



Ukwanshin Kabudan presents



PULLING FORWARD

9th Annual Loochoo Identity Summit • March 17-19, 2023
Kāneʻohe, Oʻahu • University of Hawaiʻi Windward Community College • Hale ʻĀkoakoa

Welcome

Mīdūsāibīn! We are so glad to be back in-person after two long years in cyberspace. While we learned new skills to reach folks who would normally not have access to our summits, we gained a new appreciation for the intangibles of simply being in the physical presence of other people and how much communication we lose without it. We apologize for not having the capacity at this time to allow for an online hybrid format for our friends who could not join us in-person. We are thinking of them as well and will continue to explore ways we can make these valuable conversations on identity and heritage accessible. For those of you who were able to make it, we truly appreciate your presence and look forward to a great weekend with you.

Our 9th identity summit continues our journey towards strengthening our identity as indigenous people of the Ryukyu archipelago. These summits have focused on basic human questions: Who am I? Where do I come from? Why do I act this way? What do I need to remember and perpetuate? Our first summit concluded with a simple, basic affirmation of our identity: “I am Uchinānchu.” Another stressed *sukubun*, our privileged responsibilities as Shimanchu. Other summits delved into critical and often endangered aspects of our culture such as our native languages, Shima Kutuba. In the middle of the global pandemic, we felt it necessary to remind our communities about hope and empowerment through stories of people in Hawai‘i and Okinawa who stood up to make a difference. And in response to the urgent water crises ongoing in both Okinawa and Hawai‘i, our last summit focused on the specific resource of water, recognizing the central role it plays in rituals, legends, a community’s existence and in sustaining life.

The theme we chose this year is *Kajitui: Pulling Forward*. Kajitui literally means “helmsman” but metaphorically refers to a person who brings others together for a common task or purpose. Kajitui must fully understand their environment as well as the vessel and tools at their disposal. Through changing circumstances, they must rely on their knowledge and wisdom to stay on course to reach their destination safely with everyone else with them. Both kajitui on the water and kajitui in families and communities draw from a combination of the knowledge that was passed on from those who came before and their own lived experiences to navigate courses that are often difficult, sometimes even dangerous.

This reliance on our pasts to reveal our paths into the future is expressed in the image of “pulling foward” rather than “pushing forward.” Pulling implies that we face back as we move forward. While many may argue that having your back to the future is like moving blindly, treading new ground with no reference to the past — all the successes and failures that others lived and experienced for us — dooms us to make the same mistakes or, worse, keep us from moving at all out of fear of the unknown. We can never fully know where we will end up, but we can always know more

about where we have been. And that "we" doesn't just refer to our individual selves, but all of the ancestors whose lives made ours possible, and all of the future generations who will follow us.

This summit will focus on understanding spiritual, cultural, social and political influences that contribute to our current actions, exploring both sacred and secular realms of our being. Such knowledge and understandings, explicit or tacit, can provide guidance to our future actions as Shimanchu. They can become sources of empowerment to guide us to take on responsibilities and, ultimately, actions that pull all of us forward. The overall goal of this summit is that you leave with a belief that we as individuals and as a community have agency and can steer our own courses into the future. We know what to do: it is a path traveled and revealed by our ancestors.

Our program on Saturday will focus on the sources and resources offered by our ancestral knowledge. While we will not be able to cover the entire gambit of sources, we hope the key areas of spirituality, history, and genealogy will provide a foundation for examining your own sources of empowerment to become a kajitui or be able to identify one you would like to follow. On Sunday, we will focus on how we can take these sources of knowledge and empowerment to manifest them into actions and roles within your family and/or community either as a kajitui or in support of one.

The summit will close with a special performance by Yuttai Kwattai, a band of young Hawai'i Shimanchu brought together by one of Ukwanshin's very own kajitui, Brandon Ufugusuku Ing. More than a decade ago, Brandon saw the urgency of preserving and perpetuating the endangered languages of Loochoo and took it upon himself to learn Uchināguchi from every source possible in Okinawa as well as in Argentina. Combining his passion for Uchināguchi with his musical talents, Brandon has produced a platform to promote the language and culture to a contemporary audience worldwide.

We also welcome the talents of another kajitui whose path was empowered by past summits. Shin'ichiro Yunanmi is the creator of this year's t-shirt design which also appears on all of the summit's official materials. He found the courage to launch his brand IDTTY after coming from Okinawa to attend our last in-person summit in 2020. Through his designs, he hopes to encourage Shimanchu around the world to maintain a strong sense of pride and identity through ancestral connections to stand in solidarity with other indigenous peoples against the forces of colonization.

Thank you once again for joining us in being part of another adventure into examining our identities and forming (or re-forming) the bonds that link us together as Loochoo nu Kwa (children of Ryukyu).

Ukwanshin Kabudan is an independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Honolulu, Hawai'i. It was founded by masters of Ryukyuan performing arts with the purpose of creating spaces to engage in educational and cultural activities to promote and perpetuate Ryukyuan indigenous connections to ancestors, ancestral lands, and ancestral knowledges.

Agenda

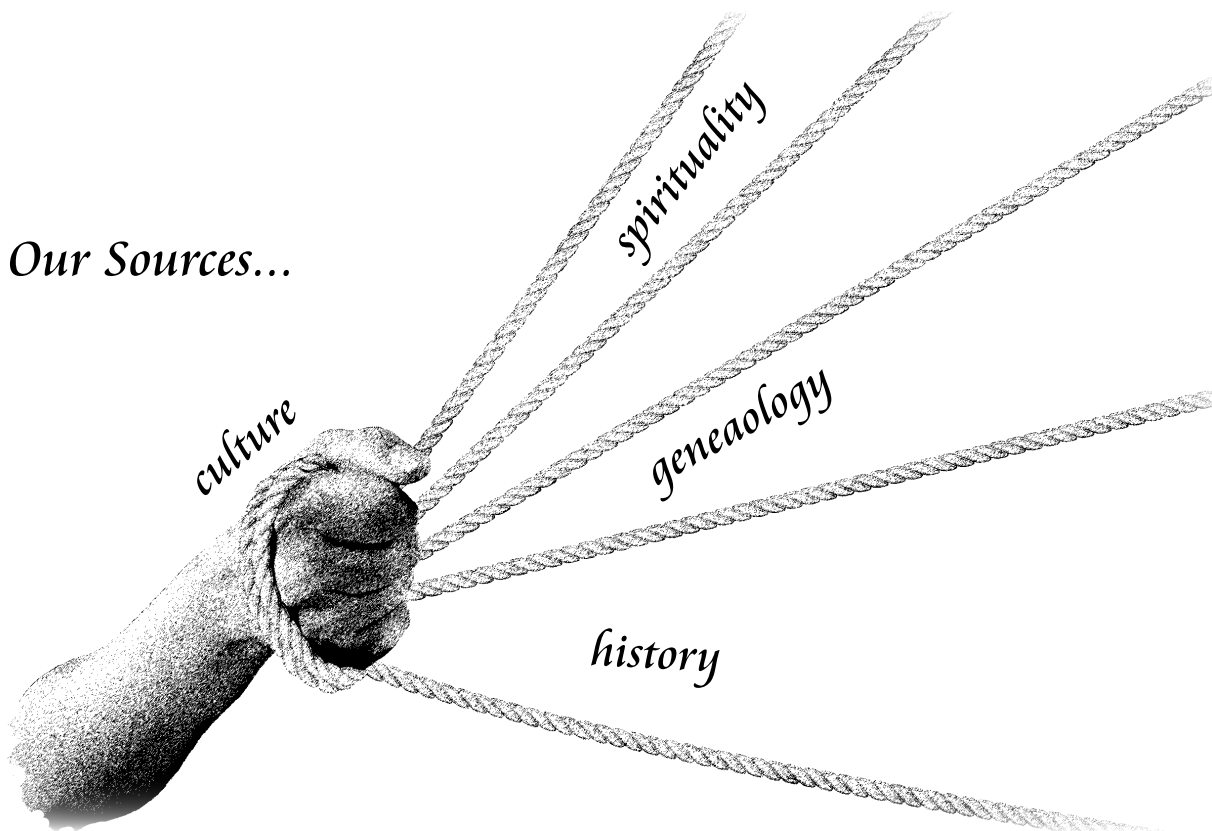
Day 1 – FRIDAY, MARCH 17

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|-------------------|--|
| 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm | • Registration |
| 6:00 pm – 6:10 pm | • Opening Protocol |
| 6:10 pm – 6:15 pm | • Welcome/Logistics |
| 6:15 pm – 7:00 pm | • DINNER (<i>Blue Zone meal prepared by WCC Food Services</i>) |
| 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm | • Recap of Past Summits
• Current Theme |
| 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm | • SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY: "Big Aunty/Big Uncle" |
| 8:45 pm – 9:00 pm | • Announcements/Closing |

Day 2 – SATURDAY, MARCH 18

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 8:00 am – 9:00 am | • Registration/Continental Breakfast |
| 9:00 am – 9:05 am | • Opening Song: "Guyin Bushi" |
| 9:05 am – 9:15 am | • Welcome/Logistics |
| 9:15 am – 9:30 am | • NORMAN KANESHIRO: "What is 'Pulling Forward?'" |
| 9:30 am – 9:45 am | • BREAK (15") |
| 9:45 am – 10:45 am | "GATHERING OUR SOURCES" WORKSHOPS ROUND #1
• ERIC WADA: "Our Spirituality" – Groups 01, 02, 03 (<i>Rm 113</i>)
• NORMAN KANESHIRO & KEITH NAKAGANEKU: "Our Genealogies" – Groups 04, 05, 06, 07 (<i>Rm 103</i>)
• CHIHIRO KOMINE: "Our Histories" – Groups 08, 09, 10 (<i>Rm 105</i>) |
| 10:45 am – 11:00 am | • BREAK (15") |

Our Sources...



- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm "GATHERING OUR SOURCES" WORKSHOPS ROUND #2
- ERIC WADA: "Our Spirituality" – **Groups 08, 09, 10** (*Rm 113*)
 - NORMAN KANESHIRO & KEITH NAKAGANEKU: "Our Genealogies" – **Groups 01, 02, 03** (*Rm 103*)
 - CHIHIRO KOMINE: "Our Histories" – **Groups 04, 05, 06, 07** (*Rm 105*)
- 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm • LUNCH (1'15")
- 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm "GATHERING OUR SOURCES" WORKSHOPS ROUND #3
- ERIC WADA: "Our Spirituality" – **Groups 04, 05, 06, 07** (*Rm 113*)
 - NORMAN KANESHIRO & KEITH NAKAGANEKU: "Our Genealogies" – **Groups 08, 09, 10** (*Rm 103*)
 - CHIHIRO KOMINE: "Our Histories" – **Groups 01, 02, 03** (*Rm 105*)

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|-------------------|--|
| 2:15 pm – 2:35 pm | • BREAK (20") |
| 2:35 pm – 3:35 pm | • PANEL DISCUSSION: "Performing Our Culture" |
| | <i>Panel:</i> Norman Kaneshiro |
| | <i>Shihan, Nomura-ryū Ongaku Kyō Kai</i> |
| | Keith Nakaganekeu |
| | <i>Shihan, Nomura-ryū Ongaku Kyō Kai</i> |
| | Eric Wada |
| | <i>Shihan, Tamagusuku-ryū Shōsetsu Kai</i> |
| 3:35 pm – 4:30 pm | • QUESTIONS/REFLECTIONS/SHARING |
| 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm | • BREAK (<i>end of formal summit activities for the day</i>) |
| 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm | • OPTIONAL DINNER (<i>pre-ordered Hawaiian buffet by Pagoda Restaurants</i>) |

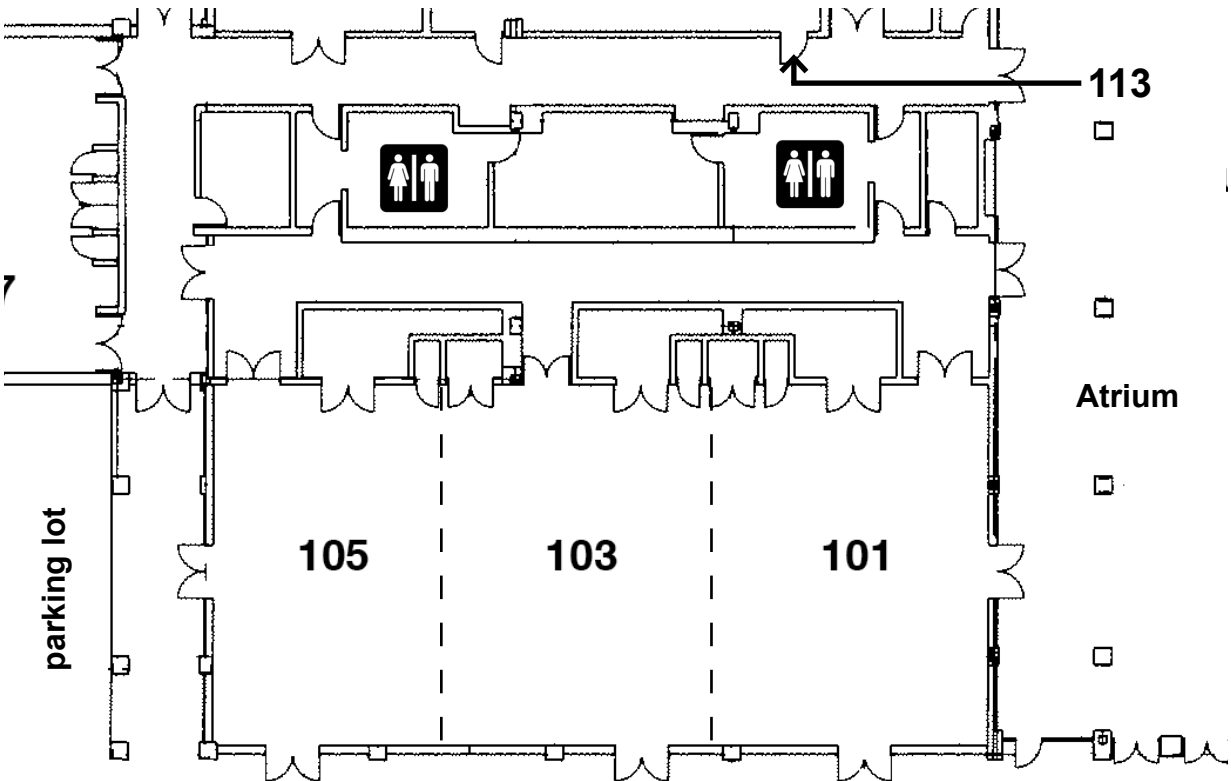
Day 3 – SUNDAY, MARCH 19

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|---------------------|---|
| 8:00 am – 9:00 am | • Check-in/Continental Breakfast |
| 9:00 am – 9:15 am | • ERIC WADA: "Activating Our Sources" |
| 9:15 am – 10:00 am | • NORMAN KANESHIRO: "Activating Our Voices" |
| 10:00 am – 10:45 am | • ERIC WADA: "Activating Our Bodies" |
| 10:45 am – 11:30 am | • DR. KYLE KAJIHIRO: "Activating Our Communities" |
| 11:30 pm – 12:15 pm | • QUESTIONS/REFLECTIONS/SHARING |
| 12:15 pm – 12:30 pm | • NORMAN KANESHIRO: "Why Bother?" |
| 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm | • LUNCH (60") |
| 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm | • BREAK (90") |
| 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm | • Musical Performance by Yuttai Kwattai |
| 3:00 pm – 3:15 pm | • KARIYUSHI CIRCLE |

Nifē Dēbitan!

Group Rotations: *Where Should I Be During These Times?*

#	Group Name	Friday 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm (Rms 101-105)	Saturday Rotation 1 9:45 am – 10:45 am	Saturday Rotation 2 11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Saturday Rotation 3 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Sunday 9:00 am – 12:30 pm (Rms 101-105)
01	Nī (rat)	Table 1	Room 113	Room 103	Room 105	Table 10
02	Ushi (ox)	Table 2	Room 113	Room 103	Room 105	Table 9
03	Tura (tiger)	Table 3	Room 113	Room 103	Room 105	Table 8
04	Tachi (dragon)	Table 4	Room 103	Room 105	Room 113	Table 7
05	Mī (snake)	Table 5	Room 103	Room 105	Room 113	Table 6
06	Nma (horse)	Table 6	Room 103	Room 105	Room 113	Table 5
07	Fichiji (sheep)	Table 7	Room 103	Room 105	Room 113	Table 4
08	Sārū (monkey)	Table 8	Room 105	Room 113	Room 103	Table 3
09	Tui (rooster)	Table 9	Room 105	Room 113	Room 103	Table 2
10	‘In (dog)	Table 10	Room 105	Room 113	Room 103	Table 1



Presenters



Kyle Kajihiro

Kyle is a fourth-generation Japanese in Hawai'i who was born and raised in Honolulu. He has worked on peace and demilitarization issues since 1996 and served as the Hawai'i area program director of the American Friends Service Committee. Kyle is the founder of DMZ Hawai'i/Aloha 'Aina, a political action group. Alongside Terrilee Keko'olani, Kyle also co-created the Hawai'i DeTour Project which provides educational tours that raise awareness of the harmful impacts of industrial tourism and militarization on the islands. He

completed his PhD in Geography and Environment at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and is currently a lecturer there.



Norman Kaneshiro

Norman is co-director and co-founder of Ukwanshin and *shihan* of Nomura Ryū Ongaku Kyō Kai. In 2009, he was designated by the Okinawan Prefecture Government as a cultural preservationist of Okinawan classical music. Norman served as a lecturer at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Music Department's Ethnomusicology Program since 2002 and is currently working on an MA in Applied Cultural Anthropology. Norman expresses his deep sense of social responsibility and respect of Okinawan culture, history, and

language by sharing his extensive knowledge at numerous community conferences, workshops, and other public events.



Chihiro Komine

Chihiro has her genealogy in Futami (current Nago City) and Yonaguni Island. Chihiro met the co-directors of Ukwanshin Kabudan when she was a graduate student in American Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She is now an associate professor in the English Communication Department at Okinawa Christian University. Chihiro has continued her relationship with Ukwanshin after returning to Okinawa in 2008 especially in connecting Okinawan youth with the Hawai'i community with a keen focus on indigenous

issues including language revitalization, demilitarization, and decolonization. She is working on a PhD at Meio University focusing on decolonial counter-narratives co-constructed between Okinawa and Hawai'i.



Keith Nakaganeku

Part of the Ukwanshin trio of co-directors, Keith has been a student of uta- sanshin since he was ten years old. He now holds the title of *shihan*, indicating a teacher at the master level. He teaches private lessons in Honolulu and teaches regularly on Maui and Hawai'i Island. A versatile musician and vocalist, Keith is the lead vocalist and ukulele player for his multi-genre/cross-cultural band, Calabash. He produced and released his first album, "Hawaiian Jazz Done Asian Style" in 2006 which features four different languages and his award-winning Hawaiian falsetto. Keith is also an instructor at the PoePoe Hawaiian Culture Center, teaching beginning ukulele and vocal performance.



Eric Wada

A staunch advocate for the perpetuation of traditional Okinawan language, values, and culture and as the artistic director and co-founder of Ukwanshin Kabudan, Eric has helped to raise the consciousness of local Uchinānchu of the importance of their heritage. Eric holds the title of *shihan* and heads the Hawai'i branch of the Tamagusuku Ryū Shōsetsu Kai, teaching traditional Ryukuan dance in Honolulu. Not only an accomplished dancer of Okinawan *udui*, Eric also dances hula, plays sanshin, ukulele, *tēku* and speaks Japanese, Uchināguchi, and Hawaiian. He is a teacher of Hawaiian Studies at Fern Elementary School and working on an MA in indigenous Language Revitalization at Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language in Hilo.

Musical Guest: Yuttai Kwattai



Led by Uchināguchi guru Brandon Ufugusuku Ing, Yuttai Kwattai consists of fellow Uchinānchu musicians Derek Fujio, Noah Kutaka, and Jesse Shiroma who come from myriad musical experiences including classical, jazz, rock and pop, as well as traditional Okinawan folk and classical. Sharing a reverence for their heritage, they create a unique blend of arrangements of traditional Okinawan

songs, as well as original songs written in Uchināguchi. Through music, Yuttai Kwattai hopes to raise awareness and interest in the languages and unique cultures of Loochoo.

Songs

GUYIN BUSHI 御縁節

Guyin ati utuja (shurayō) / Ichati urishisaya (hiya umi shura janna yō)
御縁あてい弟じゃシュラヨー御行逢てい嬉しさや ヒヤウミシュラジャンナヨー
Uchi hariti ashibi (shurayō) / Wanun ashiba (hiya umi shura janna yō)
打晴りてい遊びシュラヨー 我身ん遊しば ヒヤウミシュラジャンナヨー

*It is fate that has allowed us to gather in joy.
As the celebration commences, I will join in the
merrymaking.*

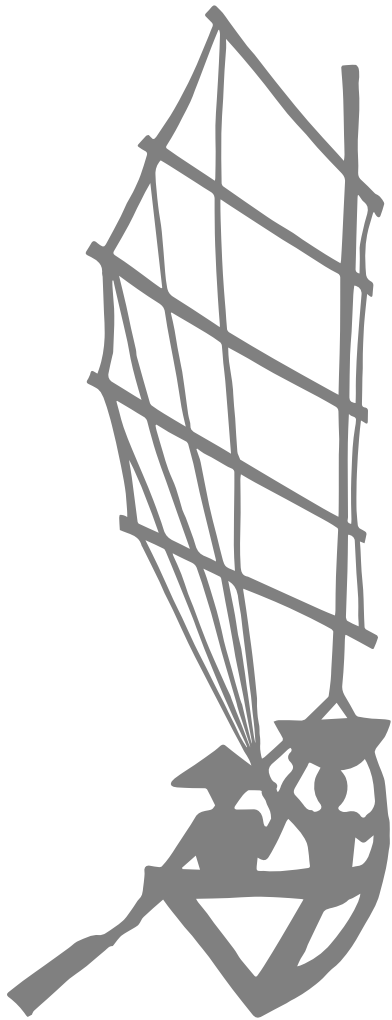
DANJU KARIYUSHI だんじゅかりゆし

Danju kariyushi ya / Iradi sashimisēru
だんじゅかりゆしや 選でいさしみせる
Uni nu china turiba / Kaji ya matumu
御船ぬ綱取りば 風やまとうむ
Sā sā kariyushi
サーサーかりゆし

*A truly blessed day has been chosen for this journey
as fair winds take up the sails of the ship.*

Kariyushi nu uni ni / Kariyusagwa nushiti
かりゆしぬ御船に かりゆさ小乗してい
Tabi nu ichimudui / Ichu nu 'wīkara
旅ぬ行ち戻い 糸ぬ上から
Sā sā kariyushi
サーサーかりゆし

*On an auspicious ship, blessings and good fortune
ride with you. Go forth and return safely, traveling
smoothly on the waters as if riding a thread.*



Notes

Facilities Courtesy of
University of Hawai'i, Windward Community College

Planning Committee

Connie Chun • Selina Higa • Collin Hoo • Brandon Ing • Norman Kaneshiro • Gloria Kishi
Chihiro Komine • Keith Nakaganeke • Eric Wada • Doreen Yamashiro

Support

Hailey Chong • Bill Gushi • Sylvia Gushi • Miyoko Hata • Rinna Iha • Susan Imai
Shane Kuroiwa • Sherri Kuroiwa • Eri Leong • Aika Matsudo • Barbara Nakamatsu
Janice Toma Shiira • Kokoro Shimamoto • Kaiya Yonamine

Student Sponsors

*Thank you to the following individuals who have generously donated financial aid to allow
students to participate in the summit for free or at a reduced cost:*

Miyoko Hata • Selina Higa • Susan Imai • Gloria Kishi • Barbara Nakamatsu
Bill Speed & Stella Tamashiro Speed

Affiliate Organizations

Hawai'i Okinawa Alliance • Okinawa Genealogical Society of Hawai'i
Shimanchu Wai Protectors

Special Mahalo

UH Windward Community College: Dr. Ardis Eschenberg (Chancellor), Dr. Dan Swift
(Workforce Development) • John Teruya (Pagoda Restaurants)