



We're Celebrating 25 Years of Culinary Excellence!

Since 1998, our island's food and beverage industry has showcased a fusion of flavors helping the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawai'i (JCCIH) raise an annual goal of \$10,000 for higher education and for the JCCIH organization. This community partnership has raised over \$200,000 for scholarships, program needs, and teacher development at Hawai'i Community College.

In 2020 *A Taste of Hilo* went virtual. We launched our first-ever online silent auction. New platforms and a new format provided us the opportunity to perpetuate our tradition in a different way. We've picked up a few things over the past three years as the success of our silent auction has built upon itself.

With your help and the help of many others in our community, we've graciously made financial contributions to Hawai'i Community College toward their workforce development programs. Last year, 2022, we accomplished our most successful silent auction event to date! We surely have all of you to thank for it.

This year's silent auction event will run from October 9 - October 15, 2023. We hope that you may find yourself as either a corporate sponsor, or a donor making contributions toward our silent auction through gift certificate(s), product(s), or services. Your help supports higher education, the JCCIH and the local food and beverage industry. Pick-up of silent auction items will be held at the event on Sunday, October 15, 2023.

For a quarter century, the enthusiasm and creativity surrounding *A Taste of Hilo* have amazed the many individuals involved with this event. We can continue this momentum with your support. Let's help creative culinary artists thrive!

The benefits of your support and generosity will be acknowledged on our online auction site; in *A Taste of Hilo* advertisements; on the JCCIH website and on our social media sites, Facebook and Instagram. More details on this are included in the enclosed forms.

Feel free to contact any one of our committee members for more information;

Jan Haraguchi-Abundo, TOH Chair atasteofhilo@gmail.com

Tiana Hirota, Silent auction Co-Chair hirotat@hawaii.edu

Jessica Hamad, Silent auction Co-Chair jessicahamad@gmail.com

Loren Tsugawa, Corporate Sponsor Co-Chair lorent@isemotocontracting.com

Allan Onishi, Corporate Sponsor Co-Chair allan@lhgamble.com

Iris Higa, Vendor Co-Chair iyugawa@gmail.com

Dean Fuke, Vendor Co-Chair dean_fuke@hmsa.com

Mahalo,

Jan Haraguchi-Abundo

A Taste of Hilo 2023