

IMPROVE EDUCATION
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT
ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES
ADOPT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES
MEET HUMAN NEEDS & PRESERVE LOCAL CULTURE

FOCUS OUR
MAUI ISLANDS
NUI OUR FUTURE

Own it!

Hanafura~Sakura



In the 18th year of Tenmon (A.D. 1549) when Francisco Xavier landed in Japan from Europe the crew of his ship had carried a set of *Hombre*, 48-card Portuguese playing cards, which became extremely popular with the Japanese. Through a colorful history of being banned and declared illegal (which did not diminish card-playing and gambling by the populace) the game of *Hanafuda*, which combined traditional Japanese games with Western-style playing cards, was developed in the late 1800s.



Entertaining and highly addictive the *Hanafuda* cards contain no numbers. Instead the 48 cards in the deck use pictures of flowers and plants. The deck is organized into 12 suites, one for each month of the year, and the types of plants represent the months in which they bloom. *Hanafuda* is commonly played in Hawaii and South Korea, though under different names. In Hawaii it is called *Sakura*, *Hanafura*, and *Higobana*.

Just ask any local or longtime resident about this card game and you will likely invoke wonderful memories of fun that could go on for hours, and hours, and hours.

The colorful
'flower cards'
are thicker
than Western-
style cards
and players
enjoy the
"smacking"
sound they
make when
slapped
together.



FOCUS MAUI NUI is a community-driven vision for the future of our islands, spearheaded by Maui Economic Development Board, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the economic well-being of Maui County. VISIT www.focusmauinui.com or CALL 808.270.6801