



Plantation Village News

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www.facebook.com/plantationvillage

April 2025

35th Annual Obon Celebration

Saturday, June 7, 2025

4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

(Food Sales: 3:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

Hawaii's Plantation Village once again opens the Oahu bon dance season with its annual Obon Celebration. Join us for a fun night of dancing, ono local foods and tasty treats such as andagi, shave ice and waffle dogs. The Village Gift Shop, Country Store and pop-up plant sales tent will offer a variety of plantation related items and crafts for purchase and visitors can also visit our Historical Exhibition Room to learn about Hawaii's plantation life, the Honouliuli National Historic Site and view our Looking Through Our Grandparent' Closet exhibit.

This year's celebration will once again feature 10 bon dance groups from all over Oahu. The 10 groups featured are ...

Ewa Fukushima Bon Dance Club

Haleiwa Bon Dance Club

Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai

Hawaii Shin Kobukai

Iwakuni Odori Aiko Kai

Koolau Sakura Odori Kai

Oahu District Bon Dance Club

Senwa Kai

Wahiawa Hongwanji Bon Dance Team

Waipahu Soto Mission Bon Dance Class

The celebration will also feature special performances by emcee and singer Hikariyama Torao and taiko performances by Waipahu Taiyoji Taiko and Ryugen Taiko. A special lantern floating ceremony will also take place at the village pond at sunset. A limited number of lanterns will be available for purchase at the event at the Waipahu Soto Zen Temple tent.

Parking and shuttle service will be available at Waipahu Elementary School and Hawaii Tech Academy between 3:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Donations are welcomed for the shuttle service.

Limited handicap parking available on site.

For more information, call 808-677-0110 or visit our FaceBook page and website.

Executive Director Report

2024-2025

Board of Directors

Kathleen “Kats”
Gustafson
President

Stephen Yuen
Vice President

Robert Castro
Secretary

Clement Bautista
Treasurer

Deanna Espinas
William Rol
John Shockley
Carol Takahashi
Susan Wai
Yoshiko Yamauchi

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Greg Yee Mark
Executive Director

Derrick Iwata
**Education and
Programs Manager**

Mildred Holliday
**Administrative
Assistant**

Michi Lacar
**Educational
Programs
Coordinator**

Steven Pang
**Grounds
Maintenance**

Norman Ruaburo
Grounds Keeper

Mirasol Rosqueta
House Keeper

Since the last newsletter, there has been an effort to increase and diversify Hawaii’s Plantation Village programming. Besides the February 1st, **New Year Celebration**, there was the insightful and at times emotional March 15th panel, **Reflections of Our Journey in Hong Kong Hong and Zhongshan: Home of Hawaii’s early Chinese Plantation Workers**, and the excellent presentation by Dr. Sharleen Nakamoto Levine, **Japanese and Filipino Women’s Pregnancy and Childbirth Ways: Hawaii’s Sugar Plantations, Early to Mid-20th Century**. The most recent program was the April 26th **Poetry Reading and Writing Workshop** which was in partnership with the National Park Service for the Honouliuli National Historic Site 10 Year Celebration.

Besides the partnership with the National Park Service, another community partner is the Filipino Community Center. We are in preliminary discussions regarding collaborative projects with the Fil Com Center.

On May 8th, HPV will host a one-day conference **Hawaii Museum and Ethnic Historical Societies** in which 15 historical based societies will meet to share information which will enhance future cooperative endeavors. The conference keynote speaker will be Dr. Theodore Gonzalves who is a curator at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific Center in Washington DC.

The next day on May 9th from 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. will be the HPV sponsored event **THE GIFT OF MY ROOTS: Sharing and Preserving Chuukese and Marshallese Stories**. This event will be a celebration of Chuukese and Marshallese books, dances, songs, weaving, storytelling, and artifact displays.

Last, I am happy to share that we will be making the SheTour — our plantation women’s history tour—an ongoing HPV offering each Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. During March’s Women’s History Month, demand for the tour started to build and has continued into the end of April, with dozens of visitors and multiple workplace offices booking the tour as a group excursion.

I hope to see you at our next events.

Greg Mark
Executive Director



Preserving Hawaii’s Chinese Immigrant History

On Wednesday, February 12, 2025, a check presentation ceremony took place in front of the Tsoong Nyee Society Hall. Ms. Donna Wong, representing Mr. Sherman Wong, Director of the Wong Kong Har Tong of Hawaii, presented a check to HPV Board President, Ms. Kats Gustafson, for the preservation of the Tsoong Nyee Society Hall, the only remaining Chinese society building replica in Hawai‘i. Also present were Dr. Greg Mark, HPV Executive Director and Mr. Steven Pang, President of the Tsoong Nyee Society. A big MAHALO to the Wong Kong Har Tong of Hawaii for their donation.

Celebrating the Year of the Snake

Hawaii's Plantation Village would like to thank everyone that helped make the 2025 New Year Celebration a success. The village was bustling with visitors wanting to start the year filled with good luck and fortune. We would like to wish everyone the very best for 2025!

Mahalo to all of our entertainers, vendors, and volunteers from ...

Chinagu Eisa Hawaii
Halla Huhm Korean Dance Studio
Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai
Hawaii Korean Cultural Center
Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha
Hawaii Okinawa Creative Arts
Hawaii United Okinawa Association
Hikariyama Torao
Honolulu Japanese Jr. Chamber of
Commerce
Honolulu Printmakers
KC Waffle Dog

Kela's Paleo'onalani Polenekia Halau
Kona Ice
Manoa Lions Club
Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii
Portuguese Culture and Historical Center
Portuguese Genealogical Society
Puerto Rican Historical Society of Hawaii
Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Frances
Nakachi Ryubu Dojo
Waipahu High School Japanese Club
Waipahu Soto Zen Temple Taiyoji
Waipahu Taiyoji Taiko



What's Blooming



Nabera, Hechima, Cucumber Gourd Cucumis sativus

The young, immature nabera fruits, are edible and can be eaten raw, pickled or cooked. It is a typical Okinawan summer vegetable with a sponge like consistency, commonly served simmered in miso and used in soups. The fully matured and dried fruit transform into a natural sponge. The luffa sponge, is very soft, flexible and easy on the skin when soaked in water. The fibers are extremely tough and can be used to scrub pots and pans.

Upcoming Event

THE GIFT OF MY ROOTS

SHARING AND PRESERVING
CHUUKESE AND MARSHALLESE STORIES



CELEBRATE OUR BOOK OPENING WITH US!

There will be traditional dance, song, weaving, story telling, artifact displays, & refreshments.

LOCATION: HAWAII PLANTATION VILLAGE
94-695 Waipahu St, Waipahu, HI 96797

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025
12:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Mon-Fri: (808) 675-0443
greg.uchishiba@k12.hi.us



News from:



Hawaii's PLANTATION VILLAGE

Friends of Waipahu
Cultural Garden Park
94-695 Waipahu Street
Waipahu, HI 96797



Hawaii's Plantation Village celebrated Barbara's 100th birthday at the Village on December 18, 2021. Our deepest condolences to the Kawakami family. She will be missed by many at HPV.

Remembering Barbara Kawakami

Barbara Fusako Kawakami, 103, passed away on December 20, 2024, in Mililani. After a 38-year career as a dressmaker, she pursued higher education at age 52, earning a BS in Fashion Design and an MA in Asian Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

In 1993, she published *Japanese Immigrant Clothing in Hawaii, 1885-1941*, by UH Press. In 2012, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii recognized her as a "Living Treasure of Hawaii." In 2016, she published *Picture Bride Stories*, by UH Press which won the Asian-Pacific American Award for Literature in Non-Fiction. In 2019, she received the "Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays" at the Imperial Palace.

She is predeceased by her husband Douglas in 2001, son Steven in 2017, and is survived by daughter Fay (Ivan) Toyama, son Gary (Brigitte) Kawakami, 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held on Friday, April 18, 2025, at Mililani Memorial Park.

Some years ago, Barbara assisted Hawaii's Plantation Village in identifying kimono including several from 1898. HPV also hosted a book signing event for her first publication.

Gift Shop and Country Store Finds

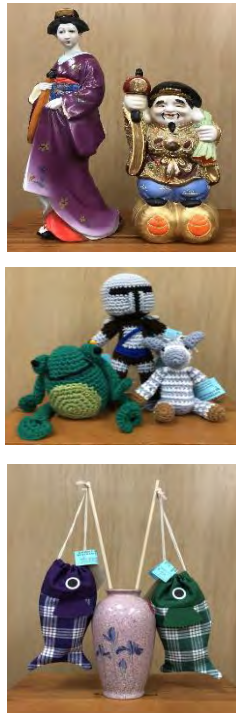
HPV's Gift Shop and Country Store Hours Monday – Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Bon Dance Apparel



Find a variety of gently used kimono and yukata as well as hand crafted happi for sale.

Misc. Items



Palaka Print Items



Palaka print items are now on sale in our Gift Shop. Sizes and quantity are limited.

Mahalo to Our Donors and Supporters!

Thank you for your membership and generous donations which help us maintain our property and provide for our various programs and activities at Hawaii's Plantation Village. Donors from January 1 – March 31, 2025.

Phyllis Adriano
Steve & Karen Akimoto
David & Bertha Arakawa
Charlene Asano
Cassandra Chan
Mae Chung
Rosemary Craven
Janice & Steven Doi
Weylin & Roselyn Eng
Julie Figueroa
Alphie Garcia
Brian Garcia
Kats Gustafson
Take Hanyu & Sumiko Holmes
Irene Y Ishiyama
Robyn & Duane Izumi
Khara Jabola

Lily Kamikihara
Carolyn Kawamoto
Yumi Lee & Matthew Yoshida
Daniel M Lopez
Carolyn McAndrews
Fusako Miyashiro
David B Molina Jr.
Susan Moniz
Angie & Wes Nakamoto
Dan Nelson
Sharon Nishi
Edna & Clifford Nishimura
Elizabeth Norcross
Lance Okayama & Pam Braun
Irma Ota
Steve Pang
Claudia & James Parker

Tina Pedersen & Wayne Pontes
Claudia CK & Francisco J
Quintanilla
Alexander Quisquirin
Cindy Richards & Kent Vickery
Charlotte Rokuta
William Rol
Peter C & Brenda Roller
John & Rita Shockley
PJ & Cindy Luis Silva
Donna Takara
Teresita Tolentino
Sheila Uyeoka
Alison Yasuoka
Trudy Zukemura

Community Outreach

Hawaii's Plantation Village had a busy first quarter for 2025 with several community outreaches. The Village participate in four events around Oahu ... the Mililani High School Culture Fair on February 19, the Waipahu Street Fest on March 1, the Honolulu Festival on March 8 & 9, and the La Ohana Ewa Community Family Day on April 12, 2025. HPV staff and volunteers spent time interacting with visitors by sharing our mission and programs, engaging in conversations and introducing plantation toys and games to visitors. We would like to thank the event coordinators for providing HPV with the opportunity to share Hawaii's immigrant and plantation history with the community.



Beautification Projects

HPV would like to send a big MAHALO to all the groups that recently came to beautify our grounds. As a non-profit organization, we rely on the support of volunteer organizations to create a safe and inviting space for our visitors to enjoy. We would like to thank the following groups that came to clean our pond.

Hawaii Technology Academy (February 26, 2025)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Youth (March 22, 2025)

West Pearl Harbor Rotary Club (April 19, 2025)

Regular maintenance of the ponds is needed to keep the invasive vegetation under control and to provide a clean natural environment for Hawaii's native wildlife to live in.

HPV would also like to thank Hui O Malama Mililani which is a student organization at Mililani High School for coming on April 18, 2025 to repaint our picnic benches.

If you have a group that would like to help us with beautification projects, call our office at 808-677-0110.





Hawaii's Plantation Village

2025 MINI BON DANCE WORKSHOPS

Participants in the Mini Bon Dance Workshops will learn various bon dances that are done throughout Oahu. Bon dance groups will lead a 45–60-minute session covering dances that will be done at HPV's 35th Annual O-Bon Celebration on June 7, 2025. Space is limited and will be filled on a first come first serve basis.

Fee (payable to Hawaii's Plantation Village):

\$8 per session for non-HPV members

\$5 per session for HPV members or members of participating bon dance groups

Registration Deadline: Friday, May 16, 2025

Please cut and return to: Hawaii's Plantation Village, 94-695 Waipahu St., Waipahu, HI 96797 Attn: Derrick Iwata

MINI BON DANCE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

I want to attend the following Saturday session(s):

Saturday, May 17, 2025

_____ 9:30 a.m. session led by Iwakuni Odori Aiko Kai

_____ 10:45 a.m. session led by Koolau Sakura Odori Kai

Saturday, May 24, 2025

_____ 1:00 p.m. session led by Senwa Kai

_____ 2:15 p.m. session led by the Waipahu Soto Mission Bon Dance Class

_____ 3:30 p.m. session led by Hawaii Shin Kobu Kai

Saturday, May 31, 2025

_____ 11:00 a.m. session led by the Wahiawa Hongwanji Bon Dance Team

_____ 1:00 p.m. session led by the Haleiwa Bon Dance Club

_____ 2:15 p.m. session led by the Oahu District Bon Dance Club

I would like to purchase a Hawaii's Plantation Village bon dance towel. Quantity: _____ (\$8/towel)

Total Number of Workshops Attending _____

Total Amount of Payment Enclosed _____

- HPV Individual or Senior members receive discount on one reservation form. Family or Family Plus members receive discount on two reservation forms.
- Members of participating groups for the 35th Annual O-Bon Celebration receive discount on one reservation form.
- HPV will confirm your reservation within two weeks of receiving your payment.
- Cancellation prior to 72 hours notice will be reimbursed in full.

Are you a Hawaii's Plantation Village member? Yes No

Name of bon dance group I belong to (for discount): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (D) _____ (E) _____

Email: _____

Form of Payment: Check enclosed
 VISA MC

Card #: _____

Expiration: _____ CVV: _____

Billing zip code: _____

Signature: _____