Kauai President

United of Maui

Hello All,

I hope you had a great Easter weekend and a great Hanamasturi. We have been doing hybrid meetings and planning for events. On Hanamatsuri. all the temples had recorded small segments and pieced them all together to make a Hanamatsuri compilation for all of the other temples.

Currently, we are going to have an overnight retreat to connect the juniors more and to make new friends. I hope you all have a great rest of the school year and hope to see you all again soon!



In Gassho,
Jay Yokoyama
United of Maui President



United of Oahu



Hi Everyone,

Wow, this year is moving so fast; I can't believe we are at our last Federation Meeting! Here's some updates on the United of Oahu.

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Danny, one of our members, as he will be moving with his family to the mainland after the school year is over. On a brighter note, we went to the zoo and had a small picnic to squeeze in some last memories! It was my first time going in a really long time, and I had a ton of fun watching all the animals - especially the hippos.



Also, we participated in a Peace Bell Clean Up at Blaisdell Park to get it ready for Sangha Day. We used this time to have some bonding with the United of Honolulu and put our knockerballs to some good use! Some of us attended the BSC Spring Seminar which was also a great experience and a great opportunity. I can't wait to see you all at convention!!!



In Gassho,
Kana Suzuki
United of Oahu President

Website

Visit Our Website!
<https://www.hawaiiiryba.com>



Hawai'i Federation of
Junior Young Buddhists Associations



The Jr. YBA Federation of Hawaii

Home

Who We Are

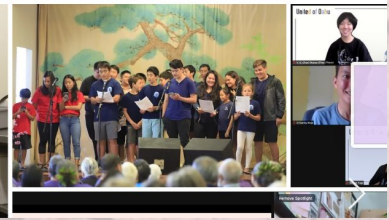
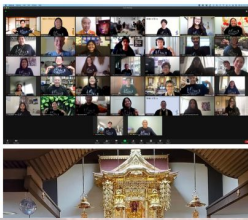
Newsletters

Upcoming Events

Inquiries

WE ARE A GROUP OF YOUNG BUDDHISTS WHO WORK TOGETHER
TO LEARN THE TEACHINGS OF THE *BUDDHA*, ENTRUST IN THE
DHARMA, AND GIVE BACK TO OUR *SANGHAS*!

(ALL WHILE HAVING FUN AND EATING DELICIOUS FOOD!)



United Contact Information

United of Hawaii	Kieran Maesaka (United President) kieran.maesaka@imua.ksbe.edu Michelle Soga (Advisor) soga.michelle@gmail.com Sandy Taniguchi (Advisor) sandytaniguchi@gmail.com
United of Honolulu	Naho Umitani (United President) naho.umitani@gmail.com Joy Nishida (Advisor) jwnishida@gmail.com Alisa Kondo (Advisor) chikopups@gmail.com
United of Maui	Jaimee Yokoyama (United President) markiplierandjacksepticeye2@gmail.com Wayde Toyama (Advisor) wayde.toyama@gmail.com
United of Oahu	Kana Suzuki (United President) kanascats@gmail.com Claire Tamamoto (Advisor) Claire2164@gmail.com Gay Tanaka (Advisor) gaytanaka@gmail.com
United of Kauai	Madison Doo (United President) madisonakdoo@gmail.com Roberta Yanagawa (Advisor) yanagawas42@gmail.com

Fed Contact Information

Federation President

Manami Alspach

manamialspach22@gmail.com

Federation Vice President

Chad/Chihiro Okawa

Chad.okawa@gmail.com

Federation Secretary

Naho Umitani

naho.umitani@gmail.com

Federation Treasurer

Jaimee Yokoyama

markiplierandjacksepticeye2@
gmail.com

Federation Advisor

Joy Nishida

jwnishida@gmail.com

Thanks for Reading!



Follow the Instagram Accounts!!

Fed: @hawaii-fed-jryba

Oahu: @jryba-fo-oahu

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