



Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

December 2023

P.O. Box 188, Makawao, Maui, HI 96768

Office Phone: (808) 572-7229

E-mail: makawaohongwanji@gmail.com Website: makawaohongwanji.org Resident Minister: Rev. Kerry Kiyohara

MAKAWAO HONGWANJI MISSION
P. O. BOX 188
Makawao, HI.—96768

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SUNDAY SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED

Sunday, December 3, 9:00 a.m.
BODHI DAY (Jodo-e) SERVICE
Guest Speaker: Rev. Alan Urasaki

Sunday, December 10, 9:00 a.m.
FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE

Sunday, December 17, 9:00 a.m.
WINTER GENERAL CLEAN UP

Sunday, December 24, 9:00 a.m.
NO FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 6 P.M.
JOYA-E YEAR-END SERVICE
NEW YEAR'S EVE REFRESHMENTS

BODHI DAY

Bodhi Day is the Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that Gautama Buddha (Shakyamuni) is said to have attained *enlightenment*.



Santa Buddha: A Christmas Story

Once upon a time, in a magical place called Maui, a beautiful island in the middle of the big blue sea, there lived a little girl and a little boy, and many happy children.

One day, the little girl and little boy were writing letters to Santa Claus.

“Dear Santa, I want a doll!” said the little boy.

“Dear Santa, I want a fire truck!” said the little girl.

The other children laughed and said, “Dolls are for girls!” and “Fire trucks are for boys!”

The little boy said, “But I like dolls!”

The other children laughed, and he was sad.

The little girl said, “But I like fire trucks!”

The other children laughed, and she was sad.

The other children kept teasing the little boy and little girl until they began to cry.

Then, the other children felt bad because they made the little boy and little girl cry. The other children didn't mean to make the little girl and little boy cry but teasing them was so much fun, they couldn't stop.

The other children became sad and started crying too.

And there they were, all the children crying!

And just then, Santa Claus appeared before them!

“Ho-ho-ho! Happy Bodhi Day! *Mele kalikimaka!* Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah! Happy Kwanza! Howzit, *keiki!* How come you all cry?” said Santa.

The little boy said, “I was writing a letter to you, Santa, and I said I wanted a doll for Christmas, but the other children teased me, and said dolls are for girls, and I'm a boy! I felt sad so I started crying.”

The little girl said, “I was writing a letter to you Santa, and I said I wanted a fire truck for Christmas but the other children teased me, and said fire trucks are for boys, and I'm a girl! I felt sad so I started crying.”

The other children said, “We kept teasing the little girl and little boy. We didn't mean it but we made them cry, and that made us cry too!”

Santa Claus laughed so hard, his belly shook like a bowl of *haupia* jelly!

“Ho-ho-ho! Well, my beautiful little *keiki*, first, let's stop crying because it's almost Christmas, the happiest time of all!”

The children stopped crying and started smiling.

Santa smiled and said, “Amida Buddha teaches that each of us is different and yet we are all One. Who knows what that means?”



Continued From Page 2, Minister's Message

The little girl smiled and said, "I know! It's like a rainbow! When each color shines, just as it is, and all the colors are shining together, just as they are, all the colors together form a beautiful rainbow!"

Santa smiled and said, "That's right! You are a very wise little girl!"

The little boy smiled and said, "I know! Amida Buddha loves each of us, just as we are, and wants us to be happy, just as we are, even if we are sometimes naughty!"

Santa smiled and said, "That's right! You are a very wise little boy!"

The other children smiled and said, "We know! Amida loves all of us, just as we are, whether we are naughty or nice, so we should just try to be nice all the time! If we are naughty, then we should say, 'I'm sorry!' and try to be nice next time!"

Santa smiled and said, "That's right, you are all very wise little *keiki*!"

Santa smiled and asked, "Do you know why Christmas is the happiest time of all?"

The children all laughed and said, "Because we get lots of presents!"

Santa said, "That's right! Ho-ho-ho! Isn't it fun to receive presents? What do we say when we receive presents?"

"*Mahalo!* Thank you! *Arigato!* *Gracias!* *Xie-Xie!*" said all the children together.

Then Santa winked and said with a smile, "What's even better than receiving presents?"

The children all thought really hard.

And then they all laughed and said, "Giving presents to other people and making them happy too!"

Santa said, "That's right! Ho-ho-ho! Isn't it even more fun to make other people happy!"

The children all laughed and said, "Yes! Because then we can all be happy together!"

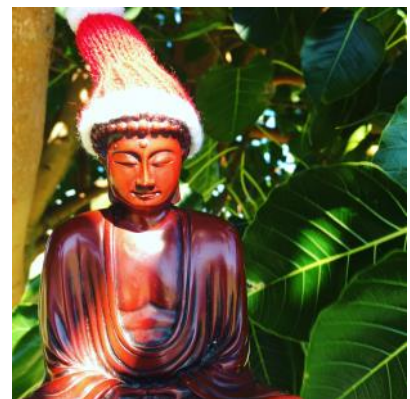
Santa said, "Thank you, children! You are all very wise little *keiki*! Christmas is the happiest time because we can all be Santa, just as we are, by giving gifts and making all people happy, just as they are!"

Santa smiled and said, "I have to be going now, Christmas is a busy time for Santa, ho-ho-ho! So many gifts to give, so little time! Ho-ho-ho! Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

And the children all lived happily ever after, in a magical place called Maui, a beautiful island in the middle of the big blue sea.

The End

NamoAmidaButsu
Rev. Kerry



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Haiku Poem for December

*Guiding me daily
"Namo Amida Butsu"
In joy or sadness
When emotions flow
I am filled with compassion
In good or hard times
How thankful I am
"Namo Amida Butsu"
Filled with gratitude*



People continue to feel different emotions since the Lahaina Fire on August 8, 2023. They are stressed by the unforgettable situation our loved ones and friends from Lahaina are going through. And yes, they are very sensitive to others who are hurting regardless of acquaintances or not. And yes, it is not by choice we all have been directly affected by this life-changing catastrophe.

Just saying "Namo Amida Butsu" can bring comfort to each of us in different situations. How nice to say these words when hearing happy news and having happy thoughts. How great is it to dodge an accident, big or small, like catching yourself before you stumble and fall. However, how devastating it can be to hear unexpected bad news about a family member or a friend. The realization of Impermanence is difficult to accept. Truly, this is a "namo amida butsu" moment.

There are many incidents we can say "Namo Amida Butsu" in our daily lives. Use it often to express gratitude, compassion and appreciation for life itself. By reciting "Namo Amida Butsu", we are guided by the nembutsu.

May your day be filled with smiles, laughter and kindness.

Karen

Mahalo, Mahalo, Mahalo and Arigato, too!

Thank-you Winter Garage Sale coordinators and volunteers for your time, lunches, snacks and attendance in getting the facility ready for this event. To those who set-up tables, tents, transported plants, hauling boxes after boxes to the social hall, cleaning and displaying the thousands of items that were donated, **MAHALO!**

In return for your selfless giving of hard work and time, we shared unrepeatable fellowship, stories, laughter and good fun. Each and every one of you contributed to our Winter Garage Sale. **MAHALO AND AIRGATO!**

We are truly grateful..."Namo Amida Butsu."

WINTER GARAGE SALE AT MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 2023

7:00 a.m. TO 2:00 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM

Makawao Hongwanji Mission extends its deepest sympathy to families that have recently lost a loved one:

Family of the Mrs. Shirley Takahashi (83) who passed away on September 25, 2023.

December 2023 & January 2024 Memorial Anniversaries

(Please call Temple Office to schedule your service—572-7229)

1st Year Memorial Service 2022

December 13 Michael Isao Ogasawara
December 20 Masao Joe Takahashi

1st Year Memorial service 2023

January - None

3rd Year Memorial Service 2021

December - None

3rd Year Memorial Service 2022

January 26 Leroy Michio Shibuya
January 31 Harriet Harue Owara

7th Year Memorial Service 2017

December - None

7th Year Memorial Service 2018

January 05 Rhodie Fuyumi Masusako

13th Year Memorial Service 2011

December 30 Haruki Nakamura
December 31 Dorothy Haruye Iwaishi

13th Year Memorial Service 2012

January - None

17th Year Memorial Service 2007

December - None

17th Year Memorial Service 2008

January 08 Calvin Yoshio Hashi

25th Year Memorial Service 1999

December - None

25th Year Memorial Service 2000

January - None

33rd Year Memorial Service 1991

December - None

33rd Year Memorial Service 1992

January 25 Waru Ikeda

50th Year Memorial Service 1974

December 01 Tamaho Oda
December 15 Yuriko Suda
December 17 Akino Okamoto

50th Year Memorial Service 1975

January - None

Donations - Makawao Hongwanji Mission can operate only because of the generous donations from many, many people. All donations are humbly received with sincere gratitude and appreciation. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO HAVE YOUR DONATION PRINTED IN THE NEWSLETTER, OR IF YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR DONATION LISTED AS ANONYMOUS, PLEASE INDICATE SO BY ATTACHING A NOTE TO YOUR CONTRIBUTION. *Thank You!*

Contributions October 27, 2023 to November 26, 2023

DONATION:

Laine A. Skiendiel
Marilyn Morikawa
Sharon Higuchi
Diane Kosaka
Julie Higa
Kenneth Ichikawa
Sadao and Noreene Aoyagi
Donald and Rie Taketa
Burton Onikama
Florence Sakae
Christine Kubo
Annette Tashiro
JoAnn Yosemite
Jean Heselden



In memory of Ayame and Haruo Kametani – Donald and Faith Ito
In memory of Yuriko Suda – Mavis Suda
In memory of Daniel Kiyomoto – Sharon Iwasaki, Arlene Kiyomoto, Ray Kiyomoto
In memory of Terry and Shirley Takahashi – Celestine Uradomo
In memory of Le Hong Pham – San Fujimoto
AED donation – Clyde and Gail Hamai
Social Concerns – Charlotte and Lois Hamasaki, Noboru Hironaka, Andrew and Betty Hirose
Eitaikyo Service – Evelyn Hamai

NOKOTSUDO:

Dale Kawahara
In memory of Tatsuo and Yoshie Terao, Yao Hedani – Karen Yorimoto
In memory of Toshimi Family – Margaret Honda

OFUSE:

Funeral service for Shirley Takahashi – Family of Shirley Fujimoto
17th year memorial service for Yoshitaka Ushijima – Family of Yoshitaka Ushijima

Foodland Give Aloha Program: \$1,143.34 Mahalo!!!!

GRATITUDE

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER



MOCHI POUNDING - December 16, Saturday at 8 a.m.

- 1) Soak mochi rice at home for at least one day, rinse with clean water few times.
- 2) Bring to church rice, containers (lined with waxed paper) to put your molded mochi, mochiko flour to keep mochi from sticking to waxed paper.

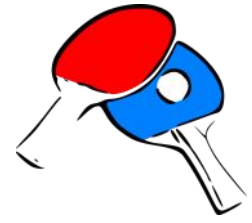


WINTER GENERAL CLEAN UP **December 17, Sunday at 8 a.m.**



Come one and come all! Let's get our temple campus all cleaned up for the new year 2024! There'll be washing of windows, pruning of plants, trimming of trees, wiping down temple furniture, mopping floors, and more. Then, we have lunch!

JUST ANOTHER SUNDAY AFTER SERVICE...



Makawao Hongwanji Sunday Leisure Club:

Mahalo to Daniel and Laura Vo for donating a competition-grade ping pong table to the temple, giving our *keiki* yet another reason to come to temple! (and drag their parents and grandparents along too!) And if you're not a little kid, watch out for Wesley's killer forehand!



Makawao Hongwanji Home of Future World Leaders. Meanwhile, in a quiet corner of the Social Hall, Lindsey and Kalena casually collaborate on multi-variate conflict resolution strategies for world peace.



SENIOR PROGRAM

Seniors met in November to make star ornaments to present to the preschool students. We were challenged but we did it! We made 25 stars before lunch. Lunch was a time to relax and talk story and to enjoy the ono food. We even had a guest who joined us for the challenge! I hope she enjoyed spending time with us.

We will not be meeting December, taking a holiday break. We will meet again on the 2nd Thursday of January 2024. Hope you all enjoy the holidays. See you in January!



MAUI UNITED BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (MUBWA) FALL ASSEMBLY

On November 25, the MUBWA Fall Assembly was held at Wailuku Hongwanji. Service was officiated by Rev. Murakami, in attendance were Rev. Hironaka and Rev. Kiyohara.

After service, our business meeting went quickly and smoothly as Pres. Sharon Higa guided us along. Then officers were sworn in (see photo) as pictures were taken.

By now, we were ready for coffee, tea, and a big spread of sweets. Before we were able to fill our stomachs with lunch, we watched and participated in a sit-down exercise video. It was fun as well as hard work. The ladies all did wonderfully and showed how fit they were.

Then it was lunch, prepared by a professional chef! We had tempura (fish, shrimp, veggies), curry hamburger steak, beautiful salad, and more.

Most of all, it was memorable to be together in person, talk story and laugh together as a unit.



MUBWA 2024 Officers: L to R Diane, Sharon, Kallie, Sharon, Carol, Bobbi, Sandy, Charlette, Lisa, Aileen, Janet, Rev. Murakami



Rev. Kerry and Julie working hard at catching bean bags and doing sit-down exercises.

M
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WINTER GARAGE SALE - Dec. 2, 2023

The smiling faces of hard-working volunteers make the days of preparation enjoyable and worthwhile. See you at the sale!!!



MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
COUNCIL MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS
Sunday, November 12, 2023



Treasurer's Report: Proposed 2024 Budget submitted. Starting 2025, will monitor interest rate of mortgage which will be adjusted in 2026.

Minister's Report: Returning to "normal", Rev. Kerry plans to invite guest speakers for all Major Services. January 20-21, 2024 Nembutsu Seminar with Rev. Kodo Umezu (former BCA Bishop) will be held at Kahului Hongwanji

Preschool's Future: Copies of letters sent to Rep. Kyle Yamashita and Principal Ty Ogasawara submitted.

Repairs and Maintenance: Discussions of itemized projects that need to be addressed for repairs and maintenance as well as costs.

Affiliate Policy and Report Form: Copy submitted.

AED: We thank Clyde and Gail Hamai for paying the preferred maintenance program renewal.

12/2/23 Winter Garage Sale Food Concessions: Due to changing circumstances, this year's Winter Garage Sale will not have food sales from our kitchen. Scouts of Pack 18 and Troop 18 propose to sell the Fukushima Hot Dogs at the Garage Sale.

2024 Shinnenkai New Year's Party: Council agreed that the party will be in-person in the Social Hall. The Annual General Membership Meeting will be conducted in the Hondo prior to party.

Triple Celebration September 7-8, 2024 at Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu: Theme is "Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together: Our Living Heart of Gratitude". Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will celebrate the 850th anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth, 800th anniversary of establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching, and the 135th anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Karen will create a sign-up sheet for the office.

Mochi Tsuki: Event will be held on Saturday at 8 a.m., Dec. 16, 2023.

Winter General Clean up: Will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, at 8 a.m., lunch and snacks will be served.

Membership: Report submitted.

Funeral/Columbarium: Report submitted.

Maui District Hongwanji Council: Next meeting will be on 11/27/2023 at 7 p.m. at KHM.

Jr. YBA: On Saturday, 12/9/2023 the Jr's plan to have a sleepover in the Social Hall and to make manju.

BWA: Maui United Buddhist Women's Association (MUBWA) Fall General Assembly will be held at WHM on Saturday, 11/25/2023.

Dharma School: A field trip to Kauai is being planned for March 22/24, 2024.

Social Concerns Fund Drive: Will run from 11/01/2023 to 8/31/2024, with donations being sent to Honpa.

Dogs at Winter Garage Sale 12/02/2023: Only "Service Dogs" will be allowed and pets should be left at home.

(Full text of Council Meeting and reports can be obtained from the Temple Office.)

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 522-9200 Fax: (808) 522-9209
Web: www.hongwanjihawaii.com Email: hqs@honpahi.org

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

November 2023

At my first Hawaii Kyodan Board of Directors Meeting as the new Bishop in August, I requested that I would like to visit all the temples during the first year of my tenure. The purpose of my visit is to personally connect with the temple members and express my appreciation for their support and dedication to the HHMH. During the first five months as the Bishop, I was able to visit several temples on various occasions. I am very grateful for the ministers and temple leaders who kindly welcomed me to their temple Sangha.



I wish to share all of my experiences of these visits, but this time, I would like to write about my experience at Kohala Hongwanji Mission on the Big Island. I was invited to attend the Honokaa's Peace Parade on October 21. Since I have never been assigned to any of the Big Island temples, I thought this could be an excellent opportunity to experience the work of the Big Island ministers. So, I rented a car (they gave me a Dodge Challenger) and drove a total of 190 miles from Hilo to Kona. I joined the Honokaa Peace Parade and visited Paauilo Hongwanji on Saturday. The Kamuela

Hongwanji Board members kindly prepared a delicious potluck dinner that evening. I officiated the Sunday Service at Kamuela Hongwanji Mission and then drove to Kohala Hongwanji Mission on Sunday.

After enjoying the beautiful Kohala Mountain Road, I was greeted by six temple members at Kohala Hongwanji (President Ms. Wendy Nickl). The temple building, which was dedicated in 1977, is beautifully maintained by the temple members. The altar design is unique, very simple with clean lines and geometric angles. There are special touches like a hidden sliding tray built into the altar. Along with some traditional altar ornaments and the statue of Amida Buddha, the tables and their special square gold wallpaper pieces were put up by Kohala members. The large hanging wooden wisteria carving on the front of the temple building was made by a plantation employee who was skilled in carving and woodwork. I was very moved to learn that many hands went into all aspects of the temple's construction.

I visited the Kohala Hongwanji Cemetery after that. I placed my hands together in Gassho in honor of those placed at the gravesite. I deciphered some of the aged gravestones that say, "Hiroshima-ken" and "Yamaguchi-ken" etc. They must be gravestones of the early immigrants from Japan who

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established the foundation of the Japanese-American community in Hawaii. They have left a lasting and positive impact on Hawaii, contributing to its economic development, cultural diversity, and social cohesion. I wondered if this place could be the closest gravesite to Japan, their home country, on the Big Island.

A visit to Kohala reminded me of the sacrifices, dedication, and contributions of our forefathers. In November, we observed Eitai-kyo. Eitai-kyo is often translated as the Sangha Memorial Service. It is the service to pay tribute to those who passed before us. They dedicated their lives and handed down the joy of the Nembutsu to us. Eitai-kyo is a momentous occasion to thank our forefathers and then listen to the teaching, which is a gift from our forefathers. Our forefathers did not just leave a wonderful temple building for us. They also left us a wonderful place where we can feel, experience, and appreciate the warmth of life and the warmth of Namo Amida Butsu.



As recipients of Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion, we have a responsibility, with a sense of gratitude and appreciation, to share such warmth of life (the joy of interdependence) with others. Let us together create a temple, a community where all people, regardless of their religious, ethnic, or cultural background, can assemble to receive guidance and inspiration, and realize that our lives are always illuminated, affirmed, and appreciated within the Compassionate Light of Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, Bishop

2024 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The 2024 HHMH Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) will be held on February 9 & 10, 2024 in the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Social Hall and via Zoom. The Legislative Assembly Aloha Luncheon & Living Treasures of Hawaii Recognition will be held on Saturday February 10, 2024 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballrooms. The registration fee is \$125.00 for both delegates and observers and \$100.00 for the luncheon only. The registration forms were sent on November 8, 2023 to the Temples & Council Presidents. Please submit the completed registration form through your temple by December 31, 2023. The 2024 Giseikai documents & Zoom link will be emailed to attendees in early February 2024. For the Rap Session, the registration and fee will be determined.



HHMH TRIPLE CELEBRATION

SHARING THE JOY OF NEMBUTSU TOGETHER:
OUR LIVING HEART OF GRATITUDE
SEPTEMBER 7 & 8, 2024

LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER!

BY REV. TOMO HOJO, CO-CHAIR

We are pleased to inform you that the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will commemorate the Triple Celebration on September 7 & 8, 2024. The year 2023 will mark the 850th anniversary of the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition, and 2024 will be the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching and the 135th anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Accordingly, in 2024, we will observe commemorative services and workshops on those auspicious occasions.

- **Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Triple Celebration**
- **Theme: Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together: Our Living Heart of Gratitude**
- **Keynote Speaker: Dr. Rev. Takashi Miyaji**
- **Date: September 7 & 8, 2024**
- **Place: Ala Moana Hotel**

We would like to encourage the Honpa Hongwanji affiliated organizations, members and friends to join the celebration. The Triple Celebration will start Saturday morning and finish Sunday around lunchtime.

Registration - The triple celebration registration form will be shared soon. The early registration deadline is March 31, 2024 and the registration fee is \$250. Late registration deadline is July 31 and the registration fee is \$300. The registration cost includes one breakfast, one lunch banquet, services, workshops and panel discussion. We will provide a \$200 subsidy per person for neighbor island participants.

Contact: Phone: (808)522-9200 (Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii)
E-mail: triple.celebration@honpahi.org

December 2023

Sun-	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7:00 am ~ 2:00 pm Garage Sale & Bazaar
3 9:00 am First Sunday Dharma Service "Bodhi Day" & Children's	4 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	5	6 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me 10:00 am Monthly Service Hale Makua Kahului	7 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	8	9
10 9:00 am Family Service	11 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm	12	13 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me	14 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	15	16 8:00 am Mochitsuki
17 8:00am Winter General Clean-up	18 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	19	20 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me	21 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	22	23 8 am ~ 12 pm Sewing Class & Christmas Party
24 No Service	25 Office Closed *Christmas Day	26	27 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me	28 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	29	30
31 6:00pm Joya-e Year End Service & New Year Eve Refreshment						