

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

February 2017



Six Miko maidens and five priests arrived in Honolulu on January 16 to participate in the Fukuoka-Hawaii 35th Anniversary festivities. Pictured here is *Yuku no Mai* performed at the Japanese Consulate on January 18.

A series of *waka* poems of patriotism composed by *Kokaku Zenshi* (Master of Zen Buddhism) around the time of the Mongol invasion of 1274, was set to music and named *Yuku no Mai*.

MAHALO

for your donations

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Tobiume - The Flying Plum Tree

The Dazaifu Tenmangu shrine in Fukuoka is especially famous for its plum blossoms and *umeboshi* (salted plums).

There are over 190 varieties of plum trees on its 3,000 acres, with over 6,000 trees.

Dazaifu Tenmangu shrine was built above the grave of Michizane Sugawara. It is said that when he bade farewell to his favorite plum tree in his garden in Kyoto before his exile in Dazaifu, he composed a poem and recited it to the tree.

Legend has it that the tree was so deeply moved by his words, that it uprooted itself and flew to Dazaifu in order to keep him company.

That ancient tree, named "*Tobi-ume*" or literally "flying plum" still exists within the grounds of the shrine, and it is reputed to be the first plum tree to bloom each year.

There are many superstitions that surround *Umeboshi*.

- Bad luck will befall a person who attempts, but is not able to properly pickle *umeboshi*
- One must never eat *umeboshi* and *unagi* in the same meal
- Blindness will befall those who eat *umeboshi* late at night
- One who eats *umeboshi* for breakfast will survive unexpected disasters
- Never eat *umeboshi musubi* while fishing (local Hawaiian superstition)
- Stick an *umeboshi* in your navel to prevent motion sickness
- Spread some *umeboshi* paste on your temples to cure a headache

Hawaii-Fukuoka Sister State Relationship



Priests and *Miko* maidens from Dazaifu Tenmangu Fukuoka arrived in Honolulu on January 16 to perform *Kagura* at the Japanese Consulate and Washington Place in celebration of the 35th Anniversary of Fukuoka - Hawaii Sister State relationship.

In November 1979, the Japan-American Conference of Mayors and Chamber of Commerce Presidents held a meeting in Fukuoka City, Kyushu, Japan.

The Governor of Fukuoka, Hikaru Kamei, suggested a sister-state relationship between Hawaii and Fukuoka.

In September 1981, a Fukuoka delegation of 850 people came to Hawaii during the Aloha Week Festival.

On September 25, 1981, Governor George Ariyoshi of Hawaii and Governor Hikaru Kamei of Fukuoka signed the document establishing a sister-state relationship to promote goodwill and understanding between



Hawaii and Fukuoka Prefecture and for educational and cultural exchange.

The concept of sister cities was conceived after the Second World War to rebuild diplomatic relationships and reconcile citizens through cultural and educational exchanges.

The International Relations Specialist in Residence Program was created in Hawaii and Fukuoka which allowed a government employee from Fukuoka to work in the Governor's Office for one year.

Hawaii-Fukuoka Sister State Relationship

MAHALO

Seishiki Sanpai was performed on January 17 for Governor Hiroshi Ogawa of Fukuoka-ken, Prefectural officials and staff members. From the Prefectural Assembly: Chair Masayuki Nakao and Assemblyman Hisaya Tanaka, Chair Kensei Haraguchi of the Jiyu Minshuto Party, Chair Toshio Yoshimura of the Minshintō Party and other public servants.

Also in attendance were U.S. Consul General in Fukuoka Joy Sakurai, Chief Priest Nobuyoshi Nishitakatsuji of Dazaifu Tenmangu and CEOs from various businesses in Fukuoka.

Bryson Goda
Bob Harada
Craig Nishida
Diane Nishida
Gary Shinsato
Linda Shinsato



Kagura

Kagura is a sacred rite danced as an offering to the *kami*.

Presented at different moments of the agricultural cycle, mostly in the fall, the *kami* are invited to occupy the sacred area and are worshiped with performances of music, song and dance.



Tracing its history to 9th century Japan, it is considered one of the oldest continuously performed music traditions in the world. *Kagura* includes instrumental music, vocal music, and dance.



Kagura is written with the kanji characters 神楽 which means "music of the *kami*".

Kagura, whether it is performed in the sacred precincts of the Imperial Palace or in some small village shrine, always signifies a musical performance intended as an offering and an entertainment to the ancient *kami* of Japan.

Six *Miko* maidens and five priests from Dazaifu Tenmangu

performed at various venues in Honolulu in celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the Hawaii-Fukuoka Sister State. All costumes and accessories were flown in from Dazaifu.

Much mahalo to Rev. Masatoshi Shamoto and Akiko Sanai of the Hawaii Gagaku Kenkyukai, a community/University of Hawaii organization dedicated to the study and performance of *Gagaku* for use of their *Koto*, *Kakko* and *Gakudaiko*.



At the urging of the Honolulu Fukuoka Kenjinkai, a *Gobunrei* authorized for worship by Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka was brought to Hawaii on July 24, 1952.

The *Gobunrei* was hand-carried from Dazaifu to Yokohama by Chief Priest Nobusada Nishitakatsuji (father of Chief Priest Nobuyoshi Nishitakatsuji).

On July 17, 1952, the *Gobunrei* was transported to Hawaii by shrine President Yotaro Fujino and shrine officer Gisaku Fujishima on the President Cleveland.

Pictured from the right is: Rev Masa Takizawa, Rev and Mrs Nobuyoshi Nishitakatsuji at the recent Fukuoka-Hawaii Sister State festivities. Chief Priest Nobuyoshi Nishiakatsuji is the 39th generation descendant of Michizane Sugawara. Nishitakatsuji Guji will be joining us again for our Spring Thanksgiving Festival in April.



Illinois native Ashley Atkinson-Leon recently published a blog post about her visit to the shrine back in 2008.

With the help of a grant from Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, Ashley was fortunate enough to be able to visit Hawaii for further research on Shinto in the U.S.

Ashley shadowed Rev Takizawa for a day and was able to witness a Gokito private blessing in addition to other priestly duties.

<http://lewisnclark.com/blog/studying-shinto-in-hawaii/?preview=588a196a68c6f>

MAINTENANCE



Mahalo to Rudy Santiago for performing a corrosion analysis of the Main Hall stairs and parsonage walkway to discover the cause and extent of deterioration.

Concrete spalling and popouts caused by the corrosion of the reinforced bars embedded in the concrete, joint deficiencies and surface damages indicated significant distress and deterioration.

Areas identified as high priority will be addressed and repaired in the months ahead.

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 12 1 pm
Kanreki Group Blessing
2 pm
Yakudoshi Group Blessing
3 pm
Tsukinamisai & Setsubun

MARCH

- 5 3 pm
Tsukinamisai Service

- 10 & 12 10 am - 4 pm
Honolulu Festival

APRIL

- 2 3 pm
Tsukinamisai Service
- 9 3 pm
Spring Thanksgiving Festival