

HAWAII FEDERATION OF JUNIOR YBAs

Serendipity

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SUMMER EDITION 2022

HAWAII | HONOLULU | MAUI | OAHU | KAUAI



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KANA SUZUKI AND THE UNITED OF OAHU

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President's Message

Aloha everyone~!

Hope you have all been having a fun summer so far & hoping it just gets even more eventful along the way!

Unfortunately, I think this is the last convention that I will be attending (as a Jr. YBA member, at least). Coincidentally, my first and last Jr. YBA experience was and is being held as a convention in Hilo! Kind of a nice way to tie things together for my journey through Jr. YBA. Thinking back to that convention, our theme was “The Magic of Buddha”, inspired by Disney. We seem to really like our animations, seeing that this year we took inspiration from the classic Pokemon series.

I truly want to thank each and every one of you for all the active participation and work that you have all put in this past year! I know it was difficult again with another year of ZOOM meetings but with all the patience, we have been able to finally have our first semi-fully in-person Jr. YBA event! The Hawai'i United, especially the Hilo Unit, have put in so much work so we really hope that you are enjoying –and continue to enjoy– this weekend. I also just wanted to send out a quick congratulations to the Class of 2022 Graduates!! WE DID IT!!! I'm honestly not sure whether our high school career went by fast or slow but all that matters is that it's over, haha! As we continue on our separate ways, never forget the memories and lessons that you have learned during your time in YBA.

President's Message

A few weeks ago, I attended my baccalaureate service in Kona –which ended up being very personalized because I was the only graduate– and I want to share a little something from the dharma message that I received. “Embrace your suck”. That’s it. Just kidding, there’s a little more... The idea of “embracing your suck” is to accept and be okay with all your flaws, things you’re not good at, and things that you need to improve on. No matter what stage we are in life, we will always have these things looming over our heads that may make us feel insecure or inferior. Well, guess what? It’s not going to do you any good to fret over those little things. You may as well just embrace it and incorporate it into the person you are or work hard to get better at certain skills! Like national treasure, Dolly Parton, once said, “Find out who you are then do it on purpose!” And once you do, there is nothing anyone can do about it! Sometimes it takes a long time, but remember that it’s not how quickly you finish the race but crossing the finish line.

Hope you all have a wonderful rest of your convention & summer! Thank you for all the memories and for allowing me to serve as your Federation President this year.



In gassho,

Manami Alspach

Jr. YBA Federation President 2021-2022

Letter From the Editor

Hi everyone,

お疲れ様でした to the Class of 2022! We are all proud of your accomplishments and look forward to what you will achieve in the future!! Summer has finally come, and after two years of virtual meetings and events, we have finally come together for a long-awaited in-person convention.

It is hard to believe that I am here editing (last minute at 3:00 in the morning...) my fourth and final edition of the 2021-22 Serendipity. I would like to thank you all for trusting me to compile your reports and endure my deadlines. It has been a privilege to share various updates and projects among our five Uniteds!

As we slowly return to a new normal, I can confidently say that our organization is also becoming resilient with resolutions recognizing gender-neutral awareness and changing the contest name of Mr/Ms. Jr. YBA to Junior Young Buddhist of the Year.

As someone who identifies as non-binary, I am very excited that efforts are being taken to recognize gender neutrality. This acceptance is one thing I appreciate about members of Jr. YBA: we accept everyone regardless of their sex, race, or creed! Again, thank you for giving me the honor of serving as Federation Vice President this term! I look forward to reconnecting with everyone the next few days!



In Gassho,
Chad Okawa
Federation Vice President

United of Hawaii

Hello my YBA friends!

Convention is upon us and we here at the United of Hawaii are so excited to see you all!



For the past couple of months, we have been up to business as usual. In between everyone's busy schedules, we ran our Feed the Hungry projects and put the final plans together for convention.

Seeing as this will be my last United report and the last few moments for my fellow seniors, we will also be electing officers in the very near future! Look forward to the future leaders of our United. I sure am!



Take care and stay safe.
Kieran Maesaka
United of Hawai'i President

United of Honolulu

Hey everyone!,
I can't believe it's already summer and the end of the Jr. YBA year!

In April, the United of Honolulu made yarn leis for the Waikiki Plaza. We continued this project by also baking desserts in May. Thanks to the support of the Jr. YBA moms and dads, we were able to bake brownies, caramel cuts, and banana nut muffins (not an easy feat)! We later delivered the yarn leis and baked desserts to the Waikiki Plaza. Hopefully they liked it! :D



United of Honolulu

Later in May, we had a bowling social with the United of Oahu! We hadn't had a social in quite a while, so it was nice to catch up and simply have a good time.



This happens to be my last serendipity, as I'm off to college next year. However, I'm sure the next united president of Honolulu will do a stellar job! I wish you all the best.



Have a good summer!
Naho Umitani
United of Honolulu President

United of Kauai

Hey everyone!

I hope you're all doing well and are enjoying your summer break! As the COVID-19 cases increased, the United of Kaua'i has been doing the best we can. We've continued holding in-person meetings, where we talk about any upcoming events, search for new members, and new community service ideas. We've also recycled cans and plastic bottles for our temple members and families.



We recently held a baccalaureate service for our senior Taryn. We presented her with scholarships, lei, and congratulation cards; we're all very proud of her! I hope you're all staying safe and wish you all an amazing summer break! Congratulations to all the seniors!



In Gassho,
Madison Doo
United of Kauai President



United of Maui



Hey everybody,

We are so excited to finally be able to see you in person again in almost two years! As of the last meeting we held an overnight social at Makawao Hongwanji Temple and later in May we had a Membership Drive at the Maui Zip-lines. Anyway, we will hopeful to see you all again soon!



In Gassho,
Jay Yokoyama
United of Maui President



United of Oahu



Hi Everyone!

To my fellow seniors... WE DID ITTTT!!! Summer has finally come along with our long awaited in-person get together. I am beyond excited to see everyone at convention. Throughout this quarter we've been a bit caught up in our personal lives, but we finalized our resolution that we are so excited to present, worked on the convention contests, and went bowling with the United of Honolulu.

We have been having our monthly meetings to start discussing the Jr. YBA motto and our convention plans for next year as well! And trust me - it's going to be another great one, I can already tell. We plan to help out with some of the Bon Dances over summer and can't wait to see what's in store for us.

With this being my last report, I want to give a big thanks to Chihiro for not only making all of these newsletters and dealing with my late submissions, but for also helping out so much with the united when I had conflicts. And of course, a huge thank you to all of our advisors. To all of the Jr. YBA members, always look around, find a reason to be grateful, and remember to thank everyone that makes our lives possible - it truly goes a long way; and one day make sure to give back, just like how so many have done for us.



In Gassho,
Kana Suzuki
United of Oahu President

Congratulations **CLASS OF 2022!**



Manami Alspach
Keio University



Naho Umitani
Seattle University



Kana Suzuki
Tufts University



Kieran Maesaka
University of San
Francisco



Nate Sakai
Joining the
Workforce



Jonathan Okamura
University of
Southern California



Wyatt Fujikawa
Oregon State
University



Taryn Ramil
University of Hawai'i
at Mānoa



Daichi Marquis
University of Hawai'i
at Mānoa

Learn More!

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

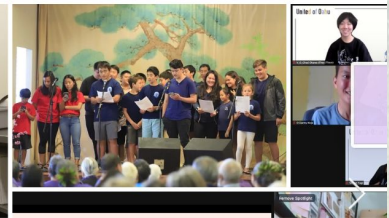
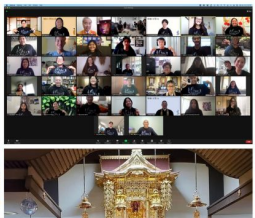
Newsletters

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!)



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Thanks for Reading!
お疲れ様でした！



Follow the Instagram Accounts!!

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Oahu: @jryba-fo-oahu
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