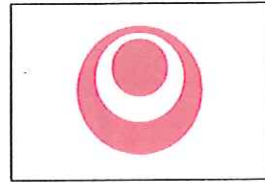




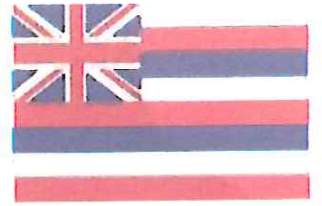
**Brazil**



**Bolivia**



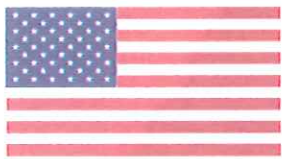
**Okinawa**



**Hawaii**



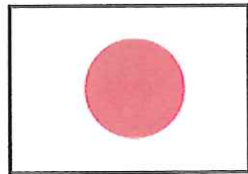
**Tomigusuku**



**U.S.A**



**New Caledonia**



**Japan**



**Peru**

**私たちもトミグスクンチュ**

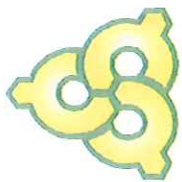
**- We are Tomigusukunchu -**

**- 『Tomigusuku Immigration History』 Local Reports Exhibition -**

**2011**

**Tomigusuku city**

**Okinawa**



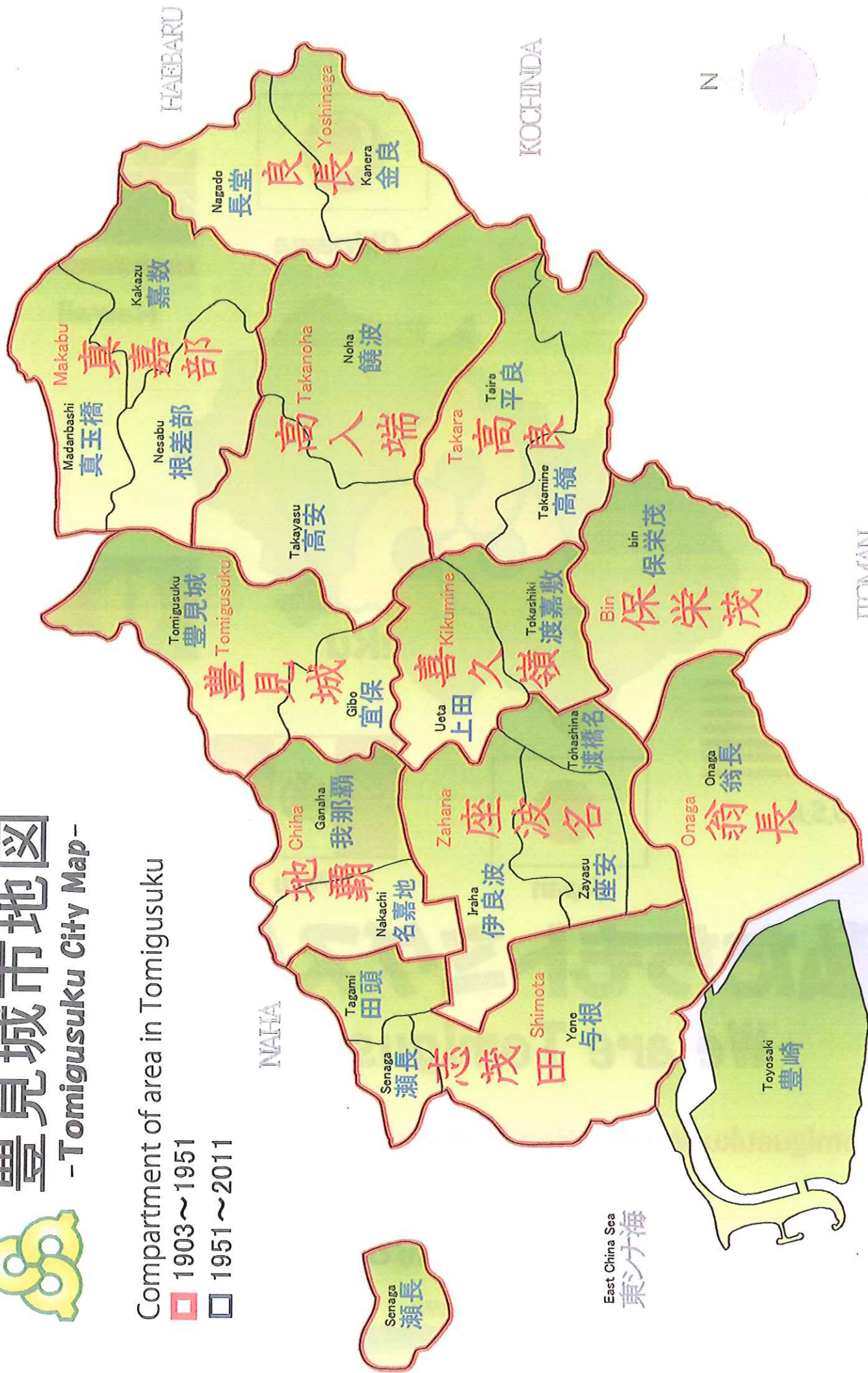
# 豊見城市地図

## -Tomigusuku City Map-

Compartment of area in Tomigusuku

◻ 1903~1951

◻ 1951~2011



HAEBARU

KOCHINDA

NAIJA

東シナ海  
East China Sea



## Federative Republic of Brazil and the City of São Paulo

Brazil, officially known as the Federative Republic of Brazil, is approximately 23 times the land area of Japan and is the fifth largest country in the world. People from various national backgrounds have come to live in Brazil, coexisting with the diverse cultures from all four corners of the world. The country is famous for football or soccer, the samba, the Rio Carnival and coffee, among other things.

Its capital city is Brasilia, and the language spoken by the country's population of approximately 194 million citizens is Portuguese (in comparison, the population of Japan is 127 million; both figures from 2008).

The largest overseas community of Japanese-descent exists in Brazil and at present, approximately 1.5 million citizens of Japanese ancestry live there. One million of these emigrants reside in São Paulo, known as the largest modern city in South America.

An economic and cultural center, the great metropolis of São Paulo is located about 800 meters above sea level, with towering office buildings of international corporate enterprises from various countries, and streets that are lined with movie theaters and numerous art and history museums. Asia Town (former Japan Town), known as *Liberdade*, meaning freedom, is also located in the city, with many shops and businesses operated by members of the Nikkei (Japanese-descent) community.

In 2008, exactly one hundred years since the first Japanese emigrants arrived by sea to Brazil, various events were held throughout the country. Approximately 600 members of the Brazil Okinawa Kenjinkai participated at the Carnival held in São Paulo. With their theme of "centennial celebration of Japanese immigration to Brazil; Shurei-no Kuni Okinawa (Land of Propriety)," the members introduced various aspects of the Okinawan culture, including displays of the Shureimon Gate at Shurijo Castle and giant Shisa, Miruku, the god of prosperity, Eisa, Karate, Sanshin and Kachashi dancing. The presentation of the Okinawan culture at the carnival was well received by the onlookers and all who took part in the festivities

A great number of people from Okinawa, where many Brazilian emigrants originated from, also joined in on the centennial celebrations and ceremonies, arriving on chartered flights from the island prefecture.





# The First Japanese Emigrants to Brazil

On June 18, 1908, the first official group of Japanese emigrants arrived at Santos. These 781 emigrants are sometimes referred to as the *Kasato Maru* emigrants, after the vessel that carried them across the sea.

Upon hearing the advertisements by immigration companies that “in Brazil, there are trees that bear money,” many emigrants boarded the ship with high hopes and dreams of prosperity in a land they had never seen.

After their voyage of about 50 days, the 781 emigrants were taken to work on the coffee farms. However, poor harvests of coffee, or the ‘money-tree,’ inexperience in the hard labor, stringent regulations and supervision, and at times, oppression through violence, caused many to flee the coffee farms.

Many also seem to have moved from one place to another in search of jobs with higher income, as they had borrowed money from family and friends to travel to Brazil, and needed to return the money as soon as possible.

Out of the 781 *Kasato Maru* emigrants, there were 325 people from Okinawa prefecture, out of which, 24 were from Tomigusuku.

These 24 emigrants from Tomigusuku harvested coffee beans on a farm called Floresta. After completing their contracts on the farm, some of the emigrants moved to Argentina, some stayed on in Brazil and worked on railroad construction, some returned to their homeland, and some passed away. The details concerning those who moved to Argentina are still unclear, and are currently being studied.





## Santos

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Santos is located 75km south of São Paulo, in a region that developed as the port of exit in the coffee trade. This is also where the 781 Kasato Maru emigrants disembarked after their long journeys in 1908. In Santos, one will find former coffee trading areas, a monument commemorating the landing of the Japanese emigrants, as well as a cemetery where some Japanese emigrants were laid to rest.

There are two roads leading to São Paulo from Santos, named *Imigrantes* and *Anchieta*. It is said that the Japanese emigrants took the route of Imigrantes on their way to São Paulo.

Some of the Okinawan emigrants migrated and made their permanent residences in Santos, a city overlooking the vast seas and perhaps reminiscent of the home they left behind.

## Immigrant Train

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The trip from the Port of Santos to the Immigrant Lodge (presently the Immigrant Museum) took about three and a half to four hours by train. These trains that transported the emigrants are presently carefully preserved and appear as they did many years ago. Back then, at the close of their journey from Santos to the Lodge, the conductor would walk through the train cars and announce loudly, "We have arrived in São Paulo!"

Currently, the trains are operated by volunteers, with some re-enacting the scenes from the past as newspaper vendors and even conductors announcing their arrivals.

## Immigrant Museum

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This facility was used from 1887 to 1978, to temporarily receive and accommodate the emigrants arriving in Brazil. The emigrants remained at this facility for approximately one week to complete their registration and quarantine processes before proceeding to their contracted farms.

In 1998, the facility reopened as the Immigrant Museum after undergoing renovations aimed to preserve and study the history of immigrants. Within the museum are recreated customs and inspection rooms, as well as bedrooms where the emigrants slept. There are model exhibitions that show scenes of the old São Paulo, and also on display are the names of the emigrants that arrived on the Kasato Maru.

Noroeste Brazil Railway



The construction of this railway, which is currently not in use, involved a great number of Okinawan emigrants. Among the first emigrants who originated from Tomigusuku and who were involved in the railway construction are: Koki and Kame Oshiro, Ryoso Oshiro, Kana Oshiro, Kame and Mito Hokama, Seikichi Kinjo, Kosetsu Ota, Kamato Oshiro, and Kisa Akamine. Heavy labor was involved in the construction of the Noroeste Railway which included clear-cutting virgin forests and mounding the soil to lay the tracks and sleepers. This type of exhausting labor as well as an outbreak of malaria claimed the lives of over 20 workers.

### **Brazil Okinawa Association**



The Association is made up of members residing within Brazil who are of Okinawan descent or those connected. The Association has expanded over the years, with 2,734 families/households registered at 46 branches (as of 2008). There are 36 officially registered members tracing their roots to Tomigusuku, either emigrating after World War II as Issei, the first-generation emigrants, or their children, the Nisei.

### **Tomigusuku Shiminkai**



The Association was inaugurated on September 7, 1979 as Tomigusuku Sonjinkai. The first Chairperson was Mr. Kaisei Omine, originally from Tokashiki, Tomigusuku. The name has changed and is now Tomigusuku Shiminkai, with members originally from Tomigusuku or their children who reside in São Paulo. The 30 or so members deepen their ties through New Year's events and gathering for meals.



members originally from Tomigusuku or their children who reside in São Paulo. The 30 or so members deepen their ties through New Year's events and gathering for meals.



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### Shinnoei Akamine, Born in 1875, Madanbashi, First Generation (Issei)

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Mr. Akamine travelled to Brazil in 1912, at the age of 37. He valued his ties with other Japanese emigrants, and while working as a laborer on farms and railroads, he took in and provided assistance to emigrants who were down on their luck and had nowhere to go. His efforts in the construction of a school and hospital for the Japanese emigrants were recognized, and in 1968, a main street in the Cedro area was named *Rua Shinnoei Akamine*, in his honor.

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### Aiko Shiroma, Born in 1920, Madanbashi Descent, Third Generation (Sansei)

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Ms. Shiroma is the grand-daughter of Mr. Shinnoei Akamine (of Aza Madanbashi). Mr. Akamine learned of the birth of his grand-daughter, Aiko, while en route back to town with members of the Japanese Navy training squadron. He asked for the train to stop not at a train station, but close to his house so that he could meet his newborn grand-daughter. He named his grand-daughter Aiko, taking the first letters of the Japanese Navy vessels, *Asama* and *Iwate*.

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### Kaisei Omine, Born in 1916, Tbkashiki, First Generation (Issei)

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Mr. Kaisei Omine travelled to Brazil aboard the Arabia Maru on April 29, 1934, with a cousin and his wife. Upon completing his labor contract on a coffee farm, he made his living by cultivating rice, cotton, peanuts, and other goods. Then, Mr. Omine moved to São Paulo where he began his business at the open-air market, or the *feira*. Mr. Omine was the first Chairperson of the Tomigusuku Sonjinkai, an association formed in 1979 by emigrants originally from the then village of Tomigusuku.

## Uto Sotoma, Born in 1909, Nesabu, First Generation (Issei)

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Ms. Uto Sotoma arrived in Brazil on the *Buenos Aires Maru*, where she made her living by selling vegetables and bananas. She returned to Okinawa once after and worked for Dr. Seisei Gibo in Aza Tomigusuku. Dr. Gibo was a very kind gentleman, and when Uto Sotoma informed him that she would be returning to Brazil, he tried to convince her to not go, and said, "Okinawa is a good place, so you should stay."

## Brave Pioneers Memorial

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On June 1, 1982, the Pioneer Memorial was established within the athletic field, *A Sede Poliesportiva Armand Tibana*, and Mr. Antei Kinjo, from Aza Takayasu of Tomigusuku, played a central role in its establishment. Mr. Kinjo called for the construction of this memorial in honor of the deceased pioneer emigrants. It was through his efforts that funding was collected from friends as well as Okinawa Prefecture to build this memorial. Every year on Immigrant Day on June 18, people gather at the Memorial to pay their respects to the pioneers.

## Humiko Kanashiro, Born in 1915, Zayasu, First Generation (Issei)

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After graduating from an elementary school in Tomigusuku, Ms. Humiko Kanashiro worked tirelessly at a factory in Wakayama Prefecture for 20 years before returning to Okinawa. She married Mr. Sanra Kinjo, who was 17 years older than she was, and the two travelled to Brazil in 1937. The first two years in Brazil, she cried every day, thinking, "Why did we come to such a place..." She learned Portuguese through listening to people buying and selling goods, and she eventually began to sell mangos that grew in her yard.



**Humiko Kanashiro ,Born in 1924 ,Madanbashi ,First Generation(Issei)**

(at the left of the photo)



She was called from her father Masao Kanashiro and in 1934 she made a trip to Brazil by “Africa Maru”.She remembered that they had an “undokai”(athletics)in the ship.Her uncle was living early time in Brazil .So with his introduction she had operated a restaurant in CampoGrande and then she worked in feria selling fruits.

**Okinawan Minyo’s Club**



This is a scene at *Kaikan da Associação Okinawa de Campo Grande*, the Okinawa Kenjinkai Hall at the city of Campo Grande, where members of the Minyo Club gather every Sunday to hone their skills in Okinawan folk music.

At this Club, Ryukyu folk music is instructed by Mr. Tsutomu Fukuchi, a second-generation Okinawan emigrant of Onaga descent. Mr. Fukuchi’s son plays the sanshin while the members of the Club sing along.

The members of the Minyo club are not just of Okinawan ancestry, but also those who trace their roots to other prefectures in Japan. They say that the club offers a wonderful opportunity to learn the language of Okinawa and the Ryukyuan music.



# Plurinational State of Bolivia

The Plurinational State of Bolivia is approximately three times the land area of Japan, and is the 28<sup>th</sup> largest country in the world. The country changed its official name from the “Republic of Bolivia” to the “Plurinational State of Bolivia” in 2009.

Spanish is mainly used by the country’s population of 10.02 million people (as of 2007). The administrative capital city of La Paz is located approximately 3,400m above sea level, the highest altitude of any capital city in the world (Sucre is the country’s constitutional capital).

Bolivia is centrally located in the continent of South America. It is a landlocked nation where the Andes mountains take up about one-third of the country’s land area.

Bolivia has nine departments (similar to states) and the largest of these is Santa Cruz. Within Santa Cruz are areas where many Japanese emigrants settled, such as San Juan and Colonia Okinawa, and many of them still reside in these areas today.

According to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the estimated population of emigrants and those with Japanese ancestry is approximately 11,500 people (figures from 2007).





# Colonia Okinawa (Okinawa Village)

Some Okinawan emigrants had migrated to Bolivia before World War II, and upon hearing the tragedies of the Battle of Okinawa, these emigrants began their preparations to help and receive their fellow Okinawans who had lost their homes and land in the fierce battle.

These emigrants worked with the governments of Bolivia and Ryukyu and in 1954, welcomed 400 Okinawans to Bolivia. However, the land where these new emigrants were received was unfit for farming and there was also an outbreak of a fever (known as Uruma Fever) with unknown causes. Faced with such difficulties, the Okinawan emigrants migrated in search of new land.

The emigrants finally found land appropriate for agriculture in an area that is now called Colonia Okinawa 1. This village, which became the first settlement for these Okinawan emigrants, was built from scratch, starting with the clearing of dense forestation.

Emigrants from Okinawa continued to arrive, and to receive them, they expanded these villages and made Colonia Okinawa 2, as well as Colonia Okinawa 3. By 1964, 3,229 Okinawan emigrants had arrived and settled in these villages.

Among these emigrants were 40 Okinawans from Tomigusuku. Repeated floods and droughts caused some to migrate to neighboring countries and some to even return to Okinawa. However, the families of Higa (from Kakazu) and Nakandakari (from Gibo) still reside there.

On April 18, 1998, the three villages and the surrounding communities where the Okinawan emigrants arrived were integrated and recognized as Colonia Okinawa by the Bolivian government. Colonia Okinawa is well-known for its wheat production, and in 2002, Bolivia's national government acknowledged the area as *La Capital Triguera de Bolivia*, or The Wheat Capital of Bolivia.





## Entrance to Colonia Okinawa

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The entrance to Colonia Okinawa. The entrance was built by the *Asociación Nippon-Bolivia*, or the Japan-Bolivia Association, to commemorate 50 years since the first settlement of the Japanese emigrants. On the other side is written, “*Feliz Viaje!*” to wish a safe trip for travellers.

## Okinawa No 1 Bolivian-Japanese School

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The school was established in Colonia Okinawa 1 in March 1987. There are 83 students (as of 2008) from grades 1 to 8, and classes are in Spanish in the morning and Japanese in the afternoon. There are various club activities including Eisa and Sanshin.

## Rio Grande

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The Rio Grande, literally meaning the “big river” in Spanish, flows nearby the Colonia Okinawa. During the rainy season in February, the water level of the river rises and at times overflows, flooding the village of Colonia Okinawa. The flooding of the Rio Grande in 1968 caused great damage, submerging homes and farmland. Construction of levees is currently underway in order to prevent the village from flooding, but the Rio Grande still poses great challenges for Colonia Okinawa.

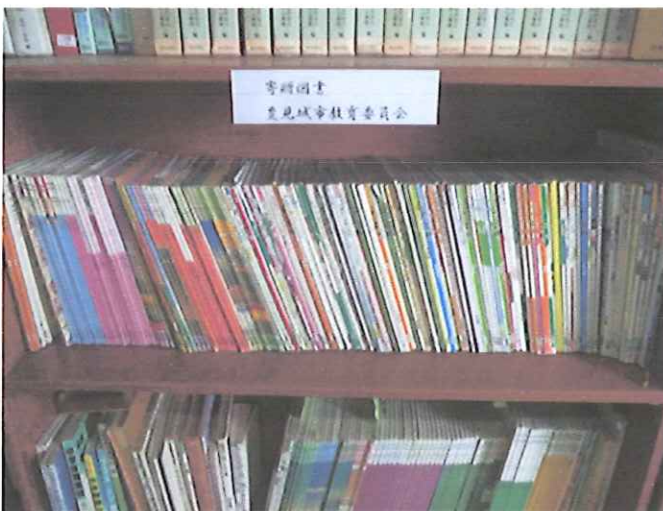


## Gateball Club



A scene from Colonia Okinawa 2. The game of gateball was played by the elders of Colonia Okinawa 1, and the game came to be played at Colonia Okinawa 2 and 3 as well. There are four tournaments throughout the year and the Club also participates in international games with neighboring countries.

## Textbooks from Tomigusuku City



In 2007, the City of Tomigusuku presented textbooks for the students of *Colegio Particular Mixto Centro Boliviano Japones Okinawa No 1* to use in their Japanese classes. The 452 textbooks collected from the citizens of Tomigusuku are currently kept at the school library in Bolivia, and the students there are making good use of them.

## Okinawa-Bolivia History Museum



The Museum opened on August 14, 2004, as part of the commemorations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the settlement of emigrants at Colonia Okinawa. There are over 2,000 items on exhibit, their worth invaluable in telling the stories of the settlers of Colonia Okinawa. The displayed items include farming equipments that were used to establish the village, daily goods and historical materials and documents of Colonia Okinawa. The first curator for the museum was Mr. Tsugio Higa from Aza Kakazu in Tomigusuku.







# -Hawaii-



Kauai

Lihue

Oahu



Honolulu



Niihau

Molokai



Maui

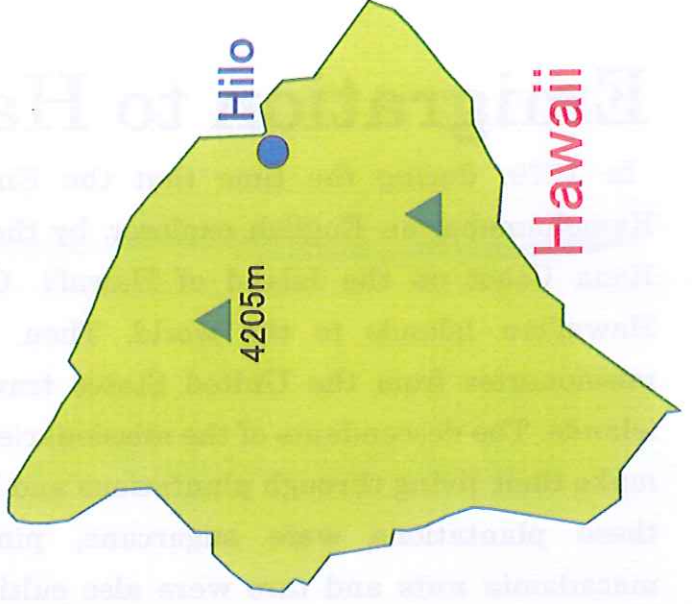


Lanai



Hana

Kahoolawe



Hilo

4205m

Hawaii

PACIFIC OCEAN

☆Hawaii is one state of the United States of America. It is located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. The capital is Honolulu. Hawaii consists of Oahu Island and 7 main islands with hundreds of small islands. The area is 16,636.3 km<sup>2</sup> and the population is approximately 1,300,000 people. Hawaii has two official languages: English and Hawaiian. In 2010, people from Tomigusuku City went to research about immigration to 4 islands: Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai.

# Emigration to Hawaii

In 1779, during the time that the Kingdom of Hawai'i was ruled by King Kamehameha, an English explorer, by the name of Captain Cook, landed at the Kona Coast on the Island of Hawai'i. Captain Cook's landing introduced the Hawai'ian Islands to the world. Then, in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Christian missionaries from the United States travelled across the sea and came to the islands. The descendants of the missionaries owned vast areas of land, and began to make their living through plantations and livestock farming. Major crops grown on these plantations were sugarcane, pineapples, coffee and oranges. Later, macadamia nuts and taro were also cultivated. Many emigrants from Portugal, China, Japan (Okinawa), the Philippines, Korea and other countries arrived in Hawai'i to work on these plantations. These emigrants contributed to the forming of today's multicultural society in Hawai'i.

Full-scale emigration of the Japanese began with the 'Kanyaku Imin' of 1885, the government-contracted Japanese immigration to Hawai'i. In the following year, the Japan-Hawai'i Travel Treaty was concluded between the governments of Japan and Hawai'i. Even after the annexation of Hawai'i in 1898 by the United States of America, emigration from Japan continued until 1933, although at times, restrictions were imposed.

Okinawan emigration to Hawai'i was realized with the efforts of Mr. Kyuzo Toyama of the then village of Kin (currently Kin Town). The first 27 Okinawan emigrants to Hawai'i landed at the Port of Honolulu in 1900. Land organization projects in Okinawa Prefecture ended three years after the landing of the first emigrants, in 1903. It was also then that the taxation system in Okinawa changed to a private ownership system where monetary taxes were collected rather than goods. Many citizens had difficulties adjusting to the economic changes and were reduced to poverty. This is one of the reasons why the number of Okinawan emigrants was so high in that time.

The first Tomigusuku emigrant to Hawai'i was Mr. Kiten Hokama (from Aza Madanbashi), who landed in 1904. From 1904 to 1939, a total of 743 Tomigusuku emigrants arrived in Hawai'i.



Bronze statue of Mr. Kyuzo Toyama stands in front  
Of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association Center.



Sugarcane cultivation (at Plantation Village)



## Pineapple's Farm Trail

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Site of an old pineapple field. The whole area used to be endless fields of pineapples (Kalaheo, Kauai).

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## Pineapple's Company

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A scene from a pineapple factory

Photo: the Plantation Museum at Lahaina, Maui.

## Kamesuke Nagamine

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Mr. Kamesuke Nagamine, who ran a coffee farm in Kona, Hawaii (originally from Aza Tomigusuku, born in 1989 and passed away at the age of 73 in 1971). Picture taken at his daughter, Mitsue Taniyama's wedding.

Photo: Courtesy of Mitsue Taniyama

## Mitsue Taniyama



During an interview, Ms. Mitsue Taniyama shared with us her appreciation for her father, Mr. Kamesuke Nagamine, saying, “He cultivated coffee and vegetables and provided education for his children. We are very grateful to him.”

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## Kana Toma



Mr. Kana Toma (originally from Aza Bin) and his family, who ran a pig farm on Honokaa, Hawaii.

Photo the Commemorative Album of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arrival of the Okinawans in Hawaii

## Kana Toma Family's Taro Farm



Taro farm owned by the family of Mr. Kana Toma.

Photo the Commemorative Album of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arrival of the Okinawans in Hawaii



## **Koloa Sugar Company**

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The remains of a chimney from the first sugar factory built in Hawaii in 1835, known as the Old Sugar Mill of Koloa (in Koloa, Kauai).

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## **Kame Nagamine**

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(Top) Mr. Kame Nagamine (originally from Aza Tomigusuku), who lived in Kohala, Hawaii, and his family.

Photo the Commemorative Album of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Arrival of the Okinawans in Hawaii



(Bottom) The house where Mr. Kame Nagamine is believed to have lived with his family (in Kohala, Hawaii).

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## **Lihue Sugar Company**

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Train tracks stretching from the Lihue Sugar Mill (on Kauai), which was used to transport sugarcane.

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## **Kohala Sugar Company**

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A port and station at the site of the old sugar mill in Kohala, used to transport sugarcane.

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## **Plantation House**

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Plantation House (in Pihonua, Hawaii). A typical home with raised floors for the laborers on plantations.

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## **Puunene Sugar Company**

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Puunene Sugar Factory, the only remaining sugar mill that is still in operation (Puunene, Maui).

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010



# The Beginning of the Uchinanchu Community

Within the Japanese emigrants in Hawai'i, the Okinawan emigrants faced discrimination due to the differences in language and culture.

The Okinawan emigrants were not allowed to be a part of the religious facilities such as temples and shrines (which were important places of network for the Japanese emigrants and enabled mutual support among them) that were brought by the Japanese emigrants from the initial migration. Faced with such difficulties, the Okinawan emigrants created their very own temples.

The Jikoen Temple of the Shin Buddhism, Jikoen Jodo Shinshu Nishi Hongwanji, was one of the temples where the Okinawan emigrants gathered and later became the base for activities by the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. The Board of the Jikoen Temple saw numerous Kenjinkai Chairpersons, and even today, one can see the pictures of the successive Chairs of the Kenjinkai displayed in the assembly room of the temple.

The Rinzai Zen Mission in Paia, Maui, was also constructed by the Okinawan emigrant who had settled in the area, together with the *Jushoku*, or the resident minister, at that time in 1950. The resident minister was Mr. Kiyoshi Oshiro, originally from Aza Ueta, Tomigusuku. We can say that the construction of the Rinzai Zen Mission is one example of how the Okinawan emigrants began their distinctive communities in Hawai'i.

There also was a mutual-aid framework for each plantation camp, called the *Kumiai*. The Kumiai consisted of all the Japanese emigrants, including the Okinawans, and there are Japanese cemeteries on Hawai'i and Kaua'i that are managed by the Kumiai.



▶ Portrait of Mr. Yasuo Gushi (originally from Aza Tomigusuku), Hawaii United Okinawa Association Chairperson (1968 to 1972), displayed in the assembly room of the Jikoen Temple.



▶ The stone monument erected to commemorate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Okinawa emigrants and encouraging the spirit of Shikai brothers, meaning treating others with sincerity and respect.

## Butsudan



The family altar at the home of Sandy Kaneshiro (of Aza Takayasu) on Oahu Island, resembling an Okinawan ancestral altar, the *totome*.

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## Kamekobaca



Kame-ko-baca, or turtle-shell tomb, at the Japanese cemetery in Kapaa, Kauai.

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## Kiyoshi Oshiro



Reverend Kiyoshi Oshiro (originally from Aza Ueta) of the Rinzai Zen Mission, and his family.

Photo the Commemorative Album of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Arrival of the Okinawans in Hawaii

## Ruth Yuki Sakoda



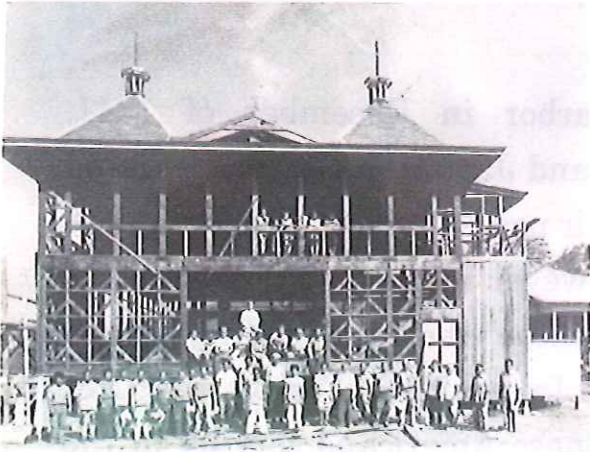
Ms. Ruth Yuki Sakoda, daughter of Mr. Kiyoshi Oshiro, tells us that she was told her father was involved with the temple “to save the Okinawan people.”

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010



## Otera under construction

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Construction of the Temple.

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## Piihonua Hall

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(Top) The Piihonua Kaikan. This community center was the base for the Pi'ihonua Kumiai (Piihonua, Hawaii).



(Bottom) A scene from the Karaoke Club at the Piihonua Kaikan.

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## Japanese-American Soldiers of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion

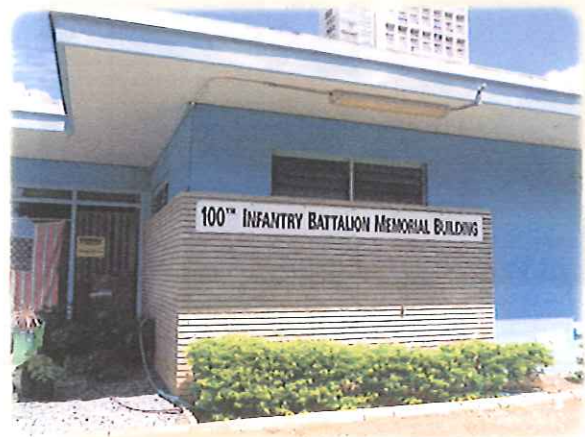
The year after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, approximately 120,000 Japanese-Americans and Japanese emigrants living on the west coast of the United States had their possessions confiscated, then transported to live in internment camps. However in Hawai'i, since half of the population was of Japanese descent, only those who were leading figures in the Japanese communities were interned. In the U.S. Forces, the U.S. government excluded from combat, the Japanese-Americans serving in the Army. However, with the efforts of the Japanese-American Army troops, they were combined with the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team in February of 1943 by President Roosevelt. This is how the unit made up of Americans of Japanese ancestry came to be.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion was made up of mainly Japanese-descents from Hawai'i, and they were also known as 'The Pineapple Soldiers.' Many of the young Japanese-American soldiers who enlisted, faced hardships during the time following the attack on Pearl Harbor due to their racial heritage, and wanted their fellow Americans to recognize that despite their Japanese ancestry, "we are Americans, too."

The Japanese American unit that fought in the frontlines in Europe achieved numerous awards and recognitions and even today, memorials are held in various places.



▶ In 1968, Japanese-American soldier, Henry H. Higa was laid to rest at Punchbowl.  
(Photo: Courtesy of Selina Higa)



▶ The 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Memorial Building located in Honolulu.





## Wallace H. Oshiro's Gravestone

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Wallace H. Oshiro's gravestone at the Punchbowl.

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## Memorial event program for Japanese American in the Military Service

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A scene from the Special Memorial Program for Japanese-American Troops. "Even today, whenever I attend a memorial service, it saddens me to think that so many young people perished," says Helen Kawahara (of Aza Noha).



Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010



# Relief Efforts for Okinawa

After the end of the Battle of Okinawa in 1945, the Okinawan emigrants in Hawai'i launched the Hawaii United Okinawan Relief Association to assist Okinawa in the recovery efforts. One of the especially notable efforts was the shipping of 550 pigs in 1948. Mr. Kame and Mrs. Kamato Kaneshiro (originally from Aza Takayasu), who operated a pig farm in Waiialae, Honolulu, said they were glad to help.

The objective in reorganizing the Tomigusuku Sonjinkai after the war was to participate in the various relief programs to aid Okinawa. In the Tomigusuku Sonjinkai conference minutes recorded in 1948, it is written that through donations by its members, school supplies were shipped to Okinawa in January 1948 to assist the schoolchildren of Tomigusuku.

Such relief aid was extended not just through the various organizations, but from individual families and relatives, as well as through each community. Mr. Kame Tome from Aza Bin, for example, sent fabric to make costumes for the community's harvest festival. Even though it was immediately after the war, it was because of such kind gestures that the festival was able to take place with the same types of costumes as before the war.

In Okinawa, where people had lost virtually everything in the fierce fires of war, the supplies from the relief efforts from Hawai'i were truly a tremendous help, and among the local Okinawan people, the word "Hawai'i" became an adjective to describe something that was abundant and rich.



## Kame Tome

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Mr. Kame Tome and his family.

Photo the Commemorative Album of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Arrival of the Okinawans in Hawaii

## Masako Tomei

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“I remember packing piles of colorful fabric in a big box,”  
says Masako Tomei (daughter in law of Mr. Kame Tome,  
pictured on the left).

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## Dresses of Harvest Festival in Bin

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Costumes for the Harvest Festival at Aza Bin, sewn with





# Okinawa Kenjinkai in Hawaii

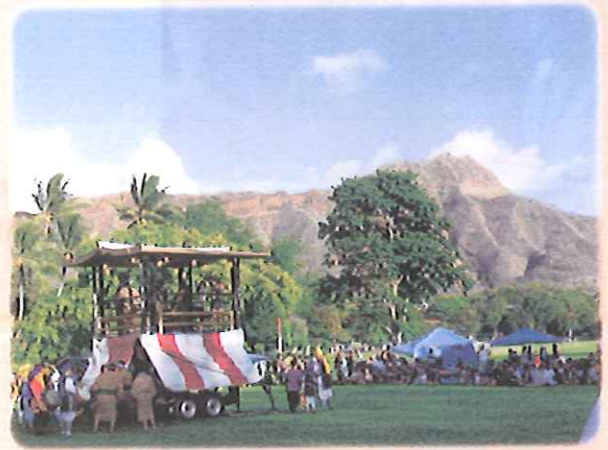
Activities of the Okinawa Kenjinkai which were interrupted during the War revived in 1951 with the full-scale relief efforts to aid the recovery of Okinawa, and led to the launch of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA). The organization was composed of various groups by municipalities such as the Tomigusuku Sonjinkai, and also smaller groups such as the Oroku Kai and Awase Kai, all equal members of the greater Association.

In 1990, after 90 years since the first arrival of the Okinawan emigrants, the Nisei and Sansei had assumed leadership in the various organizations. With the Okinawan descendants from various fields taking leadership, the Hawaii Okinawa Center was established in Waipio, Oahu. The Center became the new hub of activities for the Kenjinkai, and is a multi-purpose facility that provides various opportunities for many to learn of the Okinawan culture in Hawai'i. The Hawaii United Okinawa Association adopted its name in 1995, and the annual Okinawan Festival that it hosts has become a big event.

On the other islands are the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai, which holds its activities centered around the Maui Okinawa Kaikan, the Hui Okinawa of Hilo, Hawai'i, and the Hui Alu Okinawa Club of Kaua'i. All of these organizations are working to pass down the Okinawan heritage to the younger generations



▶ Opening of the Okinawan Festival.



▶ Bon Dance at the Okinawan Festival.



## HUOA Hawaii United Okinawa Association

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(Top) Hawaii Okinawa Center



(Bottom)HUOAExecutive Director, Ms. Jane Serikak

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai

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An interview scene at the Kenjin Kaikan of the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai.

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## Hui Okinawa Kenjin Kai

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(Top) Ms. Margaret Torigoe, President of Hui Okinawa



(Bottom)Ms.Shizuko Akamine, who teaches Ryukyu Koto in Hilo, Hawaii

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010



## HUI ALU Club

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A scene from a *paranku* drum practice held at a community center in Kalaheo, Kauai.

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## Shigeko, Takeo Nakasone

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Mr. and Mrs. Nakasone in Kona, Hawaii. They are working hard to establish a Kenjin Kai in Kona.

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

# Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii

Many people among the third and fourth generations in Hawaii actively research their own ancestry and learn of their family history, and create their family trees.

Once a month at the Okinawa Center, approximately 50 members of the Okinawan Genealogical Society gather to study and exchange information, and some volunteer to assist others in creating their genealogical charts. Such activities were very popular in Maui as well. Some who trace their roots to Tomigusuku visit the city to inquire about family registries and mortuary tablets, and visit their *Munchu-baka*, or the tomb of their family clan, and the local *Gusuku* sites.



▶ Volunteers at the Okinawan Genealogical Society at the Okinawa Center. (Left) Mr. Chosuke Kishaba translates article clippings from the Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times newspapers.



▶ (Right) Ms. Nancy Tome is translating the list of names from the History of Okinawa, and is creating a database to assist searches for registered members.



**L**ike Akira Kutsunai, Harold Nagamine started a photography business in Lahaina, and later expanded to Maui's Central Valley. He had come to Hawai'i from Okinawa in 1920, at the age of ten; Nagamine Photo Studio began in 1931.

"Dad met my mother on Moloka'i," said Florence Shimomura, whose own sons now run Nagamine Photo. "My dad said he climbed a coconut tree for her."

Helen Oshiro became Herbert Nagamine's business partner as well as his wife. In 1939, she attended a school in Honolulu to learn how to dress Japanese brides in the elaborate kimonos and hair adornments traditional to Japanese wedding portraits. "After the war, a few people still did the kimonos," Florence recalled, "but not so much."

The war had other consequences for the family. Because Harold was not a U.S. citizen, Helen put the business license in her name. And Harold, fearing internment, pored through his hundreds of photographs and negatives, and burned whatever images might conceivably incriminate him.

## NAGAMINE

A PHOTOGRAPHER IN CHANGING TIMES

From "Every Grain of Rice" by Rita Goldman



► Today's Nagamine Photo Studio

## Amy Y. Tsuru

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On the left is Ms. Amy Y. Tsuru (of Aza Noha), a member of the Okinawan Genealogical Society. She is dedicated in her pursuit to understand her family history, and has visited Tomigusuku City. On the right is travel agent, Ms. Sumie Consillio (of Aza Ueda).

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010

## Earl Zaan

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At the Olowalu Sugar Plantation Camp site on Maui, Mr. Earl Zaan, whose grandfather (of Aza Noha) was at the camp, provides explanations. Next to him is Ms. Florence Shimomura and her child.

Photo: Cultural Affairs Section, City of Tomigusuku, 2010



# Tomigusuku Sonjinkai

The Tomigusuku Sonjinkai of Hawai'i was founded in 1935 with 61 families, to promote mutual support and friendship. The first Chairperson was Mr. Tokuko Nagamine (of Aza Tomigusuku). The board of the Sonjinkai at that time consisted of Mr. Shigeharu Kinjo (of Aza Madanbashi) as Vice Chairperson, Mr. Ushi Higa (of Aza Kakazu) and Mr. Toichi Omine (of Aza Tomigusuku) as Secretaries, and Mr. Kamesuke Higa (of Aza Madanbashi) and Mr. Yasukichi Nagamine (of Aza Noha) as Treasurers.

The Sonjinkai also had the Tomigusuku Seinen Dan group as part of the organization, and its members would compete in sumo tournaments that were frequently held during those times. The Sonjinkai members also got together for picnics and held New Year's gatherings as well.

Although activities were suspended during the war, the Sonjinkai reorganized to provide assistance in the relief efforts for Okinawa. The Nisei, or the second-generation, assumed leadership of the Sonjinkai around 1955, and currently, the third-generation members are playing the leading roles of the organization. The 398-member organization still goes by its official name, the Tomigusuku Sonjinkai.



▶ TOMIGUSUKU T-shirt.



▶ A "Tomigusuku Sonjinkai" banner presented by the then village of Tomigusuku. (Photo: Courtesy of Ms. Selina Higa)



# Takara Doshikai

Separate from the Tomigusuku Sonjinkai in Hawaii, is the Takara Doshikai, formed by families of those who originated from Takara (Aza Taira and Aza Takamine) of Tomigusuku. Although the group is not part of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, the Takara Doshikai currently has about 100 members.



▶ Grandparents, Mr. Kametu Oshiro and Kame Oshiro, who were members of the Takara Doshikai. ( Photo: Courtesy of Charlene Oshiro)



## Tokuko Nagamine



A photo of the first Chairperson of Hawaii Tomigusuku Sonjinkai, Mr. Tokuko Nagamine, taken at the Keirokai gathering at Aza Tomigusuku, to commemorate his return visit to Tomigusuku in 1957.

Photo: Courtesy of Ms. Misako Uehara

## Bith Celebration



A celebration of birth hosted by the Tomigusuku Sonjinkai.

Photo: Courtesy of Ms. Selina Higa

## Picnic



The annual Tomigusuku Sonjinkai picnic held at Ala Moana Park.

Photo: Courtesy of Ms. Selina Higa

## Volley ball

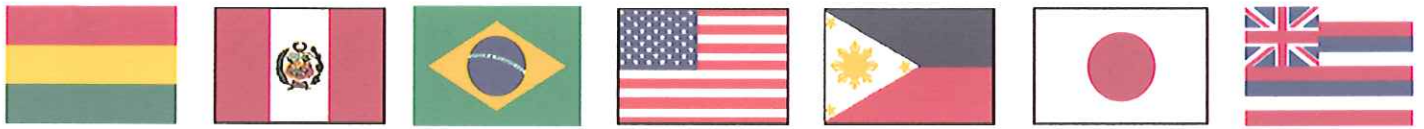


The Tomigusuku City symbol can be seen on back of the uniforms.

Photo: Courtesy of Ms. Selina Higa







# We need your collaboration !! for The History of Tomigusuku 「 Part of Immigration」

Actually we are preparing for the History of Tomigusuku 「 Part of Immigration」 !!

To people who have experience of immigration, or people who have photos, documents,

informations of the countries they were for immigration.

Please, call Cultural Division. ( to following numbers)

## ☆ Examples of informations for immigration ☆



Commemorative books



Passport



Photo/letter/note/...etc



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