

“Pigs from the Sea” Commemorative Monument

The Pacific War brought calamity and starvation to the island of Okinawa. This monument is erected in memory of the 550 pigs delivered to Okinawa by Uchinanchu (Okinawan) immigrants residing in Hawaii. These pigs, which our Uchinanchu brethren in Hawaii risked their lives to deliver, helped revive the Okinawan pig farming industry and solve the food shortage, greatly contributing to the island’s postwar recovery. They also played a large role in ensuring that the Okinawan tradition of consuming pork could be carried on to future generations.

This monument honors the men and women of Hawaii who, with love for their ancestral homeland and courage in their hearts, undertook such a monumental task and whose efforts yielded such incredible results. It was constructed in the hopes that this magnificent story, which shows the strength of the bonds between the people of Okinawa and their Uchinanchu brothers and sisters in Hawaii, will continue to be passed down across generations.

Chief Fundraisers from Hawaii:

Zensuke Kinjo, President of the United Okinawan Assistance Association of Hawaii

Kamesuke Kakazu, Initial Planner and Promoter

The Seven Heroes who Voyaged to Okinawa:

Ryoshin Agena (native of Uruma City)

Yasuo Uezu (native of Uruma City)

Shinei Shimabukuro (native of Uruma City)

Yoshio Yamashiro (native of Uruma City)

Genbi Tonaki (native of Nanjo City)

Ushikichi Nakama (native of Itoman City)

Shohei Miyazato (native of the town of Motobu)