

JIKO – “Wisdom – Light”

AUGUST 2023 VOLUME 69,

ISSUE 08

Monthly Newsletter of
The Aiea Hongwanji Mission

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together



MINISTER’S MESSAGE

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

As we are in the midst of the O-Bon Season, I would like to briefly share a message about Dana. Dana is one of the Six Paramitas, which, when each are perfectly accomplished, will enable a person to become enlightened or a Buddha. Dana is variously translated as “Selfless Giving”, “Pure Giving”, “Giving from the heart with sincerity” and so forth. One may wonder why the words “selfless” and “pure” are used. The emphasis is on giving with a pure heart or giving without strings attached. True giving in Buddhism is when after one has given or done something one does not think “I did a good deed” “How will I benefit?” “I am proud of myself.” “I did something for you so next time you do something for me.” Dana is performed from the sincerity and purity of one’s heart without expecting anything in return not even a thank you.



However, this does not mean that the receiver or others cannot express their gratitude to the giver or donor. Donations and contributions do not have to be anonymous to be Dana. You can remain anonymous if you prefer and so in that case, please let us know. The crucial part about Dana is, again, not that it must remain anonymous, but rather that there are no attachments by the donor or giver. For an act to be Dana there should be no attachment to the item being given, no attachment to giving as the giver and no attachment to whom it was given.

In the story of Mogallana and his Mother, we are told that it was due to Mogallana’s Dana or Pure Selfless Giving of providing food or meal to the entire Sangha of monks and nuns, that his Mother was liberated from the suffering of insatiable greed that she was experiencing. Performing or doing Dana has a purpose in Buddhism. As one of the Six Paramitas, the purpose of Dana is to rid the self of greed by becoming generous and benefiting others through that generosity.

However, upon honest self-reflection, it is not hard to realize that it is not that easy to perform Dana. Amida Buddha realized that for an ordinary foolish being, it is practically impossible to do pure Dana as whatever I do is muddled by selfish thoughts and my ego. Thus, in Jodo

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

**Aiea Hongwanji
Mission,**

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Aiea, Hawaii 96701
Phone: 808-487-2626

Email:

aieajiko@gmail.com

Website:

aieabuddhisttemple.org



Shinshu Buddhism, performing Dana is not a requirement or a religious practice that a person must perfect to become enlightened and instead we find ourselves entrusting ourselves, one hundred percent, to Amida Buddha who has already promised/vowed our liberation by simply asking us to Entrust (Shinjin) and Recite the Buddha's Name, Namo Amida Butsu (Nembutsu) in awareness.

Again, Amida Buddha, knowing beforehand of my predicament, embraces me just as I am, greed and all, and then eventually transforms this foolish I into an absolute positive with birth in the Pure Land of Enlightenment. Let me make clear though that this acceptance by Amida Buddha does not make greed okay or it does not justify greed. What it does express is the all-encompassing loving Compassion of Amitabha-Amitayus/Amida Buddha.

In Jodo Shinshu or Shin Buddhism, we usually use another word to explain the so-called good things we do and why we do them. That word in Japanese is Hosha or Responding in gratitude. This Responding in gratitude to Amida Buddha's Great Compassion is an essential characteristic of a Shin Buddhist's life. As Shin Buddhists, out of gratitude for the Unconditional Compassion of Amida Buddha which embraces us just as we are, we respond by first reciting the Nembutsu of Awareness and Gratitude and along with that we try to be respectful, helpful, kind, and do things which will benefit others. I take it one step further by saying that in Shin Buddhism, the traditional teachings like Dana and The Eightfold Path which are the core (religious) practices of General Buddhism become guidelines and ideals that we, as Jodo Shin Buddhists, can incorporate into our daily living, not as precepts and religious practices for Enlightenment, but as guidelines on how to live a Buddhist way of life. We, the Nembutsu Sangha, inspired, motivated and nurtured by Amida Buddha's Great Lights of Wisdom and Compassion, are motivated to try to live our life more in accord with the Dharma.

I would like to conclude by mentioning that there are 3 Kinds of Dana: the Dana of No Fear (the absence or removal of fear), the Dana of Sharing the Dharma by Dharma Teachers, and the Dana of giving material gifts (such as money or other types of donations like food and in kind services like volunteering at the temple) to Dharma Teachers and the Temple by the Lay, out of gratitude for the sharing of the Dharma. I cordially invite everyone to please join us at the temple especially on Sunday mornings at 9:00AM for our Sunday Morning Services to learn more about the Dharma (or the Teachings of the Buddha) and what it means to live a Dharma-centered life as a Buddhist and in particular as a Shin Buddhist. See you soon!

Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom & All-Embracing Compassion

In gassho,

Reverend Eric Matsumoto

2022-2023 SOCIAL CONCERNS FUND DRIVE UPDATE

Reminder that the current Social Concerns Fund Drive will run till August 31, 2023. The Committee on Social Concerns requests that temples please submit all collected donations to Hawaii Kyodan HQ by September 30, 2023.

Through your generosity, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is able to support worthy organizations and programs with funding to continue their work in our community and allows us to provide aid during times of disaster. We also continue to award Golden Chain Grants to encourage sharing the Dharma through compassionate service.

Your support directly impacts the lives of others. Mahalo for your generosity!

In Gassho,
Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair
Committee on Social Concerns

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



To our Sangha,

July has been a very eventful month with the Obon season in full swing. The turnout for the Aiea Hongwanji Bon Dance was huge, but all attendees were accommodated thanks to the vibrant support of the many volunteers who selflessly offered their time and energy in the preparation and execution of this major event. A special mahalo goes out to Mark Funasaki who had taken the lead to organize and manage the processes and details that were necessary to keep the many people involved working in concert.

Amidst all this hustle and bustle that demanded our focused attention, Allan Tomisato somehow found the time to replace the deteriorated wooden guardrail at the first stair landing of the temple with a metal one. Thank you, Allan, for a job well done.

In August, several Nembutsu seminars are being offered for attendance in person or via Zoom. The details are on page 10 of this newsletter. Also see page 12 of this newsletter for the summary of events for August and September.

This year's Ohana/Peace Day event will be sponsored by Aiea Hongwanji. The event will be held on Saturday, September 23rd, at the Loko l'a Pa'aiau Fish Pond, commonly referred to as the "Aiea Fishpond". It will be a hands-on learning experience in restoring and sustaining our native environment. Please refer to page 9 of this newsletter to place your order for bento lunch which will be served that day.

On page 8, we honor Itsuo Harada who had recently left us for the Pure Land. We thank his family for sharing his life story. If you know of a member whose life story you wish to share with others, please contact us. Thank you.

In gassho,

Boyd Marumoto

President, Aiea Hongwanji Mission



2024 HONGWANJI CALENDAR

Five-year theme (2020-2024) : Building Healthy Sanghas

2024 Slogan: SHARING NEMBUTSU MOMENTS

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH) Calendar Committee invites members, Dharma friends, and affiliates to provide photos for the 2024 Hongwanji calendar that capture and evoke the emotions of "Sharing Nembutsu Moments" (joy, gratitude, surprise, excitement, ceremonial, peaceful, reflective, meditative, thoughtful). As we continue to work together **Building Healthy Sanghas**, what were some of the experiences of **SHARING NEMBUTSU MOMENTS** that you captured in photos?

- You may submit several photos for consideration by the Calendar Committee for the 2024 Hongwanji Calendar.
- We do welcome cell phone photos. Photos will need to be able to be clearly enlarged.
- For each photo, please include a brief caption expressing your "Sharing Nembutsu Moment" and your name/temple for photo credit.
- If you have questions, please leave a message for Yumi Suzuki at the Hongwanji Headquarters Office % Rev. Baba at (808)522-9200 or email: hqs@honpahi.org.
- For photo submissions, please submit directly to Alan Kubota at lenscapeshawaii@gmail.com. He will respond directly to any technical questions. Thank you.

Preferably, please submit pictures in landscape format (horizontal), like this flyer.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, September 8, 2023.



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



MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

July 2023

It is with immense joy and a sense of humble responsibility that I began my duty as the 17th Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. While I am fully aware that I have much to learn and that the responsibilities of this role are significant, I am also filled with an unwavering enthusiasm to serve alongside each and every one of you.

As we continue this shared Nembutsu journey, I want to, first of all, express my gratitude for the dedication and commitment you have put into your temple, district, and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Thank you very much. I am humbled to be surrounded by such inspiring ministers and Dharma friends. I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to meet you and collaborate with you to share the joy of the Nembutsu teaching with people in our community.

Please know that my door is always open, and I am here to support you in any way that I can. Whether it is guidance, encouragement, or simply a listening ear, I am committed to fostering a warm and nurturing relationship within the embrace of Amida Buddha. Together with the entire Headquarters staff, I look forward to working together with you. If you are in the vicinity, please drop by to say “Hi” and visit **YOUR** HQ’s Office and Bookstore.

May our life’s journey be inspired and guided by the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu,

Toshiyuki Umitani

Bishop

66th JR. YBA STATE CONVENTION REPORT

Aloha!

On behalf of the Hawaii Federation of Jr. YBAs, we hope you are doing well! Last month was eventful for our organization as members participated in the 66th Jr. YBA State Convention hosted by the United Jr. YBA of Oahu! Every year, members assemble to make new connections, discuss parliamentary business, and practice the Dharma together.

This year’s theme, “Sangha: Our Interdependent Environment,” intertwined the concept of interdependence, which we can apply to our connection with the Earth and the micro-communities we are a part of.

Our workshops during our convention helped us explore this concept. We learned about Native Hawaiian practices from students of the Hale Hāola Kanaka Cultural Institute. They shared their experiences about revitalizing and caring for the land. We cared for the 'āina by volunteering at Ka Papa Lo'i O Kānewai at UH Manoa by removing weeds from the taro patches. The kumu shared the interdependence of the water system in the ahupua'a. Taiko Sensei Jay Toyofuku also led an interactive Kumi Daiko workshop emphasizing the importance of playing together.

In addition to workshops, we also discussed business matters. This year we passed five resolutions. We covered resolutions that introduced parliamentary changes to improve our organization and honored members of our community- Former Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Mrs. Kerrie (Wong) Tom.

This convention was only possible with the tireless dedication of many individuals and support from the greater Hongwanji community. This convention was a testament to how interdependent we are. Thank you to all the temples, organizations, and individuals for your donations in support of our convention!

The Jr. YBA is always looking for new members. We welcome youth from 6th grade to 2 years after high school graduation. No temple membership is required. Jr. YBA offers opportunities to develop essential skills, meet other Buddhist youth, serve our communities, travel, and much more. If you are interested, please visit our website: <https://www.hawaiiiryba.com/>.

We hope to see you next year in Maui for our next convention!

In Gassho,
Chihiro Okawa & Ty Wakahiro



BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

O Bon 2023 was a HUGE success thanks to the many BWA members who came out to lend a hand! A warm mahalo to the following:

- Susan M., Sugiko, Sally, Helen, Elaine, Gayle, Arlene, Charlene, Doreen, and Jr. YBA member, Jaimelynn for folding Hachimakis in preparation for the Choba table.
- Audrey and Gayle for providing nourishing refreshments for the morning crew during the final setup.
- Cindy, for assisting Mark with the chili and the after-bon dance meal preparation.
- Elaine and Alan for leading and overseeing the yakisoba preparation and the after Bon meal.
- Doreen for supervising the chicken bento crew.
- Gayle for supervising the spam musubi-making crew.
- Mavis and Doreen for taking charge of the Craft area in the Hall.

Thank you to all the BWA ladies who came out to KOKUA and to those who made generous donations to our food table with homemade kimchi, pickled mangoes, baked manju, and li hing gummy bears!

I would especially like to express my warmest gratitude to all those who worked tirelessly from early morning to late evening on the days leading up to our 2023 O-Bon. Each of you is an important and valuable member of our Sangha. You are all truly the backbone of Aiea Hongwanji.
どうもありがとうございました！

In Gassho,

D. Okawa





*The Bon Dance Crowd and
Food Booth Volunteers*



HONORING OUR PAST~

We were saddened when we learned that one of our longtime members, Itsuo Harada, peacefully left to the Pure Land on May 9, 2023. Those of you who knew and associated with “Opat”, the nickname his friends bestowed upon him, may not have been aware of his life history outside of the Aiea Hongwanji setting. Following is a brief biography as shared by his family.



Itsuo Harada was born in the Lower Village, Ewa Plantation to Sagami and Kichibe Harada, farmers from Hiroshima who immigrated to Hawaii to work at the sugar plantations. Itsuo had a real zest for life and had a penchant to broaden his experiences. He bodysurfed, cycled, played football and baseball, played the guitar, raised carnations, and even took up tap dancing! He was drafted into the army during the Korean War, but was fortunate that the armistice was signed right before his deployment to Korea.

He married Frances Silva whom he met at his best friend’s wedding where he was the best man and she was the maid of honor. With marriage came greater responsibilities that led him to pursue a career beyond that of a plantation laborer. He attended technical school at night and worked part-time as a house painter, all while working full-time at the plantation. He persisted with this multiple job scenario for 16 or 17 years, and once he got out of technical school he was hired by Hawaiian Telephone as a technician and later promoted to a field supervisor. He also worked part-time with KHVH (now KITV) as a cameraman for the Jack McCoy show and later as a technician in the control room. Subsequently, he worked for KONA (now KHON) as a technician loading and syncing video tape reels of commercials between program segments.

Itsuo’s goal of becoming an engineer was fulfilled when Hawaiian Telephone promoted him to be a Project Engineer at their headquarters. He was one of two engineers in that department that did not have a college degree.

Itsuo’s other goal was to eventually start his own company. He fulfilled that goal when he retired from Hawaiian Telephone at age 62 and started Tech Services, Inc., a telecommunications consultation company.

Itsuo finally retired at age 75 and became more active at Aiea Hongwanji. He joined its board of directors and was instrumental in the creation of the Lotus Adult Day Care Center, which to this day serves to care for our aging kupuna. Itsuo also was involved with the continuous maintenance and cleaning of the premises and buildings. People would know of his presence when they saw his signature classic Cadillac parked in the lot.

We at Aiea Hongwanji express our deep gratitude and appreciation for all the contributions that Itsuo Harada made for the betterment of the temple and the community in general.

Namo Amida Butsu.



Ohana Day Celebration
Saturday, September 23, 2023
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Loko I'a Pa'aiau Fishpond
122-184 McGrew Loop
Aiea, HI 96701

Bento Order Form
Karaage Chicken, Teri-Beef, Fried Fish, Spam, White Rice, Takuan
Bottled Water

Name _____ Contact Number _____

Bento Orders _____ X \$12 = _____ Total Payment Enclosed _____

Check Your Temple: Aiea ___ Ewa ___ Mililani ___ Pearl City ___ Waialua ___
Waianae ___ Wahiawa ___ Wahipahu ___

Checks Payable to:

Aiea Hongwanji Mission
99-186 Puakala Street
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

Order Deadline September 10, 2023

Pick up at the Loko I'a Pa'aiau (Aiea) Fishpond

Contact Gayle Yamaguchi at gayleyamaguchi@gmail.com if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing all of you there!!!

*If you are homebound, in a care home or in the hospital,
and would like Reverend Eric to visit you, please
contact him at (808) 488-5685 to make arrangements.*

PERSONNEL

Rev. Shinkai Murakami was relieved from his position as the Minister Advisor of Federation of Buddhist Women's Association as of May 31, 2023.

Rev. Blayne Higa was appointed to the Minister Advisor of Federation of Buddhist Women's Association as of June 1, 2023.

Rev. Yuika Hasebe, currently serving at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Acting Rimban (Chief Minister), will be assigned to the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Rimban (Chief Minister) as of August 1, 2023.

Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata, upon completing his two-month onboarding program, will be assigned to Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister as of August 1, 2023. Rev. Nakasone also serves as the Chaplain of the Pacific Buddhist Academy as of August 1, 2023.

Rev. Daido Baba will be relieved from his position as the Chaplain of the Pacific Buddhist Academy as of July 31, 2023.

Rev. Sol Kalu, currently serving at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister, will be assigned to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters as Headquarters Staff in the Office of Buddhist Education as of August 1, 2023.

Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, Rev. Shinkai Murakami, Rev. Satoshi Tomioka, Rev. Mieko Majima, and Rev. Blayne Higa were relieved of their position as Sanmu (Bishop's Advisory Board) as of June 30, 2023.

Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, Rev. Shinkai Murakami, Rev. Ai Hironaka, Rev. Yuika Hasebe, and Rev. Blayne Higa were newly appointed as Sanmu (Bishop's Advisory Board) as of July 1, 2023. Rev. Takahashi serves as Sanmucho (Chair of the Bishop's Advisory Board).

2023 HAWAII DISTRICT NEMBUTSU SEMINAR - The In-person and zoom online Hawaii District Nembutsu Seminar in August 2023:

Date & Time: Sunday, August 26, 2023, from 10 am to 11:30 am (HST)
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson, Professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies at Renison University College and the University of Waterloo, Canada / Minister's Assistant, Toronto Buddhist Church
Topic: "Living Nembutsu: Jodo Shinshu and Social Engagement"
Online Registration: <https://forms.gle/HasehA5mhBNouAed7>
Registration Deadline: Thursday, August 17, 2023
Fee: \$10 with lunch (in-person), Free (online)

SAVE THE DATE

HONOLULU & OAHU HONGWANJI COUNCIL NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

Date & Time: Saturday, August 12th, 2023, 9 am -11:30 am
Speaker: Rev. Ko'e A. Umezu, Assistant Minister at the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple
Topic: Diversity & Acceptance in Buddha's Vow
Place: In-person at the Buddhist Study Center and online via Zoom
Free Registration: <https://forms.gle/N9nCqL14xpviooUf8>
Registration Deadline: Saturday, August 5, 2023

KAUAI HONGWANJI COUNCIL NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

Date & Time: Saturday, August 26th, 2023, 10 am -11:30 am
Speaker: Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, Retired Minister of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
Topic: Manifesting Amida's Compassionate Heart—Legacy of the Nembutsu Followers in Hawaii
Platform: Zoom
Free Registration: <https://forms.gle/7tHn5Kw1XhnsJN7DA>
Registration Deadline: Saturday, August 19, 2023

O BON WINDCATCHERS

Thank you to the many representatives from the Aiea Hongwanji Sangha who assisted with hanging the windcatchers in our temple on Sunday, July 2nd.

Aiea Jr. YBA Taylor Kunimitsu
BWA Gayle Yamaguchi, Kim Kunimitsu, Doreen Taketa, Mavis Niino
Elaine Kutaka, Jean Okamoto, Cindy Nonaka, Helen Takenouchi
Claire Tamamoto,
Kyodan Warren Tamamoto, Tamayo Matsumoto, Boyd Marumoto
Ross Yamaguchi, Grant Yamaguchi

We would also like to extend a warm-hearted thank you to our new member, Dale Furukawa, who assisted us all the way from Las Vegas, Nevada, in designing these nametags.

Thank you to all who made donations by purchasing a windcatcher. This year, sixty-seven windcatchers adorn our temple and will be on display throughout August. As the names of our loved ones flutter gently during services, they are a reminder to reflect, remember, and express our deepest gratitude to our loved ones. お陰様で—どうもありがとうございました！

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.

August 2023

3rd Dorothy Tsuruko Okumura
7th Mildred Miyoko Tochiki
7th Masue Miyamoto
13th Tsugie Matsumoto
17th Sally Sakiko Suzuki
17th Leighton Katsushi Ichishita
33rd Ayame Hasebe
50th Yuki Tateishi

September 2023

3rd Shinko Kubo
17th Albert Goro Takushi
25th Tsugiyoshi Tanigawa
25th Alice Misuyo Nitta

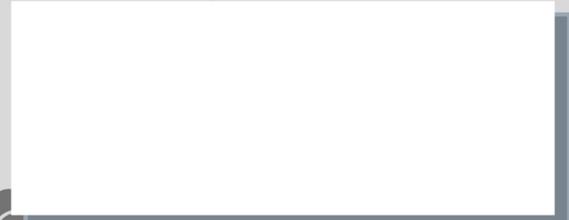
October 2023

17th Richard Megumi Matsunaga
33rd Stanley Tsuda
33rd Yoshio Tochiki

Aiea Hongwanji Mission
 99-186 Puakala Street
 Aiea, HI, 96701

Change Service Requested

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Calendar of Events for:

August 2023

5	Sat	8:00 am	Incoming Bishop Investiture Ceremony at HB
6	Sun	9:00 am	Sutra Chanting Service
7	Mon		Preschool begins 2023-2024 school year.
8	Tue	9:45 am	30 th Annual Nagasaki Peace Ceremony at Honolulu Hale
12	Sat	9:00am	Honolulu-Oahu Nembutsu Seminar with Rev. Amy Umezu, (Zoom & in person at BSC)
13 20&27	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	10:30 am	Aiea Hongwanji BWA Meeting

September 2023

3 & 10	Sun	9:00 am	Family Service
3-4	Sun-Mon	2:00 pm	Ministers' Spouses Assoc. Seminar (Oahu) with opening service at AHM
4	Mon		Labor Day Holiday(Preschool/LADCC closed)
15-16	Fri-Sat		60 th HH Lay Assoc. Convention in Kona
17	Sun	9:00 am	Buddhist Dedication Day, Autumn Higan – Equinox Service.
19	Tues	7:00 pm	AHM Board of Directors' Meeting via ZOOM
21	Thurs	8:30 am	Ring Your Bell for Peace Hawaii - open to all
23	Sat		Ohana/Peace Day Event at Aiea Fishpond
24	Sun	8:00 am	Temple Beautification Day (No service).