

Hawaii Federation of Junior YBAs

Serendipity

SUMMER EDITION

Hawaii | Honolulu | Maui | Oahu | Kauai

Presidents Message

Hi everyone,

I hope you are doing well! Can you believe Convention is already here? I am grateful that we can once again gather for another in-person event! Thank you to the United of Oahu for working hard to make this event possible! As this year's theme is Sangha- Our Interdependent Environment, I would be remiss if I did not thank everyone who played a significant part in helping shape us.

There is a Japanese phrase that I hold close to my heart- "Okage Sama De," which means, "I am who I am because of you." I owe a lot of gratitude to the Jr. YBA Sangha for shaping who I am today. When I first began as a timid 7th grader, I never would have imagined where I am today. To that, I thank all my advisors and past and present members for trusting me (and laughing at my bad jokes.)

As I write this, I feel melancholy as I begin a new chapter in life. As a tidbit of advice to my colleagues, remember to apply the Golden Chain of Love: "Be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than myself." This may be the end of a chapter of our lives, but this does not have to be the end of the connections and relationships we have developed. Although we may not physically be in the same state, our connections will never disappear. Jr. YBA will always be in our hearts.



In Gassho,
Chad "Chihiro" Okawa

Editors Message

Hello Everyone !

I can't believe this Jr.YBA year is almost over ! I wanted to thank each and everyone of you for your continued support and love in Jr.YBA. When I first joined I would have never thought I would have the courage to serve as Federation Vice President but I am truly grateful to have this opportunity. It was the continuous support I received from my peers in Jr.YBA that I had courage to run at the last convention. I have learned so much in this little time I held this position and I know I will always use these new found skills in my everyday life.

As a federation officer I had the chance to go to Gisekai this past year and as an extra activity we attended "Peace on Your Wings" which is a historical play telling the story of Sadako Sasaki and the thousand cranes she folded. In the play they kept saying this one phrase, "Ichigo Ichie" which loosely translates to " One time, One meeting". I wanted to share this because I wanted to remind all of you we only have one life, one chance. Live your life to your fullest. Don't go on in your life regretting it. If you have an opportunity, take it and use it to its full potential. We all have one life so don't waste it!

Thank you guys so much for always supporting me! From Jr.YBA I know I have made some lifelong friends who I will never forget. I will always thank Jr.YBA for pushing me out of my comfort zone and making me a better person as well as a better Buddhist. Thank you for an amazing year.



In Gassho,
Kaylie Okuni



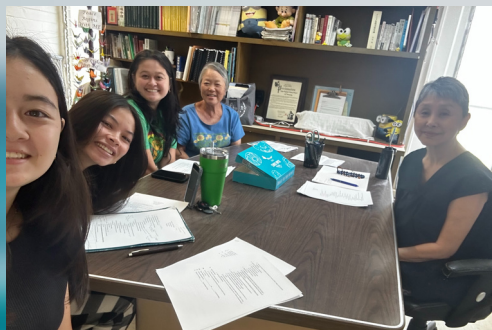
*United
Reports*



United of Kawai'i

President: Madison Doo

On May 15, 2023 we had a meeting where we talked about recruiting new members, upcoming temple events, and the previous Federation meeting. June 4, 2023 we had our Bachelorette Service where we honored our graduate, Madison, and another graduate from Kapa'a Hongwanji Temple. They were awarded their scholarships, leis, and partook in refreshments after service. June 5, 2023 members helped Minister Majima clear space for the upcoming Bon Dance. They moved books, objects, and tables to make a dressing room for the dancers. June 9 & 10, 2023 members assisted the temple execute their Bon Dance. They prepared food, monitored game booths, and cleaned up. Finally, June 14, 2023 we had a meeting in which we talked about recruiting new members, upcoming events, and assisting in the cleaning of temples.





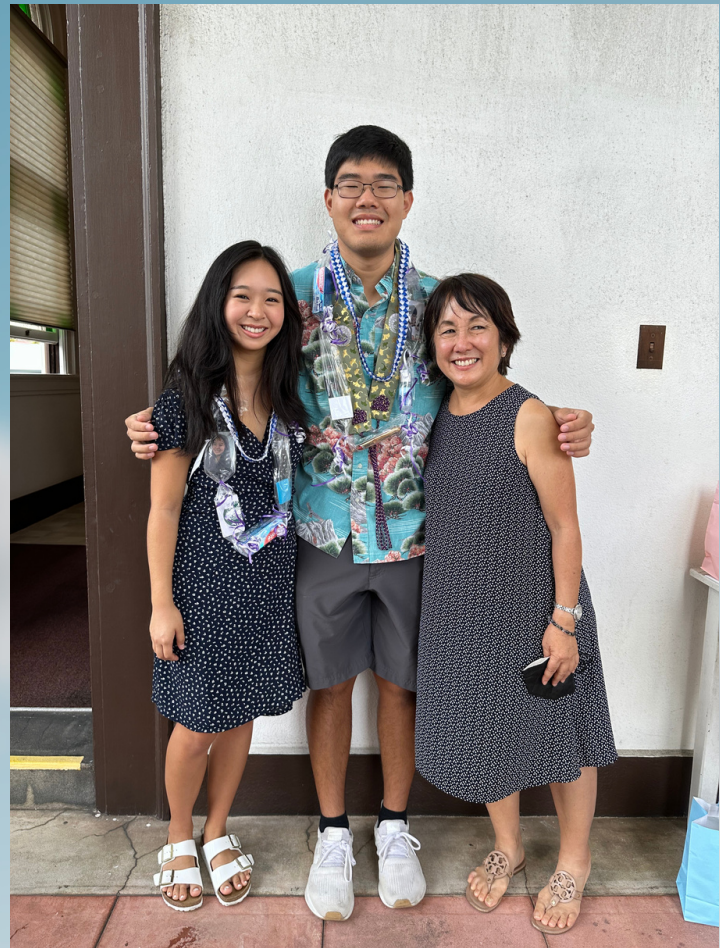
United of Hawai'i

President : Sara Igawa

Hi everyone!

The United of Hawaii has recently helped Papaikou Hongwanji with their bon dance concession on June 18th! It was lots of fun as we prepped Portuguese bean soup, spam musubi, chili, and hotdogs! There was a great turnout this year as we saw many friends and family as we gathered at one of the first bon dances of the year! We also had our honor the graduates service on June 4th where we got to recognize all of the amazing Jr. YBA members that graduated recently! Next to Rimban Takahashi from left to right is Landon Yanagisawa who will be attending Chapman University, Kaylee Nagata who will be attending UH Manoa, Sienna Chanhmany who will be attending University of San Francisco, Tevin Atwal who will be attending Santa Clara University, and Kai Hayashida who will be attending Whitworth University! In the other attached photo we have our two graduates that were unable to make it to the June 4th service. On the left is Sara Igawa who will be attending San Diego State University. In the middle is Reyn Funai who will be attending Seattle University. Congratulations to all graduates from all uniteds! We wish you the best in all of your future endeavors! Thank you to everyone for a wonderful year as a united officer! I am extremely grateful for all of my experiences and opportunities to meet new friends and learn more about Buddhism to serve our communities.

In Gassho,
Sara Igawa





United of Oahu

President : Ty Wakahiro

Hi Everyone!

Since the spring fed meeting, we have been continuing on planning for convention. We are so excited to host everyone.

Along with our meetings, we visited the Muslim Association of Hawaii where we talked with the imam and learned about Islam. Our very own Chihiro was a panel member for the LGBTQIA+ 101 educational session at the Buddhist Study Center on April 22nd. I also helped direct traffic and take down lanterns at Ewa Hongwanji's Obon fundraiser on June 17th.

We are looking forward to helping temples with their bon dances this year and have also gained two more members





United of Maui

President : Kaylie Okuni

Hello everyone !

I hope all of your summers are going well. This year has been a very successful year for Maui United with multiple fundraisers, service projects, socials, etc. Since Spring Federation we had a picnic at Kanaha Beach Park as a bonding for our new members but the turnout wasn't what we were expecting. Only one member and two advisors attended but we still ate lots of good food and had lots of laughs. The other fun activity we did was we flew out to Oahu a day earlier than convention as a celebration for our senior Jaimee. We had lots of fun at Wet 'N' Wild, spent all of our money at Ka Makana Ali'i, and ate till our stomachs hurt at shabu shabu. I'm very grateful for this opportunity to expand the teachings for the Buddha to other fellow Jr.YBA members as Maui United President.





United of Honolulu

President : Karli Koyanagi

I hope everyone is having an amazing summer! The Honolulu united has been busy since we've last met! We had a social with the Oahu united at Ice Palace! We also just had four seniors who graduated from our united!!! We've been getting ready for the Bon Dance season as well! At our last meeting, we elected new officers and also went to an escape room afterwards! We had a lot of fun and escaped with 12 minutes to spare!



Congratulations Class of 2023 !



Karli Koyanagi
UH Manoa
Marketing



Caden Matsumoto
Pacific University



Skylar Takeuchi
UC Santa Cruz
Electrical Engineering



Brady Blum
Temple University
Undecided



Jaimee Yokoyama
UH Manoa
Computer Science



Sienna Chanhmany
University of San Fransisco
Business



Sara Igawa
San Diego State
University
Nursing



Kai Hayashida
Whitworth University
Journalism and Media
Studies



Tevin Atwal
Santa Clara University
Computer Science and
Engineering

Congratulations Class of 2023 !



Kaylee Nagata
UH Manoa
Creative Media



Madison Doo
Western Washington
University
Elementary Education



Reyn Funai
Seattle University
Accounting



Ty Wakahiro
California State Polytechnic
University
Urban Planning

Advice To Class of 2023 From Former Jr. YBA members

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Ethan Mayer

"As you all start a new chapter in your life, I want you all to remember one thing. Everyone's journey in life is different. Don't compare your life to others, especially if they make major strides in life before you do. There will be setbacks and plans that change, that's a part of life. Your journey is your own, go at your own pace and stay the course. We are all behind you. Ganbatte. "

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Kelli Okayama

" Live everyday to its fullest, don't be shy to try new foods or meet new friends along the way! Everything happens in a blink of an eye and one day you will be able to look back at all the memories to cherish for a lifetime:) "

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Koji Suzuki

"Don't be afraid to try new things and step out of your comfort zone! Also, I'd like to share one of my favorite quotes by Henry Van Dyke- "Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best". Congratulations Class of 2023! "

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Alex Harman

"Whenever there is a opportunity take it, no matter how big or how small. Life is too short to think about the what if's."

Advice To Class of 2023 From Former Jr. YBA members

Pt.2

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Kieran Maesaka

" Hello Jr YBA!

Some advice that I wish I knew coming out of high school is that the world is much bigger than we think. We all live on an island in the middle of the Pacific, we tend to lose sight of the vastness of the world. With that in mind, do not be afraid of new experiences. Take chances, try new things, seize opportunities. Anything and everything that crosses your path has the potential to change your life.

I wish you all luck as you move forward into the next chapter of your lives. We are all behind you, 100%. "

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Kana Suzuki

"Make sure to remember to do things you love no matter how busy you might get and be open to all the opportunities that come your way!"

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Alyssa Okamura

" It's okay to still not have your life figured out in college, your early 20s are about finding yourself and your passions, which can change as you have new experiences. Prioritize building relationships and meeting others, and enjoy the little moments. "

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Saizen Ochi

" Jr. YBA has really opened me up and help me connect with my community on a whole other level! I've also made life long friends and am more willing to go outside of my comfort zone! "

Advice To Class of 2023 From Former Jr. YBA members

Pt.3

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Kenji Suzuki

"Take every opportunity and to make as much memories as they can, and to continue to build connections with others. Also, be kind. "

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Jenna Takara

"It's okay to not be okay. Even if that means taking a break or taking things slower than usual. At the end of the day, it's progress of growth, not progress of perfection"

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Chloe Oshiro

"Take time off to enjoy life"

Thanks for Reading!



Follow the Instagram accounts!

Fed: [@hawaiiifedjryba](#) Honolulu: [@jrybaofhonolulu](#)

Oahu: [@jrybaofohahu](#) Kauai: [@jrybaofkauai](#)

Hawaii: [@jrybaofhawaii](#) Maui: [@jrybaofmaui](#)