Dear Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i ‘Ohana:

It is with great honor that we strive to share the culture and heritage of the Japanese American experience in Hawai‘i. Guided by the values found in our Japanese American traditions and the spirit of Aloha, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i worked diligently to achieve its goals during fiscal year 2007-2008. Our goals focused on maintaining financial stability and extending the Cultural Center’s reach into the community by expanding programs and activities, forging new and strengthening existing partnerships, enhancing membership benefits, and maintaining and upgrading our facilities. We are a multi-dimensional organization that reflects many cultural facets of the Japanese American experience in Hawai‘i.

The summaries in this Annual Report chronicle our achievement of the Cultural Center’s goals.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and your staff, we humbly offer this report on our progress.

Financial Status

Revenues for the past fiscal year were more than $370,000 short of what had been budgeted for, as delays in the state grant-in-aid process prevented the Cultural Center from receiving $325,000 of capital improvement funding previously approved by the Legislature to support the Cultural Center’s air conditioning upgrade project. However, the delayed receipt of these funds will be reflected in next year’s Annual Report.

Additionally, the value of the Cultural Center’s professionally managed diversified investment portfolio shrank by more than $140,000, or almost 10%, as both the domestic and international equities markets contracted throughout the year. The investment losses were consistent with the benchmarks used to measure the portfolio’s performance against the capital markets and given the long range goals and structure of the portfolio there will be some years in which losses occur.

The state grant-in-aid delay and the investment portfolio losses were partially offset by the successful launch of the Legacy Lifetime Membership program which generated revenues of more than $100,000 in its first year.

Expenses this past year were again closely monitored and controlled, and by year-end came in well below budget by more than $125,000. Given the Cultural Center’s revenue shortfall and the booking of a one-time net expense of almost $113,000 to adjust prior period change in the Cultural Center’s accounting methodology from a full accrual basis to a modified cash basis, the Cultural Center’s expense management efforts helped limit the annual operating deficit to a loss of just under $313,000 or about 1.9% of net assets. Backing out depreciation, the Cultural Center’s change in net assets of non-cash depreciation of $536,000 was positive by more than $223,000. Despite the past year’s shortfall, the intent and expectation continues to be that the Cultural Center’s programs can be run and where appropriate expanded while simultaneously increasing the Cultural Center’s financial strength and ability to carry out its mission.

The Board of Directors and management remain committed to a vigilant and disciplined approach in responsibly managing the Cultural Center’s finances.

Programs, Activities and the Resource Center

Our 2007 Celebration of Leadership and Achievement Dinner recognized those who have dedicated their lives to nurturing the future generations in the Islands. A record-breaking crowd of more than 1,000 people helped the Cultural Center recognize four esteemed educators in Hawai‘i’s community and a local corporation: Jane O. Komeiji, Richard H. Kosaki, Ph.D., Margaret Y. Oda, Ed.D., Dennis M. Ogawa, Ph.D. and corporate honoree Island Insurance Companies Ltd.

Makiki Japanese Language School also received special recognition for teaching students Japanese language and culture, as well as valuable lessons on life. The Cultural Center raised $179,000 thanks to generous table and silent auction sponsors.

As many people in Hawai‘i already know, there’s no better way to ring in the New Year than our annual New Year’s ‘Ohana Festival in early January. The festival attracted more than 13,000 people throughout the day, showcasing multicultural food and entertainment, Japanese cultural displays and demonstrations, as well as keiki games and crafts that reflected the theme of the festival: “Good Luck and Good Fortune,” and the organization’s motto: Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.

We were so pleased at this opportunity to share Japanese and other cultures with the community and to generation in Hawai‘i serves as an example of how our immigrant culture has merged to become part of our general local culture. Ben Franklin Stores and Nippon Golden Network sponsored the exhibit, which paid tribute to the late Hawai‘i folklorist Glen Grant, who helped to share and preserve local obake tales throughout the year.

The Community Gallery and Gift Shop

The Community Gallery showcased unique and diverse exhibits which brought thousands of people to the Cultural Center in 2007-2008.

In July, the Community Gallery presented Gokurësama: Contemporary Photographs of the Nisei in Hawai‘i which featured black and white portraits by talented Honolulu photographer Brian Y. Sato and was sponsored by Lisa and Lori Tomoyasu McGee in honor of their Nisei parents, Maxine and the late Mervin Tomoyasu. Inspired by the hard work and sacrifice of the Nisei, Mr. Sato worked to capture this slowly disappearing generation on black and white film. The exhibit proved so popular that we received further funding from the McGee family to travel the exhibit this year to the Lyman Museum on the Big Island, and the exhibit is heading to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles next Spring.

Ghost stories came to life in the exhibition, Obake Odyssey, which explored how the passing of Japanese folklore from generation to generation in Hawai‘i serves as an example of how our immigrant culture has merged to become part of our general local culture. Ben Franklin Stores and Nippon Golden Network sponsored the exhibit, which paid tribute to the late Hawai‘i folklorist Glen Grant, who helped to share and preserve local obake tales throughout the year.
In February, the Cultural Center also held a silent auction and two-day sale featuring works by one of America’s foremost ceramic artists, Toshiko Takaezu, in our Community Gallery. Hawai’i-born Toshiko Takaezu is credited with being one of the key figures in the mid-century transformation of ceramics from functional craft to sculptural fine art. This special sale raised nearly $300,000 which benefitted the Cultural Center, The Contemporary Museum of Honolulu and the Toshiko Takaezu Foundation.

Also in February, the Gift Shop got a make-over. The renovations and new carpet assisted in bringing a fresh and creative flow to the storefront, with a revamped layout enabling the Cultural Center to display a larger area and provide more space to visitors.

Heartfelt thanks to Barbara Ishida and her dedicated volunteers who continue to support the Cultural Center through the Gift Shop.

Last August, they hosted the popular Things Japanese Sale, which earned nearly $16,000! The sale attracted hundreds of antique shoppers and bargain hunters who found treasures at the Gift Shop.

Partnerships, Membership and Volunteers

We are thankful for all of our partnerships in the community which continue to serve as a valuable tool to help the Cultural Center serve the people of Hawai’i.

Our partnership with Marukai continues to be a tremendous success. In April, more than 600 people attended A Taste of Marukai, a joint effort between Marukai, Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i. We celebrated Marukai’s generosity with a check ceremony presentation of $10,000 to the Cultural Center.

We are also grateful to Foodland for supporting the Cultural Center last fall through their Give Aloha program, and to our Mutual Benefits Campaign participants for providing valuable discounts on merchandise and services to our members.

New partnerships this fiscal year include: Aloha Shogi of Hawai’i, Hawai’i Museums Association, Go For Broke! (Hawai’i regional office), Monsanto Hawai’i, Honolulu Festival, and the Japanese American Citizens League, Honolulu Chapter.

One of our goals is to share the Japanese culture with our neighbor island ‘ohana by providing cultural and educational activities; we did this in fiscal year 2007-2008 at several outreaches, including the Moloka’i Guzejjii Bon Dance, the Matsuri Kaua’i, the Maui Matsuri and the Keaouh Oblon Festival.

And as always, mahalo to our loyal members, and a warm welcome to our new members! We could not do any of these important programs that enable us to share the Japanese culture without your help and support.

This fiscal year we launched an exciting new membership category! The Legacy Membership is an individual lifetime membership to the Cultural Center. The one-time fee of $1,000 is treated like an endowment and only the interest is used to cover the annual membership fee and help pay for our programs. By the end of the fiscal year, we had 100 people sign on to become Legacy Members.

Your membership helps ensure the continued success of our programs, and other valuable resources that the Cultural Center provides.

To our volunteers, we cannot thank you enough for all of the precious time you choose to spend helping the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i serve our island residents and visitors. Many times, you are our front line—the real face of the Cultural Center to our guests—and your role in ensuring that our guests have a most enjoyable experience is vital to our image. Your hard work behind the scenes helps us to carry out our mission. We are truly grateful for your continued volunteerism.

Facilities

The buildings remained fully occupied this year, allowing us to generate enough revenue to cover facility operating costs and continue to address deferred maintenance.

One addition to the Cultural Center was the construction of a concrete stage in the Teruya Courtyard in December. Performers used the stage to entertain crowds of people at this year’s New Year’s ‘Ohana Festival and Kodomo no Hi: Keiki Fun Fest. The stage promises to be a valuable asset for us for the many future events being held in the courtyard.

Another important project to help secure the Cultural Center building was filling the gaps in the Coyne Street side of the parking structure. This will hopefully prevent unwanted entry and keep the tenants’ and visitor’s cars safe while parked at the Cultural Center.

Throughout the year, regular meetings with dōjō and teahouse users facilitated good communication and smooth operations.

Funding

We are grateful to our major benefactors whose gifts were a catalyst for other grants and donations. The State award of $325,000 to be used next fiscal year, the $20,000 Hawai’i Tourism Authority Award, and several federal grants for Resource Center activities including the $40,000 Federal Grant for dissemination of information about our internment story which was approved this year to be used next year. The Island Insurance Foundation pledged $250,000 over five years for a major historical exhibit each year; Makiki Japanese Language School, along with two private donors who contributed $50,000 to the Cultural Center; and the Toshiko Takaezu Foundation donation of $93,000 from the proceeds of her sale in the Community Gallery. We also received several gifts of $10,000 from other private donors, and Marukai Corporation.

…And Beyond

Going forward, we are enthusiastic about the future of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i.

We will continue our work to provide exciting and relevant programs to our membership and community, engage in meaningful community service and innovative partnerships that enhance the understanding and celebration of our heritage and culture, manage the Cultural Center in a fiscally prudent manner, and maintain the facilities to accommodate our activities, members, visitors and important tenant relationships.

The members of our Board of Directors, the Board of Governors, the dedicated staff and an incredible group of volunteers help to make it all happen. We appreciate your commitment, dedication and ability to go beyond the call to get the job done.

We all work together with a common goal of promoting the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i’s mission to be a vibrant resource, strengthening our diverse community by educating present and future generations in the evolving Japanese American experience in Hawai’i.

Sincerely yours,

Eric K. Martinson
Chairman, Board of Directors

Lenny Yajima Andrew
President/Executive Director

Chairman, Board of Directors
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As of June 30, 2008

ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT ASSETS</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash on hand and in banks unrestricted</td>
<td>139,713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash on hand and in banks facilities</td>
<td>54,823</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>24,832</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketable securities</td>
<td>1,647,479</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,866,847</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>FIXED ASSETS</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>3,267,755</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building and improvements</td>
<td>18,179,090</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leased equipment</td>
<td>83,129</td>
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<td>Historical Gallery</td>
<td>682,083</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture and equipment</td>
<td>450,349</td>
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<tr>
<td>Software</td>
<td>1,845</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total fixed assets</td>
<td>22,664,251</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(8,305,151)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET FIXED ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,359,100</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHER ASSETS</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricted funds</td>
<td>195,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary restricted funds</td>
<td>140,811</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>28,750</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>364,561</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,590,508</strong></td>
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</table>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obligation under capital lease</td>
<td>58,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security and other deposits</td>
<td>8,991</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>67,485</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>16,152,382</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>175,641</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>195,000</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,523,023</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,590,508</strong></td>
</tr>
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the twelve months ended June 30, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>889,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>238,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>217,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallery/Gift Shop</td>
<td>143,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Center</td>
<td>39,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>753,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer/Outreach</td>
<td>524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,283,972</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>595,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR/Marketing</td>
<td>57,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>12,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>290,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallery/Gift Shop</td>
<td>51,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Center</td>
<td>11,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>1,313,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer/Outreach</td>
<td>8,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,340,778</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHER CHANGES</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET CHANGE IN INVESTMENT</strong></td>
<td><strong>(143,140)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT</strong></td>
<td><strong>(112,771)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OTHER CHANGES</strong></td>
<td><strong>(255,911)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>223,880</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Net of non-cash depreciation of $535,998)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING PERIOD</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,835,741</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS AT THE END OF PERIOD</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,523,023</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Change in Net Assets (including non-cash depreciation) | **(312,718)**
Resource Center

The 2007–2008 fiscal year was highlighted by a series of major events that will change the way the Hawai‘i World War II internees’ story is told and by a pair of significant grants that will change the scope of Resource Center activities.

The story of the World War II internment of Japanese from Hawai‘i and the preservation of the sites of internment in Hawai‘i remained a major focus for the Resource Center. Two landmark events took place this past February and March. The first was a long awaited archeological survey of the Honouliuli site that took place from February 23 to 27. A team of archeologists led by Archivist Jeff Burton, a National Park Service archeologist who is the recognized expert in this field, spent five days at the site, aided by 21 volunteers. The team recorded 111 features connected to the internment camp, including a standing building in the administration area. The team is working on a final report outlining next steps, along with a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the site. The survey was funded by grants from the Conservation Fund, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the National Park Service.

A week later, on March 2, the first ever pilgrimage to Honouliuli took place followed by an internment summit attended by over 500 people, both events put on in partnership with the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, Monsanto Corporation, the new owner of the Honouliuli site, and several other community organizations. All of these events garnered tremendous publicity for the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i and its work.

Beyond these landmark events tied to the internment story, the Dark Clouds Over Paradise traveling exhibition continued its travels to the Kaua‘i Museum and to Kaua‘i and Kapa‘a High Schools, then to the The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i Community Gallery in March in conjunction with the pilgrimage and summit. The World War II Hawai‘i Internees’ Experiences Resource Folder was published in September and two copies were distributed to every public high school in the state. This 250-page compilation of primary source material was designed to help teachers meet new benchmarks mandating the teaching of the Hawai‘i internment story to 9th and 10th graders. There were also two presentations on Hawai‘i internment as part of the “Experts at the Palace” series at ‘Iolani Palace in February. On March 17, the Hawai‘i State Senate recognized our work on the Honouliuli site.

The other major development in the Resource Center was the receipt of two major grants. In September, the Island Insurance Foundation announced a $250,000 grant to the Resource Center, half to go towards an endowment and half to be used for a series of historical exhibitions. A distinguished advisory committee has been formed and research has begun on three different exhibition topics. In April, the Resource Center received a $40,000 federal grant through the Education through Cultural and Educational Organizations (ECHO) program administered by the Bishop Museum. This grant will go towards developing instructional units on Hawai‘i internees in alignment with DOE benchmarks and a website that will make many of our holdings on internment available. Both of these grants will help to expand the Resource Center’s range of activities.

Publications were also an important part of the Resource Center’s activities this past year. In July, we published First Among Nisei: The Life and Writings of Masaji Marumoto by Dennis Ogawa and December saw the publication of Life Behind Barbed Wire: The World War II Internment Memoirs of a Hawai‘i Issei by Yasutaro Soga. The latter was originally published in Japanese in 1948 and was translated by Resource Center volunteer Kihei Hirai with the assistance of several other volunteers. Work continues on two other volumes of internment memoirs. In June, Resource Center volunteer Tatsumi Hayashi completed a translation of Suikei Fuyuya’s Internment from One Camp to Another (Haisho Tenten), originally published in 1964. This volume is currently being reviewed for publication by the University of Hawai‘i Press. Editor Gail Honda has been contracted to craft the material in the Otokichi Ozaki collection, one of the Resource Center’s signature collections, into a book that we hope to publish next year. Additionally, Resource Center volunteers contributed to Gavan Daw’s anthology volume Honolulu Stories: Voices of the Town Through the Years, released in April.

The Resource Center also continued in its core work of collecting material on the Japanese American experience in Hawai‘i and making it available. Our volunteers put in approximately 4,000 hours while servicing about 300 inquiries whether in person, by phone, or by e-mail. These inquiries came from throughout the islands and across the country. We also hosted researchers from Germany and from all over Japan, including scholars from Doshisha, Hiroshima, Kyushu, Musashi, Ritsumeikan, and Waseda Universities among others. Of particular note was our first visiting scholar, Hidefumi Kinoshita of Ehime University, who spent two months with us studying communication patterns in Japanese American speech. We also hosted an intern from the University of Hawai‘i Library and Information Science program. Andrew Weiss worked on a project digitizing our photograph collection and making it available through the internet. And in addition to the grants noted above (and not counting interest income, funds raised for the pilgrimage/summit and towards a historical marker at Honouliuli), our translation service netted about $1,500, sales of the Marumoto book about $1,000, our annual New Year’s book sale about $600, and we received over $2,500 in miscellaneous donations.

It has been a busy and productive year. We look forward to building on these activities in the years to come.

Brian Niiya
Resource Center Director
2007–2008 at a Glance:

Volunteer Department
For fiscal year 2007–2008, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i had more than 250 volunteers helping in various departments that include the Gallery, Gift Shop, Resource Center and Main Office. Volunteers assisted with many events, including programs such as the Matsuiri Kaua‘i, Oahu Teacher Institute Day, and new outreaches such as the Honolulu Festival and the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani Hotel Boy’s Day Celebration.

In total, our volunteers have volunteered more than 11,231 hours to the Cultural Center. Using data from the Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org) – which estimates that the dollar value of a volunteer’s time is $19.51 per hour – we can figure that the Cultural Center volunteers contributed approximately $219,117 to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i.

The Cultural Center was also very fortunate to have the support of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s Ethnic Studies 330 class. More than 40 students volunteered during the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters, totaling 776.25 volunteer hours, a value of approximately $15,145.

The Cultural Center is grateful and appreciative of its volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to help fulfill our mission of sharing the history, heritage and culture of the evolving Japanese American experience in Hawai‘i.

To each of them, Dōmo Arigatō Gozaimasu! Thank you!

Derrick Iwata
Volunteer Director/Education Assistant

Educational Department
The Cultural Center provided numerous groups in 2007-2008 with educational tours of its exhibition, Okage Sama De, and also provided numerous outreaches to schools and rental opportunities for those that could not make it to the Cultural Center.

- 8 public schools servicing 439 students
- 12 private schools servicing 507 students
- 7 schools requesting Discovery Box Outreach services for 604 students
- 8 colleges/universities servicing 453 students
- 8 Japanese tours servicing 329 tourists
- 6 senior center tours servicing 111 seniors
- 2 miscellaneous group tours (sororities, non-profit organizations) servicing 34 people

sold out with nearly 100 children participating in the event. Thanks to a dedicated and hard-working planning committee, the New Year’s ‘Ohana Festival has truly become a local tradition, with more than 13,000 people ringing in the New Year with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i.

In this upcoming fiscal year, the Cultural Center remains committed to becoming even more involved with our community, always striving toward programs that “honor our heritage, embrace our diversity, and share our future.”

Programs and Educational Outreach
It was a busy fiscal year 2007-2008 for the Japanese Cultural Center’s various programs, festivals and events. The Programs continued the momentum from previous years with events ranging from the Celebration of Leadership and Achievement Dinner, to the ever-popular Kodomo no Hi: Keiki Fun Fest, and a two-day Shippoyaki (Japanese enameling) workshop, all of which help to share the history, heritage and culture of Japanese Americans in the Islands.

In October, the Cultural Center hosted Genealogy Workshop: Finding Your Roots. The three-segment workshop was especially popular with people of mixed ancestry who wanted to trace their Japanese heritage as well as their other ethnic backgrounds. In this way, the Cultural Center helped to honor our multicultural island heritage.

Our annual programs also enjoyed continued success and local recognition. At the Celebration of Leadership and Achievement Dinner, a record-breaking crowd of more than 1,000 people joined the Cultural Center as it honored three local educators, Island Insurance Companies Ltd., and recognized Makiki Japanese Language School. Shichi Go San kimono dressing and picture taking

First Quarter
7/14 Moloka‘i Guzeiji Bon Dance Festival (community outreach)
9/01 Okinawan Festival (community outreach)
9/29 Matsuiri Kaua‘i (community outreach)
9/29 Celebration of Leadership and Achievement Dinner

Second Quarter
10/06 Discover Mō‘ili‘ili Festival (community outreach)
10/08 Oahu Teacher Institute Day (community outreach)
10/13 Genealogy Workshop: Finding Your Roots
10/25 Tsukimi no Kai with the United Japanese Society of Hawaii (partnership)
10/21 Kwaidan Kalabash: Ghost Stories in Hawai‘i and Beyond
10/27 Obake Odyssey: Keiki Day
11/04 Okinawan Family Kimono Dressing
11/04 Temari Trash & Treasure (partnership)
11/11 Shichi Go San – Kimono Dressing and Shinto Blessing
12/17 Japanese Gift Wrapping Demonstration at Barnes & Noble Ala Moana (community outreach)

Third Quarter
1/13 New Year’s ‘Ohana Festival
1/26 An Offering of Rice Book Signing
2/22 Shippoyaki Workshop
3/01 HJJCC Cherry Blossom Festival Heritage Fair (community outreach)
3/15 Honolulu Festival (community outreach)
3/18 Screening of Only The Brave – Hawai‘i Theatre

Fourth Quarter
4/10 Taste of Marukai (partnership)
4/27 Kodomo no Hi: Keiki Fun Fest
5/02 Sheraton Princess Kaiulani Boy’s Day Festival (community outreach)
5/05 Boy’s Day at Outrigger Waikiki (community outreach)
6/21 Keauhou Boy Dance (community outreach)
Community Gallery

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i featured a unique mixture of historical displays, contemporary art and fund-raising sales in its Community Gallery. From bewitching obake tales to innovate artistic creations to honoring our ancestors and their struggles, the Cultural Center shared the evolving Japanese American experience in Hawai‘i through its exhibitions in fiscal year 2007-2008.

The fiscal year started strong for the Community Gallery, with its feature exhibit Gokurūsama: Contemporary Photographs of the Nisei in Hawai‘i. Honolulu Photographer Brian Y. Sato captured the slowly disappearing images and stories of the Nisei in Hawai‘i. Gokurūsama was so popular we received further funding to travel to the Lyman Museum in Hilo, and the exhibit will head to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles in February 2009.

In a tribute to the late Hawai‘i folklorist Glen Lyman, the exhibit Obake Odyssey came to life. The exhibit explored how the passing of Japanese folklore from generation to generation in Hawai‘i serves as an example of how our immigrant culture has merged to become part of our general local culture.

The experience of the little-known and unjust internment of Hawai‘i residents of Japanese ancestry during World War II was revealed in Dark Clouds Over Paradise: The Hawai‘i Internnees Story, an updated exhibition we revisited in conjunction with the 65th commemoration of the opening of the Honouliuli Internment Camp on O‘ahu.

In February, the Cultural Center also held a two-day sale featuring works by Hawai‘i-born ceramic artist Toshiko Takaæzu. This sale raised nearly $300,000 which benefitted the Cultural Center, The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu and the Takaæzu Foundation.

Our last exhibit of the fiscal year was MORE OF MO: Sculpture by Mamoru Sato. The contemporary Hawai‘i sculptor shared his most recent work, which he described as his “reaction to the natural and man-made environment.”

All of the exhibitions were made possible thanks to the sponsorship of generous companies and special individuals.

1st Quarter
6/13-8/03
Gokurūsama: Contemporary Photographs of the Nisei in Hawai‘i (Sponsored by Liam and Lori Tomoyasu McGee in honor of their Nisei parents, Maxine and the late Mervin Tomoyasu)

2nd Quarter
9/15-10/31
Obake Odyssey (Sponsored by Ben Franklin Crafts and Nippon Golden Network)

3rd Quarter
11/17-12/23
Tinkered & Toyed Christmas Inspired Art Sale

4th Quarter
1/12-1/26
Cha Dōgu (Tea Implement) Sale

Gift Shop

Please come and visit our newly renovated Gift Shop. Sales at the Gift Shop have increased, partly due to the revamped layout which now allows us to display more items, such as a new section for DVDs and books, as well as an area to sell items on consignment.

During the year, the Gift Shop and Community Gallery were home to several popular sales that attracted hundreds of visitors and raised thousands of dollars and offered great membership discounts.

1st Quarter
8/17-9/05
Things Japanese Sale

2nd Quarter
2/01-2/28
Major Gift Shop Renovation

3rd Quarter
1/12-1/26
Cha Dōgu (Tea Implement) Sale

Historical Gallery

It has been only one fiscal year since the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i started fund-raising efforts for Operation: Okage Sama De. Members of the committee that created this permanent historical exhibit more than 10 years ago—Tom Klobe, Jane Komeiji and Momi Cazimero—are spearheading our plan to spruce up the Historical Gallery.

By the close of fiscal year 2007-2008, the campaign raised $37,092.57!

Thanks to all who have supported our efforts in bettering this exhibit that tells the history of the Japanese in Hawai‘i.

Donations can still be made towards the exhibit’s facelift, and will be earmarked to a restricted fund when you note: Okage Sama De on your contribution. We hope you’ll play a key role in helping the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i sustain the culture, traditions and heritage of the Japanese American experience in Hawai‘i!

For more information, call the JCCH at (808) 945-7633. Email info@jcch.com or go to www.jcch.com.

Christy Takamune
Gallery Director

Membership Department

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i launched a new membership category in the fiscal year 2007-2008. The Legacy Membership is an individual lifetime membership to the Cultural Center. The one-time fee of $1,000 is treated like an endowment and only the interest is used to cover the annual membership fee and help pay for our programs.

We’ve had much success with the Legacy Memberships, with 100 people signing up in fiscal year 2007-2008. Legacy Members help secure the future of our organization and our ongoing efforts to share the Japanese American experience in Hawai‘i. Thank you to all of our pioneering Legacy Members, many of whom have shared this wonderful lifetime gift with spouses, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren!

For 2008-2009, the Cultural Center will work to gather more quality membership benefits. We are constantly striving to offer you a variety of membership benefits through our Mutual Benefits Campaign partners and our cultural classes and events, and we will continue to seek out and establish new benefits for you.

As a membership-driven organization, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i is always trying to recruit more members. With your help, we need to reach out to the community and continue to recruit our friends and family as new members. Your membership renewal also continues to be very important to us as well as membership directly sustains the Cultural Center’s programs and activities.

We hope you have enjoyed this newly designed format of the Cultural Center’s Annual Report for fiscal year 2007-2008. The Cultural Center is always striving to learn, grow and improve as an organization, so please feel free to send us any feedback on this new Annual Report—we would love to hear from you. Dōmo Arigatō Gozaimasu!
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MISSION STATEMENT
To be a vibrant resource, strengthening our diverse community by educating present and future generations in the evolving Japanese American experience in Hawai‘i. We do this through relevant programming, meaningful community service and innovative partnerships that enhance the understanding and celebration of our heritage, culture and love of the land. To guide us in this work we draw from the values found in our Japanese American traditions and the spirit of Aloha.