

Certificate No. 32833

Application No. 22858

In this case, I am satisfied from the evidence given before Albert P. Medeiros, acting for the Secretary of Hawaii, by witnesses under oath and from the petition filed herein that the person whose photograph is attached to the petition and whose name is therein stated to be MASAJI OKADA, was born in Honolulu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, on the 24th day of January, A. D. 1920; and that the said MASAJI OKADA, having personally appeared before the said Albert P. Medeiros for identification, I am further satisfied that the photograph attached to the petition is a good likeness of him at the present time.

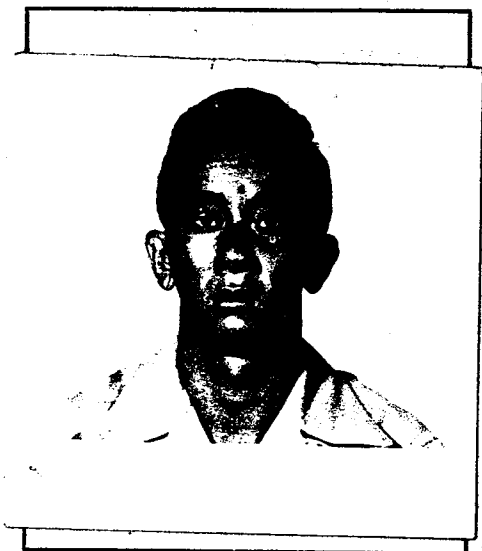
*Ernest K. Kai*  
Ernest K. Kai  
Secretary of Hawaii

Honolulu, Hawaii,  
January 14, 1943.

Office of the Secretary of Hawaii

4333  
7370

APPLICATION FOR  
CERTIFICATE OF HAWAIIAN BIRTH



Field Receipt No.....

Petition on behalf of

MASAJI OKADA

Also known as.....

Application Number.....

22858

Date Received.....

January 4, 1948

SECRETARY OF HAWAII,  
HONOLULU, HAWAII.

Your Petitioner respectfully prays that Certificate of Hawaiian Birth be issued to  
MASAJI OKADA  
....., hereinafter known as the "Applicant."

Prior application for Certificate of Hawaiian Birth by, or on behalf of Applicant, has  
not been made.

Applicant was born at Honolulu, Oahu Date January 24, 1920  
(City and Island)

Applicant now resides at 903 - 4th Avenue HONOLULU, OAHU  
(Street and Number) (City or Town)

Racial Descent of Applicant's parents: { Father..... Japanese  
Mother..... Japanese

Father's Name Shinichi Okada

Mother's Maiden Name Natsu Matsubara (Deceased - see testimony)

Applicant's physical identifying marks are: Scar at outer end right eye.

Sex Male.

Masaji Okada  
(Petitioner)

Subscribed and sworn to before me

*[Signature]*  
Secretary of Hawaii.

.....  
(Relation to Applicant)

See Index Nos.....

APPLICATION NO. 22858

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF THE HAWAIIAN BIRTH  
OF MASAJI OKADA, BY HIMSELF.

Testimony taken before Albert P. Medeiros, acting for the Secretary of Hawaii, at the Office of the Secretary, Iolani Palace, Honolulu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, on the 4th day of January, A. D. 1943. The Applicant, witnesses and Owen K. Konishi, Japanese interpreter, were duly sworn before the taking of testimony.

TESTIMONY OF APPLICANT  
Conducted in English.

What is your name?

Masaji "John" Okada.

How long have you had that name "John"?

Since I went down to the Draft Board last year.

Where were you born?

Honolulu.

Your date of birth?

January 24, 1920.

Are you Japanese?

Yes.

Ever been away from the Hawaiian Islands?

No.

Where do you live at the present time?

903 - 4th Avenue.

Father's name?

Shinichi Okada.

Mother's maiden name?

Natsu.

Have you been to english school?

Yes.

Where?

Kuhio, Cumming's, Liliuokalani Schools, a couple of days in McKinley High School and quit.

When did you finish Liliuokalani?

In 1937.

Have you been off this island?

Yes to Hawaii.

How long did you remain there?

A year and a half. I was in the C.C.C. at the volcano and Waimea.

Are you married?

No.

Have you brothers and sisters?

Yes-- Hiroshi, Masaji, Kazuo, Toichi, Itsuo and Sadako.

All born in Honolulu?

Yes.

Any of you been to Japan or the Mainland?  
Toichi and Sadako have been to Japan.

Who took them?

Friends.

Are they back here now?

Toichi is back but not Sadako.

When did Toichi come back?

Three years ago.

Do you know when he went to Japan?

I was small so don't remember.

Is he in Honolulu now?

Yes.

Where is Hiroshi?

Here.

Is he married?

Single.

Where are you now employed?

I was working for E.E. Black but not any more.

Have you your Certificate of Identity?

Yes.

NOTE:- Presents Certificate of Identity S.H. No. 26-336 issued to  
Mr. Masaji "John" Okada of 903 - 4th Avenue, a U.S. citizen  
born on January 24, 1920. Certificate issued March 30, 1942.  
(Seen and returned)

Were you born at Moiliili?

Waikiki some place. That's what the old man says.

Did your father ever go back to Japan?

No.

Your mother has passed away?

Yes.

When?

When I was about nine or ten.

Did your father marry again after her death?

No.

Do you still live with him?

Yes.

TESTIMONY OF FATHER  
Conducted in Japanese.

What is your name?

Shinichi Okada.

How old are you?

Sixty.

You were here sometime ago on behalf of one of your children. Were you not?

No.

For whom are you here today?

Masaji Okada.

Who is his mother?

Natsu Matsubara.

Is that her correct name?

Yes.

Is she still alive?

No, she died at Kaimuki about fifteen years ago.

Where and when were you married to her?

In Honolulu around 1915.

Have you your Marriage Certificate?

Yes.

NOTE:- Presents Marriage Certificate which certifies that Shinichi Okada of Honolulu and Miss Natsu Matsubara of U.S.I. Station, were united in marriage according to the Laws of the Territory of Hawaii at the Japanese Jodo Mission, on March 4, 1915 by Rev. Enjo Ito, Superintendent, Jodo Buddhist Mission. (Seen and returned)

Have you your wife's passport?

Yes.

NOTE:- Presents Japanese Passport No. 71543 issued to Natsu Okada and showing her to have been admitted at Honolulu on March 4, 1915. (Seen and returned)

Did your wife come to you as a picture bride?

Yes.

Did she ever go back to Japan?

No.

What different islands did you live with her in the Territory?

Only on Oahu in Honolulu.

How many children have you?

Six.

Any dead?

Two.

All born in Honolulu?

Yes.

Give me the names, birth dates of the six living children?

Hiroshi	March 18, 1918
Masaji	January 24, 1920
Kazuo	April 6, 1921
Toichi	June 7, 1922
Itsuo	July 29, 1923
Sadako	December 7, 1926

Names of the two children you lost?

Shigeo and Kiyoto. Shigeo was my first child and died when seventy-two days old. Kiyoto followed Shigeo and died when sixty-four days old.

Are you married again?

No.

Are the births of your children registered with the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu?

Yes.

NOTE:- Presents the Okada Family Record which discloses that Masaji, fourth son of Shinichi and Natsu Okada was born on Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu, Oahu, T.H. on January 24, 1920. His birth was registered at the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu on February 12, 1920 by father, Shinichi Okada. (Seen and returned)

These children you named for me a while ago have never been away from the Territory?

No.

Has Hiroshi a birth certificate of any kind?

Five of my children living are registered at the Board of Health. Masaji has no record at all.

Why?

I asked an agent to report his birth but he failed to do so because there is no record for him there.

Do you understand this interpreter?

Yes.

Where is Sadako?

In Japan.

Have any of your children we spoke of a few minutes ago been away from the Territory?

Toichi and Sadako went to Japan but Sadako remained there.

What was your business at the time of Masaji's birth?

Carpenter.

Was he born in a cottage or an apartment house?

Cottage.

Who was midwife at his birth?

Mrs. Mizumoto who is here today.

TESTIMONY OF WITNESS  
Conducted in Japanese.

What is your name?

Fui Umeda.

How old are you?

Fifty.

Where do you live?

Algeroba Street -- 1808.

When did you first come to the Territory?

1913 -- June.

Have you your passport?

Yes.

NOTE:- Presents Japanese Passport No. 43774 issued to Fui Mizumoto and showing her to have been admitted at Honolulu on June 19, 1913. . (Seen and returned)

You have lived in Honolulu since?

Yes.

Ever been back to Japan?

No.

For whom are you a witness?

Masaji Okada.

Is this Masaji? (Photograph of applicant shown)

Yes.

Where was Masaji born?

On Kalakaua Avenue just before you get to the bridge, going towards Waikiki. At the time of his birth the landlord was some Hawaiian.

How do you know he was born there?

I was then living under the same roof but different apartment.

Who is his father?

I don't know his name.

His mother's name?

I don't know her name either.

Were you located in that area before these people?

We went there together. My husband and Mr. Okada were friends but the Odakas left that place first.

Where did you first make the acquaintance of Mr. Okada?

I first saw him near Thomas Square where they were living. Mr. Okada and my husband were painters and they knew one another.

Did you meet Mr. Okada while he was still a bachelor?

Yes.

What is his wife's name?

I don't know.

Is she still alive?

No.

In all the years you knew her did she ever go back to Japan?

No.

Did she come as a picture bride?

Yes.

How many children has she born in Honolulu that you personally know about?

Only one -- Masaji the applicant.

Are there others in the family?

Yes.

Do you know who they are?

Yes.

Do you know their names?

No.

You know the name of only Masaji?

I know a Hiroshi.

Do you know where he was born?

In Honolulu.

Are there any children in this family now in Japan?

A girl is now in Japan.

Are there some children dead perhaps?

I don't remember.

How many are living? Do you know?

I do not.

How often do you see this family?

Just once in a while.

Have you always been able to identify Masaji since the time of his birth?

Yes.

If Hiroshi were to come here today would you know him?

Yes.

Is he married?

No.

You say that this boy Masaji was born in a house that you lived in on Kalakaua Avenue?

Yes.

Who was midwife at his birth? Do you know?

Mrs Mizumoto, my mother.

Is your mother here today?

Yes.

TESTIMONY OF WITNESS  
Conducted in Japanese.

What is your name?

Take Mizumoto.

How old are you?

This March I will be exactly eighty-two.

you live in Honolulu - do you not?

Yes.

You have appeared as a witness in birth certificate cases many times in the past - have you not?

Yes.

Your present address?

1744-B Waiola Street.

You realize what it means to testify in Hawaiian Birth Certificate cases under oath?

Yes.

For whom are you here today as a witness?

For Masaji Okada.

Where was he born?

Near the bridge on Kalakaua Avenue, leading from King Street to Waikiki.

How do you know that he was born there, Mrs. Mizumoto?

Because I assisted his mother at the time of his birth.

You mean you took the place of a midwife at his birth?

Yes.

Is his mother still alive?

away

I did not know that she had passed/until the applicant's father called on me recently.

At the time you assisted at the birth of this applicant, were there other children in the family?

Yes an older brother. Hiroshi is his name.

You know where the family moved to from that place on Kalakaua Avenue?

I do not.

Where were you located at the time of the applicant's birth?

Pawaa.

Do you know that woman who just left here?

She is my daughter.

Where was she located when this boy Masaji was born?

In the same house Masaji was born in.

How long have you known this boy's father?

I first made his acquaintance about two or three years before Masaji's birth. After that I did not see him for many years.

I take it then that after you assisted at the birth of Masaji, you did not see him again until today?

That is right.

How do you know that is the same boy at whose birth you assisted?

I think that he is the same boy because he resembles his father.

He could be some other son and not the one at whose birth you assisted?

I came to tell you that I was midwife at the birth of a boy, Masaji born to this Okada family on Kalakaua Avenue, in the same house where my daughter lived.

Do you know the names of some of the other children?

I do not.

Lc

NOTE:— For additional evidence, I examined Immigration File of Toichi Okada (4333/7370) which, as of September 14, 1931, reveals that:—

Mother, Natsu Okada, arrived at Honolulu from Japan on March 3, 1915; father on June 29, 1899. No departures from Territory by either party. Mother's death listed as having been on July 4, 1927. Also reveals that the following children had been born to them in Honolulu, as follows:—

Hiroshi	March 18, 1918
Masaji	January 24, 1920
Kazuo	April 6, 1921
Toichi	June 7, 1922
Itsuo	July 29, 1923
Sadako	December 7, 1926
Shigeo	would be 15 years - died 70 days old
Kiyoto	" 14 " " 64 "

*[Handwritten signature]*

REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATION:- This applicant, Masaji Okada, claims birth in Honolulu on January 24, 1920, with no departures from the Territory whatsoever. Claim also made that he has resided from time of birth, continuously, in Honolulu, and that his mother has passed away.

I have obtained testimony of father and two witnesses all of which are in agreement with that of applicant.

The Okada family record reveals that Masaji had been born in Honolulu on January 24, 1920, and registered at the Japanese Consulate, Honolulu, on February 12, 1920.

File of a brother, Toichi, at the Immigration Station also carries evidence showing that Masaji had been born in Honolulu.

Evidence gathered in this case, I feel, justifies issuance of Certificate of Hawaiian Birth to Masaji Okada. Such issuance is hereby recommended.

*Albert P. Medeiros*

Albert P. Medeiros.  
Birth Registration Examiner.