



Plantation Village News

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Summer 2012

Get set for our 22nd Annual Bon Dance!

Dedicated to the memory of Richard Takayuki Hirata



Photo by Gail Ifuku

Saturday, June 2, 2012
5:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Food Booths open at 5:00 pm • Dancing begins at 6:00 pm

Performances by:

Mililani Hongwanji • Aiea Taiheiji Yagura Gumi • Waipahu Hongwanji
Hawaii Eisa Shinyuukai • Iwakuni Dance Group • Hawaii Shin Kobukai

This year, Hawaii's Plantation Village will be holding its Bon Dance in the Village! The construction zone around the Major Okada Building (*see related article inside*) has reduced access to the parking lot and interior of the Okada Building. As a result, we will be hosting the Bon Dance in the meadow near the outdoor stage of the Plantation Village. Food booths will be located nearby with all of the favorites that you have come to expect:

K's Bento • BBQ Beef Plate • Teriyaki Chicken Plate • Chinese Noodles • Fried Rice • Saimin • Andagi
Spam Musubi • Andagi Hot Dog (Andadog) • Shave Ice • Cold Drinks

Seating may be limited this year, so bring your own chairs & mats!

2012 Board of Directors

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Loretta Pang

3rd Vice-President

Dan Nelson

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Chef Alan Wong

Alan Wong's Restaurant

Okada Center Roof Replacement Begins



Demolition of the old roof has begun and despite the construction zone, we are still open for tours on our regular schedule, 10:00 - 2:00, Monday through Saturday.

The "Real" Hawaiian Moving Company



Look around your house. Have you lived there more than fifteen years? Imagine being told that you will have to move **everything** out of your house and do most of the moving yourself. Sound impossible? Not to Hawaii's Plantation Village volunteers!

Facing relocation and budget constraints that could not accommodate hired packers and movers, HPV volunteers undertook the seemingly Sisyphean task of completely evacuating the Okada Educational Center. With typical optimism and aplomb, Board Members **Yoshiko Yamauchi** and **Steven Pang** spearheaded the move by identifying under-utilized space in the Village and readying those areas for storage. Storage room security was fortified by **Steven Pang** who fabricated doors, windows, and locking mechanisms. Board Member **Dan Nelson** lent his packing expertise and donated containers and boxes. **Jo Ann Fakler**, former Collections Manager and now resident of Seattle, spent much of one Hawaii vacation packing the Artifacts and Archives Room, and when we still weren't finished, she scheduled another trip to the Islands to finish the job with her husband, **Charlie Fakler**. President **Faith P. Evans** negotiated with Hawaii Self-Storage to provide climate-controlled storage for the artifacts, documents, and photos. Docent **Claire Kozaki** and her children, **Jessica** and **Ethan**, provided many hours of packing and Docent **Gary Tokuda** and his wife, **Lorraine**, also provided packing and heavy moving. Educational Docents **Momoko Maniscalco**, **Yuri Castro**, **Nori Lauderdale**, **Tina King**, and **Fran Cabanilla** moved educational supplies to the Village. Staff members **Rechie Panganiban** and **Ligaya Bayquen** cleaned and packed the administrative offices and Groundskeeper **Bennie Navoa** provided crucial moving of many large and heavy objects. Collections Manager **Alice Ryder** packed the artifacts and our Japanese Exhibit, and Docent **Robert Castro** assisted with lifting and moving. Special thanks to **Carol Takahashi** for documenting and photographing our artifacts collection and paying for the media transfer.

Members of the community also lent a hand. **John Maniscalco** assisted with dismantling and moving museum exhibits. **June Tamashiro**, retired teacher from Waipahu Elementary, helped pack. Over 120 members of the high school **Interact Clubs** of Hawaii volunteered one Saturday to help us with the heavy lifting.

Hawaii's Plantation Village would like to sincerely thank everyone for their help!

In Memoriam: Richard Hirata



September 15, 1934 - October 19, 2011

In the early morning hours of October 19, 2011, Richard Takayuki Hirata passed away in his sleep. Richard or “Dickie” as he was known to his friends, was an active supporter of Hawaii’s Plantation Village, having served various positions on the Board of Directors for many years. In his most recent post as President of the Board of Directors, Richard led Hawaii’s Plantation Village out of a precarious financial situation that threatened the very survivability of the organization.

“Richard’s leadership was the most visible contribution to our organization,” says **Jeffrey Higa**, Executive Director, “but the Hirata family was also a generous donor behind the scenes. For example, during a particularly needed time, the Hirata family was the beneficiary of an inheritance. Richard, knowing how much we needed the money, donated the entire inheritance to Hawaii’s Plantation Village, thereby providing us with a measure of financial security.”

Richard was also an effective advocate for the Village, using his past contacts as manager of the Hawaii Housing Authority and Hawaii Finance Development Corporation to lobby politicians and donors to the good work that HPV provides to the community. He often spoke of the primary mission of Hawaii’s Plantation Village to educate and enlighten the children of Hawaii to their immigrant past, and was the primary instigator of our Keiki Festival, an annual free event that is open to all the children of Hawaii.

Hawaii’s Plantation Village is lucky to have been the beneficiary of Richard Hirata’s boundless energy, leadership, and *aloha*. He will be greatly missed.



Richard Hirata (right) discussing an issue with Advisory Council Members: Dr. Beverly Keever (left) and Charles Keever (center)

Meet Bennie Navoa



Hawaii’s Plantation Village has a new groundskeeper, Bennie Navoa. Bennie comes to us with a wide array of skills and experience in grounds maintenance. He is a graduate of McKinley High School and their JROTC program. He is a life-long Hawaii resident and has three young children. This young man’s energy and good humor have been a welcome addition to the HPV *ohana*.

Mahalo to Hawaii Self-Storage



When Hawaii’s Plantation Village was looking for storage space to store our historical artifacts, plantation-era documents, and Oahu Sugar Company photos, we contacted many self-storage companies. Only Hawaii Self-Storage was willing to give us a substantial discount off their published rates. We were able to secure a climate controlled 10x30x16 foot unit, which we filled from floor to ceiling with the items from our Archives. If you are considering a self-storage provider, please check out Hawaii Self-Storage!

News from:



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

Get
Ready for
Obon!
Saturday,
June 2nd

Taxes and Moving Expenses

By the time you receive this newsletter, most of you will have completed your taxes. For the first time in over a decade, HPV Accounting had to add a new budget item to their books: Moving Expenses.

The City and County of Honolulu is footing the bill for the new roof on the City-owned Major Okada Educational Center. In addition, the Department of Parks and Recreation has provided two office trailers for our temporary use. However, no additional funds were set aside to assist Hawaii's Plantation Village with moving expenses.

During this transitional time, we've had to assume additional monthly costs associated with our operation, including:

- Portable toilets
- Self-storage costs
- Security Bars for storage windows
- Utility and phone transfer costs

As you can imagine, these new costs strain our already very efficient budget. Please help us get through this challenging time with a donation of any amount. Please contact Rechie Panganiban or Jeffrey Higa at (808) 677-0110 or hpv.waipahu@hawaiiantel.net

HAWAII TOURISM
AUTHORITY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
STATE OF HAWAII

HAWAII
STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

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