

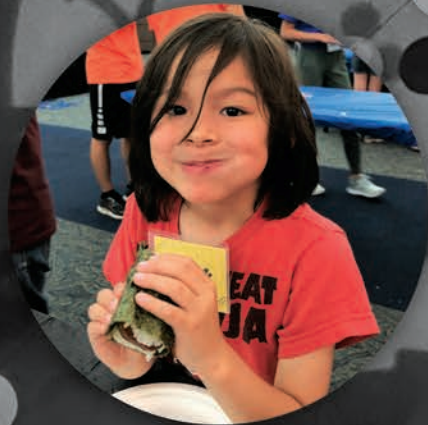


JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

# 2023

FY2023  
IMPACT REPORT

Renewing Connections to  
Culture + Community



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2454 S BERETANIA STREET  
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JCCHAWAII.ORG 808.945.7633

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# お帰り

## OKAERI

Welcome Back



Aloha kākou,

As the fiscal year ends, we are filled with immense gratitude as we reflect on the journey of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i. With this report, we wish to celebrate the transformative power of our culture and community.

Despite the unprecedented challenges we have faced throughout the pandemic and in its aftermath, thanks to the unwavering spirit and determination of our community, in 2022 the JCCH was able to reopen and welcome people back to its facilities.

A primary goal has been to renew our connection with youth and provide them with meaningful cultural experiences. We sought to inspire and empower the younger generations through carefully curated youth programs, fostering a sense of cultural identity and pride.

In June 2023, the JCCH launched Tanoshii Hawai'i, a week-long summer cultural day camp for keiki ages 6-13. The students learned the values of our community through various activities like shibori tie-dye, kendo, SPAM musubi-making, taiko (drum), and bon odori (traditional dance). The kids had a great time, and their parents encouraged us to hold the camp again next year!

We also launched the Ho'ohana Cohort Program, a training program for young professionals in their twenties designed to develop their interest in community

engagement. The participants are learning valuable life skills such as the Aloha Response (learning to respond with aloha), crisis management, and board service training.

We hope you will enjoy reading about these programs and other initiatives and will be pleased to see the impact that you are helping to create.

Mahalo for your support and joining the JCCH in building a future where Japanese culture thrives, and our youth are at the forefront of this journey.

Sincerely,

**Nate Gyotoku**

PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Jaime Kinoshita Oliveira**

BOARD CHAIR

**BY INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH, WE ARE SOWING THE SEEDS FOR A FUTURE THAT CHERISHES AND PRESERVES OUR LOCAL CULTURE. BY EMPOWERING THE YOUNGER GENERATION, WE ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF OUR TRADITIONS AND THE FORGING OF LIFELONG CONNECTIONS."**

**NATE GYOTOKU**

TANOSHII HAWAI'I

# A Summer of Discovery



“My daughter learned many new Japanese cultural activities and shared her knowledge with her family.”

Since the founding of the JCCH, providing youth with a sense of cultural identity and values has been at the heart of our mission. On June 26-30, 2023, the JCCH launched a new cultural summer camp named Tanoshii Hawai'i. 41 children between the ages of six through thirteen participated in a variety of hands-on activities, experiencing local Japanese music, arts, crafts, food, and language. The camp offered keiki an opportunity to gain a deeper appreciation of local Japanese culture and traditions, while having fun, making new friends – and discovering something new about themselves.

Led by five high school and college student counselors, the campers began each day with Rajio Taiso, a calisthenics ritual in Japan, followed by activities like kendo, mochi-making, and gyotaku fish printmaking. Though daily practice of taiko

drumming, bon odori dance, and zazen meditation the children learned persistence and self-awareness.

Based on the campers' enthusiasm and positive feedback from their parents, the Tanoshii Hawai'i program fulfilled its purpose. We look forward to continuing to provide a unique immersive experience for children for years to come.

## POST-EVENT PARENT SURVEY

(93% response rate):



Were Satisfied/Very Satisfied with Tanoshii Hawai'i



UNCOVERING HAWAI'I'S

# Hidden History

In response to evolving Department of Education (DOE) standards and an emphasis on digital resources, the JCCH is remodeling its educational programs. JCCH staff and volunteers completed over 40 educational outreach sessions over the year, including visits to elementary schools and private group tours of the Okage Same De Historical Gallery. The education team added topics like *The Legacy of the Gannenmono*, *Participation in Democracy, Can Hawai'i's Aloha Spirit Survive a War?* and *The Layers of Local* to its outreach lesson plans and to established education programs like the Okage Sama De exhibition tours.

In addition, the JCCH partnered with the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC), National Park Service, Pacific Historic Parks, and Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution to launch the inaugural **Hidden Histories of World War II** educator program in June. Held at the Center with visits to historically significant sites, this week-long teacher training program immersed primary, secondary, and college educators from across the state in World War II topics that are typically excluded from history textbooks.



● TO LEVERAGE THIS EFFORT, THE JCCH WILL ADOPT THE LESSON PLAN CREATED FOR THE HIDDEN HISTORIES OF WWII PROGRAM TO PRODUCE A CURRICULUM FOR THE DOE.



● VISIT [BIT.LY/HIDDENHISTORIESOFFWWII](https://bit.ly/hiddenhistoriesofwwii) FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND LIVE-STREAMED RECORDINGS.

The program was funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities.





## A Unique Partnership Digitally Preserves JCCH Artifacts

In January 2023, the JCCH initiated a new partnership with Mid-Pacific Institute to preserve World War II incarceration artifacts from the JCCH collection through 3D scanning. High school students from Chris Falk's Museum Studies class at Mid-Pacific Institute visited the JCCH to view the collection, including furniture and artwork created by Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II. JCCH Senior Program Coordinator Devynn Kochi explained the significance of the artifacts and the challenges of preserving them.

In March, the students returned to the JCCH equipped with Artec 3D scanners with the goal of helping our organization utilize modern technology to digitally preserve the artifacts in our care. They demonstrated how to use a 3D printer to create an identically

shaped replica of artifacts. The replicas can be transported and shared more easily than the originals, which are not only irreplaceable but are often in fragile condition.

The students used three types of scanners to capture images of artifacts from Hawai'i incarceratedees including Sanji Abe's go table (Honouliuli, HI); Zenji Takahashi's wooden table with inlay design (Santa Fe, NM); Jun Yamamoto's wooden floor lamp (Manzanar, CA); and Harry Koizumi's hand carved wooden panel of three birds (Rohwer, AR).

As a result of this partnership, JCCH staff have learned how 3D scanning allows us to digitally preserve irreplaceable pieces of our history. We plan to share these digital images with generations to come.

**A NOTE ABOUT HONOLIULI NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE:** Currently, the site remains closed to the public while the National Park Service (NPS) works on rehabilitation projects to preserve historic features. The NPS is also developing a Transportation and Access Study that will propose potential options for public access to the site. For now, we rely on our curricula, Honouliuli Education Center exhibit in our community gallery, and digital resources to share the experiences of Japanese Americans from Hawai'i who were incarcerated.

*The Honouliuli Education Center and Okage Sama De Historical Gallery are open for self-guided tours on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. excluding holidays. JCCH members receive free admission.*



3D-printed replica of a wooden statue carved by WWII incarceratedee Taichi Sato of his daughter, Harriet Sato.

## THE TOKIOKA HERITAGE RESOURCE CENTER

# A Source for Information & Inspiration

The Tokioka Heritage Resource Center located on the ground floor of the JCCH serves as a resource for research and exploration. Students, scholars, and writers rely on its library and unique archival collections including oral histories, diaries, and photos.

In 2022, we were thrilled to encounter an outstanding example of how the Resource Center (RC) serves as an inspiration for creative endeavors. Novelist Scott Kikkawa, who specializes in noir detective stories set in Territorial Honolulu, visited the RC to investigate a particular topic for a new book. Kikkawa's thrillers follow the casework of a Japanese American homicide detective and WWII veteran. His stories skillfully intertwine historical context and cultural nuance to create an authentic only-in-Hawai'i narrative.

His research at the RC led him from one topic to another, and Kikkawa said he has developed plot lines for not only one but three upcoming novels!

In April of 2023, the JCCH hosted a talk story with Kikkawa, moderated by Christine Yano, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. A recording of the conversation is available on the JCCH YouTube channel: [youtube.com/@jcchawaii](https://youtube.com/@jcchawaii).

Beyond serving the community as a valuable archival resource, the Tokioka Heritage Resource Center is appreciated for its Japanese translation and genealogy research services, as well as its digital resources.

In fiscal year 2023, the Resource Center helped people with the following services:



**FULFILLED 247 RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS**



**ASSISTED 80 FAMILIES WITH TRANSLATION/ GENEALOGY RESEARCH**



**PROVIDED 22 DOCUMENT TRANSLATIONS**

### The RC needs your support!

Please consider a donation to the JCCH to help preserve our Oral History Collection. The recordings are in varied formats (cassette tapes, DVDs, etc.) that are at risk of deterioration and obsolescence. Additional funding will help us acquire the equipment and expertise we need to digitize and preserve them.

**Please contact Beth Iwata at (808) 218-6732 or [beth@jcchawaii.org](mailto:beth@jcchawaii.org) to learn more.**

The Tokioka Heritage Resource Center is open to researchers by appointment.

Please email: [resource.center@jcchawaii.org](mailto:resource.center@jcchawaii.org)



# Keeping Our Local Culture Alive

Thousands of people enjoyed a return to in-person cultural programs, beginning with the Shichi Go San (7-5-3) coming of age ceremony in November of 2022, followed by the New Year's 'Ohana Festival in January 2023. Mahalo to the sponsors, partners and volunteers who helped revive these festive celebrations.

## SHICHI GO SAN CEREMONY



Two boys dressed for their Shichi Go San photo session received a traditional Shinto children's blessing for health and well-being by a priest from Izumo Taishakyo Mission.



A volunteer in the keiki activities area assisted a family at the hachimaki (headband) stamping activity while they waited for their Shichi Go San photo session.

## NEW YEAR'S 'OHANA FESTIVAL



Ryugen Taiko performed in the middle of our courtyard at the 2023 New Year's 'Ohana Festival presented by We Can Do This.



Families and keiki played fun games in our courtyard including daruma toss, leap frog, and pachinko. Their goal was to fill their stamp cards at each station to redeem for a special prize!



The Hongwanji Keiki Chorus performed songs from the beloved TV series during the "KIKAI DA FOREVER!" showcase in the JCCH's Generations Ballroom.



Every year, we invite the kenjinkai groups to participate in the New Year's 'Ohana Festival as an opportunity to fundraise for their organizations. The Hawaii Miyagi Kenjin-Kai sold traditional Japanese foods including imoni soup, zunda mochi, and sekihan.

# How We're Making an Impact

Learn about upcoming events and programs at [www.jcchawaii.org](http://www.jcchawaii.org) and receive weekly updates by signing up for our email newsletter.



21 programs

EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAMS HOSTED BY JCCH

19 events

JCCH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY EVENTS

25 groups

PRIVATE TOURS OF OKAGE SAMA DE

6,937 people

TOTAL ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT

10,057 hours

DIRECT INTERACTION WITH PEOPLE



# Irasshai: Eat, Drink, Kanpai! - a New Fun-raiser



On May 6, 2023, a crowd of over 400 people gathered in support of the JCCH for a new fundraising event called Irasshai: Eat, Drink, Kanpai! A rousing taiko performance by the Taiko Center of the Pacific kicked off the festivities, followed by Okinawan beats by Ryukyu Koten Ongaku Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai, Hawaii Chapter. As guests entered our red torii gate, their faces lit up as they caught sight of colorful lanterns, banners, and a custom-built yagura adorning the courtyard.



Guests enjoyed Japan-inspired food and drinks from over sixteen restaurants and local businesses. They were also welcome to explore the Historical Gallery, Gift Shop, and Resource Center. A demonstration of the 3D scanning of JCCH's incarceration artifacts collection by high school students at Mid-Pacific Institute was featured in our community gallery space.



Mahalo to our event sponsors, especially our Presenting Sponsor, Central Pacific Bank Foundation, along with the guests, donors, volunteers, and partners in the community for helping us to achieve our fundraising goals and to showcase the Center as an exciting gathering place.

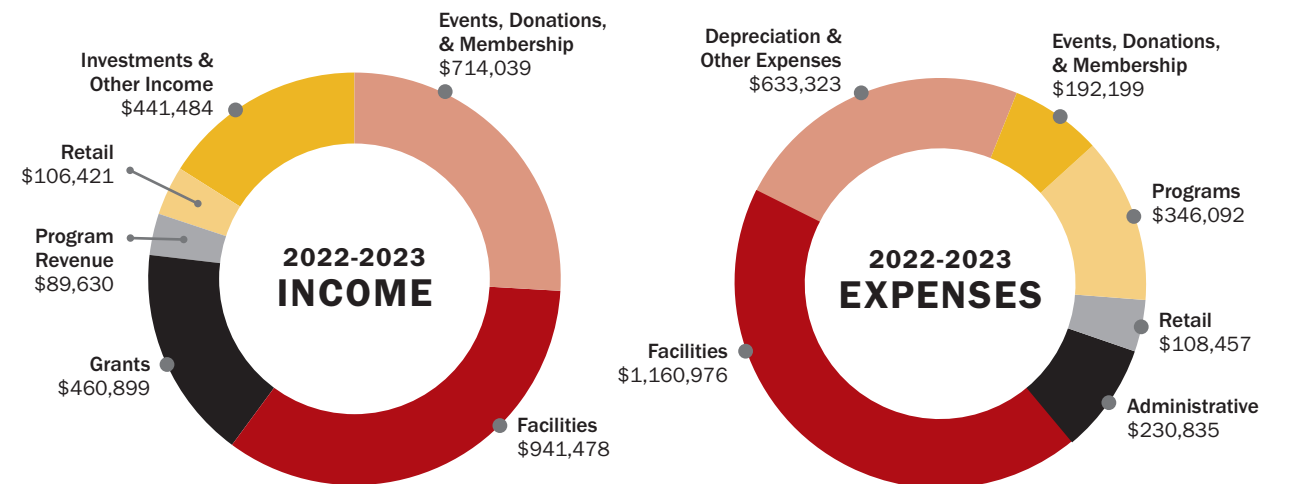


## Financial Summary

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

|   | June 30, 2023 Draft* | June 30, 2022     |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>   |                      |                   |
| Cash and cash equivalents                             | 1,033,210            | 1,210,825         |
| Investments in marketable securities                  | 3,395,310            | 2,985,140         |
| Investments in marketable securities - restricted use | 1,076,392            | 984,467           |
| Accounts and grants receivable - net                  | 76,310               | 69,166            |
| Property and equipment - net                          | 8,743,435            | 8,650,503         |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets                     | 48,026               | 82,981            |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                                   | <b>14,372,683</b>    | <b>13,983,082</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>                   |                      |                   |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities              | 127,953              | 392,940           |
| Deferred revenue                                      | 36,137               | 43,588            |
| Note payable - bank loan                              | 587,562              | -                 |
| Note payable - SBA EID loan                           | 142,308              | 150,000           |
| Rental deposits                                       | 26,356               | 26,356            |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                              | <b>920,316</b>       | <b>612,884</b>    |
| <b>Total Net Assets</b>                               | <b>13,452,367</b>    | <b>13,370,198</b> |
| <b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>             | <b>14,372,683</b>    | <b>13,983,082</b> |

\*These are preliminary results and are subject to change.



In Fiscal Year 2023, grant income exceeded our forecasted budget due to COVID-19 relief funding received from the IRS Employee Retention Credit Program (\$143,590) and the City & County of Honolulu Non-Profit Recovery Program (\$100,000).



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The Marie Otoshi Memorial is dedicated to Marie Chitayo Otoshi, a nisei born on Hawai'i island in 1924 who worked for the Department of Health and volunteered for the JCCH. Her bequest has enabled us to invest in energy efficiency upgrades that contribute towards the long-term maintenance of the Center.

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# Thank you for Supporting Our Gift Shop & Craft Fairs!

We appreciate the customers who enjoy stopping in to see what's new and the people who donate gently used items that support the shop's reputation as a unique shopping destination. Customers often call it a secret treasure!

On the second Saturday of every month, the Gift Shop hosts the JCCH Craft & Collectibles Fair. Held outdoors in the courtyard, the craft fair showcases Japan-made or Japanese-inspired goods offered by small business vendors, along with exciting food and drink offerings.

Starting from May of this year, we began partnering with other organizations to host cultural workshops on craft fair days. We hope this combination of art + food + culture will have popular appeal.



When the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i contacts me, I begin to happily anticipate valued cultural event experiences. Always welcoming and diverse offerings our family has participated in and enjoyed over the years. Recently a hands-on workshop creating Furoshiki was especially interesting and fun! Looking forward to more cultural learning and exchange."

**JAN OLIN NAKAMURA**  
 'AIEA, HAWAII

## SPECIAL MAHALO TO JCCH VOLUNTEERS

The staff of JCCH give kasha and thanks to the individuals who support our programs and services as volunteers, docents, student interns, and committee members. You are a special group of people who give selflessly. Though we are unable to name all of you here, please know you are dearly appreciated. **Thank you for choosing to support the JCCH and helping us serve the community with aloha.**



Student intern, Michael Hee, a senior at Assets School (center), trained in the Gift Shop and office.



**JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII**

*Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.*

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EAT, DRINK  
**irasshai**  
KANPAI!

**FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024 @ 5:00 PM**

Don't miss out on fabulous food and entertainment at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i's premier event!

