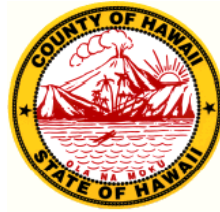


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Mayor



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 15, 2022

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HAWAI‘I COUNTY CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF SISTERHOOD WITH OSHIMA TOWN

Hawai‘i County celebrated its eldest Sister City relationship with Oshima Town, Japan, last Friday, February 11, via a virtual film event that included dignified representatives from both cities. The official establishment of the relationship between the two counties was signed on February 16, 1962, by then Chairman and Executive Officer of the County of Hawai‘i, Thomas “Lofty” Cook, in Oshima, Japan, making tomorrow the official 60th anniversary of the relationship. To celebrate this important milestone, Hawai‘i County and Oshima Town compiled interviews of former and current government officials, organizations, and other individuals to glean stories and anecdotes about this historic Sister City relationship. The accounts were compiled into a commemorative documentary film produced by Nā Leo TV (NLTV). A shortened version of the program will be played on NLTV through the month of February. The schedule has yet to be set.

“We are incredibly honored by the longstanding relationship between our County and Oshima Town,” said Mayor Mitch Roth. “Now, more than ever, we will look to this relationship to help us to bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic and bolster our economic resurgence through travel, trade, and cultural exchange. Our administration remains committed to this age-old friendship and looks forward to reaffirming our bond, officially, for decades to come.”

“The Japanese Chamber thanks the County and the leadership of Mayor Mitch Roth and Protocol Officer Jane Clement for allowing us to be part of this historic celebration,” said Lincoln Ashida, President of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawai‘i. “To our friends in Oshima Island, we send you our warmest aloha. We join our hands and hearts the first 60 years of friendship and look forward to many, many more.”

The sponsoring organization of the sister city relationship is the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawai‘i.

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