

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

"NAMO AMIDA BUTSU AND ALOHA KĀKOU!"

Dear Sangha Members, Friends and Supporters of Aiea Hongwanji and the Larger Community of Aiea,

It is with great pleasure that, as of July 1, 2023, I join the Aiea



community as the minister of Aiea Hongwanji Mission. I look forward to meeting many of you. However, I have already experienced your Aloha and would like to express my gratitude to Temple President Mr. Boyd Marumoto and others such as the Tamamoto's who have taken the time and effort to help me adjust to my new environs. I, also, want to express my deep appreciation for your willingness including generosity for permitting my family and I to reside at the

Aiea minister's parsonage during last 2 months of my tenure as Bishop. It enabled Headquarters to make long needed renovations and repairs to the Bishop's Residence in preparation to welcome the new Bishop. Thank you so very much for your dana and spirit of Sangha.

Speaking of Sangha, I would like to stress the importance of the Sangha, a Sangha that is nurtured by the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha. I am of the conviction that Lay Sangha members also play a very important role, beyond the providing of financial support, in growing the temple. Minister and Lay Members are a team. We must work together to grow the temple and provide guidance, support and assurance for not only each other, but the larger community too. However, what is crucial and essential is, for all of us, to be Dharma-centered. As much as possible, our thoughts, words and actions should be based on Buddhist values and perspectives.

Let us learn what are these Buddhist values and perspectives that should guide our life and will eventually enable us to attain supreme enlightenment, the ultimate peace and tranquility of Nirvana. We have such a wonderful teaching which is described as the consummation of Mahayana Buddhism. Let's together delve into the world of (Jodo) Shin (shu) Buddhism or the True Pure Land Teaching which seeks the happiness and well-being of all life, all

FOR ASSISTANCE OF THE MINISTER Please call:

Reverend

Eric Matsumoto

808-487-2626 (AHM office)
If he is not available, leave a message on the answering machine.

For religious
Emergencies
(Makuragyo or bedside
services), please call
Rev. Matsumoto on his
mobile phone:
808-488-5685

Aiea Hongwanji Mission,

99-186 Puakala St, Aiea, Hawaii 96701 Phone: 808-487-2626 **Email:**

aieajiko@gmail.com
Website:

aieabuddhisttemple.org

Minister's message continued from page 1

existence including this imperfect I. How grateful (arigatai) and undeservingly precious (mottainai)!

As Shinran Shonin's said, (in the preface to "The Teaching, Practice and Realization of the Pure Land Way), "How joyous I am...Shinran, disciple of Sakyamuni! Rare is it to come upon the sacred scriptures from the westward land of India and the commentaries of the masters of China and Japan, but now I have been able to hear. (omit) Here I rejoice in what I have heard and extol what I have attained."

Let us share our awareness, joy and gratitude of All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion (Namo Amida Butsu) with each other and others in the community. I look forward to seeing many of you at Sunday Services and other events and programs at the temple. Together, let us make Aiea Hongwanji, an even more thriving gathering place where people happily, respectfully and safely gather and we are able to hear the grateful recitation of the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu for Amida Buddha's unconditional Compassion which enables us to attain Supreme Enlightenment.

Thank you and see you at the temple!

In gassho,

Reverend Eric Matsumoto, Dharma-Pleasure July, 1, 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To our Sangha,

It is with much gratitude and honor to welcome the former bishop, Eric Matsumoto, as our full-time resident minister. His extensive knowledge and experience will be invaluable as we begin this new chapter at Aiea Hongwanji Mission. His contact information is posted in the right inset of the front page of this newsletter. The residence landline number (808) 488-5685, is being transferred to a mobile phone, so we ask for your patience and understanding should any issues arise during this transition.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who participated in our temple beautification event on June 11th. The facilities and grounds are in a much better shape due to your efforts.

Our Bon Dance will be earlier this year and is scheduled for Saturday, July 22, 2023. Refer to the calendar events on the back page for other Obon season events. If anyone has large ice chests to loan for the Bon Dance event, please drop them off at the social hall on Sundays between 9:00 AM and 12:00 Noon. Pick up for return of the ice chests will be on Sunday, July 23rd from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon. We also welcome donations such as bags of rice, bottled water, soda, and juice. Volunteers to help in the food booth, kitchen, or other functions are also welcome. Please call (808) 487-2626 and leave a message or email us at aieajiko@gmail.com if you would like information on volunteering. Most importantly, please come and share our joy together!

In gassho,

Boyd Marumoto

President, Aiea Hongwanji Mission



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Phone: (808) 522-9200 Fax: (808) 522-9209

Web: www.hongwanjihawaii.com Email: hqs@honpahi.org







BISHOP'S CORNER

"Namo-amida-butsu!" Bishop Eric Matsumoto



Aloha Kākou/Aloha to One and All!

I really don't know where to begin. There are so many people to thank. As I ponder on what to say for this final message, a quote by Shinran Shonin from one of his Letters comes to mind. "The teachers of Sakyamuni number one hundred and ten; this is stated in the Garland Sutra. Namo-amida-butsu."

Reflecting on my life and tenure as your Bishop for the last 12 years, I realize that something similar can be said. It is preposterous, to think that I can compare to the Historic Buddha, but my indebtedness to so many others is something I cannot deny. I have been the recipient of their care, instruction, wisdom, knowledge and insight. In short, their generosity, sharing and caring nurtured me.

I am not enlightened and so cannot see beyond this current life, but since I was born the love and unquestioned support of my family especially my parents, Glenn Tatsuki (deceased) and Ann Aiko Matsumoto, and, though long since passed away my paternal and maternal grandparents, not forgetting my brother Alan and, today, my immediate family of Tamayo and her family in Japan, Chika and Caden support me to this today.

Also, throughout my student years from elementary school to graduate school, I have had the good fortune of having incredible teachers and instructors who imparted not only their knowledge but showered upon me their genuine concern. Every part of my education such as my years at the University of Hawaii at Hilo learning Japanese Language and Culture from Dr. Tazuko (Ajiro) Monane, World History, and being awarded The Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship which took me to Japan was an essential part of my life's journey which was leading up to a further broadening of my horizon.

As I see it, everything was leading up to my encountering Buddhism, the Wisdom and Compassion of Enlightenment which included my encounter with Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto and Bishop Marvin Harada of the Buddhist Churches of America who were Ministerial Aspirants in Japan back in the 1980's. Their invitation to me to join them in their studies-quest changed the direction of my life as did the many outstanding professors I learned from such as the late Rev. Takamaro Shigaraki and many other remarkable instructors not to mention the benevolence of our Spiritual Leaders, but not to overlook dedicated fellow-practicers and fellow-travelers like those elderly neighborhood ladies who picked up litter along the Horikawa Street walkway taken by the speaker for Honzan's Early Morning Service. It took many years and not without the support of countless people, some long deceased like Former Bishop

Bishop's Corner continued:

Yemyo Imamura whose writings influenced me deeply, and entities both in Hawaii and Japan including local individuals like Former Bishop Yoshiaki Fujitani and Rev. Tatsuo Muneto who provided me with spiritual guidance and you, the Sangha of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii who provided me with a generous scholarship for 5 years and your continued support which culminated with Ordination (Tokudo), Full Certification (Kyoshi), being an Overseas Minister (Kaikyoshi) for 30+ years and eventually your Bishop.

Although I am not retiring, again, if it wasn't for the support of so many of you, my life would not be what it is. My lifetime refrain is "How can one person be so fortunate!" As I see it, I am a mere recipient of the guidance, encouragement, kindness, and benevolence of others. I have not done anything special. If I have accomplished anything and my words are worth anything it is only because of the remarkable people in my life. I am only a vehicle. I only share what others have shared with me.

However, I share the best for last and that is the gratitude and appreciation for Shinran Shonin's compassionate activity of sharing Amida Buddha's immense Wisdom and Compassion which is ultimately the working of All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion (Amida Buddha or Namo Amida Butsu) itself, an unparalleled Wisdom and Compassion which includes everyone and everything with no conditions. It is out of gratitude and appreciation for all of the above and more (which I have not mentioned due to space limitations) that I do what I do. It is responding in gratitude, but especially the Buddhas' benevolence and the wish to share the Joy of being forever embraced by Great Compassion.

I conclude my final Bishop's Corner by quoting, once again, the same Letter by Shinran Shonin. He said, "The selected Primal Vow (of Amida Buddha) is the true essence of the Pure Land way...The true essence of the Pure Land way (the Jodo Shinshu Teaching) is the consummation of Mahayana Buddhism...Namoamida-butsu."

Finally, please join me in reciting Namo-amida-butsu, The Buddha's Name Which I Call in Gratitude in response to Namo-amida-butsu, The Buddha's Name That Calls Me to Entrust. Namo-amida-butsu, Namo-amida-butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion.

In gassho,

Eric Matsumoto, Disciple of the Buddha Dharma-Pleasure (Horaku)

REFLECTIONS ON THE JOINT CELEBRATION IN KYOTO

Reflections on the Joint Celebration: 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching at the Hongwanji and the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention (WBWC) in Kyoto, Japan.

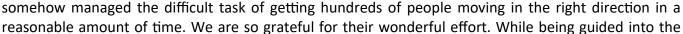
On May 10, 2023, Claire and I were privileged to be able to attend the Joint 850th/800th Celebration at the Hongwanji in Kyoto, Japan. Approximately 165 ministers and lay participants from Hawaii attended the celebration, along with fellow Nembutsu travelers from the overseas districts of Canada, Continental USA (BCA) and South America. Every person who attended has a unique perspective. Here are a few of my thoughts.

If you were not able to attend the 850th/800th celebration but can visit Kyoto in the future, I would highly recommend a visit to our mother temple, Hongwanji. The temple buildings and Grounds are beautiful.



The Amidado (Hall of Amida Buddha, completed in 1760) and Goeido (Founders Hall, completed in 1636) are designated National Treasures of Japan. The altars were beautifully arranged for the celebration. It was truly an uplifting experience to be present in the temple, chanting Shoshin Nembutsu Ge and reciting the Nembutsu with hundreds of Sangha members from Hawaii, Canada, South America and the Continental USA.

Our hosts from Japan were cheerful, helpful, and treated us with "Aloha" everywhere. They







temple for the service, I heard a voice call out to me, "Dr. Tamamoto!" It was Rev. Masako Sugimoto from the Hongwanji International Center. When I visited the Honzan with my family about 10 years ago, HQ arranged for a tour of the Honzan. Rev. Sugimoto was our guide. When I visited Honzan about 4 years ago with some friends, Rev. Sugimoto was our guide again. It was nice to see a familiar face. Thank you for sharing your knowledge of Buddhism and the Honzan, Rev. Masako Sugimoto!

During our visit to the Honzan, we were

able to see the Shoin Chambers, the Karamon Gate (also a National Treasure) and the Hiunkaku (Flying Cloud) Pavilion. Along with the famous Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion) and Ginkakuji (Silver Pavilion), Hiunkaku is listed as one of Kyoto's three famous pavilions. These special areas are not usually open to the public. Thank you to our hosts for making our visit special in so many ways.



The following two days were spent at the World Buddhist Women's Convention at the International Conference Center (ICC Kyoto). The ICC Kyoto is a beautiful facility which opened in 1966 and still looks new. The theme of the convention was "Life of Nembutsu enables us to appreciate every encounter." The two days passed quickly with interesting workshops, a commemorative concert by singer/songwriter Chihiro, who composed and sang poems written by Lady Takeko Kujo, a keynote speech by Prof. Shin'en Morita entitled "Embraced in the Wish," entertainment by BWA members from each



districts. Hawaii was represented by Cindy Alm from Hawaii Betsuin BWA. Thank you, Cindy for sharing your family journey from Japan to Hawaii, guided by Shin Buddhist teachings.

I will always remember how warmly we were received by our Japanese hosts at the 850th/800th Joint Celebration and the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention. For the closing program, we were scattered in the main hall, mixed in with our hosts from Japan. I was lucky to sit with BWA members from Rev. Kazunori Takahashi's home temple in Japan. They were so happy to meet me and I was able to share a photo

that I had taken of Rev. Takahashi and his family just two days prior at the 850th/800th celebration. They were so happy to hear that he and his family are doing well in Hilo Betsuin. In spite of the language barrier-using hand signs, broken English/Japanese and Google Translate, we





were able to enjoy each other's company.

I will also remember meeting Dharma friends from years past, such as Rev. Gerald Sakamoto of the BCA, Ms. Tabitha Kobata (Rev. Ron Kobata's daughter, who works at the Hongwanji International Center) and Mrs. Tomoko Okamoto (wife of Rev. Jay Okamoto). Overall,

this was a wonderful event and I look forward to the 18th World Buddhist Women's Convention in 2027 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

In Gassho,

Warren Tamamoto

President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii





SPONSORED BY THE HONOLULU & OAHU HONGWANJI COUNCILS
& THE OFFICE OF BUDDHIST EDUCATION

DIVERSITY & ACCEPTANCE IN BUDDHA'S VOW



NEMBUTSU SEMINAR
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 - 9:00 - 11:30 AM (HST)
BUDDHIST STUDY CENTER IN-PERSON
OR VIA ZOOM



REV. KO'E A. UMEZU WEST LOS ANGELES BUDDHIST TEMPLE

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION

Join us to reflect on what diversity and acceptance means within The Fundamental Vow of Amida Buddha (Hon-gan). The seminar will feature a screening of "A Profound Silence" which was produced by Gardena Buddhist Church Ichi-Mi, followed by a group discussion.

AGENDA:

9:00am Welcome/Opening by emcee (5 min)
 9:05-9:50am Rev. Umezu's presentation/Ichi-Mi project & video (45 min)
 9:50-10:20am Video: "A Profound Silence" (30 min)
 10:20-10:30am Break (10 min)
 10:30-11:00am Breakout Group Discussion (30 min)
 11:00-11:25am Q&A and *Breakout Group lead share group's discussion highlight (25 min)
 11:25am Closing/Mahalo (5 min)
 Seminar concludes

REV. KO'E A. UMEZU

Rev. Ko'e A. Umezu is an assistant minister and Community Outreach Coordinator at the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple. She currently resides in Torrance, CA, with her spouse, Marie Miyashiro. Rev. Umezu and Marie are copresidents of Ichi-Mi, an organization of Jōdo Shinshū Buddhists dedicated to providing a safe space for LGBTQ+ identifying people within the Sangha, their family members, and allies, in order to create conditions for everyone to safely hear the Nembutsu teaching.

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!

Donations will be given to the Ichi-Mi Project.
Check payable to Gardena Buddhist Church
(include Ichi-Mi project in memo line) and
mail to: Gardena Buddhist Church
1517 W. 166th St, Gardena, CA 90247



QUESTIONS? CALL MILILANI HONGWANJI OFFICE (808) 625-0925

REGISTRATION IS FREE! / REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

ATTN: NEMBUTSU SEMINAR, P.O. BOX 893308, MILILANI, HI 96789



INVESTITURE CEREMONY AND WELCOME LUNCHEON FOR THE 17TH BISHOP, REVEREND TOSHIYUKI UMITANI

Reverend Toshiyuki Umitani was confirmed as the 17th Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii at the 111th Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) on February 11, 2023.

Please join Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii in celebrating this occasion by joining us at his Investiture Ceremony followed by the Welcome Luncheon.

Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023

Investiture Ceremony:

Location: Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu

Time: 8:00am

RSVP: not needed – please attend to show your support.

Welcome Luncheon:

Umitani Luncheon (2023.06.15rev2)

Theme: Ko Ko Sho Gon ("Adorned with the Fragrance of Light")

Location: Sheraton Waikiki – Kauai/Maui Ballrooms

Time: 10:30am - Registration

11:30am – Luncheon

Cost: \$90/person by check

\$95/person by credit card

Attire: Aloha

RSVP by: Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Please submit the payment and name(s) of the attendee(s) to Headquarters (attention Dianne Sumida, Administrative Assistant) by July 25, 2023.

Temples & Organizations – if you will be submitting a consolidated list, please submit one (1) check/payment.

There will be no refunds.

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Junior YBA Happenings

Congratulations to Chad Okawa and Ty Wakahiro on their graduations! Chad graduated from PBA and spoke as the class Valedictorian. Ty graduated from Mililani HS and was one of 98 Valedictorians. Both new graduates had very nice baccalaureate services and graduation ceremonies.

We have been busy planning for the 66th Jr. YBA State Convention which was on June 23-25. The theme was "Sangha: Our Interdependent Environment" inspired by Avatar: The Last Airbender. Our focus with planning activities has been on sustainability and connection with the environment and how we can be better stewards to protect the 'aina. Our workshops included visiting Ka Papa Lo'i Kānewai at UH Manoa and learning to play taiko.

Each convention attendee also recieved a themed t-shirt and a reuseable utensil set that includes a metal fork, spoon, knife and chopsticks. We hope this will encourage people to carry their own utensils rather than get throwaway single use kind when they are out and about. We will be selling these sets at Mililani's bon dance so come visit the Jr. YBA at our beverage booth!

Thank you to everyone who made an ad donation for our convention booklet or donated money toward our convention. We truly appreciate the support and your generous contributions and you will receive a copy of the convention book to share with your temple!

In addition to convention planning, we have been staying quite busy.

In March, the United went to visit the Jewish Temple Emanu-El for an interfaith activity. The juniors had a really nice time attending their service and having food and fellowship afterwards.

In April we did a joint social activity with the Honolulu United. We went ice skating at the Ice Palace where we spend the afternoon skating, eating, and spending time together.

Several of us attended the LGBTQIA+ Seminar that was held on April 22. Chad was one of the panel speakers and he also was interviewed for an article in the Honolulu Herald.

https://www.thehawaiiherald.com/2023/05/05/rainbow-connections-interview-with-chihiro-okawa/

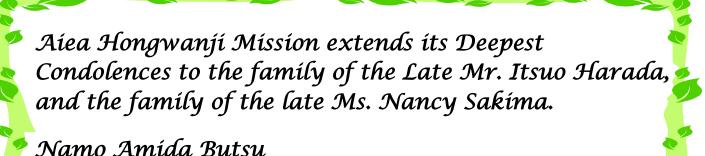
We also had our Spring Federation meeting, held virtually, and encouraged participation in convention.

In May, we had another interfaith activity and visited Muslim Mosque in Manoa and got the opportunity to sit with the Imam and learn about their faith and services. We didn't get to experience a service but the juniors asked a lot of questions and it was nice to learn about another faith.

We have also increased our membership this year from 2 to 10 juniors with a <u>couple</u> younger students starting to get involved to join for the next year. We are really excited for our United to grow and continue to do activities that they can be excited about.

Lastly, we will be attending as many district bon dances as we can both to experience the bon dance and volunteer to help as needed.





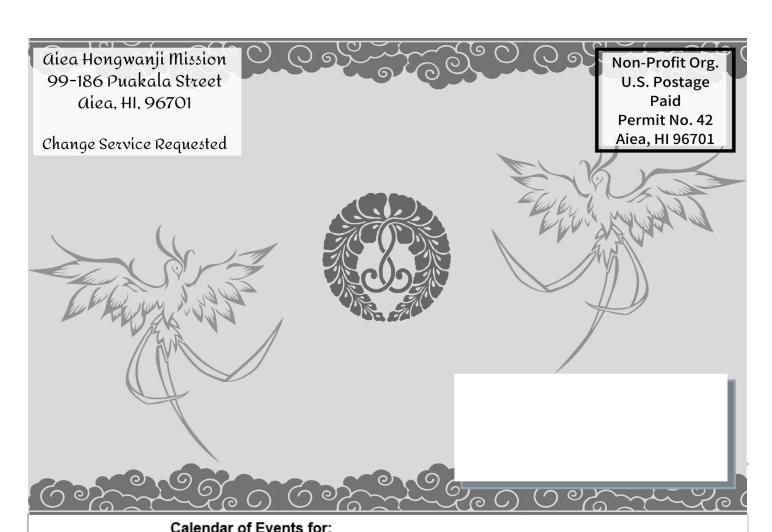
Family Memorial Service

In the Japanese Buddhist tradition, families hold memorial services (Nen-ki Hoyo) in memory of our loved ones, and to express our gratitude for Amida Buddha's Infinite Light.

The Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion embrace our loved ones in the land of peace and happiness. May we also remember Amida's embrace on our lives as we remember those who have departed.

If your family would like to arrange a memorial service for your loved one, please call Reverend Eric Matsumoto at (808)-488-5685, or leave a message on the office phone: (808)-487-2626. You may schedule the service either before or after the memorial date.

July	2023		August 2023		
1st	Shigeo	Asato	3rd	Dorothy Tsuruko	Okumura
3rd	Masako	Matsumoto	7th	Mildred Miyoko	Tochiki
13th	Albert Mitsugi	Nishikawa	7th	Masue	Miyamoto
17th	Elaine Chizuru	Yamaguchi	13th	Tsugie	Matsumoto
17th	Milton Ichiro	Tateishi	17th	Sally Sakiko	Suzuki
17th	Alice Yukiko	Tamao	17th	Leighton Katsushi	Ichishita
17th	Gertrude Fumie	Kurasaki	33rd	Ayame	Hasebe
17th	Mary Yoshiko	Furukawa	50th	Yuki	Tateishi
25th	Sakayo	Okoga		000	
25th	Minami	Tsurue			
25th	Sayo	Koyanagi			
25th	Tomoichi	Isobe			
33rd	Kenso	Tasaki			
33rd	Chika	Ippongi			
50th	Kojiro	Tsuhi			
50th	Harry	Kaneshiro			



	<u>Calendar of E</u>	events for:	
		<u>July</u>	2023
2	Sun	9:00 am	Family Service & Chochin Hanging
			afterwards
4	Tue		Independence Day (PS & LADCC closed)
8	Sat		Mahalo Luncheon for outgoing Bishop
9	Sun	9:00 am	Family Obon Service
9	Sun	10:30 am	Hatsubon Service
16	Sun	8:00 am	Set up Yagura - No Service.
18	Tue	7:00 pm	AHM Board of Directors' Meeting via ZOOM
22	Sat	6:00 pm	Obon Service
22	Sat	7:00 pm	Bon Dance
23	Sun	9:00 am	Take down Yagura & clean-up hall – No Service. No BWA Meeting this month.
28	Fri		Last day of Preschool Summer Session
30	Sun	9:00am	No Service
		Aug	ust 2023
5	Sat		Incoming Bishop Investiture Ceremony at HB
6	Sun	9:00 am	Sutra Chanting Service
7	Mon		Preschool begins 2023-2024 school <u>year</u>
13	Sun	9:00 am	Family Service
15	Tue	7:00 pm	AHM Board of Directors' Meeting via ZOOM
18	Fri		Statehood Day - State Holiday
20	Sun	9:00 am	Sunday Family Service.
20	Sun	10:30 am	Aiea Hongwanji BWA Meeting
27	Sun	9:00am	Sunday Family Service
			July 2023 JIKO