



THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

MICHAEL A. DAHILIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

News Release

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SARAH K. BLANE, CHIEF OF STAFF
Tel (808) 241-4900
Fax (808) 241-6877

Mayor holds tree planting ceremony for Yamaguchi governor

LĪHU'E – Mayor Derek S. K. Kawakami held a special commemorative tree planting and dedication ceremony on Friday, Oct. 18, for Gov. Tsugumasa Muraoka of Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan.

“This event marks my first tree planting ceremony since I took office, and I’m honored to commemorate our strong ties with our friends from Japan,” said Mayor Kawakami at Friday’s ceremony.

Gov. Muraoka and a delegation of 11 officials, including members of the Yamaguchi Prefectural Assembly, visited Kaua’i for official business and to attend the Matsuri Kaua’i Festival. Mayor Kawakami first met Gov. Muraoka during his inaugural visit to Japan in late September.

“When I visited Japan with our Kaua’i delegation a few weeks ago, we were treated with the utmost respect, hospitality, and an aloha spirit unlike anywhere else,” said Mayor Kawakami. “It’s this level of aloha that has truly connected our countries and our cultures together for many, many years.”

The ceremony was held on the grounds of the Kaua’i War Memorial Convention Hall in front of an audience of Yamaguchi officials, County of Kaua’i officials, the Kaua’i County Council, and community members. At the ceremony, Mayor Kawakami and Gov. Muraoka planted the indigenous Alahe’e tree.



Immediately following the ceremony, attendees gathered at the Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall where the Kaua'i Japanese Cultural Society held its 34th Annual Matsuri Kaua'i Festival. The festival showcased a variety of Japanese traditions and activities to perpetuate the Japanese culture on Kaua'i.

"The Matsuri Festival is a wonderful time to celebrate Hawai'i's rich Japanese history together with our 'ohana and friends, while sharing our Japanese traditions with the next generation," said Mayor Kawakami during his welcome remarks. "Mahalo to Pearl Shimizu and the Kaua'i Japanese Cultural Society for continuing this special tradition for our community year after year."



Above: Gov. Tsugumasa Muraoka of Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan, and Mayor Derek S. K. Kawakami shake hands as they finish planting the Alahe'e tree on the grounds of the Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall on Friday, Oct. 18.



Above: Mayor Derek S. K. Kawakami held a special tree planting ceremony on Friday, Oct. 18, for Gov. Tsugumasa Muraoka of Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan. Attending the ceremony were delegates of Yamaguchi, Council Vice Chair Ross Kagawa, Councilmember KipuKai Kualii, Sue Kanoho of the Kauai Visitor's Bureau, and many other Kauai officials and community members.

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