

# SUSHI MASTERS

C O M P E T I T I O N

2 0 0 9

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
May 15, 2009

**CONTACT:**  
California Rice Commission:  
Jim Morris 916/387-2264

## **THE SUNSHINE STATE HAS A NEW SUSHI KING** *Creativity and skill carry chef to victory in Florida SushiMasters*

**Washington, D.C.** --- Chef Toshi Furihata claimed two gold medals and emerged victorious in this evening's SushiMasters Florida Regional Competition, the first such event held in the Sunshine State.

Furihata, Chef/Owner of Moshi Moshi in Miami Beach, took best of show honors, after winning a gold medal for his Signature Roll and Morikomi Plate. He earned the right to compete in the SushiMasters Finals Competition in Los Angeles this September.

"I was very surprised that I won," Furihata said. "Everybody did a great job. My style and presentation were just a little different, but we all had almost the same skill."

Furihata said he places great importance on using high-quality California rice in his dishes, which is found in every piece of sushi made in America.

Other Florida chef participants in the competition included Hiro Asano of Abokado Restaurant in Miami, Nestor Espartero of Sushi Bistro of Ocala and Takeshi Kamioka of Tokyo Sushi in Fort Lauderdale.

The California Rice Commission established SushiMasters in 2005, to highlight the growing interest in sushi and showcase the important role of rice in this and other world cuisine.

Photos and additional information on the competition is available by contacting Jim Morris of the California Rice Commission at 916/387-2264 or E-mail at [jmorris@calrice.org](mailto:jmorris@calrice.org).