



Honolulu Chapter 56 / www.ikebana-hawaii.org

Issue 138, Aug. 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AILYN LUM

Dear Ikebana Members and Friends,

As another wonderful Tanoshii Hawaii Keiki Summer Camp comes to a close, our hearts are filled with gratitude and hope for the future.

This year's final event introduced 79 children to the beautiful art of Ikebana. Under the thoughtful leadership of Caroline Abe, and with the helping hands of 11 dedicated Ikebana International volunteers, each child created a vibrant arrangement featuring sunny yellow chrysanthemums accented with brilliant magenta blossoms. Watching their careful concentration transform into proud smiles reminded us that Ikebana is about far more than arranging flowers.

Through each stem placed with intention, these young participants discovered creativity, patience, balance, and a deeper appreciation for nature—values that have been treasured in Japanese culture for generations.

Our motto, "**Friendship Through Flowers**," came alive as members shared their knowledge, encouraged young hands, and celebrated each child's unique artistic expression. It was a beautiful example of how traditions continue to flourish when they are shared with kindness and aloha.

Mahalo to Caroline Abe for spearheading this meaningful program and to every volunteer who generously gave their time and talent. Together, we didn't simply teach children how to arrange flowers—we planted seeds of appreciation that may continue to bloom for years to come. May we always remember that every blossom we share today has the potential to inspire tomorrow's generation.



Figure 1: Sogetsu* by Ailyn Lum

In a world where so much is hurried and digital, watching children slow down, observe each flower, and create with their own hands was a beautiful reminder that some traditions are timeless. If even one child leaves Tanoshii Hawaii Camp with a newfound appreciation for Ikebana and Japanese culture, then every volunteer's time was a gift well given.

With appreciation for your continued support,
Ailyn Lum

HIGASHI HONGWANJI COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT

KAREN KIRK



Figure 3: sample arrangements

Chapter 56 members participated in the July 10, 2026, Obon Festival at Higashi Hongwanji Temple by providing a free 'Ikebana Make and Take' to Bon Dance participants. This community service was in appreciation to the Temple for allowing the Chapter 56 Board to conduct some in-person meetings at their facility. Initially, the Board decided that a Temple Ikebana arrangement created by Karen Kirk would be donated. This arrangement included a large brown Anthurium, Australian Pine, and Italian Ruscus from Watanabe Floral. Lorna Kawahara donated Beauty Berry branches to complete the ikebana.



Figure 2: Karen's arrangement



Figure 4: Make and Take station

In a Serendipitous moment, Charmaine Yee-Hollison realized an opportunity to expose and promote our club to an interested public. She obtained 55 Flora Dec flower tube holders with stands, purchased Watanabe Flowers, and gathered Moa and Mickey Mouse branches to create simple ikebana.

Assisting her were Debra Lau-Shiroma, Joyce Nakamura, Caroline Abe, Ailyn Lum, and Karen Kirk. Additionally, Caroline provided about 20 camera film cases filled with oasis and greenery and flowers.



Figure 5: busy station



Figure 6: happy "customer"

Joyce Nakamura created a stunning table arrangement for our booth which was eventually gifted to the Temple secretary. New Board member Dr. Nicolette Parr encouraged her husband Aaron to create a new banner for our Chapter in a manner of days. It was proudly hung in front of our table booth. Nicholette also created Chapter 56 flyers with a QR code accessing our web site. The Parr's graciously donated their work and products to the club.

Future ikebanists ranging from 20 months to much older enjoyed the thrill of creating. President Ailyn Lum solicited participants all the while explaining our mission of Friendship through Flowers.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

CAROLINE ABE

Tanoshii Hawaii 2026 Ikebana session was held on Friday, July 24 at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii fifth floor ballroom from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. There were 67 students and 12 counselors for a total of 79 participants. Ikebana International chapter 56 had 11 members volunteer for this event.

Tanoshii Hawaii is a unique program presented by JCCH for children aged 8 thru 13 years old. This is a week-long summer day camp program focusing on aspects of Japanese culture using a hands-on approach. It includes songs, games, dance, taiko drumming, foods, flower arranging and field trips encouraging an appreciation of nature.

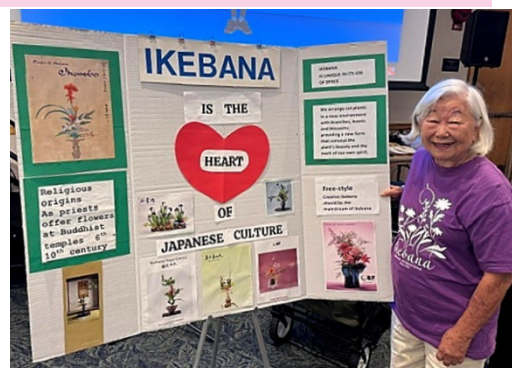


Figure 7: Caroline



Figure 8: A happy volunteer

Ikebana International presented a segment composed of safe use of cutting equipment so students could safely cut flower stems and branches to create an Ikebana arrangement to take home, followed by a short history of Ikebana, then a lesson on how to get started. The students worked carefully cutting branches then inserting them into oasis as adult helpers circulated among tables providing extra guidance and encouragement. At the end of the session the students were really satisfied with their arrangements. For most of the students this was their

first experience of creating a work of flower art and they were impressed by their own creativity.

The materials used were branches of Mickey Mouse, Sword fern, Podocarpus, and Draecena leaves. The flowers used were yellow Fuji Mums, red and purple miniature carnations, purple and white pom-pom mums.



Figure 9: Participant's arrangement

Thank you to all the volunteers!! Gale Kobayashi, Aileen Kaneshiro, Deborah Lau-Shiroma, Ailyn Lum and grandson, Gwen Nagata, Joyce Nakamura, Grace Sekimitsu, Jennifer Shintani. Dawn Sur, Valerie Wong and Charmaine Yee-Hollison. The volunteers arrived at 7:30 a.m. to cut, sort and place branches and flowers at each vase. They also handed out garden shears by age group as some were a bit larger. At the end of the session all helped with cleaning up the area. Without volunteers this event would have been quite chaotic due to the large number of participants. Again, a big MAHALO!



Figure 10: Volunteers

PROGRAMS

PAT KUBO

Aloha everyone! Your program committee is hard at work planning luncheons and programs for our Chapter. Here is a tentative schedule, so that you can keep a look out for our announcements and flyers. Please let me know if you have any questions.

- August 9 – Japanese Food Workshop at Manoa Library.
- September 12 – Garden Tour and Lunch in Kahaluu – Flyer will be sent out soon.
- November 15 – Luncheon at Natsunoya – Theme “The Seven Lucky Gods”

JAPAN WIZARD 2.0 (6)

SUSAN HIRATE

It's Bon Dance Season!

I. I. foodies are out there in search of their favorite bon dance snacks! Thank you to everyone who participated in my informal unscientific survey about what's good to eat at a bon dance.

Approximately 30 of you told me what you like to eat, and the list of choices includes some unusual items, like the “flying saucer.” According to Joyce Kaneshiro, it's very popular on Kauai. Please ask her if you are curious about it. One person listed “*wataame*,” (cotton candy), which may be more common in Japan. Another interesting snack mentioned is the shrimp dog, which you can find at the Wahiawa Hongwanji.



There were also some nostalgic items, like the KC waffle dog and *teriyaki* on a stick. Other items that had one or two votes are: *saimin*, *andagi* dog, *okonomiyaki*, (teri spam) *musubi*, and *takoyaki*.

In third place with seven votes is shave ice; *yakisoba* is second with eight votes, and the number one choice is *ANDAGI*, with 20 votes! Hot, fresh, crispy on the outside and tender inside—who can resist!

Bon dance season lasts through September, so you still have plenty of opportunities to enjoy the festivities and the food. Here is a link to a guide to bon dance food in the coming months.

<https://www.honolulumagazine.com/2026-oahu-bon-dance-food-2/>

Enjoy!



Figure 11: Artwork courtesy of <https://en.ac-illust.com/>

SHATEI'S CORNER

CHARMAINE YEE-HOLLISON



Figure 12: Ethan

Hello Everyone

Today we will 'visit' a garden in Jackson, Michigan belonging to I.I. member, Renee' Marks. Her sister is Karen Kirk who visits this lovely seven-acre garden and woodland at least once a year. During the spring, you will find beautiful Poppies, Irises, Coral Bells, Clematis, Dogwood, Lilacs, Rhododendron, Peonies, and especially 3 feet high Allium!

Here is a sample of these stunning tall beauties. As reference, Renee's grandson, Ethan is 3'8"! Allium is originally from Asia and belongs to the Onion family. The flowers grow best in full sun, loamy soil, with minimal moisture. A cut Allium will last about 7 days.

Allium stems are best to show in either a nageire or moribana container. If the stems are wavy, even better. It is often combined



Figure 14: Three deer

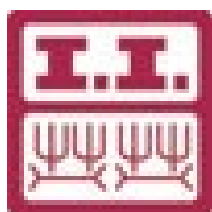
with softer flowers. To condition the Allium for arrangement, it is recommended to cut the stems under water then rub salt on the cut end of the stem.

By the way, because the Allium is an Onion, it is known to keep rabbits and deer away but it does not stop the 'triplet' fawns who visit the garden!



Figure 13: Arrangement with allium

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL LOGO



In response to a query about the meaning of the I.I. logo, I received the following (edited): This logo was designed by Ms. Fay Kramer, First I.I. President, and Ms. Gyokushi Yamaguchi, a calligrapher. The upper part of the picture means 4 grasses as *Koukotsu* character [Ed: ancient oracle bone script], which is one of the old Chinese characters. The upper part of the kanji 「草」 "grass" is made from this design. We looked into the bottom portion, but we couldn't figure out what it meant. (Ed: possibly 2 vases?) We are so glad to hear that you are interested in our Logo.

Friendship through Flowers,
Hiroko Otsuka
Second Vice-President
Ikebana International



NEWSLETTER

BARBARA TINIUS

Nicolette Parr will edit the October and December newsletters. As always, please provide your input about a week before the 1st to give us time to compile, edit and layout.

PHOTO GALLERY



Figure 17: Ohara Free Expression by Susan Hirate



Figure 16: Ohara Three Variety Chrysanthemum, Traditional Method by Grace Sekimitsu



Figure 15: Ikenobo Tatehana with bent Shin by Barbara Tinius



Figure 20: Sogetsu miniatures by Amanda Cottis



Figure 22: Sogetsu miniatures by Sue Shimabukuro



Figure 19: Sogetsu bento lunch
by Yukari Sato



Figure 18: Sogetsu miniatures by Malina Kaulukukui



Figure 21: Sogetsu miniature by Earl Shimabukuro

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PHOTO GALLERY CONTINUED



Figure 24: Sogetsu Tanabata by Dawn Sur Figure 23: Sogetsu* by Aileen Kaneshiro Figure 25: Sogetsu* by Geri Takata

*" Disassembling and rearranging" = a lesson where the appearance of the material has been changed

Figure 26: (above) Sogetsu "White is a Color" by Debra Lau Shiroma