



# JASH Newsflash

A Summary of Recent Events of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii

Fall 2021

## September 28, 1976—The Society is Born



TYPICAL TOURIST—Tadayoshi Yamada, Tokyo steel executive, takes time out to photograph Gov. George Ariyoshi last night during the inaugural meeting of the Japan-America Society of Honolulu. Star-Bulletin—September 29, 1976; Photo by Bob Young.

The Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) was established on September 28, 1976 as the Japan-America Society of Honolulu by a dedicated group of leaders that included Mr. Frank Midkiff, Ambassador John Allison, Judge Masaji Marumoto, Mr. Kazuo Ishii, Mr. Ralph Honda and then Consul General of Japan Masao Tsukamoto.

JASH's mission has remained the same from its inception: To promote understanding and friendship between the people of Hawaii and Japan through the special and unique perspective of Hawaii.

How far we have come since 1976 is a testament to our members who are our most loyal supporters.

## 31st Annual Friendship Golf Classic



Pacific Guardian Life Teams pictured above

In a “stroke of luck”, no pun intended, JASH held our 31st Annual Friendship Golf Classic on July 19, 2021 at a time when COVID-19 cases were just starting to increase from one of its lowest points.

Amazingly, the tournament was sold-out and we were happy to host 143 players! This was one of the largest golf tournaments for JASH in recent years. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces on participants who were enjoying each other's company as they made the rounds around the course.

Players were lucky to enjoy a smorgasbord of snacks and drinks which were provided by our generous food and beverage sponsors. The Mid-Pacific Country Club, arguably one of the most beautiful golf courses on the island, provided the perfect venue with views of the lush Koolau mountains to one side and the picturesque shorelines of Lanikai and Kailua beach to the other. These things, along with



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## President's Message



The article shown to the left of this message is a testament to the prestigious beginning of our Society.

This year, our 45th Anniversary, we pay tribute to those who came before us who worked to establish and build the Japan-America Society of Hawaii into the organization it is today—a strong, vibrant, culturally rich Society whose mission has not changed.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank and celebrate our JASH Officers, Directors, and all members of JASH. Your support, particularly during these most challenging times, has enabled us to persevere and continue fulfilling our important mission. *Doumo Arigatou Gozaimasu!*

To our volunteers and program-partners in Hawaii and in Japan, we cannot adequately express how much we value you, the lifeblood of our organization. It is through partnerships with you that we are able to do the important work of connecting students, educators, business professionals, military, government and diplomatic officials in *Hawaii and Japan* and in turn, with the U.S.

The U.S.-Japan alliance is the most important alliance in the world, and Hawaii plays a critical role in maintaining the strength of this relationship. Let's continue our work together in support of this vital alliance.

On September 28th, let's all raise a glass to toast to another 45 years for Nichibei Kyokai! KANPAI!

With Aloha,  
Reyna

## 31st Annual Friendship Golf Classic

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weather that only got better through the day, made it a memorable time had by all.

With social-distancing protocols in place due to the ongoing pandemic, we opted to forego the normal in-person awards banquet and instead served a grab-and-go dinner. We also held a separate Virtual Pau Hana Awards Ceremony via Zoom three-days later on July 22, 2021.

JASH would like to extend a special, "Thank You" to Pacific Guardian Life for serving as our **Title Sponsor** once again this year. We sincerely appreciate your continued support in allowing us to bring this special golf tournament to our members and supporters.

Mahalo also to our Sponsors, Prize Donors, Food & Beverage Donors, and volunteers who were integral in making this event a huge success!



### **Food & Beverage Sponsors:**

Aloha Beer  
 Anheuser-Busch-Kirin  
 Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii  
 Dave & Busters  
 Market Advantage  
 Menhune Water  
 Move4Japan  
 Murphy's Bar & Grill  
 MW Restaurant  
 JASH NexGen  
 Ono-ya Ramen  
 Servco  
 Seven-Eleven Hawaii  
 Sun Noodle Hawaii  
 The Cherry Company

### **Title Sponsor:**



PACIFIC GUARDIAN LIFE



The tournament got off to a rousing start with the thunderous sounds of Dragon Beat Hawaii's taiko drums at the shotgun start.



L-R: Volunteers Linda Kihuna, Lori Sakurai, Naty Higa, Diane Murata and JoAnn Nagai



L-R: Mr. Steve Sombrero, JASH Chairman of the Board and Consul General Yutaka Aoki



The 69th Cherry Blossom Festival Court

Hope to see you at next year's 32nd Annual Friendship Golf Tournament!



General Voting Now Open!

<https://www.jashawaii.org/anniversary-photo-contest>

### **Charity Walk Volunteers**



Mahalo to the following walkers and donors who participated in this year's Virtual Visitor Industry Charity Walk on behalf of JASH!

From August 30 to September 12, 2021, participants used a mobile application to track steps and connect with Team JASH:

- Kristen Barrera
- Elizabeth Stanton-Barrera
- Jacqueline Furuta
- Takako Miyazawa
- Jamee Black Moorman
- Loch Moorman
- John Okutani
- Sandy Takeda
- Anonymous x 3

Together, they donated over \$800 to JASH! Mahalo for your efforts everyone!

### **JASH Newsflash**

JASH was founded in 1976 to promote understanding and friendship between the people of Japan and the United States through the special and unique perspective of Hawaii.

The JASH Newsflash newsletter is published quarterly. Visit our website at [www.jashawaii.org](http://www.jashawaii.org) for more information.

Natsumatsuri Virtual Summer Festival



Leaders of tomorrow, bridging the U.S. and Japan relations.

On July 29, 2021, JASH hosted our Second Annual Natsumatsuri: Virtual Summer Festival which was planned and produced by the JASH NexGen Committee. Our theme for the event was *Tanabata* or Star Festival.



NexGen Committee Members

This year, the group worked towards expanding the program to a hybrid event where guests joined the festivities either live at Natsunoya Tea House or virtually from their homes via Zoom. Many of those who attended at Natsunoya commented on how wonderful it was to reconnect and see everyone in-person again.

The Natsumatsuri program included:

- A cultural segment on Tanabata in Japan presented by Mr. Kiyohiro Tagawa, President of Kintetsu International Hawaii Company;
- Sake-tasting by sake sommelier Keith Nakaganeku of The Cherry Company;
- A special performance by Alternative Taiko Unit Garyu from Hiroshima, Japan; and
- A somen cooking segment by the 69th Cherry Blossom Festival Court.

Attendees joining us in-person at



Natsunoya Tea House enjoyed a special Natsumatsuri teishoku meal while virtual festival attendees pre-ordered JASH exclusive unagi or teriyaki chicken bentos from Rinka Japanese Restaurant.

The Natsumatsuri was co-hosted by NexGen members Mr. Kristian Lipumano and Ms. Taylor Date. New this year was our *Tanzaku* Drawing for wonderful prizes such as a staycation at Halepuna by Halekulani, 60,000 Hawaiian Air Miles and more! Co-chairs for this year's planning committee were Ms. Monchalee Ota and Ms. Michelle Hirose. To view the full program, please click [HERE](#).

Mahalo to Island Insurance Foundation for serving as our **Title Sponsor** and to the many other sponsors who made our program possible.

The NexGen is JASH's group of next generation leaders comprised of young professionals under the age of 50 years old.

To learn more about the NexGen and how to get involved, please contact Lila Frisbie at [lfrisbie@jashawaii.org](mailto:lfrisbie@jashawaii.org).

**Title Sponsor:**



Island Insurance table at Natsunoya



69th Cherry Blossom Festival Court



Alternative Taiko Unit Garyu, Hiroshima, Japan

**Haru Sponsor:**

Cushman & Wakefield | ChaneyBrooks

**Fuyu Sponsors:**

ANA  
Kintetsu International  
KTA Superstores  
Sachi Hawaii

**Tanzaku Sponsors:**

Hawaiian Airlines  
Halepuna Waikiki by Halekulani

**Partners:**

The Cherry Co., Ltd.  
Elite Delivery  
Iris Elements Hawaii  
Rinka Japanese Restaurant  
Natsunoya Tea House



## APCC JAs Visit 'Akahiao Nature Institute and Start BRIDGE Virtual Summer Camp

The 33rd Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) is going virtual this year, with international exchange activities occurring via Zoom from August through October 2021 during their BRIDGE Virtual Summer Camp (BVSC).

In addition to sharing their cultures, the Junior Ambassadors (JAs) have been tasked with creating and enacting initiatives addressing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their local communities.

To explore sustainability-related issues in our 'āina, our JAs, **Loch Moorman, Willa Stack, Rhegen Villarimo, and Jackie Furuta**, visited the 'Akahiao Nature Institute's (ANI) Hu'ehu'e Ranch in Kona during the weekend of July 17-18, 2021. The trip was chaperoned by **Sandy Takeda, David Hayashida, Yuuki Inagawa**, and JASH staff.

Led by the incredible ANI program team, Julie Rogers, Jeff Fuchs, and Liana Macdonald-Kainoa, our JAs unleashed their creativity, explored their critical thinking, and engaged hands-on with the ranch's lush forest and bountiful garden. They foraged for vegetables and herbs to spice up their home-cooked meals, investigated every leaf and berry on their hikes, and bonded as a team



JAs show Jeff and Liana what they've found on their hike



Making suncatchers with pressed flowers



Preparing handmade pizzas

through the most intense games of tag and hide-and-seek.

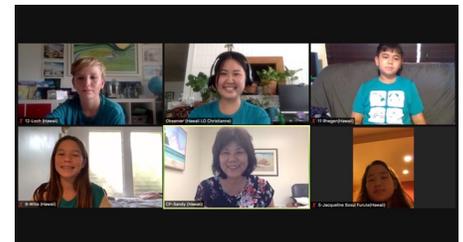
Between the hours they spent physically experiencing the property, ANI's Jeff and Liana also challenged our JAs to quiet their bodies and reflect on their current values, strengths and weaknesses, and immediate and future goals. Our JAs also researched and presented on sustainability topics, including GMO's, Traffic in Hawai'i, Marine Conservation, and Recycling during their time in Kona. Away from the hustle and bustle of Oahu, they were able to step back from everything they took for granted in their daily lives and reassess their relationships with the world around them.

Every moment spent at Hu'ehu'e Ranch was a learning experience for our JAs, and we at JASH are so thankful to the 'Akahiao Nature Institute for providing such an incredible space for them to connect with nature and grow both as individuals and as a group. To learn more about ANI and their programs, visit [akahiao.org](http://akahiao.org).



Our delegation returns from their trip to Kona

Upon their return, our JAs then began attending the BRIDGE Virtual Summer Camp Zoom sessions. During the first session on August 23, our JAs met their BVSC groups and identified which of the UN's SDGs they wanted to address in their own communities. Many of the groups are interested in matters affecting the natural world, including climate change and terrestrial and marine conservation.



They met again two weeks later on September 4, where they planned what actions their groups could take to work on their selected SDG. They also had their first dance workshop, where they were introduced to dances from several of the participating regions! Our JAs will learn dances from Australia, Japan, and Malaysia, and will perform them with their groups in a virtual culture showcase at the end of the summer camp.

If you know a young leader born between August 1, 2010 and July 31, 2011, they could be in our next group of Junior Ambassadors! For more information, contact JASH Program Coordinator Christianne Ono at [cono@jashawaii.org](mailto:cono@jashawaii.org).