



Greetings to all my fellow Ikebanists,

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our immediate past president, Patricia Kubo, for placing her trust and confidence in me to help guide and lead our Ikebana International Chapter #56. I am truly humbled to accept this role and will do my very best to help make our chapter inspiring, evolving, educational, and filled with friendship and aloha.

My sincerest appreciation also goes to our outgoing board members and committee chairs, who, over the past two years, dedicated countless hours of their time and talents through both in-person and Zoom meetings. Their efforts brought together the memorable luncheons, enriching programs, and meaningful community events that we all enjoyed and cherished.

This year, our in-person board meetings will be held at Higashi Hongwanji in Liliha, while we will also continue to gather via Zoom. Meetings are scheduled for the first Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m. and will last approximately one hour.

We all treasure the beauty, creativity, and fellowship that our chapter brings into our lives. To preserve and nurture this organization for future generations, each of us must contribute in some way — through ideas, time, encouragement, support, or participation. I kindly ask you to give thoughtful consideration to serving in the positions of Historian, Public Relations, and Ways and Means. As in Ikebana itself, many hands arranging together can create something far more beautiful than any one person alone.

In 2017, after the passing of my beloved mother, I came across an advertisement in the Windward MidWeek newspaper for an Ikebana class at Windward Community College. In that moment, I knew it would become a beautiful tribute to my mother, who had a green thumb and a deep love for flowers. I have since had the great fortune of studying under the tutelage of Sensei Karen Kirk, as well as receiving the guidance and encouragement of Earl Shimabukuro.

During the COVID years, although we could no longer meet on campus, our love for Ikebana and for one another inspired the creation of Zoom classes so we could continue arranging and learning together — a tradition that continues to this day. That enduring commitment speaks volumes about our wonderful sensei and the joy and friendship shared among our classmates.

Ikebana International continues to foster new friendships and joyful experiences, both old and new, through the beauty of flowers. We are especially grateful to Bishop Inoue of Higashi Hongwanji for his kindness and generosity in welcoming our chapter to participate in the temple's Bon Dance on July 10 and 11. We will have a table where we can display arrangements and introduce our chapter to the public. We warmly encourage all members to come and participate, with Charmaine Yee-Hollison leading our chapter in the bon dancing festivities.

Together, we begin a new chapter. Let us welcome fresh ideas, renewed energy, and one another as we continue to help our chapter bloom and thrive.

Friendship Through Flowers,

Ailyn



Figure 1: part of exhibit from May luncheon

PROGRAMS

CHARMAINE YEE-HOLLISON

Save the date: lunch at Natsunoya, Sunday November 15, 11 am

MEMBERSHIP

CAROL MURAKAMI

Still waiting for a few more renewals to come in. Renewals are due by June 1. If you haven't paid yet, please contact Carol Murakami to let her know it's on its way...

WAYS & MEANS

DAVD LAEHA

Ikebana International's vase sale was held on May 9, 2026, at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. It was a success with over \$900 raised. Our storage unit is now cleared of all vases!

Mahalo for the dedication and tireless help of the following I.I. members who helped with the sale: Sue Shimabukuro, Val Wong, Caroline Abe, Dawn Sur, Gay Satsuma, Charmaine Yee-Hollison, Karen Kirk, Carol Murakami and Patricia Kubo. They showed up early and worked to unpack vases, talked to customers, and wrapped/sold vases. Mahalo to our I.I. Members, like Crystal Zhou, who stopped by to chat and purchase vases.

The price of the vases was lowered at the end of the sale and the vases that were left were offered to those who had volunteered or donated to JCCH or other charities.

NEWSLETTER

BARBARA TINIUS

Welcome to Nicolette Parr, who has volunteered to help! We should be able to go back to publishing every other month now! Tentatively, I will do August and Nicolette will pick up Oct and December. As always, please provide your input about a week before the 1st to give us time to compile, edit and layout.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CAROLINE ABE

On March 5th at Mililani Uka school Japanese club a demonstration and hands-on activity was conducted for 20 students from grades three thru five. This was their last meeting for the third quarter, and the theme was "Girls' Day." The demonstrator was Caroline Abe, assisted by Sue Shimabukuro and Charmaine Yee-Hollison. The materials used were a tofu container painted green. The flowers used were premium pink carnations, pink miniature carnations, and red tinted edged carnations. The greens used were mickey mouse, podocarpus, and ferns.

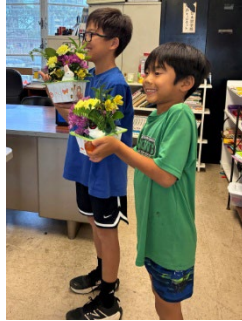
The students were attentive as Caroline talked about the safe handling of garden sheers and stressed the teacher's poster: Always Be careful. This was followed by a short history of Ikebana, then the demonstration.

The students worked quietly and diligently as they created their own Ikebana arrangement to take home. They were full of smiles at what they accomplished.



On March 31 at Moiliili Community Center after school program a demonstration and hands-on activity was conducted for 13 students from grades two through five. Caroline Abe was assisted by Grace Kam. The theme was Easter and the students were given white tofu containers and colorful stickers of various types to decorate their containers, which had half a block of oasis and an empty spot for green shredded paper resembling grass for the rest of the space. The flowers used were alstromeria, small chrysanthemum and pompom. The greens used were mickey mouse, podocarpus, and ferns. Caroline began with a short talk on safe use of garden sheers and the need to be careful as the sheers are sharp and pointed. Followed by a short talk about the history of Ikebana. Then the demonstration was fast as only half the container was used, then the children worked quietly. When they completed the flower portion, they were given the shredded paper to fill the empty spot. They had a choice of a small chick or rabbit to place on the grass with a small multi-colored ball that resembled a colored egg. The students were really happy with their arrangements.

Later the Moiliili coordinator sent thank you letters from each participant thanking us for coming and teaching them how to create an Ikebana arrangement. They also want us to come again next year.



Please let Caroline Abe know if you can help with the Tanoshii program at JCCH on July 24.

ORIGAMI DOLLAR BILL WORKSHOP

KAREN KIRK



Nine Chapter 56 members met at the Kaimuki Public Library on Sunday April 19, 2026, to complete a mission. Their purpose was to learn how to make a graduation money lei. Instructor Carol Murakami with assistance from Pat Kubo patiently taught her frustrated students how to successfully fold in various directions. Carol taught the group how to make a heart, an owl, and an accordion-fold flower. Much humor evolved through their struggles, and all rejoiced in the triumphant results. This challenging learning experience was filled with laughter and friendship through flowers.



HANAMI 2026 MAY LUNCHEON

KAREN KIRK

Honolulu Chapter 56 held its annual spring general membership meeting luncheon on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 3660 on the Rise in Honolulu. This event included the installation of new Board and Committee members. Outgoing President Patricia Kubo commended her 2024-2026 team for their commitment and dedication. They were presented with Ikebana International Honolulu Chapter 56 ink pens and a deep pink rose. Lisa Lee conducted the installation of the 2026-2028 Board and Committee members. Many members will continue to serve in the same or different positions including incoming President Ailyn Lum.



Fifty-two members and guests had the opportunity to purchase ceramic vases created by Sensei Earl Shimabukuro, and to find treasures and baked goods from the Program Committee General Store. Nine Ikebana artists participated in an Ikebana game to the delight of all. The three teams were provided with donated kenzans and a vase. Each group used: Pussy Willow branches, Italian Ruskus, pastel green Viburnum, pink Lisianthus, blue Hybrid Delphinium to create freestyle arrangements. The teams consisted of: Ikenobo – Gale Kobayashi, Gay Satsuma, and Joan Sugahara; Ohara – Gwen Nagata, Joyce Nakamura, and Audrey Tanaka; Sogetsu – Carol Murakami, Dawn Sur, and Soo Boo Tan.



Seven beautiful spring centerpieces adorning the dining tables were created by: Soo Boo Tan, Grace Kam, Marsha Curnyn, Gwen Nagata, Dawn Sur, Caroline Abe, and Joyce Kaneshiro. Charmaine Yee-Hollison, Gale Kobayashi, and Lucille Lew created a display entitled Six Japanese Maidens surrounding a larger Japanese Maiden created with flowers.

SHATEI'S CORNER

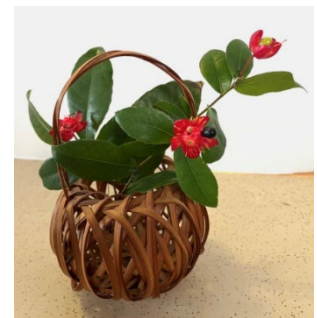
CHARMAINE YEE-HOLLISON

Hello there

I hope to share with you information about Ikebana materials, history and share pictures of gardens and flowers far and near.

Today I wanted to start with something simple that we are able to use in our Ikebana called Mickey Mouse plant or *Ochna serrulata* from South Africa. The bush is easy to grow and can sometimes overtake your yard!

The leaves are shiny green and there are red flowers with black looking berries like Mickey's nose! The branches are very pliable, and they can be used for the beginner student or advanced teacher.



Attached is picture of my arrangement using Mickey Mouse flowers only. I pinched off all the leaves and added irises for contrast. The appearance has changed from the original plant (which is one of the Sogetsu lessons). Notice the lines from the branches too. I hope you like it.

In the future I am hoping to collect pictures from gardens and yards so if you are traveling or see something at home that is interesting, please send me a picture. Maybe we can feature it in a future newsletter. Aloha! Char

SHO TO HANA – CALLIGRAPHY AND FLOWERS



Figure 4: arrangement by Viva Inouye

Viva Inouye and several of her students provided Toin Misho arrangements to grace a three-day exhibit of *shodo* (calligraphy) and *sumi-e* (ink brush paintings) that were on display for three brief days in early May at the Downtown Art Center on Nu`uanu in Chinatown. In addition to Viva's ikebana, 1156 members Joyce Nakamura displayed a *sumie* horse and Elaine Kunimura the calligraphy character for ephemeral (夢 - *hakanai*).



Figure 2: sumie by Joyce Nakamura



Figure 3: arrangement and shodo by Elaine Kunimura



Figure 5: clockwise from left - Emi Troeger, Annette Platt, Holly Sullivan, Elaine Kunimura, Kay Wong, & Vera Fujimoto



What's in a name?

One of my pet peeves while teaching Japanese at UH-Manoa was when a student would send me an email beginning with "Hey sensei!" I'll explain later.

先生

In Japanese, various suffixes can be attached to one's name, depending on the relationship between two people. The most common suffix is -san, as in Yamada san, Yamada Michiko san, Yamada Kazuo san, etc. It can be replaced with -chan, if you feel close to that person, as in Michiko chan or with -kun (usually for males), as in Kazuo kun. Both are also commonly attached to children's names.

Sometimes no suffix is used, but only between close friends or within the family. A parent can call their child Michiko, and an older sibling can call his/her younger sibling Michiko, but usually not the other way around.

Professional titles replace -san. For example, Yamada sensei, Yamada kyojuu (Professor Yamada), Yamada sooryooji (Consul General Yamada). What's important to remember is that the title comes AFTER the name, not before.

In the Ohara School the Headmaster is supposed to be addressed as "Oiemoto" or "Iemoto," rather than "sensei." In the Ikenobo School, the headmaster designate is addressed as Senko-sama.

The rules on how to address and/or refer to people in Japanese are very complicated. All of the above are very basic rules that merely scratch the surface.

Returning to my pet peeve, I knew that the student was just being friendly, but my name is not "Hey."

PHOTO GALLERY



Figure 6: from left to right – Sogetsu by Dawn Sur (fresh & dried), Aileen Kaneshiro and Sue Shimabukuro (emphasizing the vase); Ikenobo Shoka Shofutai by Barbara Tinius



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PHOTO GALLERY



Figure 9: Sogetsu by Earl Shimabukuro

Figure 7: Sogetsu above by Geri Takata



Figure 8: Sogetsu by Shannon Teves