

FY2024 IMPACT REPORT

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IKIGAI



IGNITING PASSION AND PURPOSE



JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

2023-2024 JCCH TEAM

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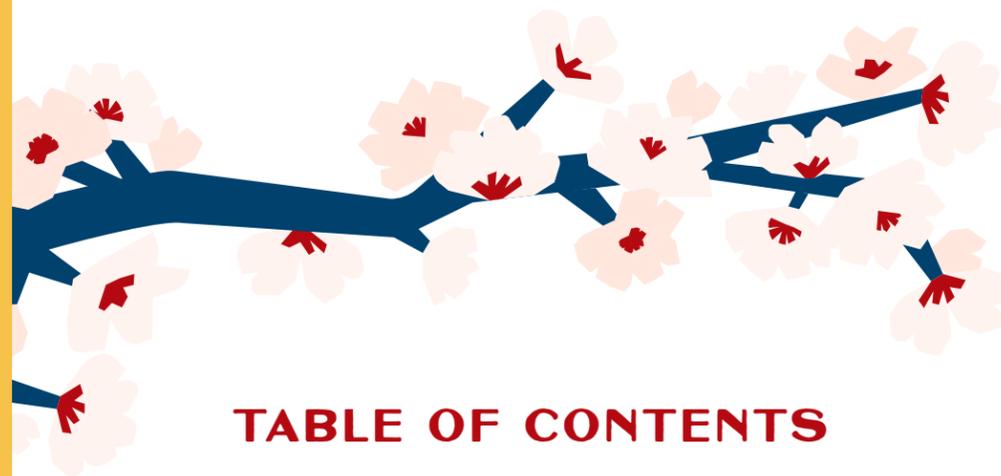


TABLE OF CONTENTS

1
Executive Message

2-3
Kako'o Maui
Maui Fundraiser
Kibou (Hope) for Maui

4
Preserving Our Legacy
Tokioka Heritage Resource Center

5
Empowering the Next Generation
Ho'ohana Cohort Program

6
Building Lasting Connections

7
By the Numbers

8
Enhancing Our Sustainability

9
Financial Summary

10-16
Acknowledgments



JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII

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

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Honolulu, HI 96826-1524
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808.945.7633



MESSAGE FROM THE 2023-2024 CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS **EXECUTIVE MESSAGE**

Dear Friends of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i,

Reflecting on the 2023/2024 fiscal year, I am grateful for the incredible support from the community and the dedication of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i's (JCCH) staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors. It's heartwarming to consider all we've accomplished together.

The JCCH, like many in our community, feels a deep sense of sekinin (responsibility) toward those affected by the devastating Maui wildfires. In September, we partnered with Bamboo Catering to host the 愛♥ (Ai Heart) Maui fundraiser, with all proceeds benefiting impacted communities. We are also collaborating with USJC's TOMODACHI Initiative and Odyssey Nature Japan to launch TOMODACHI Kibou for Maui, taking high school students affected by the wildfires to Japan to learn from peers who survived and overcame the devastating effects of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. This program aims to instill hope and empower these youth to contribute to Maui's long-term recovery. The second cohort is set to visit Japan this July.

Our community also came together in support of the reimagining of our annual fundraiser, 'Irasshai: Eat Drink Kanpai!' bringing it back to the center

to raise awareness of our presence in Mō'ili'ili and our hope to serve as a community resource. This event, along with others, not only encouraged connection but also raised essential funds for our programs. The JCCH launched two new programs: Tanoshii Hawai'i for youth ages 8-13 and Ho'ohana for young adults, creating enriching experiences for participants. We also focused on delivering programs that strengthen intergenerational bonds and honor values that make Hawai'i special.

Your generosity and deep sense of purpose have made all this possible. We humbly ask for your continued support as we move forward.

As my time on the board concludes, I will always appreciate this opportunity to serve alongside such an exceptional group. Mahalo to the board members for your dedication and guidance.

With gratitude and aloha,

Jaime Kinoshita Oliveira
Board Chair, 2023-2024



"We appreciate the generous donation the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i provided in the wake of the wildfires."

With this support, we've been able to help Maui County during disaster and crisis and work with the community towards recovery and resilience in four key areas: 1. mental health; 2. keiki and young adults; 3. stable housing; and 4. education, job training and employment services.

Thank you again for your generous showing of aloha."

RICK RODERO
Maui United Way



KAKO'O MAUI
愛 ❤️
MAUI FUNDRAISER

On September 2, 2023, over 350 people supported the JCCH and Bamboo Catering's 愛❤️ (Ai Heart) Maui fundraiser dedicated to the residents of Maui affected by the August wildfires. All event proceeds -- over \$51,000 -- were donated to the Maui United Way and Chef Hui to give direct support to the people of Maui.

Mahalo to the food and beverage vendors, entertainers, and lucky draw donors who contributed their goods and services, and the table hosts and guests who supported this effort.



"Not only did the program bring back my hope, but the program also showed me the importance of community."

KAKO'O MAUI
KIBOU (HOPE) FOR MAUI

A partnership with the TOMODACHI Initiative and Odyssey Nature Japan, the TOMODACHI Kibou for Maui Program aims to engage and inspire Maui's youth to lead the long-term physical, mental and spiritual recovery of their community.

From March 17 to 24, 2024, JCCH staff chaperoned eleven high school students from Lahaina, Maui, to the Tohoku region of Japan. They explored the areas of Ishinomaki-shi, Onagawa-cho, Matsushima, and Higashimatsushima-shi in Miyagi Prefecture to meet with local fishermen, farmers, students, and other community members and to learn about their recovery efforts following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011.

Hearing the personal accounts of people who overcame devastating challenges provided the students with a feeling of hope and resilience. The TOMODACHI Kibou for Maui Program aims not only to support Maui's recovery but also to create lasting connections between Maui and Tohoku.



Mia (left), Sheila (right)

"The Kibou for Maui trip was very impactful for us students and is a trip I'll truly never forget. The people we met and the connections we made with people who dealt with a disaster similar to ours here in Lahaina really inspired us and filled us all with hope for the future of our beloved town..."

MIA KOSIANOWSKI
Lahainaluna High School

"Higashimatsushima also taught me how being a community meant bringing out more ideas."

The people there came together to think of ways to reinforce their town against future disasters, like the installation of seawalls. This inspired and encouraged me to contribute to my community, something I never tried to do after the fire because I didn't know where to start..."

SHEILA MAE ARCALA
Lahainaluna High School

please visit this link!



Read Sheila and Mia's full statements



PRESERVING OUR LEGACY

TOKIOKA HERITAGE RESOURCE CENTER

The Tokioka Heritage Resource Center (RC) continues to serve researchers, students, and individuals, providing access to our archives and services.

Currently in its second year, a partnership with Mid-Pacific Institute's Museum Studies program provides students with hands-on experience in 3D scanning of historic artifacts from the incarceration in Hawai'i while enhancing the accessibility and preservation of the JCCH's collection. To view the latest 3D images visit skfb.ly/oUsuS.

We are also delighted to announce the relaunch of our koseki and translation services. Thanks to the support of our dedicated volunteers, we have revitalized this program to better assist individuals in tracing their genealogy and connecting with their heritage. To learn more about these services, please scan the QR code below.

In March 2024, students from Colorado College (pictured above) explored the Otokichi Ozaki collection for a research project related to Ozaki's internment story, "Family Torn Apart."

Would you like to help the RC share its resources with the community?

The RC's Legacy for the Future donor wall is a special opportunity to show your support. Please use the QR code on this page to learn more.



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

HO'OHANA COHORT PROGRAM

The Ho'ohana Cohort Program aims to engage, connect, and equip a new generation of community activators to create long-term support of grassroots organizations.

The program lasts eighteen months, with six months of training and exploratory sessions followed by a year-long board fellowship with a local community organization.

Training is given by community members who have a wide range of experience, offering a diverse and broad perspective.

Each session encourages participants to explore their cultural values and self-identity and develop community leadership skills.

"The round table discussions about current social dynamics such as privilege, discrimination, and collaboration, provide new perspectives on these common issues and reinforce the power of civic dialogue and service learning."

MICHAEL DE GUZMAN
2024 Ho'ohana Cohort participant

BUILDING LASTING CONNECTIONS

The JCCH aims to ignite curiosity and foster a deeper understanding of Japanese customs and traditions by engaging participants in meaningful cultural experiences. We do this through annual programs and innovative partnerships that engage people of all ages and backgrounds.



NEW YEAR'S 'OHANA FESTIVAL

"Hawai'i is known for being multicultural... that's why we're called the melting pot. People from all over live here...different ethnicities and cultures and you know by all of us coming together...it creates peace where we all respect and understand each other's culture...and we support each other in this community."

TAIKO SENSEI
New Year's 'Ohana Festival

Enjoy this video!



HANAMI FESTIVAL

"It (Hanami) was really fun, and the atmosphere felt like we were at a sakura festival in Japan. We are glad to hear everyone enjoyed our food! Thank you always!"

VENDOR
Hanami x JCCH Craft & Collectibles Fair

BY THE NUMBERS

Thanks to your support, in-person engagement through our outreach programs, Okage Sama De tours, Gift Shop, and Resource Center increased by leaps and bounds over the past year.



8,257
Program Attendees
(18% increase)



4,900
Visitors at the monthly JCCH Craft & Collectibles Fair and Pop-Up Sales



43
Education & Outreach Programs hosted by the JCCH (52% increase from FY2023)



97
Researchers utilized the Resource Center



57
Docent-led tours of Okage Sama De (more than doubled)

19
Community Partner Events



1,816
New Social Media Followers (13% increase)



291
New YouTube Subscribers (26% increase)

Outreach highlights this year included:



The JCCH connected with neighbor island families at the Waimea Cherry Blossom Festival, Maui Matsuri, Molokai Youth Summit, and Kauai Matsuri.



We partnered with local organizations to share our evolving Japanese American culture with new audiences.



Seasonal events like Hanami (cherry blossom viewing festival) and cultural workshops have become a perfect complement to our monthly Craft & Collectibles Fair.



The JCCH Gift Shop extended its hours and diversified its offerings with new merchandise and retailers, including small business owners.



ENHANCING OUR SUSTAINABILITY

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) completed its campus in 1994, serving as a vital community space. To ensure long-term sustainability, the JCCH has undertaken several significant projects since reopening after the pandemic.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY INITIATIVES

These improvements reduced energy consumption by 20%



ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

Consistent investment in our campus is essential to ensuring that future generations may enjoy all that the Center offers.



The fire suppression system in the Ballroom kitchen was upgraded to meet current safety standards.



Replaced older lighting with LED bulbs



Ohana Room was refreshed with new carpet.



The Skybridge was resurfaced, removing hazardous chipped and broken tiles.

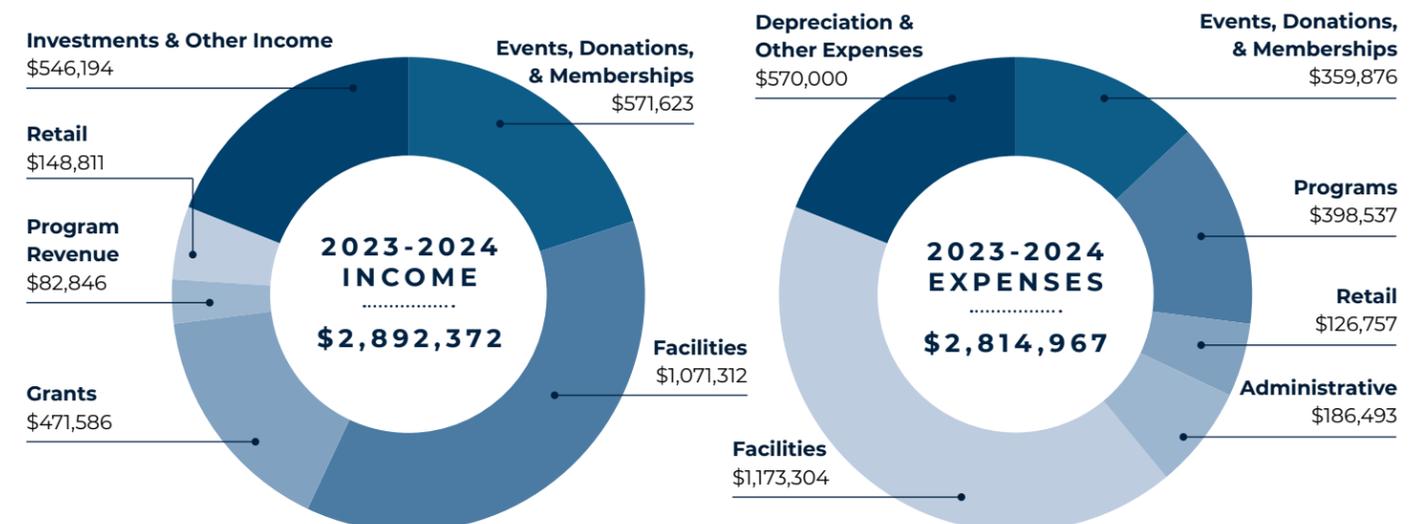


Installed separate air conditioning chillers in the Community Services Building so that the A/C in the Ballroom can be shut down when the facilities are not in use.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	June 30, 2024 Draft*	June 30, 2023
Cash and cash equivalents	771,757	547,675
Cash and cash equivalents - restricted use	539,110	587,562
Investments in marketable securities	3,336,836	3,273,878
Investments in marketable securities - restricted use	1,201,053	1,076,392
Accounts and grants receivable - net	71,499	92,890
Property and equipment - net	8,401,902	8,764,097
Prepaid expenses and other assets	64,287	86,634
Total Assets	14,386,444	14,429,128
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	127,734	130,397
Deferred revenue	75,804	56,137
Note payable - bank loan	539,110	587,562
Note payable - SBA EID loan	142,224	148,169
Rental deposits	26,356	26,356
Total Liabilities	911,228	948,621
Total Net Assets	13,475,216	13,480,507
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	14,386,444	14,429,128

*These are preliminary results and are subject to change.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO GIVE

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i extends its deepest appreciation and aloha to all our members and donors for your support. Your generosity enables the JCCH to serve the community with educational programs, cultural experiences, and research resources.

The following donor list acknowledges contributions of \$250 or more received between July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. We make every attempt to be accurate and inclusive. If a name has been inadvertently omitted, please notify us at giving@jcchawaii.org or call (808) 945-7633 ext. 32.

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LEGACY MEMBERS

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Kimi E.E. Andrew
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Debra Balfour
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Carter Berlin
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A CARING COMMUNITY

On any given day, you might see JCCH volunteers welcoming visitors to the Gallery and Gift Shop, helping a student create an ikebana arrangement for the first time, and hanging lanterns in the courtyard for the Irasshai fundraiser. These amazing individuals not only give their time to keep our programs and services operating smoothly, but they also often contribute personal resources selflessly, many times without saying a word. If you are one of these heroes, we thank you with kانشa and aloha. Mahalo nui!



A Special Tribute to our Cherished Volunteers

At this year's Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, we paid special tribute to Jane Kurahara and Tatsumi Hayashi, two of our most dedicated volunteers. To see highlights of the gathering, please scan this QR code.

**LEGACY MEMBERS
(CONT.)**

Wendy M. Chang
Cynthia F. Chi-Doi
Hiroko Dewitz
Larry Drake
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Weylin and Rose Eng
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Mary Fujitani
Shigeaki Fujitani
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TOMODACHI Initiative

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From left to right: Brandi Wakashige, Rui Kono, and Marques Batoon

**2023-2024
JCCH SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS**

**Supported by the
Sekiya of Fukuoka/Hawai'i
Endowment Fund**

Thanks to the generosity of Betsy and Raymond Sekiya, the JCCH Scholarship program supports undergraduate students who are pursuing Japanese studies, language, or literature at either the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa or University of Hawai'i West O'ahu and are active in community service.

"My goal is to promote Japanese culture among my peers. This scholarship will help me create a Japanese language game application as a study tool for students."

MARQUES BATOON



IRASSHAIMASE!

Over 450 guests celebrated Japanese food and culture at the JCCH's second annual Irasshai: Eat, Drink, Kanpai! fundraiser. Colorful lanterns, banners, and yagura tower created a festive vibe indoors and out, while guests enjoyed a tantalizing feast created by 15 chefs and live musical performances.

Special thanks to our wonderful event sponsors, donors, volunteers, and event planning committee for their help to make this a successful celebration of our mission.

ALLIES \$2,500-\$4,999

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Aon Risk Services Inc. of Hawai'i
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Ricky and Amy Uy
Lloyd T. Watarai
Leslie and Alice Yamanaka



TANOSHII HAWAI'I

"My son loved the (Tanoshii Hawai'i) camp. On the drive home, he spent the whole time talking about what you all did and the friends he made.

"His willingness to try new things has grown!"

Parent of a Tanoshii Hawai'i camper participant

From June 24 - 28, 43 children engaged in cultural-based learning at Tanoshii Hawai'i, the JCCH's annual summer camp program.

The action-packed week offered the keiki opportunities to explore a broad range of activities from silent meditation to high-sensory kendo, taiko, and bon dance, while making new friends. They also learned the kachikan values of kancha (gratitude), sekinin (responsibility), ganbari (persistence), giri (sense of duty), and hokori (pride), along with Japanese greetings and expressions.

The Tanoshii program plays an essential role in our strategic goal of fostering cultural appreciation among youth through meaningful experiences.



OKAGE SAMA DE HISTORICAL GALLERY

With your support, our education team reached these milestones:

Updated pamphlets for the exhibit in both English and Japanese.

.....

Welcomed hundreds of visitors from near and far, including visitors from Japan, China, Canada, Germany, New Caledonia, Australia, and New Zealand.

.....

Special thanks to the volunteers who helped create a guided tour manual which will ensure consistency of content and quality of experience for visitors.

.....

An uptick in tour groups from Japan indicates growing interest among Japanese nationals in the Japanese American experience in Hawai'i.

Teresa Yamasaki and Family
Yield Giving Open Call Fund
Hiromu and Alice G. Yogi
Larry S. and Joan C. Yokoyama
James and Chi Yonemoto
Beverly Yoneshige
Michael A. Yoshida and Mary Renfer
Thurston T. Yoshina and Lori Kaneshige
Thurston T. Yoshina
Constance F. Yoshioka-Kinoshita
Dirk Yoshizawa
Amy Young

BEQUESTS

Jane I. Hiranaka Trust
Mitsuko Taketa-Epp Family Trust

TRIBUTE GIFTS In Memory of

Caroline K. Abe, in memory of James Kawamoto
Caroline K. Abe, in memory of Ernest Urata
Caroline K. Abe, in memory of Warren Abe
Caroline K. Abe, in memory of Darryl Tagami
Anonymous, in memory of Yuriko Enomoto
Anonymous, in memory of Donald Fujimoto
Anonymous, in memory of Fred and Midori Fujimoto
Anonymous, in memory of Mabel Hirotsu
Anonymous, in memory of Susumu and Nancy Matsuda
Anonymous, in memory of Dr. Stanley Tanaka
Anonymous, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Toshio "Charley" Tokunaga
Thomas and Pauline Hughes, in memory of Yutaka & Asayo Kawamoto
Faith F. Ichida, in memory of Nathan and Glorian Yamamoto, LeRoy Ichida

Marilyn Kanemura, in memory of Florence Kimura
Marilyn and Dennis Kanemura, in memory of Florence Kimura
Sharlene Koyanagi and Kay Ng, in memory of Francis, Florence, Melvin Kinoshita
Joy Kubota, in memory of Tsuneyuki George Kubota
Michele Loudermilk, in memory of Tadashi and Nancy Yoshida & Kaoru and Shizuko Sunahara
Barbara C. Marumoto Coons, in memory of Joy Teraoka
Amy M. Matsuda, in memory of my late husband Fujio Matsuda
Colbert and Gail Matsumoto, in memory of Matsuko Matsumoto
Martin Matsuura, in memory of Bishop Gyokuei and Masuye Matsuura

Lindsay Michimoto, in memory of Craig and Ethel Michimoto
Fran Miyamoto, in memory of Sachi Monzen
Leigh-Ann Miyasato, in memory of Albert H. Miyasato
Masaaki Morimoto, in memory of PVT. Ralph Shoichi Masatsugu
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John Okutani, in memory of Kiichi and Tamayo Kuwahara
Curt Otaguro, in memory of Ethel T. Otaguro
Joan Rich, in memory of Alice Yoshida Ihori
Beverly Seki, in memory of Franklin Seki
Loraine Shimada, in memory of the Gyusho and Ushi Miyashiro Family
Kazuo Shirakawa, in memory of Toshiichi Okabayashi

THE KACHIKAN CIRCLE

Would you like to provide longer-term support of the JCCH's mission? A planned gift is an opportunity to invest in the future of Hawai'i's keiki and the perpetuation of our shared values.

A planned gift can be as simple as remembering the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i in your will or designating the JCCH as a beneficiary of your insurance plan. Utilizing non-cash assets, such as a gift of stock, may reduce the tax burden for you and your loved ones while providing significant support to a cause you care about.

Supporters who make a planned gift are invited to become part of the JCCH's Kachikan Circle, a special group of people who share a deep commitment to our cultural heritage.

If you are interested in exploring options, please contact:

Beth Iwata
Director of Development
(808) 218-6732 or Beth@jcchawaii.org

Ernest Shoji, in memory of Jean Shoji
Ernest Y. and Rose Suemoto, in memory of Yaoichi and Mitsuyo Suemoto
Alan T. and Judy Suyama, in memory of Katsuro Tsujiuchi
Mimi Tashiro, in memory of Dorothy Inouye Romeu
Janet Terada, in memory of Edmond Y. Terada
Gail Toma, in memory of Carol Nagano
C Yamada, in memory of Mrs. Masue ('Violet') Yamada
Karen S.T. Yamamoto, in memory of my parents, Robert and Jane Takane
Teresa Yamasaki and Family, in memory of Raymond N. Yamasaki

In Honor of

Fumio Fuse, in honor of Judith and Sally Fuse
The members of the Hawai'i Karate Kodansha Kai, in honor of Sensei Tomu Arakawa, Hanshi - (1925-1998), Sensei Joeseoph Bunch, Hanshi - (1938-2010), Sensei Francis Fong, Hanshi - (1930-2020), Sensei "Bobby" Lowe, Hanshi - (1929-2011), Sensei James Miyaji, Hanshi - (1928-2019), and Sensei Anthony Troche, Hanshi - (1929-2019)
Daisy Ishihara, in honor of Alpha Delta Kappa Month Law Offices of Gerald K. Kitano, in honor of Jo Ann Okimoto Chinn

Allison Kuranishi, in honor of Hiromu Kuranishi
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Nisei Veterans Legacy, in honor of Nisei Veterans that supported the JCCH
Lisa A. Shigemura, in honor of Richard and Helen Shigemura
Jerald and Betsy Takesono, in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Seikaku Takesono
Jon Tanaka, in honor of Katsumi Higa
Tamotsu and Michiko Esther Tanaka, in honor of Elisabeth Iwata
Carolyn S. Towata, in honor of my cousin, Susan Eichor



JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I
Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.

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SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025 | 5:30 PM

Please join us for a celebration of food and friendship at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i's signature event!

Highlights from Irrashai 2024

