



Proclamation

More than 122 years ago, the first group of government contract laborers, including 133 men, 13 women and three boys, sailed from Fukuoka Prefecture to Hawai‘i.

Nearly 40 years later, author Yoshimatsu Hata began research on the book, *Fukuoka Kenjin Hawai‘i Zairyu Kinen Shiyashincho*, detailing the whereabouts of 877 descendants and former Fukuoka Prefecture residents living on the Hawaiian Islands. The Fukuoka Kenjin Kai organized and was active until World War II, when it was forced to disband.

In 1956, Governor Shikaroku Tsuchiya of Fukuoka Prefecture visited Hawai‘i and suggested Kenjin Kai be revived under the name “Hawai‘i Fukuoka Kenjin Kai.” In 1957, the group was re-established with 21 families and over the years grew to include 350 families. Today, more than 170 families are actively involved with Hawai‘i Fukuoka Kenjin Kai.

Instrumental in facilitating numerous business, educational and cultural exchanges between Hawai‘i and Fukuoka Prefecture, we are pleased by Hawai‘i Fukuoka Kenjin Kai’s work in establishing the Sister-State Relationship more than 25 years ago. This relationship allows for on-going cultural education, commerce and tourism between the two states.

The people of Hawai‘i are grateful to Hawai‘i Fukuoka Kenjin Kai for their on-going work in maintaining and honoring their heritage and legacy of the first Japanese residents in the state.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. “DUKE” AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, do hereby proclaim **September 30, 2007**, as

HAWAI‘I FUKUOKA KENJIN KAI DAY

in Hawai‘i as we honor residents who are descendants of Fukuoka Prefecture and their families.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i, this twenty-sixth day of September 2007.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai‘i

James R. “Duke” Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai‘i