



Contact: Jane Serikaku, Executive Director, (808) 676-5400, edhuoa@huoa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 6, 2015

33rd ANNUAL OKINAWAN FESTIVAL

September 5 - 6, 2015 at Kapiolani Park

HONOLULU – The Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) presents the 33rd Annual Okinawan Festival on September 5th & 6th at Kapiolani Park. Recently voted “Hawaii’s Best Ethnic/Cultural Festival” by the *Star Advertiser’s* 2015 Hawaii’s Best People’s Choice Awards, the Okinawan Festival promises to be a weekend full of good food, good entertainment and lots of fun! Continuous live performances will take place at the Kapiolani Park Bandstand featuring performers from Okinawa including Radio Okinawa’s Miuta Taisho Grand Prix winner, Ritsuko Shibahiki, Okinawa Yui Buyo with their contemporary Okinawan line dances, and Nakagusuku Gosamaru Daiko, an award-winning eisa (lively Okinawan drumming) group from Nakagusuku Village. We will also have a collaboration performance with three dynamic eisa groups: Chinagu Eisa Hawaii, Tokyo’s Nankuru Eisa, and Okinawa’s Naha Daiko, who bring lots of intensity to the stage! For a short promotional video visit: <http://youtu.be/oJ2MtlKMroY>

September 5th (Saturday) 9:00am – 9:30pm

Live entertainment, food booths & activities: 9:00am – 6:00pm

Okinawan Festival Bon Dance: 5:30pm – 9:30pm w/ only select food booths open until 8pm (see below for details)

September 6th (Sunday) 9:00am – 5:00pm

Live entertainment, food booths & activities, Craft Gallery & Children’s Games close at 4:30pm

Join us on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/okinawanfestival> and use hashtag #okifest2015.

-- more--

Annual Features at Okinawan Festival

Cultural Tent – Returning exhibitors include the Hawaii Bonsai Association, Okinawan Genealogical Society, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, and the UH Manoa Center of Okinawan Studies. There will also be displays and activities involving calligraphy and Okinawan language (Uchinaaguchi), kimono and paranku picture taking (available for a fee).

Machi-Gwa (Country Store) – Fresh vegetables, fruits and other delicious things to eat! Support local businesses and eat local!

Heiwa Dori - Experience Hawaii's version of Okinawa's famous Heiwa Dori. Speciality foods from Okinawa such as: konbu, goya tea, Okinawa soba, andagi mix, Shikwasa (Okinawan lemon-lime) juice, kokuto (black sugar candy) and more will be on sale.

Hanagi Machi Gwa (Plants) – Discover a wonderful selection of potted plants and flowers for sale.

Ti Jukuishina-Mushimun (Arts & Crafts Gallery) – Explore a wide array of wonderful original arts and crafts by local artisans and crafters.

Capital Campaign & History Tent - We are in the home stretch of the Capital Campaign to raise funds for the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza! Learn about the Battle of Okinawa and stop by our exhibit that commemorates the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII.

Children's Games – Fun games and prizes for the kids!

Festival T-shirts – 33rd Annual Okinawan Festival T-Shirts available in men's, men's tank top, women's and youth sizes.

FOOD LOVERS DELIGHT!

Get a taste of Uchinanchu cuisine and try some onolicious local grinds!

Andagi – Okinawan deep fried donut – a local favorite!

Andagi Ala Mode – Special NEW item during the Bon Dance on Saturday evening only!

Andadog – Okinawan version of the corndog, a hot dog on a stick that is dipped into andagi batter and deep-fried.

Champuru Plate- If you love Okinawan food, you will love this plate! Shoyu pork, rice and champuru, a mixture of stir-fried vegetables, luncheon meat and deep-fried tofu – served with andamisu (miso sauce with pork) with choice of brown or white rice.

Okidog - A hot dog and chili wrapped in a soft tortilla with shredded shoyu pork and lettuce. So delicious!

Chili & Rice - Chili & rice in a bowl. Sold at the Okidog tent.

Chili Frank Plate - Chili & rice plate served with a hot dog. Sold at the Okidog tent.

Chicken Plate – Barbeque chicken prepared local style and served with hot rice and corn, or just chicken in a carry out bag.

Chicken Nishime - A healthy dish of chicken, mushroom, daikon (turnip), carrots, konbu (seaweed) slowly braised and simmered in dashi, served with brown or white rice. Sold at the Chicken Booth.

Pig Feet Soup - Pig's feet cooked in soup stock and garnished with seaweed, daikon, squash and mustard cabbage. In Uchinaaguchi (Okinawan language), it's called *ashitibichi* and is a traditional family favorite!

Okinawa Soba – Okinawan style soba noodles served in hot soup and garnished with fishcake, shoyu pork, green onions and red ginger.

Yakisoba - Stir-fried Okinawan style soba noodles with vegetables and luncheon meat, seasoned with a special chef's sauce.

Yakitori Stick – Chicken skewers grilled to perfection with teriyaki sauce.

Maki Sushi – Sushi rice rolled in nori (seaweed), sliced for easy eating. Sold at the Yakitori Booth, Okinawa Soba and Chicken

Shave Ice – The perfect way to refresh yourself on a hot summer day in Kapiolani Park!

Iced Coffee – Andagi and coffee are a perfect combo!

During the Bon Dance on Saturday, only the following food booths will be open from 6pm - 8pm: Andagi, Andagi Ala mode, Andadog, Yakitori/sushi, Okinawan soba, & Shave Ice

PARK FOR FREE & RIDE HUOA'S OKINAWAN FESTIVAL SHUTTLE BUS FOR \$3

The Okinawan Festival Shuttle Bus from Kapiolani Community College (KCC) will run continuously during the Festival. Park for free at KCC and ride 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. \$3 return tickets can be purchased at the Information Booth and Shuttle Stop Booth at Kapiolani Park.

Shuttle Drop Off & Pick Up Locations

Kapiolani Community College: at City Bus Stop on Diamond Head Road
Kapiolani Park: Monsarrat Avenue

Saturday, September 5: 7:00 am – 10:30 pm

Last departure from Kapiolani Park at 10:30 pm

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

Last departure from Kapiolani Park at 6:00 pm

FESTIVAL PINS

Okinawan Festival Commemorative Pins will be available for \$5 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center or during the festival at the Information Booth. Festival pins come with a FREE round trip bus shuttle between KCC and festival grounds; \$2 off a festival t-shirt purchased at the festival; one free children's game; free azuki beans for your purchased shave ice. Plus, coupons to use at A Little Bit of Everything, Sunrise Restaurant, Tamashiro Market and Zippy's!

ABOUT THE OKINAWAN FESTIVAL

The Okinawan Festival is organized and run by an army of over two thousand volunteers from the HUOA's 50 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, visit <http://www.okinawanfestival.com>

ABOUT THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association is a 501(3)c non-profit organization whose mission is to promote, perpetuate and preserve the Okinawan culture. The organization is made up of 50 member clubs, whose combined member total exceeds 40,000 members. A Board of Directors representing each HUOA Member Club and an elected Executive Council governs the organization. HUOA employs an Executive Director and a small staff of full-time and part-time employees. We are truly fortunate to have an extraordinary team of volunteers who become active and represent their Clubs, become officers of HUOA, run various cultural and community events, provide support staff in the office, work as landscapers, maintenance workers, painters, janitors, and list goes on. What we are known for and our biggest of event the year is the Okinawan Festival, traditionally held on the Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend at Kapiolani Park in Waikiki.

For more information about the Okinawan Festival or Hawaii United Okinawa Association, contact us at (808) 676-5400 or email: info@huoa.org.

###