

Jr. YBA Happenings

Happy Summer! I hope you all are staying busy and enjoying the summer!

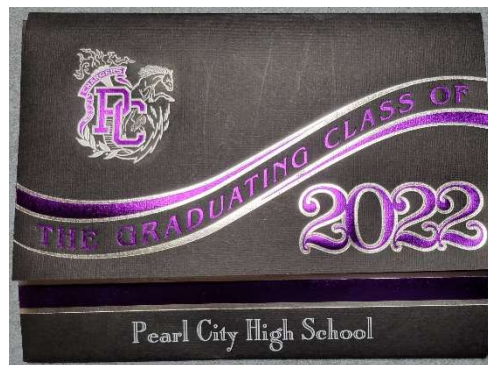
We sadly had to say good-bye to Danny Noia who moved to Connecticut with his family. Before the end of the school year, we had an outing at the zoo as a going away for Danny and his family. Danny was our United Secretary this past year and we will miss him a lot but we also want to send our best wishes to him as he embarks on a new adventure on the east coast.



L-R: Danny, Kana, Chad, Ty



Also going to the east coast, to Tufts University in Massachusetts, is our United President, Kana Suzuki (Pearl City Hongwanji). CONGRATULATIONS on your graduation from Pearl City High School! Kana has been a steadfast member of the Jr. YBA holding positions in both the United and Federation over the last few years. There was never a moment where she shied away from a challenge and has grown to be such an integral part of this group. We will surely miss her and we wish her the best as she steps into her next adventure in life.



We just returned from a fun weekend in Hilo for the 65th Jr. YBA State Convention. The Pokemon inspired theme, "Amida, I choose you!" had various interpretations which were reflected in the Essay, Oratorical, and Art Contests as everyone had their own take on the theme and applied it in their chosen medium. Congratulations to Kana who won first place for the Oratorical Contest and Ms. Jr. YBA and our United Treasurer, Chihiro Okawa (Aiea Hongwanji)

who won first place for the Essay Contest. Ty Wakahiro (Mililani Hongwanji), along with Kana and Chihiro, received the Outstanding Junior Award. This coveted award is chosen by the United advisors who felt that they really took ownership of the organization with enthusiasm and commitment. It is such a pleasure to see how they have grown to become wonderful leaders, encouraging and including others as much as possible.

During the convention the juniors elected the 2022-2023 Federation officers. Congratulations to:

President: Chihiro Okawa (United of Oahu)
Vice President: Kaylie Okuni (United of Maui)
Secretary: Emma Fujikawa (United of Honolulu)
Treasurer: Jay Yokoyama (United of Maui)

The Federation also developed a Jr. YBA Motto, “Entrust. Learn. Give Back.” and passed two resolutions aside from the Budget: Resolution for Recognition and Awareness for Gender Neutrality and Resolution for Inclusive Membership. As times are changing, we want to show our acceptance of all people, regardless of their race, background and gender. The Jr. YBA is a safe environment, one of support and inclusivity and our juniors feel very strongly about voicing this to ensure that everyone knows it’s ok to be who they are, without judgement or prejudice.

As we grow our United in the upcoming year, we want to acknowledge our fearless juniors who are taking on dual roles next year. Ty will hold the position of President and Secretary while Chihiro will hold the position of Vice President and Treasurer. Chihiro did an exceptional job as the Federation Vice President and the United Treasurer over the past year and we have come to rely on his quiet leadership while working to get things done. Ty joined us just a year ago and has already provided valuable input for activities and promoting Jr. YBA to increase membership. He and Chihiro both do a really nice job making sure everyone is included and heard.

Our United will be hosting the 66th Jr. YBA Convention taking place next year, Summer 2023. We are looking forward to making sure this convention is successful and fun! We also hope to get your continued support as we look forward to our new year!

Jr. YBA is open to all who are 7th grade to 15 months past high school graduation. If you are interested in joining us, please feel free to come to our next meeting on Sunday, July 3rd at 11:30am at Mililani Hongwanji. We will be planning some upcoming activities for the next year including helping at the Mililani & Aiea Bon Dances, Membership and Fundraising activities but most importantly next year’s state convention.

Upcoming dates:

Saturday, July 2 – Mō‘ili‘ili Summer Fest, time TBD
Sunday, July 3 – United meeting at Mililani 11:30am

Follow us on Instagram!

United of Oahu: @jrybaofoaahu

Hawaii Federation of Jr. YBAs: @hawaiifedjryba

Website: www.hawaiijryba.com

United of Oahu at Hilo Betsuin – can you see us?



From L-R: Ty, Kana, Chihiro

