



Honolulu Chapter 56 /www.ikebana-hawaii.org

Issue 135, Dec. 2025

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays! As you celebrate the joy of the season, I hope you will also celebrate by creating lovely seasonal ikebana arrangements. In the spirit of sharing, please give your arrangements to friends and family to help spread the beauty of ikebana. Ikebana arrangements make wonderful gifts. They come from your heart and show how much you care! Gifts-made are more meaningful than purchased items.

Ikebana international, Honolulu Chapter 56 has been extremely lucky in having such a wonderful board and many other volunteers this past year. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported our organization through your donations and service. Thank you so much!

We are drawing close to the end of your ikebana board's two-year term. Please consider serving on the board so that we can continue to offer wonderful workshops and luncheons. Most of our committees have at least two or three members to share the work so that responsibilities do not fall on one person. Our board meets once a month, usually on the first Sunday. Many of our meetings are through Zoom. Our next in-person meeting will be on March 1, 2026. I hope you will be able to join us, so that you can see what fun the board has and learn more about what you can do to support Ikebana International. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

I hope you enjoy your holidays, and I hope to see you at our next board meeting.

Friendship Through Flowers!

Pat Kubo



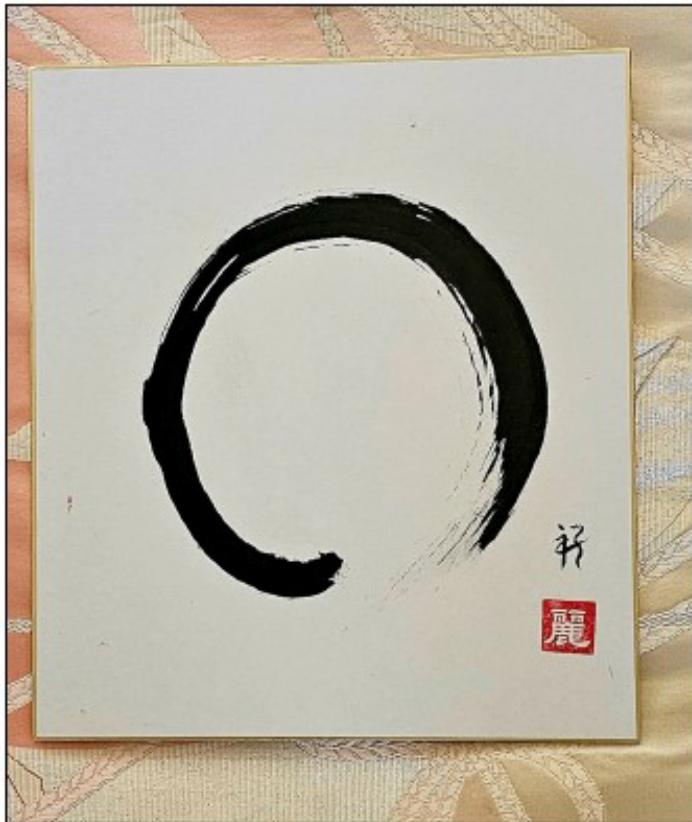
2: Sogetsu fish by Brennan Yamaguchi



1: Sogetsu stones by Judy Hui



3: Sogetsu stone by Amanda Cottis



## New Year's Luncheon - WABI SABI (Beauty in Imperfection) 2026

Date: Saturday, January 17, 2026

Time: 9:30am - 12:30 pm

Place: Waioli Kitchen and Bake Shop  
2950 Manoa Road  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Program: DIY Make and Take

Cost: \$48 Buffet

LIMITED SEATING. RSVP By: January 9, 2026

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### I.I. January Luncheon

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number of attendees \_\_\_\_\_ X \$48/person = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to: I.I. Chapter 56

Mail form and check to:  
I.I. Chapter 56  
Jennifer Shintani  
P.O. Box 61306  
Honolulu, HI 96839-1306

**Holiday Celebration**

Ohara School Honolulu Chapter

Members of the Ohara School Honolulu Chapter will celebrate the holidays by sharing arrangements that reflect our love of Ohara Ikebana.

We invite you to come and view our arrangements and join us in celebrating the holidays. Light refreshments will be served.

**December 6, 2025**  
10:30 am- 4pm  
**Higashi Hongwanji - Otani Hall**  
1685 Alaneo St. Honolulu  
808-531-9088

Free admission and free parking on the temple grounds.

Please contact Susan Hirata ([hirata@hawaii.edu](mailto:hirata@hawaii.edu)) for further information.

**Splendors of Ikebana**

Ikebana International Honolulu Chapter 56

**"Fantasy Ikebana Arrangements**

February 27 - February 28, 2026  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Manoa Public Library**  
Hawai'i State Public Library System  
2716 Woodlawn Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Free parking at Library or street parking

Free Admission

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service or activity should contact library staff as soon as possible. Advance requests 48 hours or more before the event are encouraged, but not required. All programs are subject to change.

**Phuong Nguyen**, Librarian III / Manoa Public Library, Hawai'i State Public Library System  
Phone: (808) 988-0459 Email: [phuong.nguyen@libraries.hawaii.org](mailto:phuong.nguyen@libraries.hawaii.org)

**"Friendship through Flowers"**  
<https://ikebana-hawaii.org/>

FALL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

Honolulu Chapter 56 held their membership luncheon on Sunday, September 28, 2025, at Natsunoya Teahouse. There were 46 members and guests in attendance. The theme celebrated OBon Season. Devynn Kochi and her sister, Kiley taught the attendees three Bon Dances. After the sumptuous meal, everyone agreed that dance exercise was welcome.

Mistress of ceremonies Joyce Nakamura kept us on schedule with her entertaining repartee. New member Gay Satsuma was introduced, and she

immediately volunteered to help with U of H Nippon Day. During the business meeting President Patricia Kubo succinctly explained several issues requiring votes by the membership. Carol Murakami led us with the invocation. Marsha Curnyn and Gale Kobayashi served as welcoming receptionists.



Ikebana exhibitors included fans in their arrangements to promote the theme of Fans in Ikebana for Splendors in February 26-28, 2026, at the Manoa Library. Those exhibiting were: Karen Kirk, Joyce Nakamura, Ooi Fong Chong, Carol Murakami, and Charmaine Yee-Hollison. Centerpieces were created by Gale Kobayashi, Debra Lau-Shiroma, Lucille Lew, and Charmaine Yee-Hollison. The group used teacups donated by Sherrill Morichika-Balbirona and Soo Boo Tan.



During the luncheon, 15 participants had the opportunity to sign up for a Green House Visit to the University Of Hawaii Botanical Research Center. Dr. Teresita Amore, PhD. will share the latest research on Anthurium breeding. The tour is scheduled for Saturday, October 18, 2025.

Members generously donated door prizes. Ways and Means brought selected items for their silent auction. Sue Shimabukuro also sold Earl Vases. Many smiles proved this was a highly successful event.

PAT KIMOTO

Wishing a very Happy 104<sup>th</sup> Birthday to long-time chapter member Pat Kimoto! Pat now resides at The Plaza in Kaneohe. Her longevity is amazing, and her mind is still sharp.

LORNA KAWAHARA



NIPPON CULTURE DAY

SUSAN HIRATE



Nippon Culture Day at the University of Hawaii at Manoa was held on Friday, November 7, 2025.

Our chapter once again participated in this annual event, organized by the Japanese Language section of the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures. Thirty eager and polite students listened intently to Pat Kubo's talk about the history of ikebana, followed by a brief description of the Ohara School of Ikebana by Susan Hirate. Susan then demonstrated the rising form using ruscus, cremon mums, and solid aster. Shinobu fern and moa were generously donated by Pat.



Based on the results of the survey taken at the end, it seems that the students left very happy with their creations!



ANTHURIUM GREEN HOUSE TOUR

KAREN KIRK

A private Anthurium Culture research tour at the Magooon Greenhouse Facility in Manoa was held on Saturday, October 18, 2025, for Chapter 56 members and friends. Professor Tessie Amore, PhD. conducted a fascinating workshop using power point lecture to explain Anthurium cultivation. She succinctly described the average five-year process from seed to plant. This was followed by a tour of the greenhouse where an extensive variety of Anthurium plants were growing. The group of 20 participants were given tips on how to propagate and the use of natural fertilizers like orchid bark, egg shells and banana peels. Following the tour, everyone was given an updated copy of Neotropica



written by Hitomi Gilliam and Lois Hiranaga. Dr. Amore is a former student of Sensei Bertha Tottori and Sensei Earl Shimabukuro. When time permits, she still dabbles in ikebana. Chapter 56 made a donation to the UH Foundation Anthurium Culture which was gratefully accepted.



#### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

CAROL MURAKAMI

By now all of you should have received your new directory. Please check, especially your name and information. We tried to correct last year's errors, but of course we made new ones.

So far, I've been notified of 3 errors in the directory.

- 1) David Komeiji is missing one of his i in his last name and in his email. Email should be [davidkomeiji@gmail.com](mailto:davidkomeiji@gmail.com)
- 2) Gay Satsuma's street name was misspelt. Should be 47-447Aiai Place
- 3) Marsha Curnyn moved her new address is 322 Aoloa St., Apt 302, Kailua, HI 96734; she also has a flower name Miotsi

Please let me know if you find any more errors or if you have moved or changed your email or phone number. Either email me [murakamic002@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:murakamic002@hawaii.rr.com) or text me at 808-377-0974. We will make the corrections so we can make new errors in next year's directory

Thank you, Carol Murakami, Membership Committee

#### KAHALA VERY MERRY EVENT FUNDRAISER 2025

Thanks to your generosity, we grossed \$750.00 this year. This money will go a long way towards offsetting expenses incurred at our luncheons, exhibits and workshops.

I hope you or one of your friends wins the Grand Prize! Good luck!

Susan Hirate

4: Sogetsu with gourd  
by Carol Murakami



JAPAN WIZARD 2.0 (3)

SUSAN HIRATE

松竹梅 (*shōchikubai*)



*Shōchikubai*--*matsu* (pine), *take* (bamboo), and *ume* (plum)--is the classic combination of materials in a *kadomatsu* (New Year's pine decoration for the entryway). Pine represents longevity, bamboo represents resilience and flexibility, and plum represents purity and the coming of spring. Together they symbolize strength and good fortune.

But did you know that this expression can also apply to food?

For example, if you look at a menu at an *unagi* (eel) restaurant, you will see choices labeled *Matsu*, *Take*, and *Ume*. What is the difference? Essentially, there is a difference in price, with *Matsu* being the most expensive, *Take* next, and *Ume* least expensive. It is the restaurant's way of subtly indicating the rank (i.e. "deluxeness") of the menu item. They are all *unagi* sets, but will vary in quality, quantity, and/or accompaniments.

Bento shops, Japanese restaurants, even steakhouses may use these terms to indicate the rank of their menu items.

The symbolism behind the expression *Shōchikubai* has its roots in the Chinese expression 歲寒三友 (*saikansanyuu*) which means "the three friends of winter." Pine, bamboo and plum were symbols of longevity, resilience, and strength because they all survived the cold winter.

**So why is pine ranked first?** Here is part of an article that provides one explanation.

*It's not because it's flashier or more expensive—it's because of the qualities it symbolizes. Longevity, reliability, and spiritual strength are considered the most auspicious in this context. But in truth, each of the three has its own kind of beauty and strength.*

**Not About Winning—About Balance**

*Even though *Shōchikubai* is often used to rank things, its original purpose wasn't about competition. It's more like a harmonious trio—each part bringing something unique, and none meant to stand above the others in value.*

*Read this article to get the full story.*

[https://wabisabi-jp.com/blogs/wabi-sabi-journal/shochikubai?srsltid=AfmBOoqOSDH8-p9OLYITBVSSob\\_OWygRPzUVtLAGta4r04j\\_j8Y3xTiP](https://wabisabi-jp.com/blogs/wabi-sabi-journal/shochikubai?srsltid=AfmBOoqOSDH8-p9OLYITBVSSob_OWygRPzUVtLAGta4r04j_j8Y3xTiP)



5: Sogetsu stones by Aileen Kaneshiro



Ikebana International Chapter 56

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PHOTO GALLERY



9: Sogetsu stones by Malina Kaulukukui



8: Sogetsu stones by Debra Lau-Shiroma



6: Sogetsu stones by Dawn Sur

7: (above) Sunanomono rikka by Barbara Tinius