



MAEBASHI FOCUS

Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Newsletter



Hawaii is located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, completely surrounded by the sea. Surfing is a hobby for many, and the ocean is always a near presence. Having said that, there are also those who can't swim or hardly go to the beach because of a dislike for sand. Aside from surfing, many other board-type sports exist, including bodyboarding, paddleboarding, and skimboarding. I learned bodyboarding from my father, and our favorite place to bodyboard is Sherwood Beach, where crowds are fewer. I have only tried surfing once. Although my cousins taught me how to paddle, the wind and tide were rough that day, and I couldn't ride a single wave. My arms were also extremely sore afterwards.

Instead of surfing, I enjoy snowboarding more. Since snow doesn't fall in Hawaii, I learned how to snowboard while studying abroad in Japan. During the last winter season towards the end of March, I visited Gunma Minakami Hodaigi Ski Resort for the first time. Despite there being many courses of varied slopes and distances, the overall size of the resort is small and not intimidating. The beginner slope is wide and spacious with a gradual incline, and seeing many good snowboarders from the ski lift was exciting and memorable. I had heard that this ski resort was popular and liked among locals, so I was grateful for the opportunity to go at the very end of the season. I hope to visit many of Gunma's ski resorts this season as well.

