

What We Expect from the Sister-City Relationship



ちがさき市とホノルル市・郡との姉妹都市提携に期待すること



“Facilitate Citizen-Driven Activities”

たぶんや しみん こうりゅうかつどう しえん
多分野における市民の交流活動を支援する

The City will play a leading role in facilitating various citizen-driven activities by maintaining a close relationship with the Honolulu municipality. It will support cultural, educational, sports and many other kinds of exchanges. The sister-city relationship is also expected to provide opportunities for the business people of the two cities to develop partnerships. In addition, the City believes the relationship will help children foster international perspectives. Among plans for fiscal 2015 are: to send people to events in Honolulu; to exhibit and sell the specialties of Honolulu at Chigasaki events; to host a hula festival; and to provide the younger generation with opportunities to learn about the sister city; as well as several events which the City will commission a Honolulu City and County exchange committee to carry out.



Keepsake presented by Honolulu

“Incentivize Business”

けいざいこうりゅう そくしん お
経済交流の促進に向けて

The Chigasaki Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) set up an economic exchange committee last September to launch various projects in which they will hold seminars to exchange information and examine advanced case-studies of business practices from both Chigasaki and Honolulu.



Chamber of Commerce sister-signing

The CCI also plans to dispatch a delegation to events in Honolulu, and to invite their Honolulu counterparts to similar events in Chigasaki.

In the annual Aloha Market, which has been held since 2004, the committee plans to market local products and food as well as goods produced in Honolulu City and County. In addition, the Committee will support business operators who intend to market their technology in the sister city. Moreover, it will make efforts to support business operators' can-do spirits in cases of importing Hawaiian goods, widening sales channels in Honolulu and matching for joint business.

A staff member said that the committee can help promote economic development by incentivizing business operators to make use of its connection with JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) and so on.

“Deepen Relationships”

たいへいよう はさ きんじょつ あ ぶか
太平洋を挟んだ近所付き合いを深める

According to the chief of the secretariat of the Tourist Association of Chigasaki, the city is well known nationwide because of several famous people who are native to Chigasaki, but there are few tourist spots that are worthy of note within the city. Rather, visitors are drawn to Chigasaki's comfortable surroundings, with its beach in the south, the mountains in the north, as well as moderate weather throughout the year.

So, the association is always considering how to attract as many people as possible. The association plans to exploit the sister-city affiliation by using Honolulu City and County as a unique selling point in their various marketing campaigns to promote Chigasaki not only to potential visitors to the city but also to its residents. If you think about it, it's the experiences we have meeting local people while traveling that mostly affect our memories of a trip.

In the near future, the sister-city relationship is expected to activate an exchange of people in various fields and an increase in visitors from abroad. The chief believes that this will create a need to introduce signs written in multiple languages, including English, Chinese and Korean, in and around the city.



Eboshimaro will attend the Honolulu Festival

“Cooperate for our Mutual Benefit”

ごけい めざ きょうちよう
互惠を目指して協調を



I hope that the following proposals will be realized in the future.

1. Dedication to Honolulu Hula at Hamaori-sai Festival

The hula originally seems to have been performed at religious ceremonies when the aborigines in Hawaii prayed to their gods. If Honolulu's Hula could be performed at Chigasaki's Hamaori-sai Festival, which is also a traditional religious festival, this event would gain worldwide fame.

2. Display of Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka's Memorabilia

I propose to display the memorabilia of Astronaut Ellison Onizuka at the Shonan Nagisa Office. Mr. Onizuka was a Japanese American astronaut who was born in Hawaii. He was the first Asian American to reach space, but died at the age of 39 on his second space flight due to the Space Shuttle *Challenger* disaster. Chigasaki calls itself a “Space Town” as it has turned out two astronauts, Mr. Takeo Doi and Mr. Soichi Noguchi. The widow of Mr. Onizuka serves as a staff member at a US office of JAXA (the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), taking care of the Japanese astronauts. Mr. Yoshinori Maekawa, who is the Vice Chairman of the Chigasaki Chamber of Commerce and Industry, suggested at the Welcome Reception for Honolulu mayor Kirk Caldwell that we could cooperate with each other in the field of “Space”.

3. Exchange of Students

In Hawaii, there is a famous school called “Punahou School”. The school is the largest independent school in the United States, has a rich history, teaches children from kindergarten to senior high school, and has many notable alumni such as US President Barack Obama. Punahou School also accepts foreign students into its “Wo International Center”. My proposal is to send students from Chigasaki to schools in Honolulu and to accept students from Honolulu at schools in Chigasaki.

4. Cooperation on Seashore Preservation Measures

Chigasaki is now suffering from seashore erosion. To preserve its beautiful seashore is not only an urgent issue for Chigasaki but also for Honolulu. We need to establish long-term measures to combat the damaging effects of further rises of sea level caused by future global warming, too. In Honolulu, the City has executed several disaster prevention plans, such as the establishment of a “Tsunami Evacuation Zone” and so forth. Accordingly, how about setting up a “Joint Exchange Committee” on this issue?

Contribution by Mikio Noguchi, Chigasaki citizen

Editor's Note

We thank Mr. Noguchi for his thought-provoking proposals. In combination, one could imagine setting up a shared scholarship scheme, perhaps named after the astronaut Ellison Onizuka, offering grants to Chigasaki students who are interested in going to Honolulu (and vice versa) to study about one of the interests that our two cities share, such as space development, seashore protection, even the preservation and promotion of local traditions and customs.

Extraordinary Ambassador

ちがさきししまいとしこうりゅうとくめいたいし
 茅ヶ崎市姉妹都市交流特命大使に



Rika Hirata

The City has appointed Rika Hirata as an Extraordinary Ambassador of Chigasaki for Sister-City Exchange in order to promote the relationship with the City and County of Honolulu. Her remit is: to make proposals for developing the sister-city relationship, and act as a liaison among the persons concerned; to actively pursue a publicity campaign to highlight the positives of the relationship through her various public roles; and to attend meetings and events in her capacity as an ambassador. She currently serves as the president of the United Japanese Society of Hawaii (UJSH), as a director of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce (HJCC), and also as a director of The Hawaii Japanese School.

Ms. Hirata says, "I am very proud to be appointed as the extraordinary ambassador by Mayor Hattori. Honolulu, where I am living now, and Chigasaki, in which I was born and bred, and my family live, are very important cities to me. I would like us to work together so that exchange activities in such fields as education, culture, sports and commerce, involving all the citizens of the two cities, start and spread under a new type of sister-city relationship. I look forward to seeing you in Honolulu."

"Widen Cultural Exchanges"

ぶんきょうだいがくせい こうりゅう
 文教大学生とハワイとの交流

A group of students from Bunkyo University attended the Honolulu Festival for the first time last year as volunteers (and will attend again this year), with the specific goal of promoting cultural exchange between Japan and Hawaii. The festival itself has the broader mission of *promoting understanding, economic cooperation and ethnic harmony between the people of Hawaii and the Pacific Rim region*, and is held on March 6 to 8 every year. The students attend seminars on tourism at the Faculty of International Studies run by Professor Kazumi Yamaguchi. Through the volunteer activity, they can feel different cultures in their bones and what the differences are between Japanese hospitality and the Hawaiian Aloha spirit. Volunteering abroad gives students treasurable experiences and encourages deeper mutual understanding and respect.

Seven years ago, the university broadened their curriculum to include overseas training, arranging for students to study resort management in Hawaii. In the instruction course, students take lessons about hotels and wedding events as well as Hawaiian culture. In addition, the Faculty exchanged memorandums with the Faculty of Travel Industry Management of the University of Hawaii at *Mānoa* last year to promote academic relationships. The Bunkyo University students also join in the annual International Hula Festival held in Chigasaki in September as volunteer staff. They said they would like to revitalize their activities to exchange with Honolulu in order to meet citizens' expectations of their role as a cultural bridge between Chigasaki and Hawaii.

Contribution by Mio Nagao, Ryo Kato
 The Faculty of International Study at Bunkyo University

Sightseeing & Friendship Ambassador

かんこうしんぜんたいし
 ちがさき観光親善大使



Angela Maki Vernon

"I am really delighted with the realization of the sister-city relationship between Chigasaki and Honolulu City and County, which makes me feel as if a glittering big rainbow connects the two cities tightly."



"I hope Japanese people learn the 'Aloha Spirit' and Hawaiians learn fine Japanese culture and customs. As a sightseeing and friendship ambassador for the City, I will keep trying hard to let many people know wonderful Chigasaki."

"Nurture Friendship for Future

Coexistence" ゆうこうかんけい みらい
 友好関係を未来へ

Now that the sister-city relationship has been established, it is quite natural that we should interview Jun Usami, a representative of the Chigasaki Surfing Association (CSA), about his vision of the future.

Prior to the sister-city affiliation, a friendship agreement between the Hawaii Surfing Association (HSA) and the CSA was officially signed on June 2, 2014. Both associations had kept in touch with each other for a long time previously and, he says, the sister-city affiliation has enabled the relationship to acquire its backbone. The CSA has been supporting surfing contests such as the Chigasaki Mayor's Cup Surfing Contest and the regional preliminary competition in Chigasaki for the All Japan Surfing Championship. From now on, he is going to keep in close contact with the HSA, hoping that both Hawaiian and Japanese surfers, especially pupils and high school students, will promote the exchange. Today, we already have the Honolulu Mayor's Cup Award for the elementary class in the Chigasaki Mayor's Cup Surfing Contest as well as the Chigasaki Mayor's Cup Award for the youngest class in the contest held by the HSA at Waikiki's Queen's Beach. He has a vision that Japanese children will one day participate in the Queen's contest and experience the wonderful waves in Hawaii and, conversely, he will invite Hawaiian children to participate in the Chigasaki Mayor's Cup Surfing Contest and offer them a joint training camp here.

Mr. Usami served as an international judge and officer in the Association of Surfing Professionals for twenty years. His grass-roots activities resulted in the interchange between the HSA and CSA, which younger generations will carry on and promote.

Here is part of the friendship agreement between the HSA and CSA.

The objective of the Agreement is to achieve the coexistence of humans and nature through surf and beach culture. Parties also aim for the next generation to inherit this friendship so as to actualize bilateral prosperity, regional development and human happiness.

Based on the spirit of the Agreement, Parties shall enhance exchange in the fields of sports, culture, education, personal training, environmental conservation, and other mutually agreed upon matters.

Honolulu and its Japanese Sisters - Exchange Activities

せんこうとし こうりゅうかつどう
 先行都市の交流活動

Several Japanese cities have already established sister-city relationships with Honolulu, each on the basis of shared historical events or common racial backgrounds. By contrast, Chigasaki has reached this destination by following the path of cultural similarities, helped considerably by the activities of its citizens.

① **Hiroshima** (Relationship established in 1959): A large number of people from Hiroshima had emigrated there in the late 1800s to work in the sugar industry; so many local families are descended from those workers.

(Exchange activities) ●The mayor, councilors, business people and students visit Honolulu and vice versa. ●The Hiroshima Chamber of Commerce and Industry has relationships with one of Honolulu's business organizations. ●Honolulu mayor attended the Hiroshima Peace Memorial in 2011 and 2014.

② **Naha** (1961): Naha had also maintained its close relationship with Honolulu through Okinawan emigrants since the prewar era. (Exchange activities) ●Cultural and academic exchanges have been held. ●Residents of each city take part in the Okinawan Festival and Honolulu Festival in Honolulu, and the Naha Festival in Naha.

③ **Uwajima** (2004): The training ship of an Uwajima fishery high school and a US submarine collided off Hawaii in 2001, killing nine people aboard the ship. A month later, Honolulu mayor suggested establishing the relationship. (Exchange activities) ●The Uwajima Hawaiian Festival has taken place annually in Honolulu since 2011.

④ **Nagaoka** (2012): Admiral Yamamoto, who commanded the attack on Pearl Harbor, was born in Nagaoka, and allied forces conducted air raids on the city. (Exchange activities) ●Students visit Honolulu to join local students to learn about the attack on Pearl Harbor, World War II and the history of Hawaii. ●Nagaoka fireworks are set off at the Honolulu Festival.

