

# Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha

## Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

August 2016



### Kakigori - Shave Ice

Kakigori or shave ice is the most popular treat during the sweltering Japanese summers and here in Hawaii.

Kakigori, is ice that is shaved ultra-thin with a plane and topped with a sweet syrup.

This results in fluffy, airy ice that gently melts as you spoon it into your mouth.

In 27 BCE, the Roman Emperor Nero is said to have eaten snow from the mountains flavored with fruits and honey.

The history of kakigori in Japan goes back about 1,000 years to the Heian Period.

A dish made of finely shaved ice served with a sweet tree and flower syrup is recorded in "Makura no Soshi" (The Pillow Book) by Sei Shonagon, a lady of the Imperial court serving

Empress Teishi. This refreshing dessert was available only to aristocrats since ice was such a rare commodity in summer.

A custom that started around the Meiji period was the hanging of a colorful banner called a hyoki (ice flag) outside a store to announce the arrival of kakigori for the season.

The banner is white with a large red character for ice with blue waves and flying birds in the background.

Shave ice is now enjoyed globally. Here in the islands, Japanese plantation workers brought their traditional dessert with them, creating shave ice from large blocks of ice, using Japanese swords which were family heirlooms.

## MAHALO for your generous donations

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## Pokemon Go

Virtual creatures are taking over the shrine.

Since July 16, this usually peaceful location has turned into a Pokemon Go haven.

Hopefully, the exploratory nature of this game will provide a fun battleground and an experience of cultural relevancy for the players.

This is a religious institution, so hopefully, players will be respectful of the shrine and other visitors while on their quest to "Catch 'Em All"



## 20 year-old Mystery Solved

20 years ago, a local traveler saw a Chinowa ring at Heian Jingu in Kyoto and finally learned what it was about after seeing our Chinowa for People & Pets event in the Star Advertiser.



View Event Pics at:  
[www.flickr.com/kotohira-dazaifu](http://www.flickr.com/kotohira-dazaifu)



# Tanabata Star Festival

Tanabata was celebrated at the shrine on Sunday, July 3 along with the monthly Tsukinami-sai.

Many visitors wrote their wishes on Tanzaku strips of paper and hung them on the bamboo so they may one day achieve their wishes.

A legend from ancient China has it that two heavenly lovers, Hikoboshi and Orihime, is allowed to cross the Milky Way in the night sky only on July 7 of each year.

People began to pray to the stars in a ritual called "kikkoden" during early July so they may be as skilled in weaving, singing, and writing as Orihime. This tradition was imported to Japan during the 8th century, when it merged with an indigenous Japanese celebration of weaving and ancestral spirits. This merger is said to be the origins of the current Tanabata festival.



## Isoshima Ohana

The Kunosuke Isoshima clan visited the shrine for a private blessing on July 9.

Kunosuke Isoshima came to Hawaii in 1890 at age 23 from Suma, near Kobe and three years later opened K. Isoshima Shoten at 30 South King Street.

The popular store sold hats but also advertised Japanese dry goods. By 1905, Isoshima Shoten was so successful that he opened another store - The Japanese Bazaar on Fort Street across Our Lady of Peace Cathedral, which, like Isoshima Shoten, was an emporium of Japanese goods.

Isoshima Shoten prospered and eventually sought help from their relatives in Japan - the Tsukiyamas.

Seinosuke Tsukiyama, a graduate of Keio University arrived in Honolulu in 1911 to help at Isoshima Shoten. Seinosuke was the father of renown Japanese-American activist and attorney, Ted Tsukiyama.

Isoshima Shoten pioneered some early Aloha Shirts in the late 1930's with Japanese prints and patterns printed on Kabe crepe fabric. The shirts were made in a pullover style, with 3 coconut buttons, a small chest pocket and a large collar.

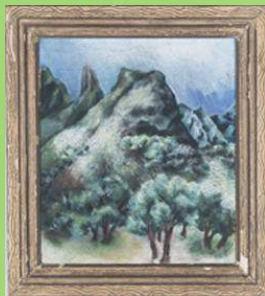
Born in 1899, Takeo was the first son of Kunosuke & Michi Isoshima.

Takeo eventually took over Isoshima Shoten and expanded the family business

by opening Isoshima Bazaar and Isoshima's Waikiki.

He went on to becoming a successful entrepreneur, philanthropist and patron of the arts - especially traditional Japanese performing arts.

Several paintings, including the two below, from the Isoshima's Isami Doi collection were donated to the State of Hawaii.



Takeo married Yoshie Umeda, who was born in 1909 in Kamakura and moved to Honolulu when she was 5 years old.

After giving birth to their fourth child, Yoshie returned to Japan to care for her ailing mother-in-law in Kobe, leaving her children with Takeo.

A graduate of St. Andrews Priory and the University of Hawaii, Yoshie was known as an accomplished cook. Women of all ages



Takeo (top left) pictured with Japanese Finance Minister Hisato Ichimada and daughter Tomoko. Pictured on the top right next to Takeo is Consul-General Masahide Kanayama

and backgrounds flocked to her popular cooking classes at the YWCA.

Over five decades ago, a group of about 60 women sought to establish an organization dedicated to helping Hawaii's elderly.

They called themselves the Japanese Women's Society, an organization that has grown to over 300 members.

Yoshie was one of the founding members and served on the Board for many decades.

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Yoshie is pictured on the bottom right. Sitting next to Yoshie is Alice Noda - first U.S. citizen president of the Japanese Women's Society of Hawaii. She is also the wife of the former State Senator Steere Noda and the mother of Lillian Yajima.

They initiated plans for and raised more than \$850,000 for Kuakini's geriatric care home - Hale Pulama Mau.

Takeo spent years spear heading and fundraising to build the Kaimuki Recreation Center.

Takeo and Yoshie were the pillars of the Japanese American community

and led the way in business and philanthropy - well into their 80s.

Behind the Central Pacific Bank in Kaimuki is the Isoshima Building built in 1977 on the site of the former residence of the Isoshima family.

Takeo passed away in 1985, followed by Yoshie in 2008. Takeo and Yoshie were blessed with 4 children, 9 grand-children and 11 great grand children.

The patriarch of the Isoshima Clan today is Takeo and Yoshie's son - Arthur, who resides in Kauai with his wife, endearingly known as Grandma Shar.

Ohana members gathered from the Mainland, Big Island, Kauai and Oahu to celebrate their family and heritage, connect with seldom seen family members, meet new ones and share the joys of a multi-generational gathering.

Bringing together family members whose paths have taken them to distant places is truly a special occasion.

A special blessing was performed to bridge the five generations of the Kunosuke Isoshima Ohana and to impart the Japanese traditions that will provide a source of identity, strengthen bonds and create lasting memories.



The Isoshima "mon" or family crest - as seen on their Tshirts - is the Maru ni Tachibana or Orange in a circle.

Mon or family crests indicates one's origin, lineage and social status from ancient times.

Tachibana is the family crest of such warrior families as the Tachibana, Ii, Nakai, Yakushiji, Nojiri, Yamasaki, Kuroda, Matsudaira, and Kuze. The official mon of the Nichiren sect of Buddhism is a tsuru crane. However, Nichiren's family mon was the Tachibana orange.

It is written that there was a legendary Tachibana tree in the inner courtyard of the ancient capital of Heiankyo (Kyoto) that bore an abundance of fruits. The belief that the Tachibana orange symbolized longevity, luck and status was a Taoist concept that was imported to Japan in the 6th century.

# CALENDAR

## AUGUST

- 6 1 pm  
**Education Blessing Prep**
- 7 10 am - 2 pm  
**Education Blessing**
- 9 am - 4 pm  
**Otaku Summer Festival**

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 Reservations accepted for  
**Shichigosan & Jusan Mairi**
- 4 3 pm  
**Tsukinamisai Monthly Service**
- 25 3 pm  
**Autumn Thanksgiving Festival**



Hatsumiya Mairi is an ancient tradition for those who have been blessed with the miracle of a child. It is a special ritual that allows the new parents to convey appreciation to the kami for the birth of their child and to express their wishes for the child to become good natured, kind hearted, true of spirit, respectful of all around and lead to their inner strengths to find their own path in life.

One of the oldest Ujiko (families that live near and support the activities of the shrine) is the Mansaku & Shige Kaizuka family. The fifth generation of the Kaizuka clan was blessed on July 23. Congratulations on your little bundle of joy!!