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Hilo's Suisan Co. endows scholarship for culinary arts program at HCC



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The Suisan Co. Ltd. in Hilo has created a new scholarship for Big Island students enrolled full-time in [Hawaii Community College's Culinary Arts program](#), the [University of Hawaii Foundation](#) said Thursday.

The century-old Big Island food distributor established the endowed scholarship with a \$35,000 gift, calling it the [Rex Y. Matsuno Culinary Scholarship](#), appropriately named to honor Rex Matsuno, son of [Kamezo Matsuno](#), one of the founders of what was originally called Sui San Kabushiki Kaisha when it opened in 1907.

"This scholarship was established to honor [Rex Y. Matsuno's](#) contributions to the food



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Courtesy Suisan Co.

The Suisan Co. Ltd. in Hilo, seen here, has created a new scholarship for Big Island students enrolled full-time in [Hawaii Community College's Culinary Arts program](#).

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industry on the Big Island of Hawaii and recognize the company's existence for over 100 years," CEO Glenn T. Hashimoto said in a statement. "This effort to reach out to our community will provide educational opportunities to students studying culinary arts."


The scholarship is specifically for Big Island high school graduates pursuing culinary arts education through the Hawaii Community College, and students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.5

Rex Matsuno is credited with not only growing but literally re-building the Suisan Co. even before he took the reins as its sixth president in 1967. In 1949, he launched Suisan's frozen food distribution division that is still around today, and when the May 23, 1960, tsunami wiped out the Big Island's former Waiakea Town, where the company's fish market and frozen food line had been thriving, Rex Matsuno helped to rebuild and expand those divisions.

Today, the company is considered the Big Island's premier food distributor and among the top 250 businesses statewide.

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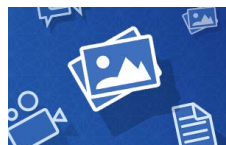
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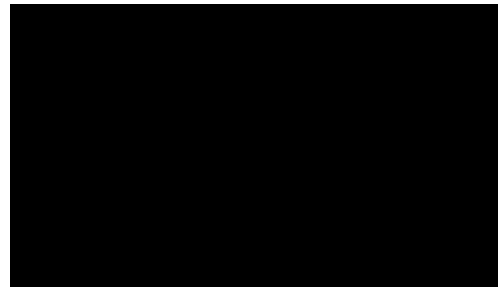
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