

October 2023

FALL

Serendipity

HAWAII FEDERATION OF JR. YBAS



Maui | Oahu | Hawai'i | Honolulu

Presidents Message

Hi Everyone!

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying the first semester of school. For those who do not know me, my name is Chihiro Okawa and this is my second term as President. I look forward to working with and meeting all of you this year!

A few months ago, we were informed of the tragic news on Maui. Our thoughts, prayers, and support go out to those still suffering today, recovering from losing their loved ones, homes, and community.

In Buddhism, we learn that everything is interdependent and that we rely on each other to coexist. Now more than ever, we need to come together to support our community in Lahaina.

During this time, I am aware some of you may be vigorously studying for exams or midterms (I most certainly am), but I want to thank you all for continuing to do hard work in your districts through community service, outreach, and fundraising!

I look forward to seeing you all and having a productive meeting!



In Gassho,
Chihiro Okawa

Editors Message

Hello everyone !

For those who may not know me, I'm Kaylie Okuni, and I'm thrilled to be serving as this year's Federation Vice President. It's an incredible honor, and when I first joined Jr. YBA, I could have never imagined I'd be in this position today.

A little bit about me: I'm currently a senior in high school, and ive been an active member of Jr. YBA for six wonderful years now. I also have the privilege of serving as the President of Maui United, a role that has taught me invaluable life lessons.

Over these past six years, Jr. YBA has deepened my understanding of the teachings of the Buddha in ways I couldn't have achieved elsewhere. The experiences, the friendships, and, of course, the delicious food have all left lasting memories.

I hope that each of you finds the same joy and fulfillment that Jr. YBA has brought into my life. This club has not only shaped me into the person I am today but has also connected me with lifelong friends. My wish for all of you reading this is that you discover the same passion I did within Jr. YBA. Wishing you all a fantastic day, and let's have an amazing meeting !



In Gassho,

Kaylie Okuni



*United
Reports*



United of Hawai'i

President : Dari Nekoba

Hello Everyone!

Since our 66th annual Jr. YBA convention, the United of Hawaii has been doing quite a few activities. Our first activity that followed the convention was our Hilo Hongwanji's Obon Dance concession that took place on July 15th. It was a long day of prep and cooking, but it was definitely worth it! We had some of our previous members join in to help, so it was very nice to see them again, along with having the extra set of hands. In addition, we had our officer installation on July 30th and our Feed the Hungry event that followed. On September 7th, we had an exchange with some students from Ryukoku University. We had a potluck dinner and met a lot of nice students and teachers and even presented our organization to the students from both the University of Hilo and Ryukoku University. Our United also helped to serve food and drinks to the people who attended the Keirokai Service and cleaned up on September 24th. We even participated in a little stretching demonstration before everyone had food!





United of Maui

President : Kaylie Okuni

Hello Everyone !

Since our last federation meeting, Maui united has been keeping busy with various activities. We have been keeping up with our monthly meetings and have recruited nine new members !!! To celebrate Jays recent graduation, we all had a delicious lunch at the Mill house right after our monthly meeting. We've helped out bon dances around the island and we were contributing by doing things such as selling drinks at Makawao Hongwanji Bon Dance, helping with kids games at Wailuku Hongwanji, as well as selling more drinks at Kahului Hongwanji. We are currently planning to have an officer installation, car wash fundraiser, and an HBY month sleepover ! We are also in the midst of planning for the 67th Jr.YBA convention so we'll let you guys know any updates as soon as possible. I hope to see you all soon ! Also please remember to still help out Maui any way that you can after the devastating fires in the historical town of Lahaina. #MAUI STRONG





United of Honolulu

President : Riho Umitani

Hi everyone!

Since the summer Federation meeting, the United of Honolulu has been working hard with monthly meetings and fun activities. July was filled with bon dances which included helping out during Moili'ili Hongwanji's Summer Festival by making spam musubi's and working at the kid's booth! We also had a shave ice booth at Windward Buddhist Temple's Bon Dance and made waffle dogs at Jikoen Hongwanj's Bon Dance (making over \$1000!!). July was a busy month but super enjoyable and rewarding! In August, we had our installation service and first meeting of the 2023-2024 year, followed by a dinner at Bucadibeppo. In September, we had our first membership drive at Aiea Bowl! It was super successful since each member brought at least one guest, leading to more guests than united members there! October was an extremely busy month for our United, as it was filled with meetings, service projects, and fundraisers! On October 1, we sold shave ice at the Mo'ili'ili Hongwanij Bazaar! It was super enjoyable for every member! On October 14, we did a service project at Ulupō Heiau in Kailua, in which members helped clean lo'is with other members of the community! Everyone got a bit dirty but it was a great experience! Following that, we had a breakfast fundraiser at Jikoen Hongwanji where we cooked, served, and attended temple service! We made over \$1000 and were able to meet possible new members for our united (since we currently don't have anyone from Jikoen). Finally, on October 27, we had a Panda Express fundraiser that members helped to coordinate and make possible! Money made during October will go towards our HBY month organizations. We are planning a possible service project in November and a holiday social or fundraiser in December! Our United will also be coordinating the Hawaii Betsuin Bodhi Day Service in early December! Hope to see everyone soon!



United of Oahu

President : Diandra Thomson

Since our last federation meeting at the convention, Oahu United has improved immensely since last year. Currently we have every officer position filled with some extra members. Since Ty is no longer president and isn't here to say this, Did you know that we started last year with only 2 members? Before the new officers were elected, we volunteered at many different hongwanjis bon dances, including our own, selling drinks, food, or shaved ice! Recently we had a manju making day, making orders for members of Wahiawa, Waianae, Aiea and Waipahu hongwanji. This month for united bonding, we went to the haunted plantation the day after it opened.



Meet your
2023-2024
Federation Officers
and
United Presidents!!!

Meet your Federation Officers!

FEDERATION PRESIDENT



Hi everyone,

I am very grateful to be given the opportunity to be president for a second term! Thank you for your trust in me! I have been a member of Jr. YBA for around seven years now (yes, I am old haha) after encouragement from my United advisor, Aunty Claire. I have stayed because of the sense of community I have encountered. My hobbies are listening to K-pop and playing taiko. As a Non-binary individual, I also enjoy advocating for LGBTQ+ rights in various organizations. This year, I look forward to working with everyone to increase the visibility of Jr. YBA and to continue helping communities around us. With tragedies like the Maui Wildfire affecting those close to us, I am hoping we can contribute to assist temple members who have dedicated so much. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to send me an email or DM. My contact is

below:

Instagram: sushitaiko_808

Gmail: chad.okawa@gmail.com

FEDERATION VICE PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone! I'm so glad to be federation vice president for a second year! I love doing judo which I have been doing for about eight years now. I also love hanging out with my friends and just having a lot of fun. I joined Jr.YBA because my brother Kai was in it so I was sort of forced but I ended up loving it so much. I look forward to connecting this last year with all of you and just making it count!



FEDERATION SECRETARY

Hi everyone! This is my 6th year with the Jr. YBA, and second go at being the federation secretary :). I like to spend my free time reading and drawing, and I also play soccer. I ended up joining YBA following my brother, Wyatt, and I've been able to meet and connect with a lot of new people as a result. This year I'm looking forward to attending Giseikai with the other officers again, as well as more in person federation meetings. I hope everyone has a great year!



FEDERATION TREASURER

Hi guys, my name is Jaimee but most of you know me by Jay. I've been in Jr.YBA since I was in 7th grade and now I am a freshman in college. I originally and from Maui but at the moment I'm living on campus at UH Manoa. I joined Jr. YBA because I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself. I am excited for the goals we planned to reach this year as well as getting through my first year in college.



Meet your United Presidents!

UNITED OF HAWAII



Hello everyone! My name is Dari Nekoba, and I am this year's United President for the United of Hawaii. I am currently a senior at Waiakea High School in Hilo, and have been a part of Jr. YBA for 6 years. I am looking into majoring in graphic design, and studying at UH Mānoa. I really enjoy doing all sorts of art projects and digital design, and am active in sports such as tennis and golf.

UNITED OF OAHU

My name is Diandra Thomson and I am this year's Oahu united president. I am currently a junior at Mililani high school. I participate in 5 extra curricular activities. If you went to this year's convention you may recognize me as the girl you injured her leg at wahiawa bon dance. For those of you who were wondering, I'm doing great now and I'm proud to be a united president!



UNITED OF HONOLULU

Hi everyone!

My name is Riho Umitani and I am the President of the United of Honolulu Jr.YBA for the 2023-2024 year! I am currently a junior at Pacific Buddhist Academy and attend the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. My hobbies include watching Netflix, playing the piano, drawing, and baking! I'm super excited to do more events with my United, and will do my best as President! Thank you!



UNITED OF MAUI

Hello Everyone! My name is Kaylie Okuni and I am this years Maui United President. I am a current senior at King Kekaulike High School. I enjoy doing judo and I have done it for about eight years now. After highschool I plan on studying biology or molecular biology and being on the p re-medical track. To then become a pediatrician



Thank you for
Reading!

