Annual Dinner Honors U.S. Military for Japan Disaster Relief

On October 20th, the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) honored U.S. Pacific Command and all the military components that took part in “Operation Tomodachi,” the U.S. military’s response to the tragic earthquake and tsunami this past March 11th in northeast Japan, at its annual dinner with the JASH Bridge Award. The Bridge Award recognizes individuals or groups in the community who have worked hard to promote the important relationship between the U.S. and Japan. This year, because of the tragic events in Japan, JASH decided to make the theme of the dinner “Friends in Need--Japan Disaster Relief,” and recognize the U.S. military for Operation Tomodachi. Over 400 attended the gala event, including members of the military services. A video tribute was played in their honor.

On hand to accept the award was the Deputy Commander of U.S. Pacific Command, Lieutenant General Daniel Darnell, who was the keynote speaker for the evening. In his acceptance remarks, General Darnell complimented the teamwork of all the military services and men and women of Pacific Command, noting that the operation required the support of some 18,000 U.S. Forces. General Darnell emphasized that the U.S. Forces worked in support of the Japan Self Defense Forces and used the opportunity to compliment Chief of Staff of Japan’s Joint Staff General Ryoichi Oriki (who was present along with his wife Hideko) and all the members of Japan’s Self Defense Forces for their “immense courage, resolve, self-sufficiency and poise” in executing disaster relief following the tragic events. General Darnell ended his comments by quoting U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, who spoke of Operation Tomodachi, saying “together we have served not only the defense of Japan, but the cause of peace and stability in the entire Asia-Pacific Region.” General Darnell thanked the members of JASH and the community for this recognition, and pointed to the important role JASH plays in promoting and maintaining the important U.S.-Japan relationship.

Military components in Hawaii sent senior commanders or representatives to the event as follows: General Gary North, Commander, Pacific Air Forces; Lieutenant General Duane Thiessen, Commander, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific; Major General Darryll Wong, Hawaii State Adjutant General and Commander, Hawaii Air National Guard; Rear Admiral Charles Ray, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard District 14; Brigadier General Roger Mathews, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Pacific; Captain Timothy Smith, Director, Joint Support Task Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Colonel Keith Tamashiro, Commander, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, U.S. Army Pacific. Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle delivered congratulatory remarks while Hawaii senior Senator Daniel Inouye sent a congratulatory message, along with Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, and Hawaii Lieutenant Governor Brian Schatz. It was a great evening to recognize the great men and women of our military who we are proud to have as members of our community.
Mahalo to the following Annual Dinner Supporters

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Second Group of Rainbow for Japan Kids Visits Hawaii

Twenty-five junior high school students from Iwate and Fukushima prefectures were in Hawaii from December 21st through the 29th as the second group of Rainbow for Japan Kids. The students enjoyed both cultural and educational programs set up by JASH and its partner organizations. The activities included the “Dolphin Quest” show hosted by The Kahala Hotel & Resort and outdoor activities at both Oahu’s (North Shore) YMCA Camp Erdman and at the Big Island’s Kilauea Military Camp (KMC) in the heart of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

This time, the visit coincided with Christmas and year end holidays (these visits are timed to occur during Japan’s school breaks so as not to affect the students’ school schedule). Because of this, special holiday activities were planned for the students, to include a Children’s Christmas Party hosted by Halekulani Hotel, greeting the arrival of Santa by canoe, a holiday lights illumination tour by trolley, and a special Christmas meal prepared and hosted by Hawaii Senior Life Enrichment Association’s Nadeshiko Club members.

The program’s motto is “To Dream Again.” Its goal is to give the children from the disaster affected regions of Japan a short respite from their daily lives to be surrounded in the natural beauty and aloha of Hawaii, create new friendships especially with local children, and return them to Japan refreshed and motivated to better themselves and their community. The only request we make is for the students to give us their impression of the visit in an essay. We await them.

JASH and the Rainbow for Japan Kids committee would like to thank all the donors, partners, and benefactors who made this visit happen. This was the first program to include the new partner, TOMODACHI Initiative. Outrigger Hotels & Resorts donated hotel rooms, The Kahala Hotel & Resort provided the Dolphin Quest show and a welcome dinner,
Rainbow for Japan Kids Project Receives Award from Japanese Consulate

As part of the festivities at this year’s Emperor’s birthday celebration on December 14, 2011, JASH was presented with a special certificate of commendation from the Consulate General of Japan at Honolulu. The Consul General decided to recognize organizations in Hawaii that assisted with immediate disaster relief efforts following the tragic earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear accident on March 11th in Japan’s northeast region. The Rainbow for Japan Kids project, in which JASH is a partner with Japan Airlines (JAL) Hawaii, First Hawaiian Bank, and Studio Rim Hawaii, brings children from the affected regions of Japan to Hawaii for rest, recuperation, and physical/psychological relief. The other individuals and organizations honored were Aloha for Japan statewide fundraising campaign (represented by Hawaii Lieutenant Governor Brian Schatz), Aloha Initiative (represented by Mr. Keith Regan), and Mrs. Andy Walsh (wife of U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Patrick Walsh).

The citation reads, “Consul-General of Japan extends his deepest regards to Rainbow for Japan Kids represented by Mr. Ed Hawkins, in recognition of its distinguished service in contributing to the deepening of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the U.S. and between Japan and Hawaii.”

Thank you to all the donors, supporters, and benefactors that make Rainbow for Japan Kids project a meaningful and vibrant program for assisting the victims in Japan and building new bridges of friendship. You share in this award.

Consul General Yoshihiko Kamo presenting the certificate of commendation to JASH President Ed Hawkins.

Nagaoka Students Visit Honolulu to Promote Ties

Eight college students from Nagaoka City in Niigata Prefecture visited Honolulu from December 6th-9th as part of a joint project with JASH to promote emerging ties between Nagaoka City and the City and County of Honolulu. This student visit was the second in two years from Nagaoka. The first group of high school students visited Honolulu in 2010. Nagaoka City is pursuing a sister city relationship with Honolulu, and JASH is assisting with this process by promoting cultural and student exchanges. A sister city agreement is expected to be signed in March 2012 during the Honolulu Festival when Nagaoka City will present a fireworks display as a gift to the people of Honolulu. Nagaoka’s world-famous fireworks display began after its bombing at the waning stages of World War II, and is dedicated to promoting peace. In line with this idea, JASH arranged a seminar with students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH), and attendance at the Pearl Harbor memorial ceremony on December 7th. The seminar with UH students allowed for the exchange of ideas on how to pursue peace in the world. Following the December 7th ceremony at Pearl Harbor, the Nagaoka students came away with renewed appreciation of how Americans, especially those who survived the attack, remember this event and their wartime experience. After the ceremony, JASH President Ed Hawkins escorted the students to a dedication ceremony of the historic control tower that is being renovated at Ford Island’s Pacific Aviation Museum, followed by a tour of the island.

JASH will continue to assist with the development of closer ties between Nagaoka and Honolulu, focusing on educational exchanges. JASH plans to send a delegation of high school students to Nagaoka during its snow festival this February.
The Fall 2011 Japan Day was held at Hawaii Tokai International College on Wednesday, October 26, 2011, thanks to a generous grant provided by the McInerny Foundation. A total of 162 students representing Damien Memorial High School, Hilo High School, Mid-Pacific Institute, and Pearl City High School were provided with the unique opportunity to experience traditional Japanese culture through various cultural classes including bon dance, bonsai tree planting, calligraphy, traditional crafts, ikebana (flower arranging), kimono wear, soroban (Japanese abacus), and tea ceremony. For many students, especially those from Hilo, this was their first hands-on experience with the culture, making it a very memorable one! The Taiko Center of the Pacific’s performance and taiko sound demonstrations in the Welcome Ceremony inspired the participants as they dispersed into their different cultural classes.

Since its inception in 1993, over 4,900 students from 55 schools statewide have experienced Japan Day. This unique program is one of two programs offered by JASH to Hawaii’s high school students, with the other being the Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition. Japan Day provides students with hands-on experience with traditional Japanese arts and culture while reinforcing and complementing what is taught in the classroom setting. Japan Day also illustrates how art and culture in different societies can influence and enhance people’s lives. Through understanding different cultures and customs, we continue to bridge the gap that leads to friendship and cultural appreciation.

JASH would like to thank all the volunteer experts for their dedication to the program: Ms. Betty Dela Cuesta and members of Hawaii Shin Kobukai; Mr. Jim Meyer and the Hawaii Bonsai Association; calligraphy master Mrs. Shokyoku Hashiro and Mrs. Setsusan Tokumine; Mrs. Kikuji Yonesato and members of the Kikufu Nippon Bunko Kenkyu Kai; Mrs. Jessie Nakata of MOA Hawaii; Mrs. Jean Sakihara and members of Kimono Project USA; Mr. and Mrs. Hideaki Oshima from Araki Hiroya Soroban School; and Mr. Yoshibumi Ogawa, Mr. Hiroaki Yoshida, and members of Urasenke Foundation. We would also like to thank Hawaii Tokai International College for the generous use of their auditorium and classrooms for this event, and the Taiko Center of the Pacific for their moving taiko performance and demonstration. Please visit the JASH Facebook page for more photos of the event. For more information on this educational program, please contact Kelsey Soma Turek at 524-4450 or via email at ksoma@jashawaii.org.
Halekulani Hosts JASH Christmas 5:01 and Silent Auction

This year, Mr. Yoshinori Maeda and staff of Halekulani Hotel welcomed JASH to its annual Christmas 5:01 and Silent Auction. The annual event is held to celebrate JASH’s accomplishments through the year, share camaraderie with other members and guests, and raise funds for JASH’s programs for the following year.

Over 200 JASH members and guests attended the event at the world famous five star resort hotel, bidding on hundreds of donated items—from fly/stay packages on neighbor islands to musical instruments (electric guitar, ukuleles) and Japanese and local gifts and items.

JASH President Ed Hawkins welcomed the guests, thanking Mr. Maeda, Mr. Takashi Nakayama, Ms. Patricia Tam, and the entire Halekulani staff for generously hosting this event. This year, the event included college students from Nagaoka City who were visiting Hawaii to attend a JASH-sponsored workshop with UH students and to attend the Pearl Harbor memorial event on December 7th.

JASH would like to thank the volunteers, as well as the many benefactors who donated items for the silent auction. The entire list can also be viewed on our website at www.jashawaii.org.

Tomodachi Christmas Tea

On Thursday, December 15, Tomodachi members and guests gathered together at the Waioli Tea Room in Manoa to celebrate the annual Christmas Tea. Guests were able to enjoy a selection of tea and refreshments in the Ginger VIP room while the snow-like Manoa mist fell outside. Once again, Charles K. “Uncle Charlie” Morton serenaded guests with Christmas songs on his guitar. Former Tomodachi co-chair Kazuko Love led guests in singing Christmas carols.

This year’s gathering had a new twist on it that fit in perfectly with the spirit of gift giving during the holidays. Guests were asked to bring an item that they made or baked, or something they had around the house that was mottainai or poho (a waste; too good to throw away). Lillian Yajima used all of the items for her “Lucky Me” game—a spin on the “Lucky Number” game where you have a chance to choose which item you will win. Guests were able to place their name in a cup that corresponded to the item they desired.

Everyone was provided five slips of paper with their name on it which meant five chances to win the item of their choosing in “Lucky Me.” Once everyone’s selections were complete, Lillian drew names making sure everyone went home a winner. When guests saw what they won in the end, they were able to exclaim, “Lucky Me!”

JASH would like to thank Tomodachi Planning Committee member Roberta Sullivan for planning and making the arrangements for this event as well as providing the cute Christmas favors. We would also like to thank Charles K. Morton for getting us into the Christmas spirit with his medleys. A special thanks to Lillian Yajima who organized the “Lucky Me” game.
A special mahalo to the following individuals and businesses who generously supported JASH by contributing items or decorated a Christmas tree or wreath for our Silent Auction

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Japan-in-a-Suitcase Visits Lanai Elementary

For the first time, Japan-in-a-Suitcase (JIAS) traveled to Lanai to present to their only elementary school, Lanai Elementary. Lanai High and Elementary School services the entire island. Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) staff and a volunteer were able to present to all students from grades K through 5.

At the beginning of the fourth grade presentations, students were very shy and hesitant to speak out. When it came time to do group work, they became excited to be able to see and touch Japanese school items they had never encountered before. Students were able to explore the school items well and confidently give presentations to their classmates. Fourth graders also noted the similarities between their school and Japan’s elementary schools. Lanai Elementary has a pool just like every elementary school in Japan. Their field is also similar to the school field in Japan.

Students and teachers alike hoped for the presentations to return to Lanai again soon. In their thank you letters, students included words that they had learned such as arigatou and sensei. Students also remarked that they would like to try to live in Japan or attend school there one day. Teachers loved how the presentations gave students a higher sense of cultural awareness. A teacher noted, “we in Hawaii come from different cultures therefore our students’ perspectives involve all of these.”

JIAS is a free program offered to elementary schools in Hawaii. It is one of five JASH educational programs aimed at teaching the concept of different perspectives and is aligned with the Hawaii Department of Education Content Standards for Social Studies and World Languages. Thanks to grants from donors such as the Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation, Friends of Hawaii Charities, Hawaii Hotel Industries, and individual donors that made this excursion possible. Also a special thanks to Mr. Merrill Taguchi, Lanai Elementary school counselor, who helped us to arrange this visit and also provided transportation to and from the airport.

Continued from page 3

Halekulani Hotel arranged for the special Children’s Party and dinner, Hawaii Senior Life Enrichment Association’s Nadeshiko Club hosted a special Christmas meal, and others too numerous to mention. Please see the JASH website at www.jashawaii.org/jpnaid3.asp for a full listing. Mahalo to all the supporters of this great project!
“Opening Minds and Hearts in Friendship”

**Remembering Pearl Harbor**

On Tuesday, November 29, Tomodachi presented “Remembering Pearl Harbor” at Natsunoya Tea House in honor of the upcoming 70th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack. Panelists who were living in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, shared their first hand experiences and experiences of relatives.

Guests enjoyed a special buffet lunch prepared by Natsunoya, in an upstairs room that holds a lot of history. In the months before World War II, a spy from the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu would watch ship movements in Pearl Harbor and send coded messages to Tokyo in this very room.

Panelists recalled how everyone had to carry around gas masks at the time. They were fitted for these masks at school. A panelist told the story of going to church that day and seeing black puffs of smoke in the sky. Twenty minutes into the mass everyone was told to go home. As they drove away they heard a loud boom. They later discovered that a shell of shrapnel came through the church to where the minister would have been seated. His family ended up sleeping together in the living room that night—something that was common to a lot of families at the time.

Many people of Japanese ancestry ended up being put in internment camps. Many internees were also shipped off to mainland camps. Their only crime was their race. A panelist’s cousin was also sent to Honolulu (in Ewa) which the Japanese referred to as “jigokudani” or hell valley for its hot and humid climate. Her message for everyone is that ‘the story of internment and mistakes of World War II need to be remembered or they might be repeated...remember, honor, understand, forgive.’

JASH would like to thank all those who shared their experience. We would also like to thank Pearl Harbor Park Ranger Amanda Carona who was present at the lunch and shared information on events to observe the 70th anniversary. Finally, a big mahalo to Tomodachi co-chair Shirley Miyamoto who planned this event and brought memorabilia to display.

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**Why Ryoma Now? Sakamoto Ryoma Symposium**

“Why Ryoma Now?” packed a full house at the Hawaii Convention Center’s ‘Emalani Theatre on Tuesday, October 11. Exactly seven months after the Great East Japan Earthquake, many people’s focus were on valuing human life which is exactly what the great Japanese historical figure and samurai, Sakamoto Ryoma, strived for.

Upon entering the theatre, guests were greeted by a magnificent hat display created by the artist Masako Yamamoto. The program began with opening remarks on behalf of Japan-America Society of Hawaii, followed by remarks from Yoshikiko Kamo, Consul General of Japan at Honolulu, and Mr. Kenshiro Mori, Director of the Sakamoto Ryoma Memorial Museum in Kochi.

A brief history of Ryoma was given through “Kamishibai” (paper theater). Video footage of the earthquake, tsunami, and its aftermath was also shown. A reporter from Kochi spoke of how disasters make us more aware of the value of human life—one of Ryoma’s core values. Mr. Mori summed up the video by giving the uplifting message that if they were able to recover from three consecutive years of great earthquakes in Ryoma’s time we should be able to recover soon as well.

A panel discussion featuring Ms. Yukie Maeda, curator of the Sakamoto Ryoma Memorial Museum; Mr. Noboru Sakamoto, ninth generation descendant of the Sakamoto family; Ms. Minako Kouyama, a fifth generation descendant of the Katsu family; Mr. Junji Kitadai, a John Mung researcher;
“Opening Minds and Hearts in Friendship”

Ryoma...

Continued from previous page

and high school essay contest entrants Ms. Sumire Oishi and Ms. Nenju Gibo followed. They highlighted how Ryoma was tired of the samurai class system and dreamt of fairness and equality for all. Even though Ryoma was an advocate for a peaceful society, he was assassinated at the age of 33. His assassin is unknown to this day. His descendants hope to carry out Ryoma’s dreams of wanting to see the U.S. and a democratic society.

Following intermission, the classic guitar duo Ichimujin livened up the atmosphere while Japanese Calligraphers Koushi Fujita and Tosao Takeuchi demonstrated their talents in the background. Japanese synthesizer player Naoki Nishimura also performed songs while the spectacular calligraphy display continued. Mr. Nishimura is distinguished in that he was the first Japanese musician to play for Pope John Paul II in Rome. When the performance was over, guests were treated to being able to take home a calligraphy piece of their choosing.

A special thanks to the Sakamoto Ryoma Memorial Museum in Kochi, Japan for bringing this Symposium to Hawaii. We would also like to thank the Nippon Foundation, Honolulu Foundation, and the Hawaii Convention Center staff for their support in organizing this event.

Japan’s Prime Minister Noda Visits Ehime Maru Memorial

On November 12th, Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihiko Noda visited the Ehime Maru Memorial at Kakaako Waterfront Park. PM Noda was in Hawaii for the APEC Leaders’ Meeting and took the opportunity to visit the Memorial. On hand were volunteers from local Kenjinkai who clean the memorial, including Fukuoka, Fukushima, Kumamoto, Yamaguchi, and Okinawa.

Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) and Ehime Maru Memorial Association (EMMA) President Ed Hawkins greeted the Prime Minister and his entourage that included the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, Japan’s Ambassador to the U.S., and Japan’s Consul General in Honolulu. Mr. Hawkins gave an overview of the Memorial and the various good-will programs put in place since that tragic event to promote friendship between the people of Hawaii and Ehime. Following the presentation of a flower wreath, PM Noda and his party observed a moment of silence in honor of those lost in the incident. Mr. Hawkins introduced the volunteers to PM Noda who thanked them for their services in maintaining the memorial and promoting friendly relations between Japan and the U.S. Mr. Hawkins called attention to three Japanese mandarin orange trees that were planted near the memorial to mark the 10th anniversary of the incident earlier this year when the bereaved family members gathered at Kakaako for a special memorial ceremony. This was the first visit of a sitting Japanese prime minister to the Ehime Maru Memorial.
Calendar of Events

JANUARY
21 Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition Volunteer Orientation, KCC
25 New Year’s Reception, Washington Place
28 Asian-Pacific Children’s Convention (APCC) Interviews, JASH

FEBRUARY
9 Ehime Maru 11-year Memorial Service, Ehime Maru Memorial, Kakaako Waterfront Park
25 Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition, KCC
27 Tomodachi Hinamatsuri, Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu

MARCH
18–26 Rainbow For Japan Kids visit Hawaii
27–4/1 APCC Mission Project Homestay

APRIL
26 22nd Annual Friendship Golf Classic, Pearl Country Club

MAY
TBD Spring Japan Day, Hawaii Tokai International College
12 Visitor Industry Charity Walk, Waikiki
JASH Donor Recognition
October - December 2011

The Atsuhiko & Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation
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Please visit the following websites for more information or call 877-708-6681.
English: www.hi.testwiththebest.com
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More Rainbow Photos

L-R : Enjoying the KMC recreation center with Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science school students; group photo in front of President Obama’s Air Force One.