

Honolulu City Council Delegation to Japan
Nagaoka, Edogawa and Hiroshima
Japan
July 31-August 6, 2019

It is critical for the Honolulu City Council to continue to pursue international relations and sister city relationships as they enhance tourism, business relations, educational, cultural and sports exchanges, as well as the flow of knowledge and ideas. These play vital roles in enhancing Honolulu's unique and rich cultural, social, and economic fabric.

Since 1959 with the establishment of the first relationship with the City of Hiroshima, Honolulu's Sister City Program has grown, now numbering 33 established relationships in six continents. The following Honolulu City Council Delegation to Japan consisted of official visits to Nagaoka, Edogawa and Hiroshima.

Thursday, August 1:

City of Nagaoka- One of the most vibrant and close relationships that Honolulu has with international cities is that with the city of Nagaoka which was established in January 2012. Relationships have been established in educational and cultural exchanges, business, and agriculture. Nagaoka sends its students to Honolulu in January, March, and December each year. These visits strengthen mutual student programs with Honolulu's public and private schools, and educate the students on shared war history (Nagaoka is the home of the architect of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Admiral Yamamoto, and was destroyed by American bombers in the waning stages of WWII). Both Nagaoka City officials (often led by its Mayor) and students attend the annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day events in December; Nagaoka also provided the spectacular fireworks for the annual Honolulu Festival in March since inception of the sister city relationship.

- 1) Arrived at Nagaoka City and greeted by Nagaoka City Council staff Secretariat Director Osamu Agio, Secretariat Riho Kobayashi and Ariko Tsuchida
- 2) Lunch Meeting with Nagaoka City Council Chair Hiroshi Maruyama
 - a. Discussion on Nagaoka-Honolulu relations, common issues and solutions
 - b. Preparation for Latern Festival
 - c. Nagaoka Attendees: Nagaoka City Council Chair Hiroshi Maruyama, Secretariat Director Osamu Agio, Council staff Yuka Ogawa and Ariko Tsuchida
- 3) Agricultural Site Visits
 - a. Tour of various rice farms (paddies)
 - b. Agricultural practices and procedeures
- 4) Hotokusan Imari Shrine visit
 - a. Tour of ancient shrine
 - b. Purification ritual before lantern float ceremony

- 5) Nagaoka Festival- The Nagaoka Festival is held from August 1st to August 3rd around the Shinano River in Nagaoka City. Its main attractions are the portable shrine float parades and folk dance processions during the day with large-scale fireworks displays in the evening on the final two days. The festival and fireworks began in 1946 to commemorate the victims of war. During World War II, Nagaoka witnessed the death of 1,500 people, as well as up to 80 percent destruction of the city. The people rallied together and rebuilt their city and in 1946 began the remembrance fireworks praying for those lost and for peace.
- a. Kaki River Latern Float ceremony in remembrance for the 1500 Nagaoka Residents that lost their lives during World War 2 bombing runs
 - b. Mikoshi Parade and Bon Dance

Friday August 2, 2019

- 6) Meeting with Nagaoka City Council
 - a. Presentation of gifts
 - b. Tour of City Hall and offices
 - c. Nagaoka City Council attendees: Council Chair Hiroshi Maruyama, Vice Chair Koichi Nakamura, Councilmembers: Naoto Kato, Seigo Yamada, Ryoichi Ikarashi, Tatsunori Fuji, Norio Kasai and Council staff Senior Director Riho Kobayashi
- 7) Luncheon with Nagaoka City Council Chair and Members
 - a. Discussions to promote and develop exchange activities on politics, economics, culture, education, welfare, sports, etc.
 - b. Nagaoka City Council attendees: Council Chair Hiroshi Maruyama, Vice Chair Koichi Nakamura, Councilmembers: Naoto Kato, Seigo Yamada, Ryoichi Ikarashi, Tatsunori Fuji, Norio Kasai and Council staff Secretariat Director Osamu Agio, Secretariat Riho Kobayashi and Ariko Tsuchida
- 8) Meeting with Nagaoka Mayor Tatsunobu Isoda
 - a. Presentation of gifts
 - b. Nagaoka and Honolulu Festival discussions
 - c. Honolulu Festival attendees: Office of Economic Development Director Ed Hawkins, Katsutoshi Otsuka, Tatsuo Watanabe, Hiroyuki Kitagawa, Kazuhiko Hara, Masashi Seki, Kazuhiko Hara
- 9) Nagaoka Festival Fireworks Show- The display has nine themes over two hours. One being the Sho-Sanjakudama, two 36-inch diameter shells weighing 660 pounds illuminating a 2,132 feet long Niagara Falls. Throughout the decades, this annual burst of colors has lifted many Japanese locals' spirits. The city started the fireworks festival in order to mourn for the deceased a year after the bombing event in 1946.

Saturday, August 3:

City of Edogawa- Edogawa-ku is one of 23 special wards located in Tokyo Metropolis in Japan. It takes its name from the Edo River that runs from north to south along the eastern edge of the ward. In English it uses the name Edogawa City. It has an area of 19.2 square miles and has a population of 694,896 in 2018. Its current Mayor is Takeshi Saito. The Edogawa City Council has expressed its desire to establish a friendship city relationship with Honolulu, with the ultimate goal of establishing a sister city relationship. Recently, on October 30, 2018, an Edogawa City delegation, headed by the Edogawa City Council Chairman Shinichi Fujisawa, visited Honolulu Hale and was formally received by Managing Director Roy Amemiya, on behalf of Mayor Caldwell. The delegation also met with the then Honolulu City Council Chairman Ernie Martin and some members of the City Council.

10) Transport to Edogawa City by Secretariat Chief Executive Hiroshi Amanuma

11) Kasai Rinkai Park Canoe Slalom Center of the Tokyo Olympics 2020 tour

- a. With Hiroshi Amanuma of the Edogawa City Council and Daisuke Yoshizawa of the Edogawa Management and Planning Department

12) Edogawa City Hall Meeting

- a. Mayor Takeshi Saito
- b. Council Chair Juichi Tanaka, Vice Chair Mitsuhiro Fukumoto, Councilmembers Yogenda Puranik, Asuka Kobayashi, Hiroyuki Tajima, Tsubasa Saito, Isamu Shikakura, Shozaburo Shirai, Teruaki Kamio, Yasuko Takizawa, Masakazu Iwata, Yukata Kurihara, Makoto Nozaki, Takehito Nakayama, Shigeru Kanai, Hisashi Sasamoto, Masaaki Nakatsugawa, Yohei Onishi, Hidetaka Takagi, Teruko Ito, Susumu Takeuchi, Shinichi Fujisawa, Kazue Hayakawa, Toshiro Kawaguchi, Seiji Suga, Kazushige Shimamura and staff Kana Okada

13) Edogawa Members League for Honolulu-Edogawa Relations Dinner at Hotel Seaside Edogawa

- a. Discussion on Edogawa-Honolulu relations, mutual issues and solutions as well as the possibility of promoting relations to Sister-City level
- b. Hotel Seaside Edigawa is owned by the City and features a public park, beach and 2020 Olympic event, Canoe Slalom
- c. Edogawa Members League for Honolulu-Edogawa Relations attendees: Council Chair Juichi Tanaka, Vice Chair Mitsuhiro Fukumoto, Councilmembers Yogenda Puranik, Yutaka Kurihara, Makoto Nozaki, Hidetaka Takagi, Susumu Takeuchi, Takahito Nakayama

Monday, August 5:

City of Hiroshima- Hiroshima is Honolulu's first sister city with the adoption of Council Resolution #349 on May 19, 1959 and a sister city agreement was signed by the Mayors of Honolulu and Hiroshim on June 15, 1959. Hawaii's people have strong historical ties to Hiroshima dating back more than 130 years (established May 1959). Between 1885 and 1894, approximately 30,000 people arrived here from Japan, primarily to work in sugar plantations

where conditions were harsh. An estimated one-third of these immigrants came from Hiroshima. The sister city relationship between Honolulu and Hiroshima grew from the People to People Program established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in the 1950s to promote peace and mutual understanding between citizens in countries throughout the world.

Since the establishment of the sister city relationship, Honolulu and Hiroshima have embarked on mutual exchanges and visits between the two cities in the fields of education, culture, business, and trade. In 2018, for instance, the annual Hiroshima goodwill delegation that visits Honolulu was on its 53rd year visit since it started in 1966. In 1985, the prefecture of Hiroshima presented Honolulu with the Hiroshima Peace Bell, and a bell-ringing ceremony is held each year at the Izumo Taishakyo Mission near Chinatown to mark the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Included in the ceremony is a traditional Shinto offering of fruits, vegetables, sake and rice for purification, as well as a blessing. In 2001, the Hiroshima Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hiroshima Prefecture, and the City of Hiroshima presented the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce a replica of the Torii gate at Hiyajima, a World Heritage site, as a symbol of the everlasting friendship between the two cities. In 2002, the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce presented the Torii gate to the City and County of Honolulu, and this beautiful 26-foot-high structure now stands at the intersection of King and Beretania streets in Moiliili.

On July 2, 2019 Mayor Kirk Caldwell was joined by Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, Hiroshima Council Chair Haruo Yamada and Honolulu Council Chair Ikaika Anderson to officially renew the sister city relationship between the two cities as part of the 60th Anniversary of this partnership. In the afternoon of July 2nd, both mayors presided over a Ceremonial Tree Planting in the Foster Botanical Garden. This ceremonial tree planting is part of a program that sends seeds from atomic bomb surviving trees, called Moku or Hibakujumoku to locations around the world. The Moku tree sapling, raised from the seed of an atomic surviving tree was planted to mark Honolulu and Hiroshima's 60th Anniversary of the sister city relationship.

- 14) Transport to Hiroshima City by International Relations Division Director Shigemizu and Nanae Nakagami
- 15) Mayor Kazumi Matsui Courtesy Call
 - a. Brief informal meeting
 - b. Presentation of gifts
- 16) Hiroshima City Council Chair Haruo Yamada
 - a. Brief Informal meeting
 - b. Presentation of gifts
- 17) Wreath dedication at the Cenotaph for Atomic Bomb Victims
- 18) Peace Ceremony Rehearsal

Tuesday, August 6:

19) Hiroshima Peace Ceremony- The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony is held each year on the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima at the exact moment when the atomic bomb was dropped, on August 6th at 8:15 am at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. Some 50,000 local citizens and visitors, as well as numerous ambassadors and dignitaries from around 70 countries, gather to console the spirits of those killed by the atomic bomb and pursue lasting world peace. Held virtually every year since 1947, just two years after the atomic bomb was dropped, this ceremony featured speeches with entreaties for peace from the Prime Minister of Japan, the Mayor of Hiroshima and other noteworthy figures. During the ceremony bells rang out at temples, sirens wailed throughout the city and the citizens of Hiroshima observed a solemn moment of silence in remembrance. The Atomic Bomb Dome was located almost directly underneath the explosion but somehow avoided complete destruction and the remains of the building are still standing today. The residents of Hiroshima keep this tragic reminder of war intact and the site was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1996.

- a. Numerous official Dignitaries attended including Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe and various Ambassadors from Countries around the world

20) Informal Lunch

- a. With Mayor Kazumi Matsui, Council Chair Haruo Yamada, Councilmember Ishida and Council staff Yasuko Okane

21) Visit to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum with Museum Director Takuo Takigawa

22) Return to Honolulu

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: August 19, 2019

Traveler: Councilmember Ann Kobayashi

Event: ~~2019~~ City Council Delegation to Various Sister Cities in Japan

Location: Nagaoka, Edogawa and Hiroshima Japan

Dates: From July 31, 2019 To August 6, 2019

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee		
2. Airfare		
3. Hotel	1571.78 1422.62	
4. Meals	388.38 377.48	
5. Ground Transportation		
6. Tips	12.00	
7. Other	28.12	
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	1950.28 1426.42	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment.


Signature of Traveler

AUG 20 2019
Date