

Acknowledgments

In 1999, planning began for the centennial celebration of Okinawan immigration to Hawai‘i, an ambitious year-long commemoration in 2000, with at least one event to be held each month throughout the year. The Centennial Celebration Committee envisioned holding an International Scholars Forum, much like the one in 1990, offering a credit course on “Okinawan History and Culture in Hawai‘i” at the University of Hawai‘i and with it, a complementary study tour to Okinawa. I was asked to coordinate the educational programs because the Uchinaanchu community’s scholarly resource persons, Professor Mitsugu Sakihara and Professor Ruth Adaniya, were both ill (sadly, both have passed on). Since I am neither an Okinawan/Ryukyuan specialist, nor an Asian Studies specialist, I initially resisted. However, as frequently occurs in the local Uchinaanchu community, I gave in and took on two of these projects—the course and the Scholars Forum and learned much in the process.

This volume would not have been possible without the involvement and support of several individuals and the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA). First and foremost, has been the commitment of *Social Process in Hawai‘i* Executive Editor, Professor Emeritus Kiyoshi Ikeda, whose deep interest in Uchinaanchu in Hawai‘i and Okinawan issues spans over a half-century from his early scholarly work and his continuing encouragement of younger scholars. *Social Process in Hawai‘i* continues to provide a venue for many of these scholars. Second, graphics specialist with the Center for Instructional Support at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, only begins to describe the work that Mark Nakamura does. He not only designed the cover, laid-out the text, but also served as a virtual editor spending countless hours catching things I had missed. The HUOA and many individual members supported the publication of this volume, and individuals such as Laverne Higa Nance, David Arakawa, and Dexter Teruya patiently prodded the project along as did Lucille Aono of the University of Hawai‘i Press.

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who helped me clarify the subtleties of meanings of Okinawan words. In the end, however, the responsibility for the mistakes is mine.

While I juggled editing with teaching, my husband and family patiently put up with my multiple stacks of various versions of manuscripts, and lack to attention to real world activities, and colleagues and students were ever supportive.

Ultimately, I thank and dedicate this volume to Professor Mitsugu Sakihara and Professor Ruth Adaniya. Their interests in Ryuukyuu and Okinawan studies preceded the "Okinawan boom," and the significance of their respective works will continue well after the "boom" fades. It is also in remembrance of my parents, Wallace Seiko Chinen and Kiyoko Uchima Chinen, and my extended kin who, through their daily behaviors, taught my siblings and me the value of Yuimaaru, pitching in and working collectively. This volume is a tribute to the Uchinaanchu and Uchinaanchu-at-Heart in Hawai'i, especially those within the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, but globally as well, without whose support and assistance this volume could not have been accomplished—Ukaji Sama De (*Okage Sama De*—we are indebted to you).❖