

## Celebrating 26 Years of Culinary Excellence!



*A Taste of Hilo*  
East Hawaii's Premier Culinary Event

It's been 26 years since the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawai'i enlisted our island's food and beverage industry to showcase its talents and help raise money for JCCIH and its annual contributions for higher education.

To its organizers back in 1998, *A Taste of Hilo* may have seemed a dicey gamble, but today we can herald its success. Over these years, this community partnership has netted more than \$200,000 that has supported scholarships, program needs and teacher development at Hawai'i Community College.

During Covid times, the 2020 *A Taste of Hilo* went virtual, with our first-ever online silent auction. While it was a reaction to Covid, it proved a successful path for silent auctions, and we've continued the online bidding, giving bidders more time and volunteers a more organized operation. Last year, 2023, we accomplished our most successful silent auction event to date! We surely have all of you to thank for it.

And again, we are asking for your help and support. If you can, become a corporate sponsor or be a donor to the silent auction. You can give a gift certificate(s), product(s) or service(s). Your help supports higher education, workforce development, the JCCIH and the local food and beverage industry.

This year's silent auction event will run from October 21 to October 27, 2024. Pick-up of silent auction items will be at the event on Sunday, October 27, 2024.

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 Co-Chair [atasteofhilo@gmail.com](mailto:atasteofhilo@gmail.com)

Leelen Park, TOH Co-Chair [leelen@northkohala.org](mailto:leelen@northkohala.org)

Tiana Hirota, "Fuji" Co-Chair [hirotat@hawaii.edu](mailto:hirotat@hawaii.edu)

Dean Fuke, "Fuji" Co-Chair [dean\\_fuke@hmsa.com](mailto:dean_fuke@hmsa.com)

Jessica Hamad, Silent auction Co-Chair [jessicahamad@gmail.com](mailto:jessicahamad@gmail.com)

Debbie Watson-Correa, Silent auction Co-Chair [debbie.watson-correa@hawaiianelectric.com](mailto:debbie.watson-correa@hawaiianelectric.com)

Loren Tsugawa, Corporate Sponsor Co-Chair [lorent@isemotocontracting.com](mailto:lorent@isemotocontracting.com)

Allan Onishi, Corporate Sponsor Co-Chair [allan@lhgamble.com](mailto:allan@lhgamble.com)

Kristine Ngaden, Vendor Co-Chair [kristine@creativeartshawaii.com](mailto:kristine@creativeartshawaii.com)

Tracy Nagamine, Vendor Co-Chair [tracy@creativeartshawaii.com](mailto:tracy@creativeartshawaii.com)

Mahalo,

Jan Haraguchi-Abundo

Leelen Park

*A Taste of Hilo* 2024



714 Kanoelehua Avenue • Hilo, HI 96720

• (808) 934-0177 • [jccih@jccih.org](mailto:jccih@jccih.org)

• [www.jccih.org](http://www.jccih.org)