



JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

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

NEWS RELEASE

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JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I TO HONOR FIVE MASTERS OF INNOVATION AT ITS ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF LEADERSHIP AND ACHIEVEMENT DINNER ON SEPTEMBER 25

HONOLULU – The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) will honor five local Japanese American icons who have made significant contributions to Hawai'i and their respective industries during its Annual Celebration of Leadership and Achievement Dinner (CLAD) on September 25 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Resort and Spa's Coral Ballroom. This year's theme is "Kakushin No Tatsujin - Masters of Innovation."

The honorees are Satoru Abe, legendary local sculptor and artist; Ken Hayashida, president of KAI Hawaii, Inc.; Dave "D.K." Kodama, owner and chef of Sansei Seafood Restaurant & Sushi Bar; Anne Namba, owner of Anne Namba Designs; and Roy Sakuma, owner of Roy Sakuma Ukulele Studios.

"We're very proud to be celebrating the successful careers of these five admirable role models," said Lenny Yajima Andrew, president & executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i. "These individuals are trailblazers in their respective industries. Their unique ideas and out-of-the-box approach truly makes them Masters of Innovation."

Satoru Abe, a legendary figure has been inspiring the artistic community of Hawai'i for decades with his unique paintings and sculptures. He has won numerous awards in recognition of his great accomplishments, including being honored as a "Living Treasure" by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i and being installed in the McKinley High School Hall of Honor in 1988. Abe's approximately 5,000 pieces of artwork can be found in numerous places around the Hawaiian Islands as he continues to create many more.

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Ken Hayashida successfully opened the structural engineering firm KAI Hawaii, Inc. in 1995 as a sole practitioner, and has grown the company to 25 employees. His projects impact our daily lives and have won numerous awards. In 2007 he was named "Engineer of the Year" by the National Society of Professional Engineers. He has been an active participant in the engineering community in Hawai'i and was president and national director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawai'i (ACECH). Additionally, he has generously donated his time and talents to the betterment of several organizations such as the University of Hawai'i's Alumni Association and College of Engineering, YMCA, Lanakila Pacific, and the Friends of 'Iolani Palace.

Dave Kodama is the proud founder of the Sansei Seafood Restaurant & Sushi Bar which first opened on Maui in 1996. Known to all as "D.K.", he now owns and operates seven restaurants on three islands. Ever since its opening, the restaurant has been reeling in "top notch" reviews and received several culinary honors; the most prestigious being overall rating of 90 in *Wine Spectator*, the highest food rating in both the 1998 and 1999 Zagat Hawai'i Restaurant Surveys, numerous consecutive *HONOLULU* Magazine Hale Aina Awards, inclusion as one of *Bon Appetit*'s "Favorite Asian Restaurants" and one of "America's Best Sushi Bars" in *Travel + Leisure*.

Anne Namba, began designing her own line of one-of-a-kind garments out of her parents home before opening her first boutique in Mānoa Valley in 1989. In the years since, Anne Namba Designs has grown to new heights and Namba's "Kimono Couture" has made lasting impressions worldwide in places such as Beijing, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Singapore and many U.S. mainland cities. In 2000, she was Hawai'i's Retail Entrepreneur of the Year and in 2007 she was the recipient of the Roselani Medallion of Excellence from The National Society of Arts and Letters.

Roy Sakuma, is the protégé of the 'ukulele master Herb "Ohta-San" Ohta. As an extraordinary student, he decided to venture out and devote his life to teaching others how to play. Since 1974, the Roy Sakuma Method of 'Ukulele Instruction has brought the magic of music into the lives of thousands of his students. With this high rate of success, Sakuma along with his wife Kathy expanded the Roy Sakuma 'Ukulele Studios to four locations throughout O'ahu.

The Cultural Center's Celebration of Leadership and Achievement Awards Dinner takes place Saturday, September 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Coral Ballroom. Individual seats are \$175 (\$150 for JCCH members). Table sponsorships are also available (\$2,000/\$5,000/\$10,000). For more information, visit www.jcch.com or call (808) 945-7633 Ext. 46.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH), a non-profit organization, strives to strengthen our diverse community by educating present and future generations in the evolving Japanese American experience in Hawai'i. It is located at 2454 South Beretania Street in Mō'ili'ili. The Center features a Community and Historical Gallery, Resource Center, Kenshikan martial arts dōjō, Seikōan Japanese teahouse and Gift Shop. For more information call (808) 945-7633, email info@jcch.com or visit the website at www.jcch.com.

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