



Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

MARCH 2024

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, March 3, 9:00 a.m.
FIRST SUNDAY FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE
MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE
DHARMA SCHOOL

Sunday, March 17, 9:00 a.m.
SPRING OHIGAN SERVICE
CHILDREN DHARMA SCHOOL

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

Sunday, March 24, 9:00 a.m.
SUNDAY FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE

Sunday, March 31, 9:00 a.m.
SUNDAY FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE

OHIGAN SERVICE

Ohigan means the other shore of enlightenment or the Pure Land. For Shin Buddhists, the equinox represents a time when nature and the universe are in harmony and is the perfect time to praise the Buddha's boundless compassion. Namo Amida Butsu.

Strength and Joy in Diversity: Creating a Community of Communities



In the land of the Buddhas there are many lotus flowers in the lake as large as cartwheels. The green flowers radiate green color, the yellow flowers radiate yellow color, the crimson flowers radiate crimson color and the white flowers radiate white color. Each flower is unique in appearance, fragrance and beauty.

—Gautama Buddha, *The Sutra on the Tathagata of Immeasurable Life*
(Smaller *Sukhavati-vyuha* Sutra, *Bussetsu Amidakyō*)

Inconceivable causes and conditions created the time, place, and occasion for Makawao Hongwanji to host the launch of the Interfaith Alliance of Maui, with special guest George Takei and his husband Brad Takei (check out Jean Heselden's article on page 9 for details and photos!).

The vision of the Interfaith Alliance of Maui is a “community of communities” built on a foundation of wisdom, compassion, and harmony.

- where everyone is welcome, just as they are
- where everyone strives to share, to learn, to give freely, to receive gratefully
- where everyone stands together “to protect all those who are weaker than ourselves”

And, as George Takei encouraged us, we can and will find Strength and Joy in Diversity.

In the realm of national politics, “diversity” can be used as a weapon to divide, to create controversy, to trigger hate, and to fuel rage for monetary and political advantage.

From a Buddhist perspective, “diversity” simply defines reality-as-it-is: like it or not, each and every human being is different.

The verse quoted at the beginning is from the *Amida-kyō*, which is one of the Three Pure Land Sutra selected by Shinran-*shōnin*, founder of Jōdo Shinshū Buddhism. This particular passage is describing the inconceivable beauty of the Pure Land (*sukhavati* the land of “ultimate bliss”).

Each flower shining its own color is unique in appearance, fragrance, and beauty - this “diversity” creates the inconceivable beauty of the Pure Land, the Buddha realm created by Amida.

From an interfaith perspective, Pastor Roxanne really identifies the key outcome of the interfaith gathering: people who are different simply “talking and laughing,” connecting as people, at the face-to-face level, transcending our differences.

“...as I sat watching people from different traditions talking and laughing, I thought interfaith is deeply worthwhile and good for us and our island.”

—Pastor Roxanne WhiteLight

Imagine if there were more gatherings of people and communities resulting in more people of different communities “talking and laughing” together, sharing and giving, respecting each other, just as we are.

Imagine a Maui where each community shines brightly in its own color, and together this community of communities creates a beautiful rainbow that shines upon all of us equally, a rainbow that stretches around the world.

Continued on page 3

Continued From Page 2, Minister's Message

Would that not be worth the effort to reach out to others, to learn with respect, and to receive in gratitude?

Would that not be good for us, individually and collectively?

Would that not be good for our island, our home, our Maui nei?

Makawao Hongwanji has always been centered on the Sangha temple community of communities, encouraging the growth of affiliated organizations like the BWA, Scouts, Cub Scouts, Japanese Language School, Judo Club, etc., for more than 115 years!

Today, we enjoy the benefits of the seeds planted long ago: Makawao Hongwanji has a unique ability to organize community events like the Summer and Winter Garage Sale, the Bon Dance Makawao-style, **and** to host new communities like the Interfaith Alliance of Maui.

Diversity is simply reality-as-it-is: everyone is different and we **can** learn to like it if we make the effort to reach out, to learn, to respect, to talk story, to laugh, to eat together, to warm our hearts and open our minds in the light of each other's presence for a moment of this day in this unrepeatable life.

May your day be filled with aloha!

NamoAmidaButsu,

Rev. Kerry

NamoAmidaButsu

Correction to February newsletter:

Hanako Hashimoto, 104 years old, worked for many, many years alongside her husband John Hashimoto. He was a Kyodan Vice-President, Bazaar Co-Chairman, and Vegetable and Produce Chairman for Bazaar. She and the Kula ladies helped in the church kitchen when they could get away from their daily farmwork, bringing their fruits and vegetables to share with all. Hanako would be selling vegetables and produce at bazaar time, first with her husband and later with her sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She always had a warm, happy smile for everyone.

Thank you, Hanako Hashimoto.

Attitudes of Gratitude

Being negative at times with some complaints, I remember a lesson learned in 2002 from a niece of mine. She found herself speed reading through an "Attitudes of Gratitude" book when she came across the short phrase of saying "Thank You" as often as possible and to leave a trail of happiness. She wanted to share this with me because she said, "I share such inspirational texts with her...and because she's grateful for all I've done for her."



She gave me an incredible book that suggested how to give and receive joy every day of my life. To keep it short, I'm highlighting a part to share. As I revisited the book, I felt this is what I want to remember daily. This practice is simple. Just say these two words, "thank you" as many times in a day and see your trail of happiness grow. I'm sure you are able to think of many scenarios where you can say "thank you" too.

I'd like to start with a "thank you" to those who are reading these words now. "Thank you" for allowing me to share my thoughts with some nonsense and some sincere actions. "Thank you" for keeping me writing and being myself even though I act goofy and say goofy things at times.

As one develops this habit of thanking others informally, it may already occur to you that writing a note can leave a trail of happiness also. Nowadays we can express ourselves with phone texts, emails, phone calls, photos, and other ways I have not mentioned or thought of. When we reach out to others, our attitude changes and we are flowing with gratitude that they are in our lives. These are surely "feel good" experiences for the giver as well as the receiver.

May I challenge you to gather as many people in your trail of happiness each day. Namu Amida Butsu.

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

Karen

SENIOR PROGRAM

By: Alison

Apple pie and roses – sound interesting? The seniors can tell you how we did it. We made a rose-like dessert with an apple pie taste. Ask the seniors to tell you how we did it. If you want to see what else we do at our Senior Program, come join us. It is ' always fun and good eats. We're at the Dana House on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m.



Diane and Alison busy in the kitchen.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Family of the Mrs. Hanako Doris Hashimoto (104) who passed away on January 17, 2024.

March & April 2024 Memorial Anniversaries

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

1st Year Memorial Service 2023

March - None

1st Year Memorial service 2023

April 22 Caren Shizue Gohara

April 27 Hideaki Hiromoto

3rd Year Memorial Service 2022

March 06 Dick Teruto Fukushima

3rd Year Memorial Service 2022

April 02 Chiyoko Tokuoka

April 04 Betsy Chieko Matsumura

7th Year Memorial Service 2018

March 19 James Masato Nakamoto

7th Year Memorial Service 2018

April 02 Daniel Hisao Watanabe

April 18 Isamu Kajita

13th Year Memorial Service 2012

March 02 Doris Miyoto Nakamoto

March 24 Tokihiko Hamai

13th Year Memorial Service 2012

April 16 Mitsuko Itamura

April 20 Yoshio Yoshikawa

April 30 Akiko Maeda

17th Year Memorial Service 2008

March 19 Masaaki Doi

17th Year Memorial Service 2008

April 03 Yasuro Tamashiro

25th Year Memorial Service 2000

March 01 Satoki Ikeda

March 21 Helen Kikue Inaba

25th Year Memorial Service 2000

April 06 Ruth Haruko Murayama

April 16 Kikue Yamamura

April 29 Martha Mitsuyo Mihara

33rd Year Memorial Service 1992

March 29 Miyo Nishimura

33rd Year Memorial Service 1992

April 08 Taroichi Sasaoka

50th Year Memorial Service 1975

March 09 Hatsugoro Makimoto

50th Year Memorial Service 1975

April - 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 January 27, 2024 to February 26, 2024

DONATION:

Noel and Kathy Hashimoto
Robert Nunokawa
Sharon and Calvin Higuchi
Mr. and Mrs. Burton Onikama
Hiromi and Jo-Anne Tanaka, Mark Tanaka
In memory of Hanako Hashimoto – Faith and Donald Ito
In memory of Kane and Rawlins families – Michael and Merly Rawlins
In memory of Chiyoko Karimoto – Toshio and Yvonne Kishi
In memory of Violet H. Onikama – Mr. and Mrs. Burton Onikama
In memory of Hyozo and Namiko Noda, Masako Noda – Hiroko Noda
In memory of Robert Akemoto and family – Betty Mizuguchi
In memory of Hiroshi and Satsuki Horiuchi – Peter and Rachael Guay
In memory of Toshio and Tomie Okuda – Alan and Jane Tamiya
In memory of Hanako Hashimoto – Lon and Terrie Mizoguchi
In memory of Tsunezo and Sawayo Mizoguchi – Lon and Terrie Mizoguchi
New Year's Party – Alma and Kenneth Nakano, Jan and Duane Yoshizu, Glenn and Diane Kosaka, Lyman and Marilyn Morikawa, Robert and Sherri Okuni, Fred and Joann Wong, Noboru Hironaka, Anonymous, Sharon and Calvin Higuchi, Gail and Peter Nakamae

NOKOTSUDO:

Mitzi Tanaka
Mae Balmores
Rena and Ronald Matsunaga
Clayton Suzuki and Linda Kadosaki
Alton and Susan Watanabe
Wendy Hamai
Ronald and Rena Matsunaga
Reginald Sato
Harold Makimoto
Noel and Kathy Hashimoto
Troy Hashimoto
Alan and Jane Tamiya
Dale Kawahara
In memory of Chester and Shirley Kawahara – Kelvin and Lynn Nakamura
In memory of Patrick Hamai, Grace Hamai, Hyosaku Hamai– Sheryl and Howard Hamai
In memory of Otozo and Fujiko Nishida – Michael Nishida and family
In memory of Yukiko and Violet Otani, Glenn and June Otani – Roy Tanaka and family
In memory of Yoshio and Grace Kijima – Mark Kijima
In memory of Shigeji and Sasayo Harada – Joyce Patrick
In memory of Jean Yamada – Joyce Patrick
In memory of Robert and Florence Taniguchi – Charijeane Watanabe and Zachary Taniguchi
In memory of Masato and Dorothy Matsui, Tamaho Oda – Gary and Patsy Matsueda
In memory of Mildred Makimoto – Paul and Mae Matsui



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OFUSE:

Funeral service for Hanako Hashimoto – Family of Hanako Hashimoto
Inurnment service for John Yutaka Karakawa – Family of John Yutaka Karakawa
Bedside service for Ted Uehara – Family of Ted Uehara
In memory of Makimoto family and Hashimoto family – Dorothy Kawamoto
In memory of Hanako Hashimoto – Troy Hashimoto

NEWSLETTER:

Alan and Jane Tamiya

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING: \$48.05

**MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
COUNCIL MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS
Sunday, February 11, 2024**



1. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - 1) Fred will work on mortgage pay down.
 - 2) Present insurance policy will expire in May. Fred will work with agent for renewal.
2. **Minister's Report:**
 - 1) Ingo has been approved for Mrs. Florence Sakae.
 - 2) Search for new office manager on going.
 - 3) Sangha Award for BSA Scouts has number of interested scouts.
 - 4) Japanese School starts spring semester 2024 with Open House on February 17.
3. **Maui Hanamatsuri on April 7, 2024:** Report submitted by Carol Yamamura. Sign-up sheet is in the office.
4. **Legislative Assembly February 9-10, 2024:** Rev. Kerry reported that all proposals passed, including condolence message for the late Mrs. Florence Sakae.
5. **Makawao July 4 Parade on June 29, 2024:** Rev. Kerry proposed that we allow temple property to be used for an announcer's booth, with chairs, P.A. system, and electricity supplied by the temple. Council approved.
6. **Membership:** Report submitted.
7. **Funeral/Columbarium:** Report submitted.
8. **Properties:** Karen Ishizu will contact Property Manager Leslene to get a monthly report on rental units.
9. **Repairs and Maintenance:** Report submitted.
10. **Jr. YBA:** Makawao members Jaimee Yokoyama and Kaylie Okuni did a great job handling registration desk at this year's Legislative Assembly in Honolulu.
11. **Preschool:** Carol Yamamura reported that a letter was received regarding a feasibility study for the expansion of Pukalani Elementary School.
12. **Project Dana:** Alison Nakagawa continues to offer Senior Program activities on the second Thursday of the month.
13. **Pauwela Cemetery:** Although the property was sold to a private party in 2022, our temple members and minister have access in perpetuity.

SCOUT NEWS

By: Wesley Kosaka

In February, Troop 18 had three regularly scheduled meetings, one Patrol Leaders Council meeting, and the Scout Sunday event. There, scouts from both Troop 18 and Troop 180 took part in some entertainment programs, providing a few skits and songs to the crowd.

SCOUT SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY



Strength and Joy in Diversity

by Jean Heselden

For the launch of the Interfaith Alliance of Maui, Makawao Hongwanji hosted a gathering of over 100 people on Saturday afternoon February 24, 2024. We were honored to have as our special guests George Takei and his husband Brad Takei, fellow travelers on the Jodo Shinshu path.

Rev. Kerry served as the Emcee, in addition to speaking about building a community of communities fostering inclusion and diversity. Participants also included two Christian ministers chanting Hawaiian oli and clergy from Jewish and Christian traditions who shared prayers from their faiths.

George Takei's talk about the strength and joy of diversity drew from his experiences as Sulu on Star Trek and other roles, his personal life, and his roles as a civil rights activist. At the reception in the Social Hall, we shared pupus with George and Brad who graciously talked story with us and allowed us to take photos with them. During the reception we enjoyed delicious pupus donated by Pukalani Superette along with the live music of ukulele artist Arlie Asiu of Maui.

For more details and photos, please see the blog entry about the event on the temple's website at <https://www.makawaohongwanji.org/blog>.



George Takei in the Hondo



George Takei in the Social Hall



Rev. Kerry and Mrs. Mimy Kiyohara with George and Brad Takei

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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FEBRUARY 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

**HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
112TH GISEIKAI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
BISHOP'S WELCOME MESSAGE**

Fellow travelers of the Dharma, Good morning. Welcome to the 112th Giseikai Legislative Assembly of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Your participation is truly appreciated. If this is your first Giseikai, welcome on board. I hope this will be a meaningful and joyful experience for you. If you are a veteran, welcome back, and thank you for your continued support and participation. What we will discuss at Giseikai sets the course for the future of the HHMH. I extend my welcome and appreciation to every one of you for taking the time, despite your busy schedule, to attend the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to welcome our special guests from our sister organizations. We welcome Mr. Glenn Inanaga and Mrs. Michiko Inanaga from the Buddhist Churches of America, Ms. Laura Sugimoto from the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, and Reverend Kiyonobu Kuwahara from the Jodo Shinshu International Office. In order for the Hongwanji to survive and thrive in the future, Hawaii, BCA, Canada, and JSIO must build a close relationship and work hand in hand to tackle various issues. The magnitude may differ, but we all share similar challenges and obstacles, as well as joy and pleasures as Nembutsu followers. I hope you will get to know more about Hawaii Kyodan, and we would also like to know more about you and your organizations. I hope you will enjoy your stay in Hawaii and our Legislative Assembly.

The first time I attended the Giseikai was in 2002, and it was held at the newly built Sangha Hall at the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin. As a new minister, I had difficulty understanding what was happening at that Giseikai. I only remember that Bishop Chikai Yosemite introduced me as an eligible bachelor and asked the delegates to find the "better half" for me so that I would continue to live in Hawaii. Believe it or not, it was at that very Giseikai that I first met my wife, Yoshiko, who was invited to the meeting as a guest with her sister. I will not share with you how we deepened our romantic relationship.

What I wanted to say is that we always talk about causes and conditions in Buddhism. "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." We are the recipients of countless causes and conditions, and we never know which ones produce a particular result. But one thing we can clearly state is that we are here today because we are nurtured and guided by our Nembutsu forefathers.

Shinran Shonin expressed his joy in encountering the Nembutsu teaching as follows.

"Such is the benevolence of Amida's great compassion,
That we must strive to return it, even to the breaking of our bodies;
Such is the benevolence of the masters and true teachers
That we must endeavor to repay it, even to our bones becoming dust."
(*"Ondokusan"* – Hymns of the Dharma-Ages #59)

Shinran Shonin expressed his profound gratitude to Amida Buddha's Compassion and the masters and teachers who have transmitted the Buddha's heart of compassion to him. His sense of gratitude was so deep that he felt compelled to repay that debt of gratitude by sharing the Nembutsu with others. Like Shinran Shonin, we, too, received wonderful conditions to immerse ourselves in the compassionate heart of Amida Buddha together with our fellow travelers. Each condition is unique, and each of us has a story to share. With a feeling of joy and gratitude, let us now endeavor together so that the actions we take today will bring fruitful and meaningful results. Hopefully, those results will serve as wonderful conditions for others to be a part of the Hongwanji movement.

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Continued From Page 10, Bishop's Message

Let us remember that what lies as the foundation of our organization is *Hongan*, the primal vow of Amida Buddha. As a community of people joined together to take refuge in the teaching of Shinran Shonin, let us first and foremost listen to the Nembutsu, the voice of Wisdom and Compassion, recite it in our daily lives, and move. And when I say "move," I mean for us to "walk the talk" and put our joy of Nembutsu into action, no matter how large or small, for the realization of a compassionate society in which all lives are equally affirmed and appreciated.

I am truly grateful for the ministers and temple leaders who work tirelessly at their temple, district, and the State, oftentimes spending many hours and actively serving the needs of your members and the people in the community. Indeed, great things in business are never done by one person. They are done by a team of people. It is certainly only through a team effort that the Hawaii Kyodan can move forward and share the living messages of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. As your new Bishop, I have visited some temples during the past six months. Each temple and each district has strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities. On the state level, Hawaii Kyodan faces challenges such as declining membership, the need for an alternate source of income, lack of human resources, deterioration of temple buildings, and personnel concerns. But Hawaii Kyodan also has strengths and opportunities. Take a look at the 2023 Annual Report and see how many activities and programs we have done last year. Many committees and individuals have worked hard in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities. And the greatest strength that we have are people who express their deep concerns about the future of our organization, seriously thinking about what they can do, and actively putting their ideas into action. Again, it is a team effort. I believe that even if the power of each individual is small, if we come together, we can make a big difference. Thank you, Rev. Yuika Hasebe, for your dharma message this morning. Indeed, we don't know the answer to the challenges we face. But, we are not alone in this journey. Let us share our collective wisdom and experiences toward these challenges and opportunities, and move toward the spread of the Buddha-Dharma to our contemporaries. I firmly believe that Buddhism and the messages of Shinran Shonin can contribute to building a more compassionate society.

Last year, the devastating wildfires on Maui destroyed Lahaina Hongwanji and affected many temple members and others in the community. The Hawaii Kyodan immediately established the Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund, and ever since then, we have received tremendous support from around the world.

Recently, Governor Bishop Shoshin Kumona from Honzan visited Hawaii. He is one of the three Governors at Honzan in charge of the Department of Social Affairs and Emergency Management. Governor Kumona was accompanied by Rev. Rie Fujisawa from the Hongwanji International Department. The three of us visited Maui on January 17 and 18.

I would like to report that the Honzan pledged to make another donation of 15 million yen, which is about \$100,000, toward the Maui Wildfire Relief in addition to their initial contributions of approximately \$140,000.

At Kahului Hongwanji, where we met Rev. Hironaka and 20 Lahaina Hongwanji members, we held a short presentation ceremony. We distributed the altar (Obutsudan), Onenju, Shikisho, etc., which were all donated from Hongwanji in Kyoto. At the end of the ceremony, Mrs. Aileen Cockett, the president of the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, delivered a message of appreciation to Governor Kumona, and I would like to quote a part of her message.

"It was not just losing a house or being displaced. We lost our HOME. A place where we had a sense of belonging, comfort, security, stability, and a place of refuge. And for those gathered here today, that is what Lahaina Hongwanji was for them. It's like going on a trip where you enjoy yourself and have a nice time, but in the end, you look forward to returning home. I think we ALL want to go back HOME. It may take a while, but I know one day we will be able to go back HOME."

Hongwanji Temples are our spiritual HOME, where Amida Buddha and our Sangha members welcome us all with open arms. The Office of the Bishop is committed to supporting the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission together with the Committee on Social Concerns, the Maui Wildfire Emergency Response Committee, and all of you. There is a resolution of forgiving Lahaina Hongwanji's annual assessment. Your careful and compassionate deliberation on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Lastly, I would like to introduce two individuals who have joined the Hawaii Kyodan. I am sure many of you know them already since they are both full of energy and actively participate in our programs. This is the first Giseikai for them, so please welcome them warmly.

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Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata joined the HHMH on June 1, 2023, and currently serves at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister. He is also a School Chaplain at the Pacific Buddhist Academy. He is very young, energetic, talented, and has a deep respect and understanding of the Nembutsu teaching. He is the first-ever Kaikyoshi minister who graduated from the Pacific Buddhist Academy.

Ms. Emi Hashi joined the HHMH at the beginning of October as the Children and Youth Activities Specialist. She grew up attending Makawao Hongwanji Mission on Maui where I served as its Resident Minister when Emi was around middle school age. In the last "Ka Leo Kāhea" newsletter, Emi mentioned that her aunts and uncles at the temple shaped her into the person she is today. Again, we never know what causes and conditions would bring a particular result. I am so happy to have Emi back in the Hawaii Kyodan. She is currently working hard to reactivate youth programs such as YESS Camp and BSC Fellowship Club.

Please extend them your warm welcome.

Let us remember that people gather only where there is movement. I humbly ask for your active participation and support for the Hongwanji movement. Once again, welcome to the 112th Legislative Assembly.

Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani
February 9, 2024

OFFICERS, ADVISORS, AND DIRECTORS OF HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII FOR YEAR 2024

President:	Warren Tamamoto (O)		
Immediate Past President:	Pieper Toyama (H)		
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	Miles Tamura	Carolyn Uchiyama	Evan Watarida
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Maui (4)	Wayde Toyama	Sharon Nohara	Carol Yamamura
	Gary Murai		
Hawaii (6)	Jill Atwal	Edwin Hara	Delbert Nishimoto
	David Oshiro	Joseph Gusman	Jason Hashimoto

GISEIKAI MESSAGE FROM THE JODO SHINSHU HONGWANJI-HA GOVERNOR GENERAL BISHOP GYOSHIN IKEDA

On the occasion of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 112th *Giseikai*, I humbly extend my appreciation to you, the ministers and sangha representatives from throughout the state of Hawaii. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all for your continuing efforts in propagating the Jodo Shinshu tradition and maintaining the temples within your respective districts.

I would first like to extend my condolences to those who lost their lives due to the Maui Wildfire and express my sympathy to all who have been affected. Hoping for the area's speedy recovery, we will continue our support for their efforts mentally as well as physically.

With the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine and reignited battle between Israel and Palestine, more and more countries have come to rely more heavily on armed military force, and in accordance with this tendency, a number of confrontations and conflicts are taking place across the world. Although while regaining relative normalcy in everyday life after strictly controlled days of COVID-19 preventive measures, we are thus forced to see another sad reality of human's self-centeredness. At the same time, however, this anxious world situation reminds us of how important it is to share with as many people as possible the teaching that is founded on the undeniable truth, Buddha Dharma.

At Hongwanji Kyoto, the Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching was successfully concluded last May. We are truly grateful for the large overseas delegation that attended the services. Preceding the occasion, Monshu OHTANI Kojun proclaimed the New *Ryogemon* (a way of appreciating the teaching) "Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching" in his effort of updating the original *Ryogemon* that is believed Rennyō Shonin composed. He concluded the introductory message on that passage that he hopes it "will be recited by everyone during various gatherings to share it with a wide range of people as well as the next generation."

Despite the challenging world situation, let us each continue our own efforts to fulfill the Buddha's aspiration toward the realization of a society in which everyone can live life of spiritual fulfillment.

In closing, it is my hope that the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will continue to prosper and that many fruitful results will arise from this annual meeting.

February 9, 2024

Governor General Ikeda Gyoshin
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

March 2024

Sun-	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9:00 am ~ Japanese School
3 9:00 am First Sunday Family Sunday Service	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 Kula Hospital	7 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	8	9 9:00 am ~ Japanese School
10 9:00 am Family Service 11:00 am Council Mtg.	11 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	12	13 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me	14 9:30 am~12:30 pm Senior Program 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	15	16 9:00 am ~ Japanese School
17 9:00 am Family Service (Ohigan Service) & Children Dharma Service	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 9:00 am ~ Japanese School
24 9:00 am Family Service	25 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	26	27 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me	28 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	29	30 10:00-11:30 Japanese School Monthly Gathering "Social Hall"
31 9:00 am Family Service						

