

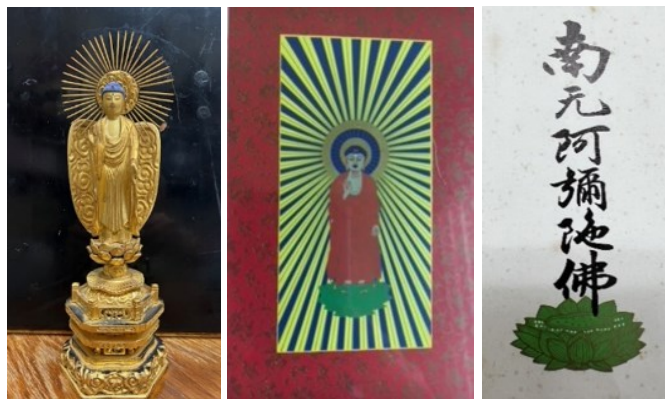


MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Which do you have?

First, as a Hongwanji member, do you have a Family Altar (Butsudan) at home? Secondly, have you taken a close look at the main Object of Reverence (Honzon)? Which of the three do you have?

Any of the three is sufficient, but, according to Rennyo Shonin the most appropriate and significant is "Namo Amida Butsu" or Amida Buddha represented as the Buddha's Name (far right). He said "In other schools (of Buddhism), a pictorial scroll is preferred to the (Written) Name; a wooden statue is preferred



to a pictorial image. In our (Jodo Shinshu) school, a pictorial image is preferred to a wooden image; the (Written) Name is preferred to a pictorial image."

The above saying of Rennyo Shonin is based a very profound understanding of the dynamics of Jodo Shinshu and a deep appreciation of it. In short, Amida Buddha reaches out to bring about our awakening to Wisdom and Compassion and our eventual enlightenment not through difficult religious practices which test our physical abilities, challenging visual contemplations which boggle the mind, or long silent meditation sessions, but through making itself known to us by identifying itself and reaching out to us as the Name (Namo Amida Butsu/Myogo) which anyone can hear about and encourages us to also call that Name (Nembutsu/Namo Amida Butsu) in awareness and joy of coming to realize that we are, just as we are, embraced by Great Compassion. Then, the saying of Namo Amida Butsu is the Nembutsu of Gratitude.

In this way, Amida Buddha as the Written Name "Namo Amida Butsu" is the most significant depiction of Amida Buddha for Jodo Shinshu. However, for most people, it is the statue and/or pictorial image of Amida Buddha that remains the most relatable and most commonly found in temples and home altars, respectively.

For the remainder of this message, let's take a closer look at the image of Amida

Minister's Message continued on page 2

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

Buddha and its symbolism, so you may find it more meaningful and can appreciate it even more. However, before I go any further, let me share that we are not worshipping the image of the Buddha. We are in grateful humility reverently bowing our heads to Wisdom and Compassion symbolized by the image. Much of what is presented below is based on the book, "Traditions of Jodoshinshu Hongwanji-ha" by Masao Kodani and Russell Hamada.

The Object of Reverence in Hongwanji or Jodo Shinshu is Amida Buddha. In larger altars, there might also be representations of Shinran Shonin and Rennyo Shonin in the side niches out of gratitude to them for sharing the Nembutsu Teachings. In Hongwanji, the image of Amida Buddha is always standing (never a seated) figure of the Buddha. It is based on a scriptural quote in which Sakyamuni Buddha says to Ananda and Queen Vaidehi, *"Listen closely, listen closely. Consider this carefully. I, the Buddha (Sakyamuni) shall discern and explain for you the way to eliminate pain and affliction. The sutra continues "As these words were spoken, the Buddha of Immeasurable Life (Amida Buddha) appeared, standing in the air..."*

The statues of Amida Buddha lean slightly forward representing the dynamic activity of Wisdom and Compassion (reaching out to us). This is most evident in larger images found at temples. The hand gesture of Amida Buddha is the mudra of tranquility and protection signifying the entry of Amida Buddha from the Realm of Enlightenment into the world of sentient beings for the purpose of teaching and effecting our enlightenment. The thumb and index fingers of both hands form the circle of perfection, i.e., the Dharma which is perfect and eternal, having neither beginning nor end. The right-hand raised with palm facing outward symbolizes Wisdom, the attainment of Perfect Enlightenment, the World of Nirvana. The left-hand pendant with palm facing outward symbolizes Compassion, the Buddha's entering into Samsara, the realm of suffering sentient beings to awaken us to the Dharma, True Reality. Further, between and slightly above the Buddha's eyes is a dot, which is a white tuft of hair, which is said to emit a ray of light and is symbolic of the third eye, the spiritual eye. All 3 representations of Amida Buddha rest upon a lotus. As we know, the lotus grows in muddy water, but rises above the water to bloom pure, beautiful, and unaffected by the defilement which surrounds it. In the case of the statue and pictorial image of the Buddha, there are 48 rays of light depicted emanating from behind the head of the Buddha which illuminate every corner of the entire universe. These 48 rays of light represent the 48 Vows of the Bodhisattva Dharmakara who becomes Amida Buddha after eons of religious practice and endeavor (on our behalf) because the Buddha wishes for all of us to become (equally) enlightened too.

Guided by Wisdom, the non-dichotomous Compassion of Amida Buddha surpasses conventional thinking and feelings and moves to embrace, one and all, equally. In the final analysis, the ultimate and supreme Buddha is unlimited, unmeasurable, eternal and so vast that it is challenging for our limited minds to comprehend and understand it and so out of Compassion for us, it takes a form and a name to make itself known to us to lead us to the expansive and profound world of Supreme Enlightenment, which is all-encompassing and all-inclusive, Perfect Oneness.

Jodo Shinshu is often referred to as the Path of Listening to the Buddha's Name. We come to temple to hear why and how the Buddha's vows arose-its origin and fulfillment- and being completely free of doubt as to the sincerity and genuineness of the Buddha, joyfully entrusting in Namo Amida Butsu/Amida Buddha with the aspiration that we all attain Perfect Peace and Happiness together. Let us gather at the temple to listen to the Teachings and at both home and temple praise the wonderful virtues of the Buddha and express our unending gratitude.

Finally, it is recommended that the Family Altar be in a central location in the home where all members of the family can access it. It is more than just the place where memorial tablets and the Family Record Book are kept. The presence of the home altar reminds us of higher wisdom and greater compassion which guides and nurtures us. Thus, enhancing our lives especially with the promise that all life, all existence will attain Enlightenment, perfect peace, happiness and tranquility.

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

Reverend Eric Matsumoto



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 BISHOP TOSHIYUKI UMITANI

Message of Sympathy and Support Following Hurricane Lala



On behalf of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, I extend my heartfelt sympathy and concern to all those who have been affected by Hurricane Lala and the severe damage it has caused throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

Our thoughts are especially with those who have lost loved ones, those whose homes and property have been damaged, and all who have been facing disruptions to electricity, water, transportation, and other essential services. In this difficult and uncertain time, we deeply share in the concerns of our temple members and communities throughout the islands.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude and respect to the first responders, emergency personnel, utility workers, government agencies, volunteers, and many others who continue to work tirelessly to keep our communities safe and support their recovery. I am especially grateful to our ministers, temple leaders, and members who are checking on one another and extending a compassionate hand to those in need.

In times such as these, we are reminded of how deeply our lives are interconnected and sustained by countless people around us. As listeners of the Nembutsu, may we respond to the suffering before us with compassion and a spirit of mutual support, helping one another in whatever ways we can.

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters, through the Committee on Social Concerns, is continuing to assess the impact of Hurricane Lala on our temples, members, and surrounding communities. We will work together with our districts and temples to determine how we can best offer assistance and support in the days ahead.

As recovery efforts continue, may we keep all those affected in our thoughts and hearts. We sincerely hope for the safety and well-being of everyone and for the restoration of peaceful daily life as soon as possible.

Within the compassionate embrace of Amida Buddha, may we continue to walk together, supporting and caring for each other.

In Gassho,

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, Bishop

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii - August 19, 2026

This message is available on our website at:

hongwanjihawaii.com/messages/bishop-hurricane-lala/

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE REV. HIROMI KAWAJI

The Hawaii Kyodan Funeral Service for the late Reverend Hiromi Kawaji will be held at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin on **Saturday, October 10, 2026**, with Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani officiating, assisted by the Kanji Ministers. The visitation will begin at 10:00 am, followed by the Funeral Service at 11:00 am. Representatives from the District Hongwanji Councils, temples where Rev. Kawaji served, and the Kanji Ministers are requested to attend the service.

The Office of the Bishop requests that ministers and local temples consider using the Hawaii Kyodan Funeral Guidelines for Koden when determining your Koden for the family of the late Rev. Hiromi Kawaji.

If you wish, you may send your koden, payable to Yumi Suzuki, to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters at 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813.

HHMH Headquarters Update continued on page 4

MINISTERS LAY ASSISTANT RETREAT 2026

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Minister Lay Assistant Retreat will be held at Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on Maui on Saturday, October 31, 2026. As a Minister Lay Assistant, you have the rare and wondrous opportunity to

- Live the Dharma every day
- Learn new skills and knowledge
- Support your temple

The Minister Lay Assistant Retreat is a one-day immersion into serving as a Minister Lay Assistant at your temple.

The Minister Lay Assistant Retreat is intended for current Minister Assistants, who serve their temples under the mentorship of the temple minister, and also welcomes Sangha members who are sincerely interested in becoming a Minister Lay Assistant, as well as Certified Minister Lay Assistants who would like to polish their skills, keep their knowledge current, and share what they've learned.

At the end of the Retreat, participants will be able to plan, organize, and lead a Dharma Family Service as a Minister Lay Assistant, as well as support the minister for regular, special, and major services.

Participants must have the endorsement of their temple minister to participate in the Minister Lay Assistant Retreat 2026 and submit both application and payment by the deadline of **September 22, 2026**.

Bishop Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, Buddhist Study Center Director Rev. Blayne Higa, and Ministerial Training Committee Chair Rev. David Fujimoto will be master instructors for the retreat, supported by *kaikyōshi* ministers of the Maui Hongwanji temples.

Travel subsidies are available for participants who are not resident on Maui.

The [schedule and application form](#) are available at honpahi.link/flyers0826.

2027 HMMH POSTER CONTEST

It's Poster Contest Time Again! Calling all artists and photographers!

The Commission on Buddhist Education is sponsoring a poster contest to visually express the 2027 Hongwanji theme/slogan "Nurturing Nembutsu: Living Aloha." The focus will be on "How do we live with aloha in our daily lives?" Through your art, reflect on what it means to live with aloha each and every day.

Posters can be created using any medium (e.g., painting, drawing, digital art, photography) but must be submitted as a high-resolution digital file (JPEG, PNG, or PDF). Poster dimensions: Standard poster size (24" x 36" or equivalent in digital format). Complete information is available at: <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2026/08/04/poster-contest-2027/>

If you are ready to enter and submit the digital poster file, you may go straight to <https://honpahi.link/poster27> (access to detailed guidelines is available at the top of the entry form). The winning poster will be selected as a statewide poster promoting the 2027 Theme and Slogan. Reverend Shawn Yagi (Kauai Commissioner) and Debbie Kubota (Honolulu Commissioner) are the chairs of this project. Please contact Debbie Kubota at dekub@gmail.com if any questions arise.



COMMISSION ON BUDDHIST EDUCATION – DISTRICT NEMBUTSU SEMINARS



Honolulu and Oahu Districts

The Honolulu and Oahu Districts will be having their annual Nembutsu Seminar on **Saturday, September 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Hawaii Betsuin and virtually via Zoom**. The guest speaker will be **Reverend Cristina Moon**. Rev. Moon will also be the featured speaker on Sunday, September 27 at Jikoen Hongwanji at 9 am for their Sunday service, followed by a Talk Story session in the Social Hall.

Please see the [flyer for the 9/26 Nembutsu Seminar](#) and the [flyer promoting both the 9/26 seminar and 9/27 service/talk story](#) for details. (Both are available at honpahi.link/flyers0826.)

Headquarters Update continued on page 5

Hawaii District

The Big Island branch of the Commission on Buddhist Education is excited to host the 2026 Hawaii Island Nembutsu Seminar, October 2-4, 2026. The featured speaker will be **Reverend Dr. Carmela Javellana-Hirano**, Minister of the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple.

Registration: <https://honpahi.link/nemsemhi>

October 2: A “Talk Story: Monku, Monku, Monku!” for all ages, starting at 5:00 pm at Kamuela Hongwanji.

October 3: “Shin Buddhist Psychology: The Wisdom of Foolishness to Compassion – Shinjin” geared for adults, from 10:00 am to noon at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin.

October 4: “Dharma Talk: Oya Sama: The Runaway Bunny” following a District Service for all ages starting at 9:00 am at Hilo Betsuin. Dr. Bart Aoki will be a special guest.



REV. DR. CARMELA JAVELLANA HIRANO

Kauai District

Kauai District will be having their district Nembutsu Seminar on Sunday, October 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at Lihue Hongwanji Mission. The guest lecturer will be **Reverend Blayne Nakasone-Sakata** of the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin. More details will be shared later.

Maui District

November 21, 2026, at Makawao Hongwanji Mission (1074 Makawao Avenue, Maui)

10:00 a.m.: The Hongwanji Buddhist Temples of Maui cordially invite everyone to a free showing of the film, **“Nā Wāhine Buda Kiakahi: The Legacy of Hawaiian Women Buddhists”**, which explores the contributions Hawaiian Women Buddhist to Buddhism in Hawaii and around the world.

11:00 a.m.: The 42-minute documentary will be followed by a Panel Discussion with Director & Co-Writer Eleni Avendaño, Producer and Co-Writer Jon Matsuoka, and Dr. Miki Tomita Okamoto, a lifelong Japanese Buddhist and Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner, moderated by Rev. Kerry Kiyohara of Makawao Hongwanji.

1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.: Following refreshments and talk story about the film, the day continues with Nembutsu Seminar 2026, which will focus on the teaching, practice, and benefits of Nembutsu in everyday life, seeking to answer the questions:

- What is Nembutsu Mindfulness of Amida?
- What is *Shinjin*, the Entrusting Heart and Mind of No Doubt?
- What are the benefits of the Path of Nembutsu and Life of Gratitude?



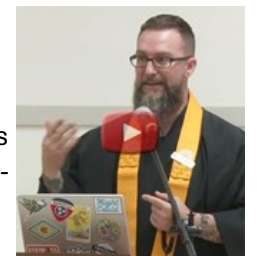
Nembutsu Seminar 2026 is intended for Hongwanji members, newcomers to the Hongwanji, and anyone interested in Buddhism. Everyone is welcome, come as you are, just leave your Ego-Self at the door (if you are able!). [View the event flyer](#) for more information (available at honpahi.link/flyers0826).

Don't miss out, please register today! <https://forms.gle/TBeHwaepMWih1YEA9>

BSC SUMMER SESSION VIDEOS

Mahalo nui loa to Rev. Dr. Aaron Proffitt for his tour of the islands sharing the dharma and his perspectives on “Rethinking Buddhist Education”! The three evening sessions held at the Buddhist Study Center are available on video on the BSC Hawaii YouTube channel.

See: <https://honpahi.link/bscss26>



2027 HHMH CALENDAR SUBMISSION—REMINDER

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH) Calendar Committee invites members, Dharma friends, and affiliates to provide photos for the 2027 Hongwanji Calendar that show **“NURTURING NEMBUTSU: LIVING ALOHA.”**

Please [read the flyer](#) for detailed instructions. (It is among the flyers provided in May 2026 at honpahi.link/flyers0526.) The submission deadline is Monday, September 14, 2026.



ZENSHINZA “HANAKOBUSHI - SHINRAN SHONIN AND ESHINNI”

We would like to inform you about Zenshinza's Special Performance, “Hanakobushi - Shinran Shonin and Eshinni.” We encourage you not to miss this special opportunity.

Event Details: <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/event/zenshinza-performances-2026-09/>

“Hana Kobushi,” meaning Magnolia flower, is a moving theatrical work that tells the story of Shinran Shonin and his wife, Lady Eshinni. Living among ordinary people, Shinran Shonin shared the teaching of the Nembutsu, which embraces and illuminates all beings equally. Through this performance, audiences are invited to experience the compassion, humanity, and spiritual journey of Shinran and Eshinni — lives that continue to inspire countless individuals today.

Dates of Performances:

- September 3, 2026, 1:00 pm (doors open at 12:30 pm)
- September 3, 2026, 5:00 pm (doors open at 4:30 pm)
- September 4, 2026, 1:00 pm (doors open at 12:30 pm)

***The performance will be in Japanese and will include English subtitles.**

Place:

Paliku Theatre (at Windward Community College)
45-720 Keaahala Rd, Kaneohe, HI 96744

Ticket Price and How to Purchase:

Ticket Price: \$80

Please reserve your seat by visiting:

<https://honpahi.link/hanakobushi>

Full ticketing URL: <https://hibustrolley.com/products/63046227->

Zenshinza Special Performance
“Hanakobushi — Shinran Shonin and Eshinni —”
September 3 (Thu) & 4 (Fri), 2026
September 3 → 1:00 PM Performance (Doors Open 12:30 PM)
5:00 PM Performance (Doors Open 4:30 PM)
September 4 → 1:00 PM Performance (Doors Open 12:30 PM)
Paliku Theatre, Oahu Island, Hawaii
親鸞聖人御誕生850年 立教開宗800年記念
前進座特別公演「花こぶし - 親鸞聖人と恵信尼さま -」
3日→13:00開演(12:30開場) / 17:00開演(16:30開場) 4日→13:00開演(12:30開場)
2026年9月3日(木)・4日(金) | ハワイ州オアフ島 パリク劇場
Tickets: honpahi.link/hanakobushi

**BUDDHIST STUDY CENTER
FELLOWSHIP CLUB**

car wash

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
11 AM - 3 PM**

**BUDDHIST STUDY CENTER
1436 UNIVERSITY AVE.
HONOLULU, HI 96822**

ENTER OFF UNIVERSITY AVE. (MAKAI BOUND)

**SUGGESTED DONATION
\$10 CAR
\$15 TRUCK/VAN**

United Jr. YBA of Oahu HBY Month Fundraiser



In October, the United Jr. YBA of Oahu will sell Baked Manju filled with Koshian (red bean paste) to fundraise for our HBY (Hawaii Buddhist Youth) Month. The Federation has not yet chosen a charity to support but know that it will be a good cause. Please see the information and order form below.
Thank you for your continued support!

ORDER DEADLINE: October 4, 2026

Please email orders to: jrybafoahu@gmail.com
(Include name, address, contact number, temple pickup location, and number of orders)

OR

Mail order form (bottom) to:
Mililani Hongwanji Mission, attn: Jr. YBA
P.O. Box 893308, Mililani, HI 96789

Pick-up/Delivery date: October 18, 2026

Must be postmarked by October 3, 2026

Pick-up locations: Aiea, Mililani, Wahiawa, or Waipahu Hongwanji
Payment: Cash (exact change) or checks payable to **United Jr. YBA of Oahu**
Please enclose payment or pay at the time of pick up/delivery.
For any questions regarding order or delivery, contact Aryn Ishikawa at (808) 271-8254

Name: _____ Contact Number: _____

Pick up temple location: _____

OR

Delivery Address: _____



Manju: one order is 5 pc for \$5

TOTAL: _____ orders x \$5 = \$ _____

Payment enclosed: Yes _____ No _____

Junior YBA Happenings



Can you believe that school started again? We can't. Summer went by way too fast and now we've just completed the last bon dance for the summer. We'd like to send out a huge Thank You to the volunteers who helped us with our beverage booth.

Our first event of the year went well. We went to Wai Kai, thank you to the United of Maui for giving us their discount tickets! We had so much fun with Ruby, and 3 guests: Kaliyan, Jagger and Dayton. We hope to welcome them to Jr. YBA this year!

At our first meeting for the new year we chose officers. Congratulations to our new officers!

President – Amane Tomori (Aiea Hongwanji)

Vice-President – Darius Thomson (Mililani Hongwanji)

Secretary – Vacant (collectively we will all add to minutes)

Treasurer – Ruby Colbert (Mililani Hongwanji)

We will have Installation of Officers at our next monthly meeting on September 20.

The moment you all wait for each year is the Jr. YBA Manju sale! Funds from this fundraiser go toward a charity chosen by the Federation each year. We were not decided on a charity during the State Convention but we will be voting on who we will be supporting when we meet again for our Fall Federation meeting later in October. Please see the order form that is in this newsletter. The deadline to order is October 4 and postmarked by October 3 for mail-in orders. Pick-up / Delivery date is Sunday, October 18.

Upcoming Important Dates:

Next Meeting: Sunday, September 20, 1:00pm at Mililani Hongwanji. We will have installation of officers at this time.

Convention Planning Meeting: With planning convention, we will be having regular planning meetings, mostly via Zoom, in addition to our monthly meetings. The first Zoom meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 13 at 5:30pm HST**. The Zoom link will be sent out to the Jr. YBA distribution list. If you are interested in helping us plan the State Convention, please contact Aunty Arynn for more information.

Save the Date: October 24, Fall Federation Meeting on O'ahu. Details are TBD

Save the Date! June 25-27, 2027. United of O'ahu will be hosting the 70th Jr. YBA State Convention. Our Theme is DHARMA CROSSING. See the save the date flyer and we hope to see you there!



← Scan QR Code for Serendipity Federation Newsletter or [CLICK HERE](#)

Any youth who are entering 6th grade through 2 years after high school graduation are welcome to join Jr. YBA! You do not need to be a member of a temple so bring your friends! Please contact a Jr. YBA member or Aunty Arynn Ishikawa (advisor) at arynn.m.ishikawa@gmail.com or jrybaofohu@gmail.com if you have questions or for more information.

Follow us on Instagram! @jrybaofohu and @hawaiiifdjryba →



BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

2026 LIGHTS FOR PEACE AT PEARL HARBOR NATIONAL MEMORIAL

The Aiea Hongwanji BWA participated in the 5th Annual Lights for Peace at Pearl Harbor National Memorial on June 7, 2026. Our BWA members helped the attendees gathered at the Park to fold Paper Cranes for peace. Also, the 50 luminaries, drawn by Aiea Hongwanji Members and Lotus Adult Day Care Clients and a few members of the Oahu District Hongwanji, were among the luminaries on display that evening. A beautiful sunset complemented the event.



Please plan to join us next year, as the event is open to the Public.

THE OAHU DISTRICT BWA SPEARHEADED A SPECIAL FUNDRAISER FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE KUMAMOTO, JAPAN EARTHQUAKE



A devastating 6.8 magnitude earthquake hit Southern Kumamoto on July 28, 2026. Two days later, an effort was initialized by Aiea Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association under the leadership of Tamayo Matsumoto and Diane Okawa utilizing text messages and social media to help people and temples affected by the earthquake. The effort quickly expanded with the help of Yumi Suzuki into a United BWA of Oahu effort as BWA members from Aiea, Mililani, Pearl City and Waipahu planned and launched a manju and mochi making event to sell these delicacies at the Mililani Hongwanji Bon Dance. Mochi was made in the Aiea Hongwanji kitchen and manju in the Waipahu Hongwanji kitchen. The fundraiser was received well as all mochi and manju made were sold out on the first night of the Bon Dance. To avoid disappointing those who looked forward to supporting this fundraising effort



on the second night of the Bon Dance, Tamayo Matsumoto took it upon herself to make additional confections for the second night. The funds raised through this event will be forwarded to the HHMH Social Concerns Committee earmarked for the 2026 Kumamoto Earthquake relief efforts. "Thank you" to our quick acting and caring BWA! *** Namo Amida Butsu. ***

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



To Our Sangha,

We are truly grateful that the recent Kona Low and Hurricane Lala storms have spared AHM from significant damages. Other temples and communities that were not as fortunate are desperately in need of assistance and support. Through the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Social Concerns Committee we have a means to collectively channel our resources to help those in need. The letter by Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair of this committee explains how the funds were distributed and how we all can help. Thank you for your contributions.

In Gassho, Boyd Marumoto

O BON WINDCATCHERS: SHARING OUR GRATITUDE

Thank you to the many representatives from within the Aiea Hongwanji Sangha who helped create, print, laminate, and hang the windcatchers in our temple on Sunday, July 21st. A warm mahalo to all for your continued support!

We would also like to acknowledge Dale Furukawa, who designed the windcatchers and assisted us from her home in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Thank you to all our members and families who donated by purchasing a 2026 windcatcher. This year, seventy-five windcatchers adorned our temple for an entire month during Obon. The names of our loved ones floated gently in the Hondo during services as a reminder to reflect, remember, and express our deepest gratitude.

お陰様で～どうもありがとうございました！

(If you wish to pick up your 2026 Windcatcher tags, they are available in the office.)

In Gassho,
Diane Okawa
Aiea Hongwanji BWA President

SOCIAL CONCERNS UPDATE

Fund Drive Reminder

Action needed: The current Social Concerns Fund Drive runs through August 31, 2026, and temples are asked to submit all collected donations to Hawaii Kyodan HQ by September 30, 2026. We encourage your contribution so the Committee on Social Concerns can respond compassionately to urgent needs in our community.

Individuals may also donate directly to the Social Concerns Fund online via the Donate page on our website. Or use this shortcut link: <https://honpahi.link/scdon>

How Donations Help

Through your generosity, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is able to support worthy organizations and programs by funding their continued work in our community and providing aid during times of disaster. We continue to award Golden Chain Grants to encourage sharing the Dharma through compassionate service and the Dana Matching Grant to double the impact of charitable giving by organizations within the Hawaii Kyodan Ohana.

Approved Disaster Relief Donations

The Committee on Social Concerns recently approved the following disaster relief donations:

- \$5,000 to Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha for relief efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Kumamoto, Japan.

- Spokane, Washington Wildfires Recovery

 - \$1,000 to Second Harvest Inland Northwest "Spokane Wildfire Response"

 - \$1,500 to Catholic Charities Eastern Washington "Spokane Complex Fire Support Fund"

- Hurricane Lala Recovery

 - \$2,000 to Vibrant Hawaii

 - \$2,000 to The Food Basket

 - \$2,000 to the American Red Cross

 - \$2,000 O Kau Kakou

 - \$500 Omimai for Lahaina Hongwanji

 - \$500 Omimai for Puna Hongwanji

 - \$500 Omimai for Pahala Hongwanji

 - \$500 Omimai for Naalehu Hongwanji

Hurricane Lala Resources

Our hearts go out to everyone affected by Hurricane Lala. May Amida Buddha's boundless wisdom and compassion surround and sustain us all. The recovery resources below may be helpful.

Tropical Storm Lala: District-by-District Impacts & Recovery Resources

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2026/08/17/lala-recovery-resources/>

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

In Gassho,

Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair - Committee on Social Concerns



Join Project Dana's Public Presentation Meetings!

Upcoming Events:

Meeting Date:	Wednesday, September 9, 2026
Time:	10:00 am to 11:30 am
Location:	Zoom and Honpa Hongwanji Hawai'i Betsuin (1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813)
Topic:	"Dental Lifeline Network" – Caregivers will learn the eligibility guidelines for the program and the mechanics of how it works. A typical case from start to finish and explanation of the steps along the way, such as applying, verifying eligibility, referrals, treatment plans, specialist, and completing care.
Speaker:	Jan Waleri, Program Manager, Dental Lifeline Network
Meeting Date:	Saturday, September 12, 2026
Time:	10:00 am to 11:30 am
Location:	Zoom and Waipahu Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (94-821 Kuhaulua Street, Waipahu, HI 96797)
Topic:	"Fall Prevention Basics: Six Steps to Prevent a Fall" – This presentation will discuss the importance of exercise, balance and physical activity, talking to your health care provider, reviewing medications, the importance of vision and hearing check-ups, keeping your home safe, and talking to members of your ohana.
Speaker:	Paula Keele, Hawai'i Fall Prevention Alliance

* Zoom links will be provided by inquiry.

Please call or e-mail if you are interested in attending public presentations or need more information about the program:

Shelley Paet, C4C Program Specialist at (808) 945-3736; cgsg@projectdana.org

ANNUAL DUES REMINDER

The annual membership dues for Aiea Hongwanji Mission are \$125.00 for a **Family Unit** which consists of the Primary member, a spouse, and dependent children under 25 years of age. However, if the Primary member of a Family Unit is less than 40 years of age the annual dues is only \$50.00. Dues can be paid by checks made out to, "Aiea Hongwanji Mission" or simply "AHM", and mailed to 99-186 Puakala Street, Aiea, Hawaii 96701. (Note that the online payment feature at the AieaBuddhistTemple.org website has been deleted.)

Temple Calendar of Events for October 2026 (Partial Balance)

12	Mon		Discovery's Day Preschool Lotus Adult Daycare Closed & Temple Office closed
14	Wed	9:00AM	Preschool Temple Services
15-22			Rev. Matsumoto out of office. Please contact Rev. Joshin Kamuro of Mililani Hongwanji for Emergencies (only) at 808 626-0925.
17	Sat	9:00AM	Hawaii Federation of BWAs Fall Assembly (Meeting) at Hawaii Betsuin
18	Sun	(TBA)	HHMH Virtual State Dharma School Gathering
20	Tue	7:00PM	AHM Board of Directors Meeting
24	Sat	(TBA)	Oahu District Affirmation Rite at Ewa Hongwanji Mission

Aiea Hongwanji Mission extends its Deepest Condolences to the families of the Late Rev. Hiromi Kawaji and Kenneth Sadakatsu Kimura.
Namo Amida Butsu

Family Memorial Service

Buddhist consider the memorial service a significant occasion to remember the deceased with feelings of gratitude and love. The memorial service provides an opportunity to pay tribute and recall cherished memories of the departed, while listening to the Buddha Dharma. The service is not for appeasing the spirits of the deceased or for the sake of the deceased, but rather for the sake of the living. In remembering the deceased we acknowledge their influence on our lives as well as the importance of living the Buddha Dharma.

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.

SEPTEMBER 2026

1 st Carol Itsue (Fujimori)	Sakai	17 th Jane Asayo	Nakayama
1 st Peter Kazuyuki	Tsuchida	17 th James Yoshio	Furukawa
3 rd Wallace Akira	Matsuoka	25 th Sadae	Tateishi
7 th Roy Masayuki	Matsumoto	25 th Kimie	Ichishita
13 th Tokino	Sugimoto	50 th Tsurue	Sakasegawa
17 th Fred Takeshi	Yamashita	50 th Shinsei	Asato

OCTOBER 2026

1 st Amy Kikuno	Nakagawa	13 th Joyce	Nakata
3 rd Keith Akira	Arai	13 th Satsuki	Nakamura
3 rd Jean Pao	Kiyosaki	13 th Christine Satsuki	Marcello
7 th Shigeru	Nakamura	25 th Hayano	Matsushige
7 th Gertrude	Kuromoto	25 th Masanari	Matsumoto
13 th Violet Hisayo	Yamamoto	33 rd Masaichi	Kimoto
		33 rd Grace Mieko	Fujitani

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

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Temple Calendar of Events for September 2026

2	Wed	9:30AM	Oahu District Ministers Association Meeting
6	Sun	9:00AM	AHM Fall Higan and Honoring the Seven Great Masters Service
8	Tue	7:00PM	Oahu District Buddhist Education Committee meeting
9	Wed	9:00AM	Preschool Temple Services
12	Sat	9:00AM	HHMH Board of Directors meeting
		11:30AM	Aloha Luncheon for Outgoing Hawaii Kyodan President Dr. Warren Tamamoto and Incoming State President Mr. Michael Munekiyo
13	Sun	9:00AM	Grandparent's Day Sunday Service
15	Tue	7:00PM	AHM Board of Directors Meeting
18	Fri	10:00AM	Lotus Adult Daycare Service and Visitation
18-19			Hawaii State Lay Association Convention at Hawaii Betsuin
20	Sun	9:00AM	Peace Day Sunday Service with Dharma Fun and Taiko for Youth
21	Mon	TBA Tentative	HHMH Ring your Bells for Peace Day World-wide Event
27	Sun	8:00AM	Temple Beautification Day (No Sunday Service)
28	Mon	7:00PM	Oahu District Hongwanji Council Meeting

Temple Calendar of Events for October 2026

4	Sun	9:00AM	Sunday Service with Dharma Fun and Taiko for Youth
			Oahu United Jr. YBA Meeting
7	Wed	9:30AM	Oahu District Ministers Association Meeting
10	Sat		HHMH Kyodan-Sponsored Funeral Service for Rev. Hiromi Kawaji
		10:00AM	Visitation at Hawaii Betsuin
		11:00AM	Funeral Service at Hawaii Betsuin
		5:00PM	HAIB Dhammacakka Festival at Soto Mission of Hawaii
11	Sun	9:00AM	Sunday Service