

**Aiea Hongwanji Virtual and In-Person Bon Celebration 2021**  
**For Members and Family**  
**August 28, 2021**

The Buddhist custom of O-Bon in Hawaii honors the spirits of departed family members and ancestors. In the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition, Obon is called "Kangi-e", which means "Gathering of Joy" in the Light of Compassion of Amida Buddha. Bon Odori (Bon Dance) is the way we express our appreciation and joy of life in the Buddha's Compassion.

Unfortunately, due to the continuing uncertainty over whether COVID-19 restrictions will continue through August, the Aiea Hongwanji Board of Directors has decided to cancel plans for a public O-Bon celebration this year. In place of our usual public O-Bon celebration, we invite members and their families to a virtual and "walk-by" Bon celebration. This was a difficult decision made by our AHM Board of Directors after careful consideration of the factors involved in hosting our O-Bon celebration such as the safety of our Sangha and the general public and the amount of time required to prepare for O-Bon.

Our hard-working volunteers will be cleaning and decorating the temple during the month of August leading up to O-Bon. Please plan to help us if you are able. Decorative lanterns and windcatchers will be on display in the temple. Here are our tentative plans for O-Bon this year at Aiea Hongwanji:

**Hatsu-Bon Service (first year Bon memorial)** – a virtual (Facebook) and in-person service (subject to social distancing requirements at the time of the service). Rev. Shawn Yagi will arrange Hatsu-Bon services for each family separately this year, rather than a joint Hatsu-Bon Service as in past years. Please contact Rev. Yagi to arrange this service.

**O-Bon Service – Saturday, August 28 at 7:00 pm(?)** – a virtual (Facebook) and in-person temple service, subject to social distancing requirements at the time of the service. Rev. Shawn Yagi will lead this service.

**O-Bon Temple Visitation and Bento pick-up for members and family – Saturday, August 28 from 4:30 – 6:30 pm** – we welcome you to visit the temple to honor loved ones, offer incense, pause for a moment of reflection, visit the Nokotsudo (columbarium) if appropriate, pick up your pre-ordered bento at the Social Hall and enjoy the bento at home with your family. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we may need to limit the number of people attending and/or stagger the time for temple visitation and bento pickup. COVID-19 restrictions may limit the number of people that can be on our campus at the same time. Therefore, please register early. We may not be able to accommodate late registrants.

**Windcatchers** will be on display in the temple. Family may pick up the windcatchers after the O-Bon celebration.

**Pre-order Bento** cost \$10.00. Pre-order by Sunday, August 19, 2021. Pick up at the temple on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

**O-Bon donations** are gratefully accepted. Please write checks to Aiea Hongwanji Mission. Electronic donations may be made via our website at <[aieabuddhisttemple.org](http://aieabuddhisttemple.org)>.