



Information about Exchange Projects between the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation and Overseas Fukuoka Kenjinkai

## The Visiting Group for the Promotion of Friendship between Fukuoka Prefecture and the State of Hawaii visited Hawaii, meeting with the Hawaii-Fukuoka Kenjinkai and deepening their bonds of friendship.



On the 22nd April 2023, an Exchange of Opinions Meeting was held in Honolulu, Hawaii, with the Hawaii-Fukuoka Kenjinkai. From Fukuoka Prefecture, Governor Hattori and Legislative Assembly Chair Representative Kabashima, as well as other members of the Visiting Group for the Promotion of Friendship between Fukuoka Prefecture and the State of Hawaii were in attendance. From Hawaii, Chairman Myles Nomura and other Kenjinkai members were in attendance, as well as businesspeople associated with Fukuoka. Governor Hattori offered his thanks to everyone for carrying on the efforts of their predecessors to build bonds between Fukuoka Prefecture and the State of Hawaii. During the rest of the meeting, the participants discussed how to take back the time to take part in exchange which was lost due to the coronavirus, and for as long as time allowed, the bonds of friendship between the participants were deepened as they talked.

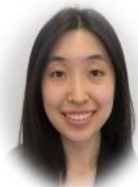
## In 2023, 6 students on the Exchange Student Program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture start their studies!

In 2023, 6 students came to Fukuoka Prefecture as part of the Exchange Student Program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture, and started their year of student life. Although they still have many things to learn, the students are working hard together and enjoying their student life in Fukuoka. On the 30th May, they made a courtesy visit to Vice-Governor Oomagari, who offered them words of support, saying, "I would like you to experience many things over the course of this year, and become a bridge of friendship between our prefecture and your Kenjinkais when you return."



### Introduction of the Exchange Students

① Impressions of Fukuoka Prefecture ② Goals for this Year



**Shibuya Fernanda**  
(Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai)

① I really like the well-planned streets. The temples are also very beautiful, and you can experience all of Japan's traditional culture right here.  
 ② I have two goals for this year. The first is to deepen my study of Japanese. The second is to study Japanese theater, culture, and education.



**Fuchiwaki Kenzo**  
(Paraguay Fukuoka Kenjinkai)

① I was surprised by how large Fukuoka City is, how safe it is to travel, how efficient the public transport is, and how traditional Japanese culture still persists in the present day. ② I want to raise my level of Japanese as much as I can, and learn Japanese law-related terminology, whilst studying the differences between Japan and Paraguay's legal systems. I also want to learn a lot about Japanese culture and traditions, and make many new friends along the way.



**Kumagai Yamamoto Margarita Haruka**  
(Paraguay Fukuoka Kenjinkai)

① Fukuoka's underground streets are so beautiful - it's like being in another world, which really surprised me. The airport and ocean are also nearby, and the night scenery is very beautiful. Everyone here is very kind and treats me like family.  
 ② I want to study Fukuoka's history and towns, as well as the language, traditions, and culture of my ancestors. I also want to do my best to study Japan's natural tourism business with regards to cherry blossoms. Because of this, I also want to improve my vocabulary related to economics.



**Tsuru Micaela**  
(Argentina Fukuoka Kenjinkai)

① Fukuoka is very safe, beautiful, and the food is delicious! I love tonkotsu ramen! Also, I was very surprised that the public transport always comes on time. The parks are also very beautiful.  
 ② My goal is to improve my Japanese, study more about dentistry, make friends, and learn about my roots.



**Tanaka Gomez Aiko**  
(Mexico Fukuoka Kenjinkai)

① So far, every place I have been in Fukuoka is wonderful - there are flowers everywhere and it's very beautiful. Also, everyone is very kind. I feel that Fukuoka is very safe, so I can relax. I was surprised that you can see shrines right next to large buildings. ② During this year I want to make lots of friends, and become able to speak Japanese even more. I want to learn more about Fukuoka's culture and dialect, learn about more the food, and go to places I haven't been before.



**Teshima Guibu Sayuri Nancy**  
(Peru Fukuoka Kenjinkai)

① I like that I can feel relaxed and safe when I walk the streets. The parks, shrines, and nature are all so abundant, and you can get a feeling for Japan's culture in these beautiful places. ② During this year, I want to practice to become fluent in speaking Japanese, and I want to improve my art skills at university. Also, I want to take part in all sorts of activities to learn more about Japanese culture.

## Change of Managing Director of the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation

As of April 1, 2023, Mr. Kenjiro Takenami has taken over as the Managing Director of the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation.