



The Couple:
Rebecca Ma & Toyohiro Bando aka "Bando"

Date: 18 February 2012

The Ceremony:
Olowalu Plantation House in Maui, Hawaii

The Reception:
Olowalu Plantation House
in Maui, Hawaii

The Accommodation:
Honua Kai in Kaanapali

Gown: Chapter One

Photographer:
Shawn Starr

Wedding Coordinator:
Bliss Creations



Rebecca & Bando

Hawaii

Why did you choose a destination wedding?

We met at a friends' wedding and after a year filled with romance and adventure, we took a trip to Hawaii for a little rest and relaxation. While getting ready for dinner one night I came out of the bathroom to find Bando down on one knee, with a ring in hand! I am from HK and Bando is from Japan so it was perfect that we chose to marry where we got engaged.

Why did you select the destination and venue you did?

We chose the Olowalu Plantation House because it was suggested by our wedding planner. We loved the greenery of the area and the oceanfront views—it was the perfect beach location.

Did you have guests attend, and if so, what was their reaction to you having a destination wedding?

We had a very intimate wedding with close family and friends. Unfortunately Bando's sister was unable to attend because she was due to give birth, however we were very touched by those who were able to attend. Our guests had a fabulous time! Everyone loved

Maui and it was so nice to have been able to spend this special occasion with them.

What is your favourite memory of the day?

The moment we pledged our vows to one another in front of all of our beloved friends and family was the most memorable and unforgettable moment of the entire event.

What was the best thing about having a destination wedding?

Our guests really got to relax and enjoy Maui and we got to spend quality time with each of them.

What theme or style did you base your wedding decorations on?

We wanted to incorporate elements of being in Hawaii but wanted it elegant and simple. Bliss is also very experienced with working elements of a couple's cultural heritage and personalities into an event so we invited all guests for a Traditional Luau the day before the event to introduce them to the history of Hawaii and the traditional foods they serve.

On the day of the event, the celebrant introduced the ceremony with a traditional

blowing of the conch and a Hawaiian blessing which was beautiful. Our tables were decorated with beautiful tropical arrangements accented with hanging orchid leis and guests were given Japanese Furoshuki bags filled with some pressed Chinese tea embossed with our initials and Hawaiian homemade cookies as a souvenir. It was perfect!

How did your wedding coordinator assist you?

Bliss helped us from start to finish. Even though they were not based in Maui, their knowledge of the island and the high standard of people they partner with made the planning process very easy and stress free. We could not have done it without them!

Did you honeymoon in the same location?

We were expected to travel to Italy on honeymoon but an unexpected surprise delayed things. I gave birth to our daughter Luca 9 months after the wedding – a constant reminder of our love and our beautiful day!