



Plantation Village News

94-695 Waipahu St. • Waipahu, HI 96797 • Ph: 808-677-0110

Email: Waipahu.hpv@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/plantationvillage

August 2024

2nd Annual Harvest Moon Festival

Saturday, September 7, 2024

4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Free Admission! Everyone Welcomed!

Hawaii's Plantation Village invites everyone to a family friendly Harvest Moon Festival to honor their ancestors and to honor their agricultural heritage through special food, music, games, and cultural displays on Saturday, September 7, 2024. All the immigrant groups represented in the Village, including the Hawaiians and Chuukese celebrated their harvest in a unique way and we will be highlighting these traditions throughout the event.

When you look at the moon, what do you see? A man in the moon? A rabbit pounding mochi? The late afternoon celebration begins with folk tales about the significance of the moon and heavens for the farming community. At this time of the year, farmers would traditionally harvest their crops in the bright moon light which allowed them to work late into the night. This was also a time for family reunions. While admiring the full moon, families would come together to eat and share a fantastic traditional meal and give thanks for the bountiful harvest.

The main feature for the Harvest Moon Festival will be Stargazers of Hawaii which was established in 2019 by astronomer Nick Bradley. Mr. Bradley, a 20+ year member of the Hawaiian Astronomical Society and volunteer for NASA/JPL/Caltech Solar System Ambassador, will be bringing 3 telescopes for the public to view the moon, Saturn and the Milky Way. The telescopes will be available for viewing from sunset to 8:45 p.m.

Visit the Social Hall to view how various cultures express their gratitude for their bountiful harvest and honor their agricultural heritage through unique agricultural displays. The Chinese will display moon cakes and round fruits and vegetables, the Japanese and Okinawans show special mochi representing the moon, the Portuguese charola – fruits, eggs and vegetables tied individually to a wire frame, and the Filipinos create a picture using Filipino vegetables and fruits. The Portuguese Historical and Genealogical Society will also be available to assist you with your search of your ancestors or if you have already started your search, learn how you can continue your search.

A special moon-topped udon (tsukimi odon) along with fried noodles, K's Bento, beef stew, and hot dogs will be for sale. Village crafts and plants will also be on sale.

As we end the evening festival, let's join in together to honor our ancestors with family, friends and neighbors as we dance and laugh together under the light of the moon.

Please bring chairs or a mat as seating is limited. Parking available on site with limited handicap parking.

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

President's Message

Aloha! I am excited to serve as the president of Hawaii's Plantation Village. Although my grandparents immigrated from Okinawa as pineapple sharecroppers, they decided to forego sharecropping and started their own vegetable farm in Makawao, Maui and eventually moved to Oahu to farm on the Windward side. My father and mother settled in Waiiau, he an auto-mechanic and she a seamstress. They made ends meet, having six children, by renting a converted plantation house in a former plantation. It was there during my childhood that I was exposed to the sugar plantation and the workers. During those days the workers would burn the cane and we would watch as the flames spread throughout the area. The workers were always kind to us, and they threw some stalks to us and we would rush home to chew on them. I graduated from Waipahu High School where most of my friends had family who worked on the plantation.

I received my master's in library studies and master's in history from the University of Hawaii-Manoa. My family and I moved to San Diego and there I received my doctorate in Education Leadership from the University of California, San Diego and California State University, San Marcos (joint program). After about 30 years in education administration and technology, working at various colleges within the California Community College System, I retired and moved back to Hawaii.

I volunteered at Hawaii's Plantation Village and helped with the archives for about a year before being elected as president of the board. I am honored to help lead this organization to fulfilling its mission of preserving the historic and cultural past of the plantation era.

We have also hired a new Executive Director, Greg Mark, PhD. Greg has an extensive background teaching ethnic studies at UH Manoa and in criminal justice. We welcome Greg as an addition to our family. We believe that he will help lead HPV to the next level of ensuring the preservation of the plantation culture.

Kats Gustafson

President, Hawaii's Plantation Village

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Hawaii's Plantation Village Friends, Members, and Volunteers. I am pleased and excited to serve as the new HPV Executive Director. In the mid-1980s, when I was teaching Ethnic Studies at UH Manoa, I had heard about the Plantation Village. I even had the opportunity to meet one of the founders, Major Okada.

Throughout the years, I taught Ethnic Studies at UH Manoa and later for 20 years at Sacramento State University. I used to bring Ethnic Studies students to visit and learn about the early sugar plantation workers who came from China, Japan, Puerto Rico, Okinawa, Korea, Portugal, and the Philippines.

I hope to bring the HPV to the forefront both locally and nationally about the multiple experiences and contributions of our plantation forbearers. Our collection of historic reconstructed plantation buildings, archival collection, exhibits, and most important programs to educate the youth about Hawaii's rich multicultural society.

I also hope to lead the Museum which is a true national treasure, on a path for more recognition, visibility, and support for our historical legacy. We are very fortunate to have a committed working Board of Directors, a hard-working staff, and many volunteers. These volunteers bring valuable support for the Museum's operation, and most important a strong community bond that is rarely seen in non-profit organizations. For over 40 years, the Museum has diligently worked to preserve the past which evolves into a clearer vision which is to better serve the people of Hawaii. Please come join us!

With my Warmest Aloha,

Gregory Yee Mark

Hong Kong/Zhongshan Tour February 15-27, 2025

Do you want to learn more about the first wave of immigrant sugar plantation workers from another country? On February 15, 2025, Dr. Greg Mark will lead a 12-day tour to learn more about Hawaii's immigrants from China. For 25 years, Dr. Mark taught the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Chinese in Hawaii course and has organized and escorted over 20 tours to Asia.

The Hong Kong/Zhongshan tour will visit sites in the southern China area where most of the early Chinese immigrants came from. Hong Kong, the former British colony, will be the main stop. Its history, and growth into a major financial center, a shopper's paradise, and international gourmet center will be some of the highlights. Of course, those on the trip will sample Hong Kong dim sum at a Michelin rated restaurant and experience Afternoon Tea at the famous Peninsula Hotel.

In Hong Kong's New Territories there will be a trip to the Hakka Village and Museum and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum that is better known as the Bruce Lee Museum. In Zhongshan the group will visit historical sites such as the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Museum, the Museum of Overseas Chinese, and remaining villages.

Although, this tour overlaps with the Hawaii Plantation Village's early Chinese plantation workers immigration settlement and plantation life, it is not an official HPV activity. For additional information, please contact Greg Mark at gregyeemark@gmail.com.

Pond Beautification

Hawaii's Plantation Village is grateful for the continued community support for the beautification of our ponds. On May 25, 2024, volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Ewa and Waipahu Wards came together to help clean our large and small ponds of unwanted vegetation. We were also blessed to receive assistance on June 27, 2024 from Kilohana Methodist Church who were hosting 20 youth from Santa Maria First United Methodist Church.



If you belong to a group or organization or know of one that would like to volunteer to assist us with clearing the ponds, please call our office at 808-677-0110.

Eagle Scout Project

HPV would like to congratulate Shawn Reiley on becoming an Eagle Scout. Shawn's Eagle Scout project was to remove, replace and repaint the fencing and signage around our sugar cane patch and install a new irrigation system. With the help of Troupe 32, he was able to complete the task and earn his Eagle Scout badge. Thank you, Shawn and Troupe 32, for your support!



News from:



Hawaii's PLANTATION VILLAGE

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

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
Yoshiko Yamauchi

Greg Yee Mark
Executive Director

34th Annual Obon Highlights



Mahalo to our 34th Annual Obon Celebration

Sponsors and Supporters

Wai Hana Sponsor



Hoe Hana Sponsor



Hana Support



Bon Dance Groups

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
 Tsukikage Odori Kai (Hilo)
 Wahiawa Hongwanji Bon Dance Team
 Waipahu Soto Mission Bon Dance Class

Entertainment

Hikariyama Torao – Emcee and performer
 Ryuge Taiko
 Waipahu Taiyoji Taiko

Special Acknowledgements

Rev. Jeffery Soga
 Cherry Blossom Festival
 Hawaii Tech Academy
 Waipahu Elementary School
 Waipahu Soto Zen Temple Taiyoji

Food Vendors

Andagi Guy
 KC Waffle Dog
 Kona Ice
 Moe Ono Chicken

Volunteers

Honolulu Japanese Jr. Chamber of Commerce
 72nd Cherry Blossom Court
 JCI Honolulu
 Ewa Makai Middle School
 FCC Pacific

2nd Annual Lantern Floating Ceremony

Hawaii's Planation Village partnered with Waipahu Soto Zen Temple Taiyoji for the second year to hold a lantern floating ceremony in conjunction with our Obon Celebration. HPV members and Taiyoji temple members were able to pre-order lanterns and a few were made available for the public to purchase the night of the ceremony. All lanterns were later floated in our large pond. Many thanks to the various organizations that came to help us clean the pond for this special event.



Country Store Finds

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



What's Blooming

Plant: Fukugi

Scientific name: Garcinia subelliptica

aka: Happiness Tree

Location in The Village: Okinawan house



This tree is used as a hedge to protect the homes against typhoons. It grows so dense that wind cannot blow through it. Its roots grow straight down, so the wind cannot rip the tree from the ground. Its seed & bark are used to make a gold dye that was once used for royal textiles.

The tree has a compact conical crown and ornamental glossy leaves. The flowers are small, greenish cream colored and develop into yellow fleshy fruit after pollination. The fruit is part of the mangosteen family. Ripe fruit is sweet and pungent with a scent similar to gasoline (this is due to its benzophenones). The fruit tastes like a combination of a persimmon and an orange. Be advised though, do not consume large quantities. Some say it is edible while others say it is not. Medicinal research on the tree and its fruit involves anti-cancer, anti-diabetes, anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial research.



During the month of September, make a donation to Hawaii's Plantation Village at any Foodland or Sack N Save checkout, and Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will make a donation to our organization too!

Hawaii's Plantation Village

Our code is: 79102

How to Donate:

- 1) Shop at Foodland or Sack N Save!
- 2) Show your Maika'i card to the cashier or enter your phone number at checkout.
- 3) Tell the cashier our code and the amount of your donation (up to \$249).
- 4) Review your receipt to confirm the following appears:
 - Our organization name
 - Your donation amount
 - Your Maika'i number