

August 19, 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Jane Serikaku, Executive Director

Tel: 808-676-5400

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

[www.okinawanfestival.com](http://www.okinawanfestival.com)



**27<sup>TH</sup> OKINAWAN FESTIVAL - SHARING UCHINANCHU ALOHA  
at Kapiolani Park**

**Saturday, September 5** **9:00 am – 5:00 pm**  
*Live entertainment, food booths & activities*

**Saturday, September 5** **5:30 pm – 9:30 pm**  
*Okinawan Festival Bon Dance*  
*Okinawa Soba, Yakitori & Andagi Booths open until 8:00 pm*

**Sunday, September 6** **9:00 am – 5:00 pm**  
*Live entertainment, food booths & activities*  
*Craft Gallery and Children's Games close at 4:30 pm*

---

**ACTIVITIES & SPECIAL EVENTS**

***Live Entertainment All Weekend***

A weekend full of continuous live performances by entertainment groups from Okinawa and local Okinawan groups at the Kapiolani Park Bandstand. You'll be treated to Hawaii's best Okinawan music, dance and cultural groups, as well as special guest performers from Okinawa.

***Special Performances from Okinawa***

You'll be treated the music and dance of Okinawa with performance from Hirara and Tamagusuku Ryu Teda no Kai. Bringing the beauty and sounds of Okinawa and Miyako Island, soloist, Hirara will encapture you with her performance of *shimauta*, or island music. Immediately after, teenaged dance students of Tamagusuku Ryu Teda no Kai – Keiko Miyagi Ryubu Dojo, led by sensei Keiko Miyagi will delight you with a performance of Ryukyuu style dance. Begins 3:00 pm on Saturday.

The gentlemen from Okinawa on Sunday have both performed for us before. We welcome back Radio Okinawa's segment headlined by Seibun Tokuhara and his studio musicians who will showcase the award winning musical composition entitled, "Haru no Churakaji", or Beautiful Spring Breeze. Following Sensei Tokuhara, you'll be entertained by the familiar sounds of the ukulele performed by Johnny Ginowan and his students. Enjoy Okinawan songs and original works styled for ukulele. Begins at 12:00 pm on Sunday.

***Andagi Eating Contest – new!***

Eat your way into history as the first winner of the Andagi Eating Contest! Contests will be held at the Kapiolani Park Bandstand on stage between performances. You'll have to chomp down three andagi as quickly as possible! Cheer on your favorite andagi lover as they eat their way to win! Saturday at 2:30 pm and Sunday at 10:05 am at Kapiolani Park Bandstand.

***Okifest Passport Game – new!***

New for you to enjoy is the Okifest Passport game. Discover what the Okinawan Festival has to offer through a journey guided by the Okifest Passport. At every stop, get your Passport stamped. When full, you can enter to win Okinawan Festival t-shirt and other goodies!

**Okinawan Festival Pin - Save a few dollars at the Festival!**

The Okinawan Festival Commemorative Pin will once again be sold at the Information Booth. Purchase the pin for \$5 and you'll receive discounts like \$2 off a Festival theme t-shirt, one free Children's game, free shaved ice topping, a free shuttle ride back to Kapiolani Community College and a special line reserved for Festival Pin wearers to purchase andagi! That's already \$4! Not only do you save at the Festival, you can take advantage of discounts from Tamashiro Market and Zippy's!

**FOOD LOVERS DELIGHT!**

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 deep fried donut
- **Andadog** – Okinawan version of the corndog. A hot dog on a stick that is dipped into Andagi batter and deep fried *and more!*

**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 at Kapiolani Community College and ride roundtrip 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. \$1 return tickets can be purchased at the Information Booth.

**Shuttle Drop Off & Pick Up Locations**

Saturday, September 5: 7:00 am – 12:00 pm

Kapiolani Community College: near Kilauea Ave & Makapuu Ave in Lot A

Kapiolani Park: Monsarrat Avenue

**Saturday, September 5: 12:00 pm – 10:30 pm**

Kapiolani Community College: Waikiki end, near Diamond Head Road in Lot B

Kapiolani Park: Monsarrat Avenue

Last departure from Kapiolani Park at 10:30pm

**Sunday, September 6: 7:00 am – 6:00 pm**

Kapiolani Community College: Waikiki end, near Diamond Head Road in Lot B

Kapiolani Park: Monsarrat Avenue

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 (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 (808) 676-5400 or email: [huoa@huoa.org](mailto:huoa@huoa.org).

###