

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!

TANGO NO SEKKU



IN THE OLD DAYS, TANGO NO SEKKU WAS THE FESTIVAL FOR BOYS CELEBRATED ON THE 5th DAY OF THE 5th MONTH, WHILE HINAMATSURI WAS FOR GIRLS CELEBRATED ON THE 3rd DAY OF THE 3rd MONTH.

May 5th marks the beginning of summer on the old Asian lunar calendar and the beginning of the 5th month, which was set aside for purification. In 1948, it was decreed in Japan that this day be a national holiday called *KODOMO NO HI* (Children's Day) celebrating the healthy growth and development of children all over the world and expressing gratitude toward mothers. With Hawaii's rich Japanese cultural heritage, on this date throughout the state, families raise a colorful display of *koi* (carp)-shaped *koinobori* flags, one for each boy (or child), to expel evil spirits and celebrate the future of their sons (children). Inside the house, families also may display heirlooms such as swords, bows, arrows and special *gogatsu ningyo*. These elaborate dolls portray warriors and legendary heroes of strength and valor, some posed on beautiful horses. The earliest *samurai* dolls date back to the *Edo* period during the 18th century. Originally only men could fashion them, and their doll-making secrets were passed down from generation to generation. Other special activities marking this day include the children taking *shyobuyu* (a bath with floating iris leaves), and *kashiwa-mochi* rice cakes and *chimaki*, a sweet rice paste wrapped in iris or bamboo leaf, that are traditionally served on this day.

KODOMO NO HI!



Watching these colorful windsocks flapping in the wind reminds one of the vigor, strength and perseverance of the *koi* as they swim upstream against powerful currents.

Do you celebrate Boys', Girls', or Childrens' Day?

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