



JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

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

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i Presents 125 Years in Hawai'i: A Calligraphy Exhibition by Ryuho Hamano *New exhibition runs from July 10 – September 3*

Honolulu – The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i is proud to present *125 Years in Hawai'i: A Calligraphy Exhibition by Ryuho Hamano*. Renowned calligrapher Ryuho Hamano will be showcasing his latest exhibition in the Cultural Center Community Gallery to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the beginning of large scale Japanese migration to Hawai'i in 1885.

Hamano stated that he was inspired to take on this ambitious project after meeting Cultural Center volunteer Sara Sawada on a visit to Honolulu. She asked Hamano to conduct a calligraphy class at Mililani High School. He held that class in February 2000 and immediately felt the nostalgic sentiments of Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJAs) towards their ancestors' motherland.

"Their pioneer spirits have been passed on from generation to generation and the AJAs in Hawai'i are now a vital part of the islands," said Ryuho Hamano as translated by Tatsumi Hayashi. "Now they are in their third and fourth generation and the images of Japan are fading away among them. I decided to have my calligraphy exhibit at the Cultural Center this year to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Kanyaku Imin."

Over 1,060 family names of those who migrated to Hawai'i are written on the 24 sheets of cotton cloth. Hamano also engraved seals which are rendered with his thoughts on the group who migrated on the first ship.

125 Years in Hawai'i runs from July 10—September 3 and will feature several public programs and workshops as part of the exhibition.

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Events/Programs/Workshops:

- ***Exhibition Opening and Reception: Saturday, July 10, 11:30 a.m., at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i Teruya Courtyard and Community Gallery***
- **Holehole Bushi: Song of the Canefields:** Tuesday, July 27, 7:00—8:30 p.m. 5th Floor Lounge; Franklin Odo, Ph.D. and filmmaker Chris Conybeare will come together for a program exploring songs of labor and life composed and sung by Japanese sugar plantation workers based on songs and interviews by the late Harry Urata. A short clip from Conybeare’s accompanying documentary, *Holehole Bushi: Songs of the Canefield* (working title), will also be screened.
- **Reflections on 125 Years of Japanese Immigration:** Saturday, August 21, 1:30—3:30 p.m., 5th Floor Lounge; a panel discussion featuring both academic and public historians will highlight differing historical perspectives on the large-scale migration from Japan to Hawai‘i that began 125 years ago. Moderated by Dennis Ogawa, Ph.D., confirmed panelists include Mark McNally, Ph.D., Palani Vaughan, Kelli Nakamura, Ph.D., and Patsy Iwasaki.
- ***Textured Lives: Barbara Kawakami, Japanese Immigrant Clothing, and Picture Bride Stories:*** Wednesday, August 25, 12:00—1:30 p.m., 5th Floor Lounge; Historian Barbara Kawakami has focused the second half of her life on the study of Japanese immigrant clothing and picture brides. Join us for a screening of documentary videos produced for *Textured Lives*, an exhibition currently on display at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), along with a discussion featuring Barbara Kawakami, JANM director Akemi Kikumura, Ph.D., and video producer Audrey Muromoto.
- **Seal-Making & Calligraphy Workshops:** Saturday, August 28, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (Seal-Making), 1:30-4:30 pm (Calligraphy), 5th Floor Lounge; Calligrapher Ryuho Hamano will conduct seal-making and calligraphy workshops. Enrollment is limited to 30 people for each session. Workshop fees are \$20 for seal-making and \$15 for calligraphy. (Cultural Center members enjoy a \$5 discount per class.) For reservations or more information, contact Christy Takamune, Gallery Manager, at 218-6739 or email takamune@jcch.com.

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Special programs are free and open to the public with the exception of the workshops. The exhibition is open to the public for the standard gallery rates (see below). Cultural Center members receive free admission. People attending the special programs and workshops will also receive free admission to view the exhibition on the day of the program/workshop only. For more information, please contact the Cultural Center at (808) 945-7633 or email info@jcch.com.

Gallery Rates:

Visitor

- Adults (18 years and above) \$7
- Youth (6-17 years), Students and Seniors (70 and above) \$5

Kama‘āina

- Adults (18 years and above) \$5
- Youth (6-17 years), Students and Seniors (70 and above) \$3

Military

- Active Duty \$3

School Tours

- Adults \$3
- Students \$2

*Free Day: Second Saturday of each month

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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