

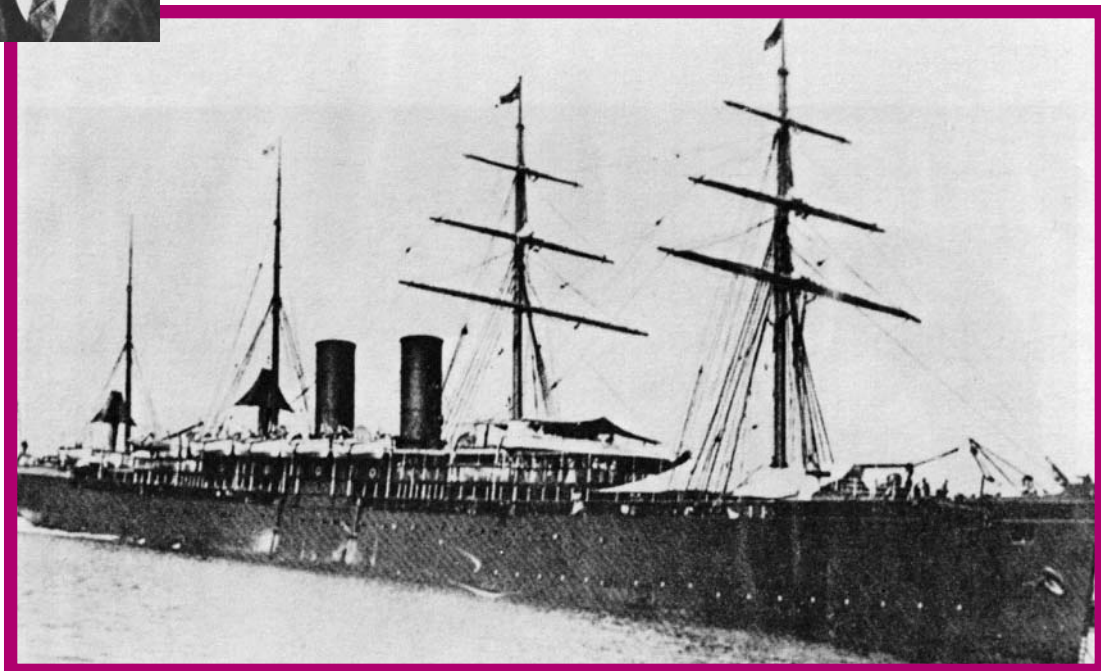


## dedication

*“Let’s set out into the world. Our homes are the five continents.”*

Following the words of Toyama Kyuzo, tens of thousands of Okinawans emigrated to the different countries of the world, starting over a century ago.

This booklet, commemorating the first conference outside of Okinawa for Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-Heart, is proudly dedicated to the pioneer issei, whose courage, dedication, and sacrifice created the worldwide Okinawan Community.



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## forward

### FIRST WORLDWIDE UCHINANCHU CONFERENCE

The Okinawa Prefectural Government organized three very successful “Worldwide Uchinanchu Festivals” in Okinawa in 1990, 1995 and 2001. In Japan, only the Okinawa Prefecture organizes such events to gather descendents of Okinawans (Uchinanchu) from all over the world. At the last festival in 2001, over 4,000 overseas Uchinanchu participated in the event. They commented that 5-6 years between festivals is too long for this type of momentous gathering. It was suggested that meetings take place in between these government-sponsored festivals.

To satisfy this request, the “First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference” is being held outside of Okinawa, concurrently with the 21st Okinawan Festival of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the 7th International Conference of the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association. It will be the first event outside of Okinawa to invite Uchinanchu from all over the world, and is organized by the Hawaii Okinawan community.

The primary purpose of the conference is to discuss and share the history, identity and future of the

global Uchinanchu network, focusing on the areas of culture, education, women’s issues, wellness and business. “Sharing Uchinanchu Aloha” is the conference theme and reflects the unique Uchinanchu hospitality found in Hawaii.

#### The major events of the conference are:

August 29, Friday  
Goodwill Golf Tournament  
Hickam Golf Course

Welcome Reception  
Sheraton-Waikiki Hotel

August 30, Saturday  
International Parade  
Waikiki

Opening Ceremony  
Okinawan Festival  
Kapiolani Park

August 31, Sunday  
Okinawan Festival  
Kapiolani Park

September 1, Monday  
Meetings  
East-West Center

September 2, Tuesday  
Meetings  
East-West Center

Closing Ceremony  
University of Hawaii  
Baseball Stadium

The keynote speaker at the meetings is Shinichi Maehara, Senior Executive Director of the Television News Department, Okinawa Television Company, a prominent news anchorman in Okinawa. His interesting interviews of Uchinanchu throughout the world were telecast in Okinawa as part of his “Sekai no Uchinanchu” series, and are presently being shown in Hawaii on the NGN station. He will share his interesting experiences with us.

The closing ceremony will consist of a colorful Eisa Festival followed by the exciting Rinken Band from Okinawa, led by Rinken Teruya. The band has performed extensively in Okinawa and Japan, as well as in foreign countries, and will certainly bring the conference to a rousing conclusion.





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# Greetings from WUB–Hawaii



The members of the Hawaii Chapter of the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business network cordially welcome all participants to the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference. We are proud to have co-sponsored this historic event with the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and hope that everyone finds it very worthwhile.



## congratulatory messages



**United States Senator  
Daniel K. Inouye**



**United States Senator  
Daniel K. Akaka**

**DANIEL K. INOUE**  
HAWAII

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**August 29, 2003**

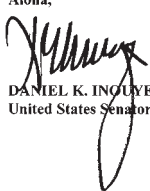
**First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference**  
**East-West Center**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii**

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all the participants in the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference, and to offer my congratulations to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association for sponsoring this five-day event.

This conference, on migration from Okinawa and the Uchinanchu communities that were established, is both significant and symbolic. It is the first of its kind to be held outside of Okinawa. By having it in Hawaii, you are invoking the memories of the early sojourners from Okinawa who traveled here, making the islands the first Okinawan community outside of Japan. Eventually, other Okinawan communities were established in North America and South America.

I am certain that your discussions on the history and future of Uchinanchu communities throughout the world will be stimulating and thought-provoking. You have my best wishes for a memorable and successful conference.

Aloha,  
  
**DANIEL K. INOUE**  
United States Senator

DKI:my

**DANIEL K. AKAKA**  
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**MESSAGE FROM U.S. SENATOR DANIEL K. AKAKA**

Welcome to Hawaii. It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest aloha and best wishes to the participants of the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference to be held in Hawaii from August 29 to September 2, 2003. Many of the Uchinanchu have traveled great distances to attend this event and I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to this land of Aloha.

More than a century has passed since the first 26 Okinawans landed in Hawaii. Okinawa is now the Japanese prefecture with the largest number of emigrants, with about 300,000 Uchinanchu living in all parts of the world outside of Japan, including some 45,000 in Hawaii. Many are leaders in their chosen professions and other fields of endeavor, and we thank all of them for their great contributions.

Today, Hawaii's people of Okinawan ancestry are active in a wide variety of political, cultural and economic fields. They are proudly playing a vital role in welcoming Uchinanchu from around the world at this first worldwide Uchinanchu conference held outside of Okinawa.

I commend the members of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association of Hawaii for sponsoring this first worldwide event. May this be a most enjoyable and successful conference for all.

Aloha pumehana,  
  
**DANIEL K. AKAKA**  
U.S. Senator

*The Toma Family welcomes all Uchinanchu  
and Uchinanchu-at-heart  
to this historic gathering in Hawaii.*

*We would especially like to thank all of the visitors  
who have traveled great distances to join us at this  
Conference and Festival celebration.  
Your presence makes this a memorable event.*

*To all of you -- Aloha!*

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## congratulatory messages



**United States Congressman  
Neil Abercrombie**



**United States Congressman  
Ed Case**

### UNITED STATES CONGRESS



#### Message In Recognition of the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference

August 29, 2003

To the members of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA), and the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association of Hawaii (WUBA), **Chuu-wuganabira**. Please accept my deepest appreciation and gratitude for sponsoring the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference in Hawaii.

Together in partnership, the HUOA and WUBA bring Uchinanchu, and Uchinanchu-at-heart from around the world together to enjoy the wonderful hospitality of the people of Hawaii, share knowledge about culture, and experience the aloha spirit.

Throughout history, Uchinanchu have overcome many challenges to establish themselves as a culture and community in Hawaii. Uchinanchu have made great contributions to the social and economical success of our state, and remain determined to preserving their history and heritage for future generations.

I commend everyone who participated in the planning and production of this event. I'm confident that because of the hard work and perseverance of the HUOA and WUBA, this event will be successful. Let us all continue to show our appreciation to them and support them in their efforts so that this event can be enjoyed for many more years.

I wish you all good health and hope everyone continues to have a prosperous year. Aloha and thank you for perpetuating the culture of Uchinanchu.



*Neil Abercrombie*  
Member of Congress



#### Message from U.S. Congressman Ed Case

Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference in Hawai'i  
August 29 – September 2, 2003  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Aloha and Hai Sai to all of you who have traveled from near and far to this unprecedented Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference in Hawai'i.

It is a tremendous honor for our state, our nation, and our island of O'ahu to be the chosen site of this historical conference—the first event to be held outside Okinawa that brings together Uchinanchus from Hawai'i and around the world. In Hawaiian, O'ahu means "The Gathering Place," and so it is very appropriate that this beautiful, cosmopolitan setting in the Pacific has become your crossroads—your gathering place to discuss the history, identity and future of the worldwide Uchinanchu network.

Uchinanchus have been an important part of our Hawai'i's unique cultural diversity, making historical contributions that have driven the progress of our state and giving us a special appreciation for the dynamic Uchinanchu spirit. So we join you in celebrating your worldwide network's invaluable contributions in culture and the arts, education, business, humanitarianism, and a host of other fields throughout Hawai'i and the world.

I commend and congratulate the Hawai'i United Okinawa Association and the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association for bringing this conference and its participants to our islands. Your tireless efforts have made this unbelievable event a wonderful reality. Thank you for sharing your history and vision of the future with all of us. We are proud to celebrate your achievements, accomplishments and dreams.

Have a memorable and successful conference, and please remember to return to our islands soon!

With aloha,

*Ed Case*

ED CASE  
United States Congressman  
Hawai'i, Second District

Richard S. Nakasone

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for hosting the

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## congratulatory messages



**State of Hawaii Governor  
Linda Lingle**



**City & County of Honolulu Mayor  
Jeremy Harris**



### *Message from Governor Linda Lingle*

On behalf of the citizens of the State of Hawai'i, I send greetings of warmest aloha to the participants of the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference to be held in Hawai'i from August 29 - September 2, 2003. Hawai'i and Okinawa enjoy a very close relationship as sister state/prefecture, and it is very appropriate for Hawai'i to be hosting the first such gathering of Uchinanchus and Uchinanchus-at-heart outside of Okinawa.

I commend the Hawai'i United Okinawa Association and the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association of Hawai'i for the promotion of goodwill and unity and the sponsorship of this conference. The hard work of many volunteers from these organizations are to be commended for taking the initiative in sponsoring and implementing this historic meeting. I wish to extend my appreciation to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, the East-West Center and University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, for providing the funds and facilities to support the conference.

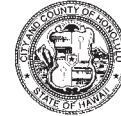
The Uchinanchu community has a proud history in Hawai'i. Events such as this help the Uchinanchu people perpetuate their culture while also reminding us of the value of our ethnic diversity.

I extend my best wishes and congratulations to the worldwide Okinawan community on this inaugural meeting and encourage residents and visitors alike to take advantage of the many activities and interesting programs and enjoy this opportunity of cultural celebration.

Aloha!

  
Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

### OFFICE OF THE MAYOR CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU



### MAYOR'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the City and County of Honolulu, I extend sincere congratulations to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association, Hawaii Chapter, for organizing the first Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference in Hawaii.

"Sharing Uchinanchu Aloha," your theme for this conference is appropriate as both organizations work together in the Spirit of Aloha in making this the largest ethnic festival in Hawaii. The song *Ashimiji Bushi* depicts the hard work of the HUOA and WUB, and you are to be commended for your tremendous efforts in attracting Uchinanchu throughout the world to share Hawaii's beauty and aloha.

We are elated that Hawaii was selected to host the first Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference outside of Okinawa. We welcome our friends from abroad and are certain everyone will be delighted with the event. What a wonderful time to unite with family and friends and enjoy the beauty of Hawaii's multicultural society.

  
JEREMY HARRIS, Mayor  
City and County of Honolulu



*Ed and Bobbi Kuba* cordially extend their warmest aloha and sincerest  
mensore to all Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-Heart attending the First Worldwide  
Uchinanchu Conference in Hawaii.

*Edward M. Kuba, Attorney at Law*

*Bobbi Kuba, Office Manager*

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## congratulatory messages



**Japan Consul General  
Masatoshi Muto**



**Okinawa Governor  
Keiichi Inamine**

**CONSULATE - GENERAL OF JAPAN**

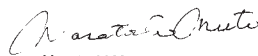
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**MESSAGE FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN  
MASATOSHI MUTO**

I am pleased to extend a warm aloha to all of the attendees of the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference in Hawaii on their first meeting outside of Okinawa.

Okinawans make up about twenty percent of the Japanese-American population in Hawaii and approximately 4.4 percent of the overall local population. The Okinawan community here has been very active and successful in preserving and promoting its cultural heritage, as well as developing its business network, in Hawaii and worldwide. As local and international members of the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association gather in Hawaii for this conference, it will provide an opportunity to further develop their networking base with each other and expand on their business objectives and cultural endeavors.

I would like to congratulate the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association of Hawaii for their diligent efforts in setting the stage for this historic gathering. Please accept my best wishes for a very successful conference.

  
Masatoshi Muto  
Consul General



**OKINAWA PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT**  
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OKINAWA, JAPAN 900-8570

Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference pamphlet – Greeting from the Governor

I would like to congratulate the President of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, Mr. George Tamashiro, the Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference executive committee and the executive chairman and also, the efforts of Mr. Robert Nakasone, Keith Kaneshiro and all the other concerned people, for holding the "First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference".

As acknowledged by everyone, Okinawa is Japan's leading prefecture with regard to emigration. The history of emigration started around a hundred years ago, when many citizens left Okinawa for going overseas and today, there are more than 300,000 Okinawan descendants living abroad. I am delighted to see that in these countries, Okinawan descendants sharing the uniqueness of Okinawan culture and traditions have proudly established communities.

It is the first time since the period of Uchinanchu immigration to Hawaii started that, outside of our prefecture, Okinawan descendants from around the world meet to organize an event and I feel very reassured by everyone's enthusiasm and expectations. It is extremely important to hold meetings where we can exchange our point of views on various themes such as festivals, economics, industry, education and culture in order to spread and succeed Okinawan traditional culture. I have the conviction that our developments are definitely tied together.

I eagerly request further efforts from all the Okinawan descendants, with the Uchinanchu strong spirit and Chimu-gukuru, for the continuous development of regional communities and for promoting exchanges with Okinawa.

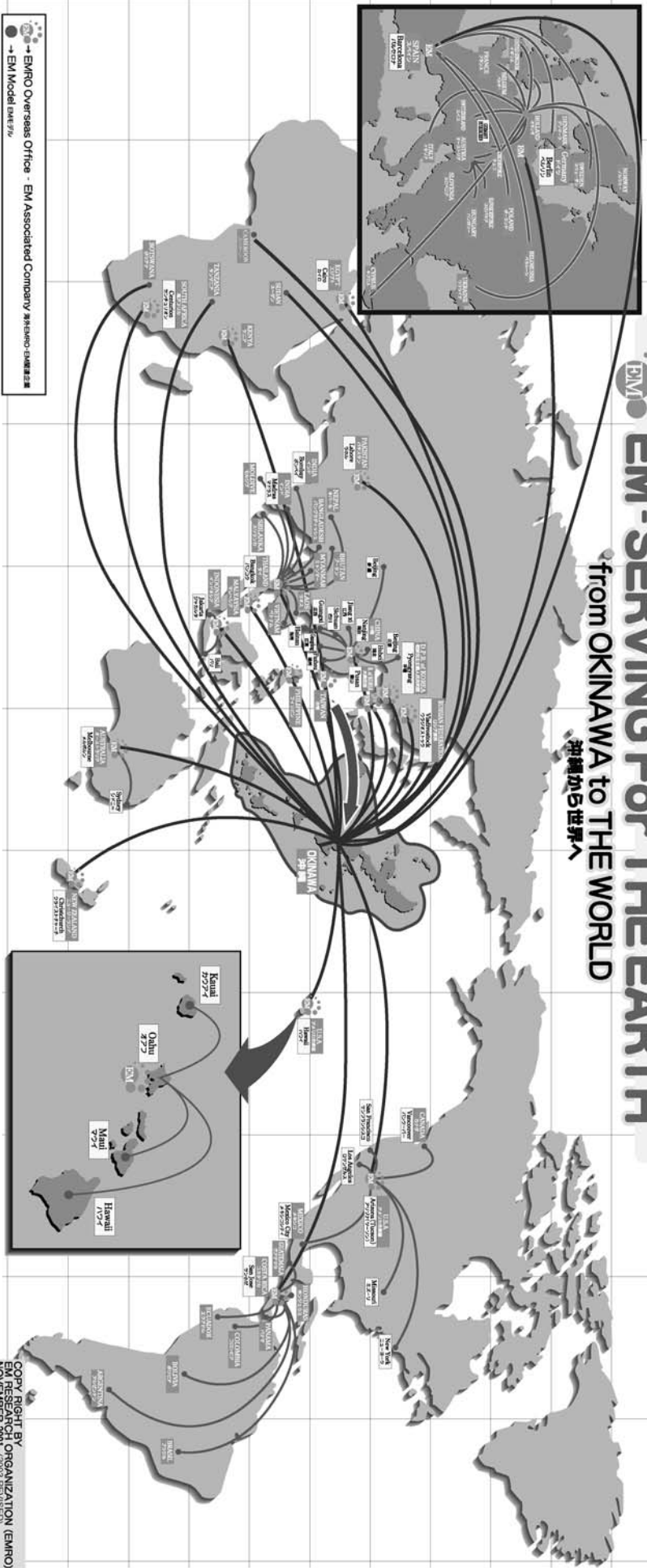
In conclusion, I offer my sincere prayers for the success of this Conference, the further prosperity of the State of Hawaii, the activities and the good health of the Okinawan descendants

Keiichi INAMINE  
Governor of Okinawa Prefecture  
2003

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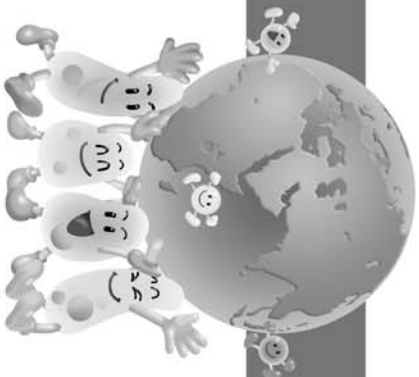
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Aloha and Congratulations !

1st World Wide Uchinanchu Conference in Hawaii

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## congratulatory messages



**WUB International President  
Morimasa Goya**



**County of Maui Mayor  
Alan M. Arakawa**

### GREETING

Morimasa Goya, president of WUB International

On behalf of the 21 chapters of the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association, I am honored to welcome all of you to the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference outside of Okinawa.

Since the first Uchinanchu immigrated in Hawaii in 1899, many more Uchinanchu have emigrated to Peru, Brazil, Argentina, Philippine, Singapore and Canada. Although it is further beyond of our imagination, Issei have overcome incredible hardships in their new lands. We would like to express our sincere respect to the Issei achievement. Now more than 300,000 descendants are living in various countries and spirits of being Uchinanchu are certainly passed on to the younger generations.

WUB stands for Worldwide Uchinanchu Business, and our main purpose is to promote business activities through Uchinanchu networks throughout the world. Businesses among our members have grown steadily. Hawaii is our first WUB chapter, so it is very appropriate this inaugural conference is being held in Hawaii. Presently other chapters are located in Okinawa, Osaka, Tokyo, North America, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Bolivia, China, Hong-Kong, Taiwan, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Guam, Maui and Europe. We hold a WUB international conference each year and this is our seventh WUB International Conference. Since our first WUB International Conference in 1997 in Hawaii, WUB members have gathered in Los Angeles, Sao Paulo, Okinawa, Tokyo and Santa Cruz. Though we are struggling to establish our business networks with other chapters, we have made many new friendships along the way. We believe that our attempt provides strong support for our Uchinanchu businesses, culture, values and identities.

You will have a chance to meet Uchinanchu from other countries during this conference and will see different styles of living and feelings of being an Uchinanchu. Please enjoy the programs and creating new and renewing old friendships today and have a memorable experience in our first immigrant land, Hawaii.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and WUB Hawaii for co-sponsoring this historic meeting and thank the many hardworking volunteers for their efforts in making this a successful and productive conference.

Ippe Nihei Debiru!

ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
MAYOR



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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
Ke'ena O Ka Mea  
COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui


A Message from  
Mayor Alan M. Arakawa

On behalf of the people of Maui County, it is indeed my pleasure to extend a warm aloha and welcome to all Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart throughout the world as you meet outside of Okinawa for the first time at the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference, August 29 to September 2, 2003 in Honolulu.

As Uchinanchu – men and women of Okinawan heritage – gather on our Hawaiian shores to share your history, identity and the future of the worldwide Uchinanchu network, it is my hope that all participants will also have an opportunity to visit Maui and experience the aloha and hospitality of our island. Named the "Best Island in the World" by *Condé Nast* Magazine for nine years in a row, we'd love to share our beautiful island with you so that you too will know why we say "Maui no ka oi" – Maui is the best!

*Mahalo a nui loa*, my deep appreciation and thanks to the Hawai'i United Okinawa Association and the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association of Hawai'i for their leadership in organizing and presenting this wonderful conference. Please accept my best wishes for a successful conference and I hope you'll find time to visit the special islands of Maui County.

*E komo mai* – welcome!

  
Alan M. Arakawa  
Mayor, County of Maui

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## congratulatory messages




**County of Hawaii Mayor  
Harry Kim**



**County of Kauai Mayor  
Bryan J. Baptiste**

Harry Kim  
*Mayor*



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*Managing Director*

Peter L. Hendricks  
*Deputy Managing Director*

**COUNTY OF HAWAII**  
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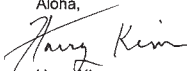
**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**


On behalf of the people of the County of Hawaii, I am pleased to extend my heartiest welcome to all the Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-Heart of the world as you meet outside of Okinawa for the first time.

Hawaii County and Nago City in Okinawa enjoy a close sister-city relationship, and the University of Hawaii at Hilo and Meio University in Nago are sister universities.

While you are in our state, I hope you will have an opportunity to visit the Island of Hawaii and experience our warm aloha. Our active volcano, Kilauea, has been drawing sightseers for over 20 years, and our pristine natural beauty makes our island very special.

I extend my best wishes to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association of Hawaii for your leadership and wish you a very successful conference.

Aloha,  
  
Harry Kim  
Mayor, County of Hawaii



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
Bryan J. Baptiste, Mayor  
County of Kauai

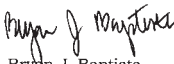
**MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR**  
AUGUST 29, 2003

Aloha and greetings from the Garden Island of Kauai.

It is my privilege to extend best wishes to the Hawaii'i United Okinawa Association and the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association of Hawaii'i for a successful and memorable First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference. I am also pleased to offer my heartfelt welcome to all the Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-Heart of the world as they meet outside of Okinawa for the first time.

Kauai and Ishigaki Island in Okinawa enjoy a very close sister island relationship. Similarly, Kauai Community College, part of the University of Hawaii'i system, has established educational relationships with the University of Ryukyus, Okinawa Christian Junior College and the Okinawa Prefectural College of Nursing.

While you are in the State of Hawaii'i, I hope you will have an opportunity to visit the Island of Kauai and experience our natural beauty and aloha spirit. On behalf of the County of Kauai, I wish you all the best for a successful conference.

Aloha pumehana,  
  
Bryan J. Baptiste  
Mayor, County of Kauai



**OKINAWA**  
PRIMETIME

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*Repeat Saturday & Sunday at 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.*

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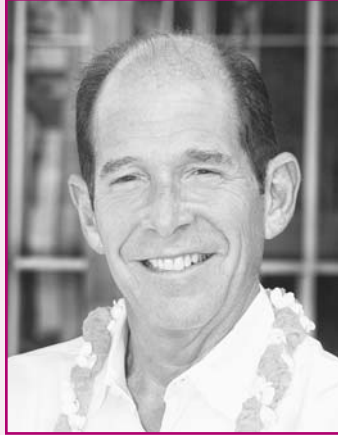
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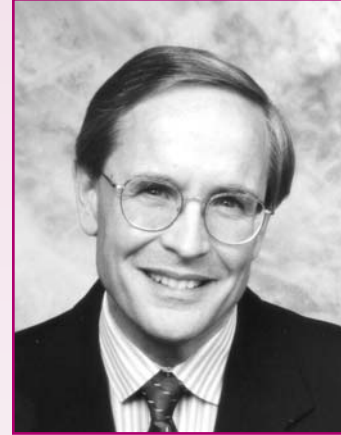
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## congratulatory messages



**University of Hawaii President  
Evan S. Dobelle**



**East-West Center President  
Charles E. Morrison**



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

EVAN S. DOBELLE  
PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Aloha and welcome to the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference. As Hawai'i is known as the place where East meets West, it is most appropriate that this special conference is being held in Honolulu.

The University prides itself on its international focus. We have over 100 exchange agreements with institutions of higher learning around the world, involving faculty, students and researchers. All who have participated in these exchanges have benefited tremendously from the experience.

Our University has a long-standing and special relationship with Okinawa. Mānoa, the main campus of our 10-campus statewide system, has forged a sister relationship with the University of the Ryukyus. Our Hilo campus has a similar relationship with Meio University, while Leeward Community College has close ties with Okinawa Women's Junior College. The former University of the Ryukyus Junior College also had a sister relationship with Kauai Community College. These exchange agreements have been mutually beneficial for both Hawai'i and Okinawa.

I envision a global Uchinanchu network being created by the Hawai'i United Okinawan Association and the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association of Hawai'i that will be beneficial for all of the people and countries involved. I wish all of you a rewarding and thoroughly enjoyable experience at this conference – meeting new people and getting reacquainted with old friends.

Ippe Nihei Debirul

Evan S. Dobelle  
President, University of Hawaii



1601 East-West Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96848-1401  
Telephone: 808-944-7102  
Fax: 808-944-7106  
Email: ewc@center-eastwest.org  
Web: www.EastWestCenter.org

OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE EAST-WEST CENTER

It is indeed a pleasure to extend the warmest aloha to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association of Hawaii and to wish you a successful and memorable First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference.

We are particularly pleased that the East-West Center is a cosponsor and venue for your meeting. Okinawa has special importance for the East-West Center. In the early years of the East-West Center, from 1960 to 1972, Okinawans comprised the largest single group of non-American participants. Even today, our largest and most active overseas alumni chapter is that in Okinawa.

Three years ago a new relationship between the East-West Center and Okinawa began with the inauguration of the Obuchi Okinawa Research and Education Program, announced by former President Bill Clinton when he visited Okinawa for the G-8 summit meeting. Under this program, an increasing number of Okinawans are joining our community of students and scholars from the United States and all over Asia and the Pacific for collaborative study, training and research.

The success of the East-West Center's relations with Okinawa has much to do with the strong historical bonds of friendship and goodwill between the State of Hawaii and the Prefecture of Okinawa. The Okinawa community here in Hawaii is the driving force in nurturing these bonds, but the warm feelings of aloha that the people of Hawaii of all ethnic backgrounds feel for Okinawa lie also in the sense that we live in kindred islands with many similarities and challenges. We can work together on preserving our cultures, protecting our environments, diversifying our economies, and creating opportunities for our peoples.

I offer my sincerest thanks and congratulations to the organizers and all participants at the conference. Your endeavor continues to strengthen the ties between Hawaii and Okinawa as well as those among Uchinanchus throughout the world.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Morrison  
President  
East West Center

*On behalf of Architects Hawaii, we wish you the best and congratulations on your successful Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference.*



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Aloha to the participants of the  
First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference  
in Hawaii

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## congratulatory messages



**HUAO President  
George Tamashiro**



**WUB President  
Wesley Sakamoto**



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT


HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the 52 member clubs of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, consisting of about 45,000 individual members, I offer my warmest welcome, *e komo mai* and *mensore* to all of you attending the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference. This is the first time that such a gathering is being held outside of Okinawa, and it is appropriate that it occur in Hawaii since we have the oldest Okinawan community outside of Japan.

Okinawa and Hawaii has always been close, especially since their relationship was strengthened by a sister prefecture/state relationship. Also, Naha and Honolulu, Nago and Hawaii County, Hirara and Maui County, and Ishigaki and Kauai County, enjoy similar relationships. By this conference, Hawaii is now going beyond its bounds with Okinawa and establishing and promoting ties with Okinawan communities throughout the world.

I wish to extend my deepest appreciation to the conference committee, co-chaired by Keith Kaneshiro of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and Robert Nakasone of the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association of Hawaii, along with their hardworking members. Planning a conference like this for the first time is always the most challenging, so our Okinawan community in Hawaii is truly grateful for their efforts.

*Ippe Nifoo-Deebiru*

  
George Tamashiro, President  
Hawaii United Okinawa Association

**WUB HAWAII** THE OKINAWAN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF HAWAII



WORLDWIDE UCHINANCHU BUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

I am very happy to extend my karyushi, on behalf of the 63 members of the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association of Hawaii, to all the Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-Heart attending the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference in Hawaii. This momentous event is the first such assembly outside of Okinawa.

Our organization is one of 22 chapters located in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Europe, Guam, Hong Kong, Japan, North America, Okinawa, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. Our primary purpose is to promote business communications among WUB members and related individuals through a regional and global network.

Throughout the world, we work closely with Okinawa kenjinkais in our regions, as the promotion and perpetuation of Okinawan culture through the financial support of business organizations has long been a tradition.

On our trip to South America I felt a common bond with the people we met and the feeling was like a brotherhood of friends. I speak English and we met people who spoke Spanish and Portuguese. The languages and cultures may be different, but we were greeted with open arms and a warm heart. This conference will be evident of this overall feeling you get when Okinawans and Okinawans-at-heart gather together.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the conference committee co-chaired by Robert Nakasone of the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association of Hawaii and Keith Kaneshiro of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, as well as to all their hardworking members.

Mahalo!



Wesley Sakamoto, President  
Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association of Hawaii

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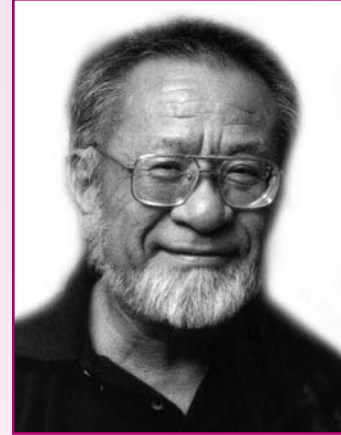
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## congratulatory messages



**WUC Steering Committee Co-Chairperson  
Keith Kaneshiro**



**WUC Steering Committee Co-Chairperson  
Bob Nakasone**

### WELCOME MESSAGE

KEITH KANESHIRO

Aloha and welcome to our First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference in Hawaii. It is with heartfelt gratitude and joy to have you who have traveled from around the world, as well as Hawaii's community, celebrate this inaugural international event with us.

As Hawaii was the first overseas destination of immigrants from Okinawa in 1990, Hawaii was selected to host this Conference, the first outside of Okinawa. We appreciate our isseis who endured the hardship in a new and foreign land. Today, their perseverance, sacrifices, and dedication enrich us. Okage Sama De, we take pleasure from the fruits of your labor.

The State of Hawaii invites you to enjoy our multiethnic society, which is unique to our beautiful Island State.

May the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference leave you with fond memories and "Sharing Uchinanchu Aloha!"




**Haisai ! Mensore !**

Okinawa is probably the only prefecture in Japan that invites those who emigrated from Okinawa and their families to come together in Okinawa. The success of three "Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival" in Okinawa (1990, 1995 and 2001) serves as the basis for the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference in Hawaii.

The "hub and spoke" exchanges with the "mother land" Okinawa are excellent, for example Brazil with Okinawa, Hawaii and Okinawa, Los Angeles and Okinawa. Since 1997, WUB (Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association) have started to develop a web type network, where exchanges are also lateral, for example Brazil-Hawaii, Los Angeles-Hawaii, Brazil-Los Angeles. WUB Hawaii together with HUOA (Hawaii United Okinawa Association) is sponsoring the "First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference" in Hawaii, which will give us an opportunity to develop a broader web type network base.

There are many Uchinanchu and "Uchinanchu at heart", who have never been to Okinawa or speak the language, but they have the "Uchinanchu Spirit". The "Uchinanchu Spirit" is not restricted by geographical or language boundaries or DNA. The First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference in Hawaii will be the first worldwide gathering to be held outside of Okinawa. It will strengthen the bonds of the Worldwide Uchinanchu, "Citizens of the World".

Aloha

  
Bob Nakasone  
"Sekai no Uchinanchu"  
Co-Chairperson  
WUC steering committee

First Worldwide  
Uchinanchu Conference  
(WUC-Hawaii)  
August 29 - September 2  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Sponsored by the  
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and  
Worldwide Uchinanchu Business  
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(WUB-HI)

HUOA President  
George Tamashiro

WUB-HI President  
Wes Sakamoto

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