



Deaf Studies sends student aid to Dominican Republic

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Staff writer

Koichi Tsuji will take a trip to the Dominican Republic representing Ohlone's Deaf Studies Program in a coordinated donation effort with the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

JICA, a nonprofit group based in Japan, is dedicated to aiding numerous international causes, and seeks to aid the struggling deaf studies program in the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican Republic's schools program struggles due to a lack of funding and school supplies, resulting in deaf children being intermingled with children who are able to hear.

Things are so desperate that some children resort to whatever they can do to survive, as many of them live in abject poverty.

The school Tsuji will be traveling to help is located far inland, away from the ocean, increasing the difficulty of acquiring supplies from the docks.

Upon his arrival in the Dominican Republic, Tsuji will use the funds he collected over Spring Break with the Ohlone Deaf Studies department to purchase much-needed supplies for the deaf students in the Dominican Republic.

He will work alongside the representative from JICA, who will assist Tsuji in the distribution of the supplies.

Professor Thomas Holcomb leads the Ohlone Deaf program, which has been funding Koichi's venture to the Dominican Republic through different fundraisers. These include selling various school supplies, such as pencil kits.



Top: Children take a class photo at the School for the Deaf at Patronato Benefico Oriental in the Dominican Republic.
Right: Deaf students from various colleges teach students in the Dominican Republic and help in ways the country's education system can't.



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