



CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

P.O. Box 1105 Aiea, Hawaii 96701
www.cbfhawaii.com

Aloha Prospective Queen Contestant!

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Queen Contestant in the 73rd Cherry Blossom Festival. The Cherry Blossom Festival is proudly sponsored by the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce (HJJCC) and is one of the longest, continually running ethnic festivals in Hawaii. The Festival is an important cultural event in our local community, with the support of numerous businesses, generous individuals, and dedicated volunteers.

Enclosed are the following materials:

- Qualification Requirements
- Instructions for Completing the Application
- Estimated Time Commitment
- Sample Queen Contestant Schedule
- Queen Contestant Application Form (3 pages)
- Queen Contestant Application Checklist

Please review all materials carefully and fill out the Application Form completely.

You are required to submit:

- A complete Queen Contestant Application Form, download fillable pdf version [here](#);
- Copies of necessary birth certificates;
 - If your birth certificate does not clearly identify you as having at least 50% Japanese ancestry, **please refer to the 'Instructions for Completing the Application' page for additional birth certificate requirements;**
- Copy of Hawaii driver's license or Hawaii State ID (as proof of Hawaii residency);
- Documentation evidencing United States citizenship if not stated on birth certificate; and
- Application Fee - Make checks payable to **Cherry Blossom Festival**.
 - Application submissions postmarked by June 30, 2024, will pay an early application fee of \$15.00
 - Application submissions postmarked between July 1, 2024 and August 1, 2024, will pay an application fee of \$30.00

Please mail submittals to the address below:

Cherry Blossom Festival
Attn: 73rd CBF Contestant Search
P.O. Box 1105
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

****Queen Contestant Application will not be considered complete until all documents have been submitted. Deadline to submit is August 1, 2024 (postmark date).**

We look forward to receiving your application. Should you have any questions, please email the Contestant Search Committee at cbfsearch@hjjcc.com.

Sincerely,

73rd Cherry Blossom Festival
Contestant Search Committee

ENCLOSURE



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73rd Cherry Blossom Festival QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet all of the following qualifications to be eligible as a Queen Contestant Candidate:

1. Have at least 50% Japanese ancestry.
2. Be an United States citizen and Hawaii resident for two (2) consecutive years prior to September 1, 2024. Some exceptions may apply.
3. Be female by birth.
4. Be at least 19 years of age as of September 1, 2024, and not older than 28 years of age as of April 1, 2025.
5. Be a high school graduate.
6. Has never been married and does not intend to marry before April 1, 2025.
7. Has never given birth and does not intend to become pregnant before April 1, 2025.
8. Be of good moral character.
9. Has served in community service organizations or has an interest in serving in community service organizations.
10. Able to provide their own transportation to and from all Cherry Blossom Festival events, cultural classes and rehearsals.
11. Has access to device and internet connectivity.
12. Is not a current or potential title holder for any cultural festival or pageant between August 3, 2024 through April 1, 2025.
13. Is not a member of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce (HJJCC) and has never served on the HJJCC Board of Directors or Cherry Blossom Festival Steering Committee.
14. Is not an immediate family member of and/or dating a Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce member, a Cherry Blossom Festival Steering Committee member, and a current Cherry Blossom Festival Court member.



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73rd Cherry Blossom Festival **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION**

1. Provide all requested information (type or print legibly). Be sure to initial each page as well as sign and date the last page. Applications received without initials and/or signature will be considered incomplete and ineligible for consideration.
2. Your completed application and a copy of your birth certificate must be postmarked no later than **August 1, 2024**.
3. Only applicants of at least fifty-percent (50%) Japanese ancestry will be accepted as prospective candidates. We will be using your birth certificate to verify your ancestry. If this information is not indicated on your birth certificate, please include a copy of your biological mother's and/or biological father's birth certificate.

These are the possible combinations that will qualify you as having at least 50% Japanese ancestry:

	Parent 1	Parent 2	Birth Certificates Needed For
1.	Full Japanese	Full Japanese	Either Parent 1 or 2
2.	Other ethnicity	Full Japanese	Parent 2
3.	50% Japanese	50% Japanese	Both Parents 1 and 2

Important Note: If the birth certificate(s) submitted do not clearly identify you as having at least 50% Japanese ancestry, please contact the Contestant Search Committee at cbfsearch@hjjcc.com for assistance.

For your information, the Department of Health's Vital Statistics and Records Department can process your Hawaii birth certificate stating your ethnicity/race. Records that are readily available can be processed in 6-8 weeks. There is a fee of \$12.50. If you have further questions, you can call the Department of Health at (808) 586-4539. This information is subject to change. Any cost incurred will be at your expense.

4. Any application that is received without a birth certificate will be considered incomplete and ineligible for consideration. However, if you are in the process of filing for a duplicate birth certificate for yourself, your parents, or grandparents, you must include a copy of your receipt from the Department of Health or other government agency. All birth certificates must be **received** by **August 1, 2024**; otherwise your application will be ineligible for consideration.
5. Copy of Hawaii driver's license or Hawaii State ID (as proof of Hawaii residency).
6. Documentation evidencing United States citizenship if not stated on birth certificate.
7. Mail your completed Contestant Application form, necessary birth certificate(s) and the applicable application fee to: Cherry Blossom Festival, Attn: 73rd CBF Contestant Search, P.O. Box 1105, Aiea, Hawaii 96701.



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73rd Cherry Blossom Festival **ESTIMATED TIME COMMITMENT**

The Queen Contestant process is a very rich and fulfilling experience. As such, it requires a serious time commitment on the part of the Contestant.

The following is an example overall schedule to give you an idea of the time commitment necessary to be a Contestant. Both non-public and public events are **mandatory**. Please note that this is a sample schedule - **not** a final schedule or timetable.

Starting in September 2024 through April 2025, Contestants will be required to attend various meetings, classes, rehearsals, and other projects. On average, this may require two days a week, and on average three to four hours each day. The amount of events will vary each week. All non-public events are generally scheduled after normal work/school hours, and on weekends.

If you are selected as a member of the 73rd Cherry Blossom Festival Court, your commitment as a Court Member will continue until the 74th Cherry Blossom Festival Court is crowned.



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SAMPLE QUEEN CONTESTANT SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Contestant Orientation 10:00am - 12:00pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Parent Contestant Orientation 9:00am - 10:00am
25	26 Visual Marketing Etiquette 1:00pm - 3:00pm	27	28	29 Handbook Q&A Introduction 6:00pm - 8:00pm	30	

JANUARY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 FINAL DRAFT DUE Talko Class 3:00pm - 4:30pm
8 Opening Ceremonies 9:00am - 11:30am	9 Talko Class 8:00pm - 9:00pm	10 Kimono Class 6:30pm - 8:30pm	11	12 Karate Class 7:00pm - 8:00pm	13	14 Public Appearance 11:00am - 1:00pm
15 Festival Ball Rehearsal 2:00pm - 5:00pm	16 Talko Class 8:00pm - 9:00pm	17	18 Karate Class 6:30pm - 7:00pm	19	20	21 Public Appearance 11:00am - 1:00pm
22 Festival Ball Rehearsal 2:00pm - 5:00pm	23 Talko Class 8:00pm - 9:00pm	24	25	26 Japanese Business Etiquette 6:30pm - 7:00pm	27	28 Public Appearance 11:00am - 1:00pm
29 Festival Ball Rehearsal 2:00pm - 5:00pm	30 Talko Class 8:00pm - 9:00pm	31 Kimono Class 6:30pm - 8:30pm				

OCTOBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Team Bonding #1 1:00pm - 3:00pm
2 Sales Orientation 6:00pm - 8:00pm	3	4	5	6	7	8 Ramen Making Class 2:00pm - 3:00pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Early History of Japanese in Hawaii 10:30am - 12:30pm
16 History of CBF & Panel Discussion 11:00am - 12:00pm	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Photo Shoot 11:00am - 6:00pm	24	25 Visual Presentation 6:00pm - 8:00pm	26	27 Ikebana 6:00pm - 8:00pm	28	29 Speech Topic Due Iseai Values in Hawaii 10:30am - 12:30pm
30 Manju Making 1:00pm - 3:00pm	31					

FEBRUARY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Public Appearance 11:00am - 1:00pm
5 Festival Ball Rehearsal 2:00pm - 5:00pm	6 Talko Class 8:00pm - 9:00pm	7	8	9	10 KZOO Interview 5:15pm - 6:00pm	11 Contestant Reception 5:00pm - 8:00pm
12 Festival Ball Rehearsal 2:00pm - 5:00pm	13 Talko Class 8:00pm - 9:00pm	14	15	16 KZOO Interview 5:30pm - 6:15pm	17 Golf Tournament 9:00am - 5:00pm	18 Public Appearance 11:00am - 1:00pm
19 Festival Ball Rehearsal 2:00pm - 5:00pm	20 Talko Class 8:00pm - 9:00pm	21 Kimono Class 6:30pm - 8:30pm	22	23	24 KZOO Interview 5:30pm - 6:15pm	25 Mock Interview 8:00am - 3:00pm
26 Festival Ball Rehearsal 2:00pm - 5:00pm	27 Talko Class 8:00pm - 9:00pm	28				

NOVEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Visual Presentation 6:00pm - 8:00pm	2	3	4	5 Team Bonding #2 1:00pm - 3:00pm
6 Origami 1:00pm - 3:00pm	7	8	9	10	11	12 Speech Outline Due Tea Ceremony Class 10:00am - 2:00pm
13	14	15 Speech Class 6:00pm - 8:00pm	16	17 Visual Presentation Class 6:00pm - 8:00pm	18	19 Gyotaku 3:00pm - 6:00pm
20 Okinawan Culture Class 1:00pm - 5:00pm	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MARCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Visual Presentation 6:00pm - 8:00pm	2	3 KZOO Interview 5:30pm - 6:15pm	4 Judges Interview 8:00am - 3:00pm
5 Festival Ball Rehearsal 2:00pm - 5:00pm	6 Talko Class 8:00pm - 9:00pm	7	8	9	10 KZOO Interview 5:30pm - 6:15pm	11
12 Festival Ball Rehearsal 2:00pm - 5:00pm	13	14	15	16	17 Dress Rehearsal 3:00pm - END	18 Festival Ball - END 12:00pm - END
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

DECEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 1st Speech Draft Due Team Bonding #3 1:00pm - 3:00pm
4 Calligraphy 9:00am - 11:00am	5	6	7	8	9	10 Kendo 10:00am - 12:00pm
11	12	13	14	15	16 Aikido 6:30pm - 8:30pm	17 2nd Speech Draft Due Community Service 9:00am - 12:00pm
18 2nd Sales Orientation 9:00am - 10:00am	19	20 Speech & Visual Presentation 6:00pm - 8:00pm	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

APRIL						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Closing Ceremony 11:00am - 2:00pm	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



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73rd Cherry Blossom Festival QUEEN CONTESTANT APPLICATION FORM – PAGE 1 OF 3

PERSONAL DATA (type or print legibly)

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____
Street City / State Zip Code

Cell phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Birthdate: _____ Birth Place: _____

U.S. citizen? Yes No Hawaii resident? Yes No

Biological Father's name: _____ Employer: _____

Biological Mother's name: _____ Employer: _____

EDUCATION (past)

High School: _____ Year graduated: _____

College: _____ Degree: _____ Year graduated: _____

College: _____ Degree: _____ Year graduated: _____

College: _____ Degree: _____ Year graduated: _____

Vocational: _____ Year graduated: _____

Vocational: _____ Year graduated: _____

CURRENT EDUCATION

School: _____

Major: _____ Anticipated Graduation Date: _____ Credit Load: _____

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Employer: _____

Employment position: _____ Full time Part time

Initial: _____



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73rd Cherry Blossom Festival QUEEN CONTESTANT APPLICATION FORM – PAGE 2 OF 3

EDUCATION / EMPLOYMENT SCHEDULE

Work/School Schedule:

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<i>Ex:</i>	<i>8am – 1pm</i>	<i>9am–11am 3pm – 5pm</i>	<i>8am – 1pm</i>	<i>9am–11am 3pm – 5pm</i>	<i>8am – 1pm</i>	

CULTURAL EXPOSURE

Cultural Organizations: _____

Cultural Interests: _____

Cultural Training or Instruction: _____

OTHER ACTIVITIES (Charities, community service organizations, sororities, etc.)

Organization or Club: _____ Organization type: _____

Organization or Club: _____ Organization type: _____

Organization or Club: _____ Organization type: _____

How did you hear about the Cherry Blossom Festival?

- Poster
- Website
- News/Radio
- Social Media
- Family Member/Friend
- HJJCC Member: _____
- Former CBF Participant: _____
- Other: _____

Initial: _____



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73rd Cherry Blossom Festival QUEEN CONTESTANT APPLICATION FORM – PAGE 3 OF 3

Tell us about yourself (250 words or less) in the space provided or on a separate sheet of paper:

I, _____, hereby certify that all information provided in this application is true and correct. I have read and understand all the aforementioned terms and conditions and attest that I meet all Queen Contestant eligibility requirements of the Cherry Blossom Festival.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Initial: _____



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73rd Cherry Blossom Festival **QUEEN CONTESTANT APPLICATION FORM CHECKLIST**

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