



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

January 2024

- 07 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 14 Sun 9:00 am Hoonko Service with Rev. Kuniyuki (Memorial Service honoring Shinran Shonin) is a time to express our gratitude to Shinran Shonin, our founder, on the day of his death, January 16, 1262.
- 14 Sun following Sunday Service - WHM Board Installation
- 21 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 21 Sun following Sunday Service - WHM Board Meeting
- 28 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

February 2024

- 04 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 09-10 Giseikai Legislative Assembly
- 10 Sat Living Treasures Luncheon at Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom
- 11 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 18 Sun 9:00 am Pet Memorial Service
- 25 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 25 Sun 10:30am WHM New Year's Party

Thank you to our Many Volunteers!

Thank to everyone who came out to our annual end of the year clean up day on December 10th and to our mochi making fundraiser on December 16th.



New Year's Greeting

Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

Over the last year, innumerable people worldwide have been affected by natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, and forest fires. I was particularly shocked by the wild fires that devastated the island of Maui in the state of Hawaii. This disaster completely destroyed the temple hall of Lahaina Hongwanji Mission and one temple member was reported to have lost his life. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to all who have perished in those calamities. I would also like to express my sympathies to those who are still coping with the dire situations. It is my sincere hope that all who have been affected will soon be able to return to a normal daily life.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022 is still continuing. Not only that, conflict between Israel and Palestine has once again flared up from October 2023, embroiling nations concerned with victimizing a large number of people many of whom are civilians. Looking at the appalling state of the world, the following words of Sakyamuni Buddha come to mind. "Everyone fears violence and is scared of death. In consideration of all life, do not kill and do not make others kill."

Every one of us who has received life as a human being, no matter the reason, must be ensured equally of human rights, and no one's life should be threatened. In reality, however, conflicts and terrorist attacks have occurred everywhere in the world and for many people, their right to live and exist has been threatened. As Buddhists who aspire for peace, we must keep Sakyamuni Buddha's words seriously in our hearts and pursue our endeavor of contributing toward world peace and security.

During the last year, we observed the Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching at Hongwanji, Kyoto for a total of 30 days, divided into 5 sessions during the period from March 29 to May 21. On this occasion, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who came to Japan to attend, as well as those who supported it in various ways. This celebratory event could be realized only because our predecessors have cherished the Jodo Shinshu teaching as their spiritual foundation for many years no matter when or where they were, and carefully transmitted it to us today.

Let us, too, continue listening to the teaching as the center of our life while cherishing each day.

January 1, 2024



OHTANI Kojun

Monshu

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

Bishop's Message

To welcome the New Year, I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to you all. On behalf of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all of you for your support, dedication, and participation in our services and activities.

Since I took the Headquarters Office as the new Bishop last July, I have been able to visit some of your temples. I bow my head to the ministers, temple leaders, and temple members for their tireless effort in protecting their temples and sharing with others the joy of Namu Amida Butsu. Each temple has its challenges and opportunities. As a community of people joined together revering the teaching of Shinran Shonin, let us work toward the realization of a society in which everyone can live a life of spiritual fulfillment.

This year, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will observe the Triple Celebration at Ala Moana Hotel on September 7-8, 2024. The Triple Celebration commemorates the 850th Anniversary of the Birth of Shinran Shonin, the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teachings, and the 135th Anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. The Steering Committee is working hard towards the two-day celebration event and its related programs. I would like to invite you all to attend this auspicious anniversary.

Our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Theme and Slogan for 2024 is **“Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments.”** What are the “Nembutsu Moments”? These are the moments when the voice of the Nembutsu, “Namu Amida Butsu,” spontaneously flows from our lips.

The main body of *the Sutra on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life* explains the Forty-eight Vows of Amida Buddha, who undertook to establish a Pure Land for the enlightenment of all sentient beings. Shinran Shonin regarded that our act of saying “Namu Amida Butsu” is derived wholly from the working of Amida’s Vow. It means that the sound of “Namu Amida Butsu,” the promise Amida Buddha made to embrace and never abandon all beings, is already fulfilled and extended to all beings. It is the calling voice from the Buddha of Immeasurable Light and Life that holds the Buddha’s boundless empathy, concern, and compassion toward all beings. Such a message of universal compassion reaches into our hearts and minds, and flows from our lips spontaneously as “Namu Amida Butsu.”

What we experience in our daily lives could be the opportunities to ascertain and appreciate the truth of Boundless Wisdom and Compassion that embraces our lives. Let us experience, savor, appreciate, and share the Nembutsu moments with our families and friends in our daily lives.

May the sound of the Nembutsu flow from our lips. May the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha inspire and guide us always. Namu Amida Butsu.

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
Bishop
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii



President's New Year's Message for 2024
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Happy New Year! Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu! Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and in good spirits as we enter the New Year, 2024. The year 2023 was an eventful one. Many of our Sangha were able to attend the Joint Celebration (Commemoration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching) at our Honzan in Kyoto on May 10, 2023. The Joint Celebration program was well organized and meaningful. The 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention (WBWC) followed on May 11 and 12 at the modern (although 50 years old) Kyoto International Conference Center. These two events were a highlight of the year for those who were able to attend. I will always remember the warm welcome that we received from our hosts at the Honzan and at the World Buddhist Women's Convention.

Soon after our return from Japan, we said "Mahalo and Aloha" to outgoing Bishop, Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Mrs. Tamayo Matsumoto, Chika and Caden at a luncheon in July. In August we warmly greeted incoming Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani, Mrs. Yoshiko Umitani, and daughters Naho and Riho at a luncheon.

Then, the disastrous Maui Wildfires of August 8, 2023 destroyed the historic town of Lahaina. Our Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, located near the center of the town was not spared. The temple, social hall, and minister's residence burned to the ground. Only the columbarium appears to have survived the fire. Fortunately, Rev. Ai Hironaka and family along with many other temple members evacuated in time. However, we have learned that one temple member lost his life in that fire. It appears that 2023 will be remembered as the year of the Maui Wildfires and the year that Lahaina Hongwanji was lost to the fire. This was a great loss for Lahaina town and the entire Hawaii Sangha.

However, this was not the end of the story. Community, state and federal agencies rushed into action and are still on the ground in Maui, planning for the future of Lahaina town and helping those displaced by the fire. Maui temple ministers and Sangha have warmly supported Lahaina members displaced by the fire. The Hongwanji community statewide, nationally and internationally has responded with compassionate action in the form of postcards, letters, gifts and generous monetary donations. Like the recent "disaster" that affected us, the COVID-19 pandemic, we learned that we are adaptable and we are resilient. The Lahaina community, and Lahaina Hongwanji Sangha in particular, I believe will respond with grit and determination.

Our theme and slogan for 2024 is "***Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments***". We live with joy and gratitude for Amida's universal and unconditional compassion for us. Since we are connected with and care for the people around us, we *share our Nembutsu moments*, so that others may awaken to, and appreciate the Buddha's limitless Compassion. In this way, we can each contribute to *building healthy Sanghas*.

With Gassho,

Warren Tamamoto
President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii



Minister's Message - Happy New Year



This is the 11th time for my family and me to celebrate the New Year at Wahiawa.

Through your help and support, we are having a great time, and we really appreciate your support. Arigato Gozaimasu.

My daughter, Kano, graduated from Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan last year. Fortunately, our family could attend her graduation ceremony. She came back to Hawaii and started working at the airport. She just started to walk on her new path.

I would like to share my Buddhist thought of 道(Michi) which means road, path, or way. As a Buddhist, we are walking on 仏道 (Butsudo) together. In the Buddhist term, Michi means the teaching of the Buddha. Butsudo means Buddhist path. In the Butsudo, there are three things, 求道Gudo, 伝道Dendo, and 中道 Chudo.

求道Gudo means seeing a path. Our main practice is listening to the Nembutsu because we should understand which path we should go, that means what kind of person we should be. Buddhist teaching is not only for going to the pure land, but also how we can live on our bumpy road. Sometimes we have some difficult situations, but the teachings helps us overcome the problems. So, seeking a path and listing the teaching are very important for us.

伝道 Dendo means telling, transmitting, or carrying on the path. After Shakyamuni Buddha had enlightenment, the Buddha just enjoyed the enlightenment by himself. But the Buddha realized that he should share his feeling with others. Then the Buddhist teaching was spread to the world. So, sharing your gratitude is our Buddhist path.

中道Chudo means middle way. Before Shakyamuni Buddha had an enlightenment, he just did many hard practices. But he realized that he could not find enlightenment by only hard practices. So, he chose a way that is not too hard and not too easy to practice. Then he became enlightened. We sometimes think we feel busy in our lives, and we forget something important. In Japanese the word, 忙(Isogashii) means busy. That word tells us that feeling busy means losing your heart. When we feel busy, we sometimes use violent words or have a bad attitude towards others. That situation is losing our heart. So, we should remember the word Chudo and just take a deep breath. Then we find a good way to solve our problems.

Please keep listening to the Nembutsu teachings to feel a wonderful path with others.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Calendars

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 2024 Calendars have arrived. Interested temple members, please call the office before stopping by the office soon to pick one up. Only a limited number of calendars on a first-come, first-serve basis, so come soon! Limit one calendar per member.

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 9:00am - noon

808-622-4320

www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org

Columbarium Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm

President's Report



Happy New Year!

Thank you for all your help throughout the year! With your help and support, Wahiawa Hongwanji continues to participate in community projects, providing services weekly, weddings, baby blessings, Pet Memorials, funerals, and many memorial services. Wahiawa Hongwanji is an integral part of the Wahiawa community....Veterans Day Parade, Bon Dance, Pineapple Festival, Peace Day. and monthly food drives and recycling.

As part of the greater Honpa Hongwanji of Hawaii, we also have access to many seminars and Buddhist services throughout the year BOTH in-person and via Zoom from all over the world! These seminars are posted weekly on the Honpa website.

2023 has been a year in transition! Bishop Eric Matsumoto stepped down as Bishop after 12 years. We have a new Bishop, Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, starting in July. We are aggressively coming out from our COVID isolation, and implementing many new programs statewide.

Some highlights for 2023 were:

- New Obon Happi Coats and Tee-shirts that were very well received by everyone!
- Sangha Day on the "Ancient Practices in the Modern World" hosted by Wahiawa.
- First LIVE Bon Dance in three years!
- The generous response to the Maui Wildfire Emergency Fund continues to bring our entire community together...including many from other countries! \$400,000 in two weeks was collected! A total of \$800,000 collected and \$300,000 distributed.
- New Fundraising efforts outsourcing to vendors like Zippy's, Foodland, and Lanakila Catering have proved profitable and effective ...Thanks to your generous participation!

In 2024, we have invited a few more of the younger generation. Lillian Lee, who has conducted two services already, Venus Oshiro, current PTSA President at Ho'ala, Jan Fukada and Joy Okimoto, long-time members and daughters of Florence Iwanaga, Denise Okouchi, retired high school history teacher, Wahiawa's own Marcus Oshiro!

Our key new board members defined the following purpose and vision for Wahiawa Hongwanji:

- Contributing to the community
- Spiritual growth through understanding
- Providing a safe environment for meaningful relationships
- Learning about the teachings of the Buddha and Shinran Shonin
- Making a contribution through volunteering
- Having fun in group activities
- Special interest classes

Throughout 2024, we will be celebrating our Triple Event Year with the 135th Anniversary of Honpa Hongwanji, The 850th Anniversary of the birth of Shinran Shonin, our founder, and the 800th Anniversary of the Jodo Shinshu sect of Buddhism. There will be many events culminating in a special celebration on September 7th and 8th.

On December 31st, we will ring in the New Year with a simple ceremony at 5:30 PM. On January 14th, Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki will be our guest speaker at our Ho'onko Service (Founder's Memorial) along with the installation ceremony of the new Board members..

Thank you for your continued support!!

In gassho (gratitude),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney S. Moriyama". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rodney S. Moriyama, President

The Family Memorial Service (Hoji)

Buddhists consider the memorial service a significant occasion to remember the deceased with feelings of gratefulness and love. For Jodo Shinshu followers, the significance of a memorial service is not for appeasing or consoling the spirits of the deceased, but is, rather, the opportunity to pay tribute to and recall cherished memories of the departed while listening to the Buddha-dharma. In other words, the Hoji is not for the sake of the deceased, but is, indeed, for the sake of the living. In remembering the deceased, we acknowledge the influence of the deceased on our lives. (From *Jodo Shinshu – A Guide*, p. 142.)

Extended members of a family and sometimes close friends will gather at a temple or home in memory of a deceased member of the family. Following the service, the family may go out to lunch or dinner or serve a potluck at the home, renewing and strengthening family ties. An important by-product of this custom has been the reinforcing of family ties with members beyond one's immediate family and a sense of continuity from generation to generation.

Memorial Services are held on the 1st, 3rd, 7th, 13th, 17th, 25th, 33rd and 50th years of passing. After the 1st year memorial anniversary, to figure out memorial service years, start counting from the year of death. Example, for a death in the year 2023, the first memorial anniversary would be in 2024, and the third memorial anniversary in 2025 (to figure out 3rd year anniversary, start with death year 2023 and add 2 more years to get year 2025). Below is the 2024 Memorial Service Schedule. Year 2024 is the Memorial Year for those who passed away in:

<u>Memorial Anniversary</u>		<u>Year of Death</u>
1 st Year	Isshuki	2023
3 rd Year	Sankaiki	2022
7 th Year	Shichikaiki	2018
13 th Year	Juusankaiki	2012
17 th Year	Juushichikaiki	2008
25 th Year	Nijuugokaiki	2000
33 rd Year	Sanjuusankaiki	1992
50 th Year	Gojukkaiki	1975

PLEASE NOTE: Unlike past years where everyone was sent the list of names of all those celebrating an anniversary (Nenkai), for 2024, Rev. Hashimoto will be sending out invitations only to families who have a deceased member anniversary coming up. Invitations will go out about a month in advance. Please make sure that the office has a current and correct name and address of the Point Of Contact for your family. The WHM office can be contacted at 808-622-4320 or by email at office@wahiaawahongwanji.org



Bon Dance Team News

Bon Dance Team members, Vivian Murayama, Austen Andrade and Karen Pang taught the 3rd graders at Kaala Elementary School bon dances. The children practiced the dances for a couple months and performed them at their Ho'olokahi program on December 19. The children wore large aloha shirts as their happi and a back obi (sash). They also wore hachimakis that they made tied around their forehead.



Join Project Dana's Public Presentation Meetings!

Upcoming Events:

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Time: 10:00 am to 11:30 am
Location: Zoom and Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813)
Topic: "Constipation Relief: What's the Scoop?": – Learn how constipation affects elders' quality of life, what can caregivers do for prevention, and what can be done if the person is impacted.
Speaker: Dr. Warren Wong, Geriatrician

Meeting Date: Saturday, January 13, 2024
Time: 10:00 am to 11:30 am
Location: Zoom and Waipahu Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (94-821 Kuhaulua Street, Waipahu, HI 96797)
Topic: "Declutter is Important" – A cluttered home can be a risk to an elder's safety and well-being, however, de-cluttering your loved one's home can become an overwhelming task for a caregiver. Learn how caregivers may become aware of the signs of clutter, steps to take in de-cluttering, and who are the professionals available in community to help.
Speaker: Cynthia Arnold, Let's Move

*Zoom links will be provided by inquiry

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

Maria Morales
Program Coordinator
(808) 945-3736
cgsg@projectdana.org

HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
 TRIPLE CELEBRATION

ONLINE BUDDHIST EDUCATION SERIES

What is Mahayana Buddhism?	1	JANUARY 13, 10 AM DR. DAVID MATSUMOTO
What is Pure Land Buddhism?	2	JANUARY 20, 10 AM DR. MATSUMOTO
Development of Jodo Shinshu in Japan and Hawaii Part 1	3	FEBRUARY 3, 2 PM PROF. MITSUYA DAKE
Development of Jodo Shinshu in Japan and Hawaii Part 2	4	FEBRUARY 17, 2 PM PROF. DAKE



Scan here with your smartphone for registration information.



2024 WHM New Year's Party



Sunday, February 25, 2024 10:30 am - 12:30pm

We invite you to join us in the Social Hall to enjoy a bento lunch. The party will start with Bingo, followed by lunch and Lucky Number Prizes! Complete the form below and come celebrate the new year with us!

Bento #1 FURIKAKE GARLIC CHICKEN (Deep fried boneless chicken thighs tossed in a garlic soy sauce and topped with furikake seasoning) and **MISOYAKI SALMON** (Broiled miso marinated Atlantic salmon) with white rice, edamame and tsukemono.
Cost: WHM Member \$18 Non-member \$25

Bento #2 MISO EGGPLANT WITH AGEDASHI TOFU (Miso marinated roasted Japanese eggplant with fried tofu topped with sesame choi sum) with white rice, edamame and tsukemono
Cost: WHM Member \$16 Non-member \$23

Ordered by _____ Phone number _____

Name of person(s) attending	Bento #1 Member \$18	Bento #1 Non Member \$25	Bento #2 Member \$16	Bento #2 Non Member \$23	Total for all bentos ordered
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Totals from back of this form for additional orders	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Totals	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

Children age 10 and under may have cheese pizza lunch for free!
Please order child's lunch on the back of this form.

Mail/drop off completed form with payment by Friday, January 26, 2024

Mail to: Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission, 1067 California Ave, Wahiawa, HI 96786

Make checks out to: Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Should you have any questions, please call Amy at 808-621-8893

----- For Office Use -----

Date Received: _____ Cash / Check # _____ Date of Chk _____ Rec by _____

2024 WHM New Year's Party

Sunday, February 25, 2024 10:30 am - 12:30pm

ADDITIONAL ORDER FORM

Bento #1 FURIKAKE GARLIC CHICKEN (Deep fried boneless chicken thighs tossed in a garlic soy sauce and topped with furikake seasoning) and **MISOYAKI SALMON** (Broiled miso marinated Atlantic salmon) with white rice, edamame and tsukemono.
 Cost: WHM Member \$18 Non-member \$25

Bento #2 MISO EGGPLANT WITH AGEDASHI TOFU (Miso marinated roasted Japanese eggplant with fried tofu topped with sesame choy sum) with white rice, edamame and tsukemono
 Cost: WHM Member \$16 Non-member \$23

THIS IS THE BACK.
 PLEASE COMPLETE THE FRONT OF THIS FORM FIRST

Name of person(s) attending	Bento #1 Member \$18	Bento #1 Non Member \$25	Bento #2 Member \$16	Bento #2 Non Member \$23	Total for all bentos ordered
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Enter these totals on the front of the form	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

Children age 10 and under may have cheese pizza lunch for free!

Name of Child _____ age _____

Name of Child _____ age _____

Name of Child _____ age _____

Name of Child _____ age _____