

**HAWAII FEDERATION OF JUNIOR YBAS**

# *Serendipity*

冬

**WINTER EDITION 2021-22**

**HAWAII | HONOLULU | MAUI | OAHU | KAUAI**





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JAIMEE YOKOYAMA AND THE UNITED OF MAUI  
MADISON DOO AND THE UNITED OF KAUAI  
KANA SUZUKI AND THE UNITED OF OAHU



# **IMPORTANT DATES**

**FEB  
11-12**

**110th Annual Giseikai** on  
February 11-12 on Zoom

**Sangha Day Hosted by  
Oahu** on February 11-12 at  
Blaisdell Park

**MAR  
6**

**MAR  
26**

**Dharmathon Workshop  
from Federation Officers** on  
March 26 on Zoom

**65th Jr. YBA Convention Hosted  
by United of Hawaii** on June  
17-19 in person (Tentative)

**JUN  
17-19**

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## President's Message

Happy New Year everyone!

I hope you all had a fun, eventful, and safe holiday season. I was hoping that with COVID slowing down, it would be easier but with the Omicron variant, we had to spend New Years at home. We've had more eventful years but this was still one to remember.

It's really unfortunate that our in-person meeting had to be rescheduled to be held virtually. But, this means we just have more to look forward to for convention (keep your fingers crossed). I know this has been repeated many times, yet it can't be emphasized enough. These are hard times and every time we think things are going back to normal, a new curveball is thrown our way. All we can do is just push through, have high hopes, and keep doing what we do best. I know it's been especially hard for all the athletes out there with so many canceled seasons and canceled matches/games. From my own experience, I can only say train yourself as much as you can so that you can be "in-shape" and well-prepared when it's time for you to get back onto the mat/court/field/pool.

To all my seniors, we graduate in 5 months! It's the homestretch! We can do it! When I woke up on New Year's Day, I was a little mind blown to be honest. I know it's been a weird and probably not ideal high school experience. We spent about a good third (give or take) of our high school years online, taking classes virtually, being scolded by teachers for having our cameras off.



## President's Message

Hopefully, despite the changes, you had your laughs and good memories that we all need before going off to college (or whatever it is you're gonna do). Speaking of which, congrats to those who have already gotten accepted to schools and best of luck to you if you're still waiting for replies. I know how excruciating it is! Good luck on those scholarships too!

Hope have a nice 4-day weekend and I look forward to seeing you all at convention! \*knock on wood\*

In Gassho,  
Manami Alspach [Federation President]





## *Letter From the Editor*

Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope you have all been doing well. The new year is a chance for us to let everything go, and begin again. This is also around the time when people create their own resolutions to improve themselves physically or mentally.

I recently read a book titled *Daring Greatly* by Dr. Brene Brown that talks about how to develop courage and assertiveness. This is an issue and mental block many of us face as we all seek Extrinsic Validation. Many people like me are afraid to step outside of their bubbles because they think that if they mess up, people would look at them differently. As we write our New Year's Resolutions, learning to dare greatly might help you live a more fulfilled life.

In order to find out who we really are, we need to take risks. Part of taking these risks is getting rid of the cultural assumptions and ideals. Many of us live in a culture of scarcity. We always compare ourselves to others regarding what we don't have. We yearn for connection and belonging, but we are scared that we are still unworthy, worried that we will be rejected by society.



## Letter From the Editor

This widespread belief that vulnerability is a weakness prevents us from living Wholeheartedly. If you can embrace your vulnerability and open up more to people around you, you'll find that it is actually your greatest strength.

Connection is the cornerstone of the human experience and something every human being needs to be happy. *In Buddhism, we learn that we are all Interconnected and depend on one another somehow to survive. This book* teaches that the biggest obstacle to experiencing connection is shame. In order to move through shame, and find connection, you need to have the courage to engage with vulnerability. We can't avoid or remove shame from our lives, but we can become more resilient to it. In closing, I wish you all a Happy 2022

新年明けましておめでとうございます。  
どうぞよろしくお願いいたします。

In Gassho,

Chad "Chihiro" Okawa  
Federation Vice President





# United of Hawaii

Happy New Year Everyone!

It's finally 2022 and, as always, it's important to look back on the things we did this quarter.

Besides our usual Feed the Hungry projects, we've also been keeping ourselves busy with other activities! Earlier in December, we held a Poinsettia sale that yielded an amazing turnout.

We also made manju and bentos to raise money for our convention. Given the feedback we received, it may become a recurring thing! Big thanks to our BWA for their help!





# United of Hawaii



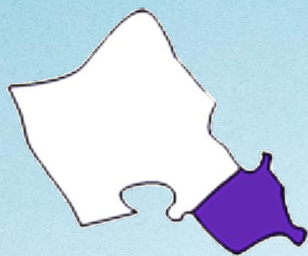
Last and most recently, we held our annual New Years Eve Service featuring music from our very own members (including me)! Working around our current situation has been difficult and not being able to gather as much has been frustrating; however, we will all stay strong and continue to holomua (move forward)!

Stay safe and I hope to see you all at our convention!

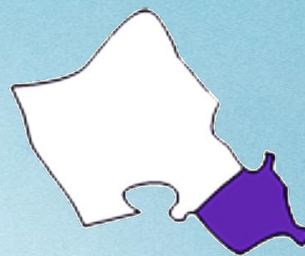
Kieran Maesaka (United of Hawaii: President)







# United of Honolulu



Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a lovely holiday season, and will have an even better 2022.

The United of Honolulu has been working hard to plan the Winter Federation Meeting, so we are sad that the event was made online. Hopefully, we can enjoy the in-person festivities we prepared from the movie night to Ala Moana shopping another time! :)

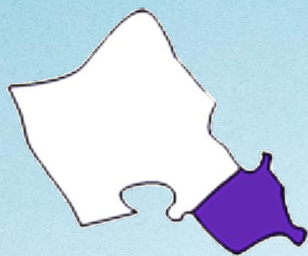


Aside from planning, we held our Custom Ink Shirt Fundraiser for Hawaii Buddhist Youth Month! The shirt, designed by member Emma Fujikawa, was sold in six colors for \$20 each. We were able to sell 69 shirts and raise \$620 for the Ronald McDonald House Charities! Thank you to everyone who bought a shirt!

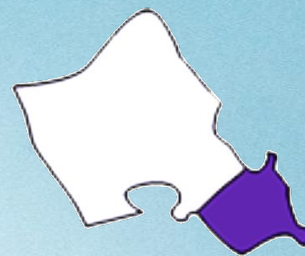


In December, we had our first In-Person Meeting since the summer! We met at the Kailua Hongwanji, where we planned the Winter Federation Meeting and new projects. Afterward, we had a potluck. So delicious!





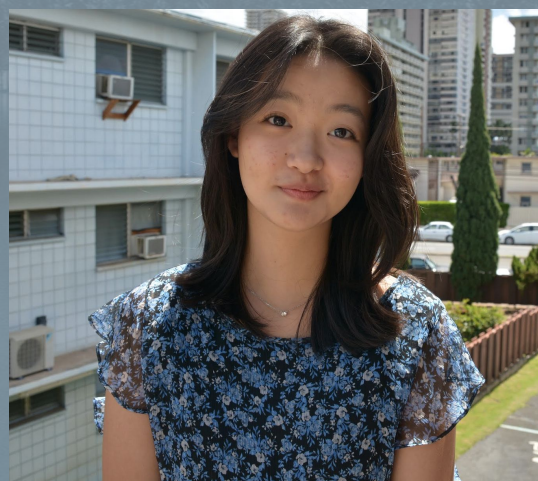
# United of Honolulu



Finally, we conducted the Moiliili Hongwanji Sunday Service on December 26. Unlike last year, we went in-person to the temple to chant, sing, emcee, and give the sermon. Each member spoke about our New Year's traditions and goals!



Thank you, and take care!  
Naho Umitani  
United of Honolulu: President





# United of Kauai

Hey everyone!

I hope you're all doing well and had a great holiday season! The United of Kaua'i has been doing the best we can with our current situation. We've continued holding in-person meetings every month, where we talk about any upcoming events, our search for new members, and community service ideas. We continued to recycle cans and plastic bottles collected by temple members and families. For Thanksgiving, our United members came to Kapa'a Hongwanji Mission Temple for a successful Thanksgiving lunch delivery. We enjoy every moment that we can in each other's company. With college classes and planning for their futures, our members have kept busy. I hope you're all staying safe and wish you all the best of luck with the new semester!



Thank you!  
Madison Doo (United of Kauai: President)



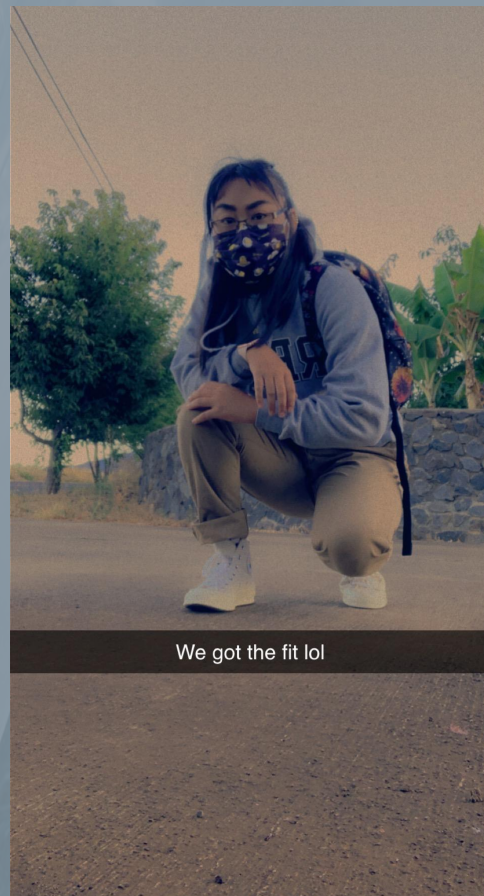
# United of Maui

Hello All,

I hope you all are safe and healthy. Since the last FED meeting we have been working hard fundraising for the Ronald McDonald House. We also have had one hybrid meeting before the outbreak of Covid. All of us have just been trying to be optimistic about the new rise in cases, but have gone back to virtual. We wish you all a Happy New Year!

Thank You,

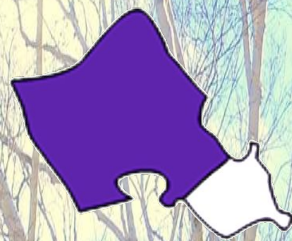
Jaimee Yokoyama (United of Maui: President)







# United of Oahu



Happy New Year!

Since the Fall Federation Meeting, the Oahu United had a bake sale to fundraise for HBY Month. With the support of our temple members, we were able to have a successful fundraiser at the end of October.



We have also been able to have a few in person meetings, and it was really nice to see everyone. Before one of our meetings, we were able to help out Aiea Hongwanji with their Bazaar. As you will see in the meeting, we have also been hard at work drafting our resolution in support of the LGBTQ+ community to go along with the changes we made to the Jr. YBA of the Year award. I miss everyone so much and wish we could have had our in person meeting, but it is always better to play it safe. I hope you all are doing well and working towards those New Year's resolutions!



Wishing you the best in 2022,  
Kana Suzuki  
Oahu United President



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# *Thanks for Reading!*



**Follow the Instagram Accounts!!**

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Oahu: @jryba-ofoahu

Hawaii: @jryba-of-hawaii