

# WUB Hawaii – 2007 Speakers Program



## **Program Agenda – Kyuzo Toyama**

**Thursday, November 1, 2007**

The Speakers Program is intended to present various topics of common interest and value to businesses and individuals such as health, business opportunities, personal financial management, politics, real estate, etc. The following is the topic and speaker for the November 1, 2007 WUB meeting.

### **Kyuzo Toyama the Father of Okinawan Immigration**

***Presented by: John Tasato***

*Our very own John Tasato will speak about the life of Kyuzo Toyama, the Father of Okinawan Immigration. He will also recount the installation of the Hawaii Okinawa Center Kin Memorial Boulder and the establishment of a Kyuzo Toyama Day for Okinawans abroad.*

*Kyuzo Toyama, born in 1868, was an educator and the driving force behind getting the first group of Okinawans to Hawaii. Japan's Meiji rulers made Okinawa a prefecture in 1879. Although Japanese had been in Hawaii for years, Meiji officials were concerned that Okinawans would not be good representatives overseas. Despite this discrimination, Toyama persuaded the governor to let them leave their impoverished and typhoon-battered island in 1900.*

*The Kin Memorial Boulder was also installed during the 2000 Okinawan centennial at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, a gift from Okinawa to honor the emigrants who planted roots in these islands. The 18-ton piece of marble comes from Kin Cho, the village where Kyuzo Toyama was born and was transported by the U.S. Marine Corps.*

*Kyuzo Toyama died in Okinawa in 1910. After a decade-long effort, his ashes were returned to Hawaii and interred at Mililani Memorial Park during the centennial celebration.*

The session will start with a presentation followed by an open discussion about anything you would like to learn more about.

Please contact any WUB officer or Lloyd Arakaki if there are any questions and hope to see you at this interesting and informative session.