

August 20, 2008



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Jane Serikaku, Executive Director

Tel: 808-676-5400

Email: [edhuoa@huoa.org](mailto:edhuoa@huoa.org)

**26<sup>TH</sup> OKINAWAN FESTIVAL - SHARING UCHINANCHU ALOHA**

**August 30 & 31, 2008**

**Kapiolani Park**

**Sponsored by the Hawaii United Okinawa Association**

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**Saturday, August 30, 2008 8:30 am – 9:30 pm**

*Children's Games close at 5:00 pm*

*Most food booths & tents close at 6:00 pm*

*Okinawa Soba & Andagi Booths open until 8:00 pm*

**Live Entertainment at Kapiolani Park Bandstand: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm**

Enjoy continuous live performances by entertainers from Okinawa and local Okinawan groups from Hawaii.

Performers from Okinawa include Mamoru Miyagi, Tatsuya Shimabukuro with Tsuneyoshi Naka & the Tokonatsu Band and Tatsuya Yasuda.

- **Mamoru Miyagi:** On his third appearance at the Okinawan Festival, with his charming good looks and mellow vocal renditions, Mamoru Miyagi will share his talents with us once again. Saturday, August 30 at 2:40 pm & Sunday, August 31 at 2:45 pm.
- **Tatsuya Shimabukuro with Tsuneyoshi Naka & the Tokonatsu Band:** Radio Okinawa's 2008 Grand Prix Miuta Taisho winner, Tatsuya Shimabukuro, considered one of Okinawa's youngest and brightest minyou artists, Tsuneyoshi Naka and the Tokonatsu Band will hold their first performance in Hawaii. Radio Okinawa's Miuta Taisho (literal translation is Radio Okinawa's new song contest) is an original minyou or shima-uta (folk music or island music) composition contest. Saturday, August 30 at 12:00 pm.
- **Tatsuya Yamada:** Tatsuya Yasuda, famed musician and dancer, will have a segment with local group Sosaku Taiko Ryukyu Yuihana. Yasuda traveled Europe as a circus performer, and now studies sanshin, music and folk dances of Okinawa. He choreographs and arranges performances that combine the different ethnic folk music and dance from the many islands of Okinawa. Sunday, August 31 at 10:10 am.

**Following Opening Ceremonies, Celebrity Kachashi Dance** – Celebrating the Okinawan Culture participants Congressman Neil Abercrombie, Mayor Mufi Hannemann, KITV 4 : Shawn Ching & Jill Kuramoto, KGMB 9: Steve Uyehara and others.

***Bon Dance at Kapiolani Park Field: 5:00 pm – 9:30 pm***

Pull out your kimono and happi coats and join the HUOA community at the annual Festival Bon Dance! Hundreds of participants dance the night away honoring their ancestors. Don't worry about not knowing how to bon dance, bon dancing is not only fun, it's easy to learn!

**Sunday, August 31, 2008      9:00 am – 5:00 pm**

*Craft Gallery and Children's Games close at 4:30 pm*

Another great day of continuous live performances by Okinawan groups from Hawaii at the Kapiolani Park Bandstand. Local taiko, traditional Okinawan dance, sanshin, koto and karate groups show their stuff on Sunday.

While you're here, get a taste of Uchinanchu (Okinawan) cuisine and try some onolicious grinds:

- **Pig Feet Soup** - pig's feet cooked in soup stock and garnished with seaweed, turnip, squash and mustard cabbage
- **Yakisoba** - stir-fried Okinawan style soba noodles with vegetable and luncheon meat
- **Okinawa Soba** – Okinawan style soba noodles served in hot soup and garnished with fishcake, shoyu pork, green onions and red ginger
- **Champuru Plate**- shoyu pork, stir-fried vegetables, luncheon meat and deep-fried tofu
- **Okidog** - a hot dog and chili are wrapped in a soft tortilla with shredded shoyu pork and lettuce
- **Andagi** – Okinawan donut
- **Andadog** – Okinawan version of the corndog. A hot dog on a stick that is dipped into Andagi batter and deep fried *and more!*

Take the children to the Children's Games area, where they can play for prizes and have some fun in air filled jumpers. Learn a little culture and history at the Cultural Tent, pick up the official Okinawan Festival t-shirts at the T-Shirt Tent, walk though Hawaii's version of Okinawa's Heiwa Dori to take home specialty Okinawan food items, to start! You can easily spend both Saturday and Sunday discovering all that the 26<sup>th</sup> Okinawan Festival offers!

**Park for Free and Ride HUOA's Okinawan Festival Shuttle Bus for \$1**

The HUOA's Okinawan Festival Shuttle Bus will run continuously during the Festival. Park free Kapiolani Community College and ride roundtrip for \$1 in a cool air conditioned bus to Kapiolani Park. There is a storage compartment on the side of the bus for baby strollers and large bags. In addition, the bus drivers will happily assist passengers in getting on and off the bus.

**Shuttle Drop Off & Pick Up Locations**

Kapiolani Community College: Waikiki end, near Diamond Head Road

Kapiolani Park: Monsarrat Avenue

**Saturday, August 30: 7:00 am – 10:30 pm**

Last departure from Kapiolani Park at 10:30 pm

**Sunday, August 31: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm**

Last departure from Kapiolani Park at 6:00 pm

### **ABOUT THE OKINAWAN FESTIVAL**

The Okinawan Festival is organized and run by an army of over two thousand volunteers from the HUOA's 48 member-clubs and their extended '*ohana* of Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart. Proceeds from the Okinawan Festival are used to fund the HUOA's cultural programs. The first Okinawan Festival was held in 1982 at McCoy Pavilion at Ala Moana Park. In 1990, the 90th anniversary of Okinawan immigration to Hawaii, the Festival moved to Kapiolani Park, attracting a larger, broader and more ethnically diverse audience. The move proved to be one of the most successful means of sharing Okinawan culture with residents and visitors alike. For more information about the Okinawan Festival, visit [www.OkinawanFestival.com](http://www.OkinawanFestival.com).

### **ABOUT HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION**

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association is the umbrella organization for 48 locality clubs whose members are descendants of Okinawan immigrants, most of whom settled in Hawaii in the early 1900s. The member clubs of HUOA are comprised of families whose ancestors immigrated to Hawaii from the same region in Okinawa. HUOA thus plays an important role in fostering the Okinawan ethnic identity. Today, membership through the member clubs total over 40,000. The member clubs are organized by shi (city), cho (township), son (rural township) and aza (small village). For further information, visit the organization's website at [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org).

For more information about the Okinawan Festival or Hawaii United Okinawa Association, contact us at 676-5400 or email: [huoa@huoa.org](mailto:huoa@huoa.org).

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