



A History of the The Hawaii Jaycees

In the beginning...

The Jaycee movement in Hawaii first began in 1932 with the formation of the Honolulu Junior Chamber of Commerce. In 1940, the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce President Perry Pipkin came to Hawaii to help start the state organization. The Hilo and Wahiawa Junior Chamber of Commerce were formed, followed by the Maui Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1941.

The advent of World War II, however delayed the formation of the territory wide organization as many Jaycees entered military service. Those who remained at home undertook many active programs of service by a participating in activities such as surveying potential air raid shelters, the Kiawe Corps, distributing gas coupons and establishing victory gardens.

Early in 1943, the Hawaii Junior Chamber of Commerce was formed. The Articles of Incorporation and the by-laws of the Hawaii Junior Chamber of Commerce were adopted. R. Allen Watkins, the past president of the Honolulu Junior Chamber of Commerce, was elected its first president of the state organization. During 1944, many vital projects were coordinated by the Hawaii Junior Chamber of Commerce across the territory. The Kauai Junior Chamber of Commerce was formed during that year.

Forceful and constructive action made the Jaycee movement in Hawaii invaluable to every phase of Hawaiian life. Our organization has many achievements include helping to start many projects that have since become institutions in Hawaii. Among these is the Blood Bank of Hawaii, the 50th State Fair, the Miss Hawaii Scholarship Pageant, the Honolulu Youth Symphony, Aloha Week, Teen Challenge, and the Special Olympics.

The Hawaii Jaycees came to the aid of the state in 1982, when Hurricane Iwa devastated the island of Kauai. The Hawaii Jaycees responded to the emergency



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by initiating the transport of supplies to the needy families on the island. In 1983, the Hawaii Jaycees stepped forward to help fund the Hawaii Silver Jubilee Anniversary Program which celebrated Hawaii's 25 years of statehood. They stepped in with a fund-raising project through the sale of a silver jubilee coin and a souvenir magazine, with monies from the sales helping to fund all the programs for the celebration that year.

In 1984, United States Jaycees and the Hawaii Jaycees voted to accept women into the organization. The dissolution of the Hawaii Jaycees Women's organization followed in 1985 and many members of organization joined the Hawaii Jaycees. The Hawaii Jaycees elected its first woman president, Brenda Yee, in 1987. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Hawaii Jaycees continued their community contributions through projects such as the Great Hawaiian Rubber Duckie Race for United Cerebral Palsy, Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar, the mount Pinatubo Disaster relief fund, Magic Spectacular for the American Cancer Society, the Haunted House for March of Dimes, and the Three Outstanding Young Persons of Hawaii recognition program.

At the turn of the millenium, the Hawaii Jaycees returns to its roots. We are focusing on our beginnings as a pioneering community service organization while laying the foundation for leadership growth. With the inaugural sessions of the Leadership Training Academy, the Hawaii Jaycees will be graduating and certifying its first class of leaders. Each of them will have formal training in strategic and operations management, finance and accounting, marketing and sales, and practical leadership.

The Hawaii Jaycees are a non-profit corporation, composed of more than 16 chapters throughout the state with approximately 500 young men and woman sharing the Jaycee experience.