

Hawaii Federation of Junior YBAs

Serendipity

SPRING EDITION

Hawaii | Honolulu | Maui | Oahu | Kauai

April 2023



Presidents Message

I cannot believe Spring Federations is coming around the corner. Time sure flies! Spring is the season of change in Japan. It 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.

The last few months since Winter Fed have been very busy for me as I prepared for various projects and performances in my various endeavors. I wish all you fellow seniors and underclassmen luck as you finish strong! Last month in March, I participated in two major taiko concerts, one as a member of Pacific Buddhist Academy's Hyaku Sen Ki Kai and another as a member of the Taiko Center of the Pacific Youth Group. PBA's taiko festival was really heavy for me as it is the last major performances I will be a part of. I had the honor of choosing the theme, Senri No Michi, or the "Journey of a Thousand Miles." To me, this was a reflection on my journey not only as a taiko player but to find my identity and persevere through hardships.

In Buddhism, we learn that life is suffering. When I was younger, I remember getting frustrated because I constantly got corrected on my form or needed help reciprocating the pattern. Despite this, I was always patiently reminded to keep trying. No matter how often I was corrected or did not understand something, I always tried to work towards improving myself and working with others. It took a lot of blood, sweat, and tears, but after years of practice, I reached the rank of a performing member. I did not do this alone; I was very fortunate to have been surrounded by a group of mentors that helped me to work towards my full potential. Time and time again, my limits were surpassed thanks to the mutual support of the taiko community. My identity and leadership skills would not be where they are without this support.

Presidents Message continued

This is very similar to what I experienced as a member of the Jr. YBA as I initially started and soon progressed to become an officer. Initially, I made mistakes, but thanks to many people, I was able to persevere and become more involved. The support and trust I was given from my advisors and the congregation has really helped me to become a better leader. I acknowledge I may not be perfect, but I appreciate the patience everyone has with me. In addition, the support I received when coming out as nonbinary was very affirming for me as it helped me to hone my identity.

By the time you are reading this letter, I have finished the last day of school at Pacific Buddhist Academy. A time of sentimental reflection as seniors like myself transition into a new stage of life. In Buddhism, we learn that life is impermanent, like the cherry blossoms. Every moment is precious, but also disappears quickly.

To the incoming seniors, I would like to offer a tip...besides not procrastinating, which is to savor every moment and live life to the fullest. The Japanese phrase, Ichigo Ichie translates to One moment one meeting. Senior year passes fast and I encourage you to balance school and friendships and to make memories before you go to college.



In Gassho,
Chad "Chihiro" Okawa

Editors Message

Hello everyone! I hope you are all doing well! It is crazy to think how fast this year has gone by. I wanted to say good luck to all of the seniors who will be starting a new journey and a new chapter in their life. I wish you guys the best of luck and I will miss you all more than you know. This year has been very hectic for me but I could not have done it without my fellow executive board Chihiro, Emma, and Jay. They have always had my back and answered any questions I had about anything. I remember when I first start Jr.YBA as a seventh grader I had no idea what it was about and I had no idea if I was going to stay in it. I am so so thankful I did. I have created so many lifelong friendships and memories that will always have a special place in my heart. When I was a tiny seventh grader I truly had no idea that I would be the federation Vice President and United of Maui's President. These positions have taught me so many valuable lessons that I will always need in life. I hope you all have an amazing rest of your school year and congratulations to all the seniors graduating this year! I hope to see you all at the convention!



In Gassho,
Kaylie Okuni



United Reports

Hawaii | Honolulu | Maui | Oahu | Kauai



United of Kaua'i

President : Madison Doo

Hey everyone!

I hope you're all doing well and working hard to finish the semester! The United of Kaua'i has continued holding in-person meetings, where we talk about any upcoming events, search for new members, and new community service ideas. We've started recycling cans and plastic bottles for our temple members and families. In addition, we've joined and assisted in our temple's bon dance committee; we're ecstatic for our first bon dance since COVID! I hope you're all staying safe and wish you the best of luck with your finals and the wrap-up of the school year.

Thank you!



United of Hawaii'i

President : Sara Igawa

Hi everyone!

Since the fall federation, our united has been keeping busy. One event that we've done is Hanamido Decoration on April 8th. We had lots of fun decorating the hanamido with orchids, anthuriums, and lots of colorful flowers along with greenery. It was great to be able to celebrate the Buddha's birthday and pour sweet tea over baby Buddha! Additionally, we were able to meet PBA students on January 29th. It was lots of fun being able to connect with our Oahu friends and to recite Juseige with them at the service. On April 29th, we will be meeting our new friends from Kona at the children's day activity at Puna Hongwanji. We have lots of exciting activities coming up and can't wait to connect together in person soon! Hope you all have a great rest of your school year and enjoy the warm spring days!



United of Oahu

President : Ty Wakahiro

Hi Everyone!

Since the Winter Federation meeting the United of Oahu has been working hard to plan this year's statewide convention. We hope to see you all there!

Along with our monthly meetings, we visited Temple Emanu-el, a Jewish temple in Honolulu. We also watched one of our members, Maya, perform in Peace on Your Wings with Honolulu United and the Federation officers, and went ice skating with Honolulu United at Ice Palace. Chihiro and I also helped to MC/host the 4th Annual Virtual State Dharma School Gathering. We are planning to visit the Muslim Association of Hawaii in May and we have also been planning to help out at some of the bon dances on Oahu.



United of Maui

President : Kaylie Okuni

Hey guys! I hope you are all doing well! Maui United has been keeping up with our monthly meetings, fundraising for upcoming events, and recruiting new members. We have been keeping busy with our McFundraiser coupons which do super well. We also plan to picnic at the beach with three incoming juniors. I would also like to thank everyone who came to the in-person Winter Federation meeting! I hope you guys had as much fun as we did and would like to thank everyone who helped make it possible. This past winter federation meeting will be one for the books!



United of Honolulu

President : Karli Koyanagi

Hello Everyone!

The Honolulu United has done a lot since we last met! We all had a blast in Maui, where we were able to go to Haleakala, eat at cafe o'lei, and also try Krispy Kreme for the first time! We had so much fun meeting new people from other united as well. We also were able to go to ice palace with the Oahu United where we skated and got to eat food! We also created Bodhi Day cards for Project Dana. Project Dana distributed these cards to kupuna at various Hongwanji's such as Jikoen, Moiliili, Hawaii Betsuin, and Windward! We all hope you are all staying healthy and having a great spring season!

**Service Events
&
Activities
Recap !**



Giseikai & Officer Retreat

February 9th - 12th 2023



Chihiro, Emma, Jay, and I attended the 111th legislative assembly (Giseikai) on Oahu this past February. We presented a Jr.YBA report which recapped all of what the Uniteds has been up to and what we plan to do in the future. We learned various things at Giseikai such as how to voice our opinion, how to bring up issues relating to our temples, etc. After the first day of Giseikai, we had Shabu Shabu and then had the chance to visit the KITV4 news station! After the second day of Giseikai, we had an amazing dinner with United of Oahu at The Old Spaghetti Factory and then watched Peace On Your Wings! On the final day, we went Ice Skating with United of Honolulu President Karli Koyangi and had lots of fun.

Winter Federation

January 15-16

Winter Federation was hosted on Maui this year and we hope everyone had a blast! It took lots of planning so we hope you guys enjoyed yourselves. We had lots of fun on the beach and just cruising around Frontstreet! Thanks to everyone who could make it!



Recycling

United of Kauai



Our United began recycling cans and bottles. We continuously collect, organize, and recycle our temple's recyclables. We encourage community and temple members to bring their cans and bottles to promote and encourage healthier waste management.

Interfaith visit to Temple Emanu-el

United of Oahu

To learn about other people's beliefs and to promote understanding, we wanted to visit places of worship for other faiths. Our United visited a Jewish temple, Temple Emanu-el, in late March. The congregation was very welcoming and friendly. The service was beautiful, with lots of singing and the use of musical instruments. We were given a tour around the temple and learned about Judaism, historic religious artifacts, religious items, their extensive library, and so much more. We got to try challah which was so good and had a chance to talk and learn from some of the members and the rabbi. The visit was very insightful and we learned so much.



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Thanks for Reading!



Follow the Instagram accounts!

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