



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

April 2025

06 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 06 Sun 9:30 Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day at Soto Mission of Hawaii
 13 Sun 9:00 am WHM Hanamatsuri Service
 13 Sun 10:00 am WHM Board Meeting
 20 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 27 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

May 2025

04 Sun. 9:00am Baccalaureate Service
 18 Sun. 9:00am Gotan-E Service with Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki
 25 Sun. 9:00am Temple Clean Up
 26 Mon. 1:00pm -2:30pm Public Bon Dance Practice
 31 Sat. 8:00am Yagura Set Up

Upcoming Events

6/1 Sun 1:00pm -2:30pm Public Bon Dance Practice	6/7 Sat.6:00pm Hatsubon Service
6/9 Mon 7:00pm - 8:30pm Public Bon Dance Practice	6/13-14 Fri.,Sat. WHM Bon Dance
7/5 Going Green (free e-waste recycling) at WHM	



Hanamatsuri Flowers Needed

HANAMATSURI is a service held in April to honor the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha in Lumbini Garden, in India.

We are in need of flowers to decorate our hanamido for Hanamatsuri. If you are able to, please drop off the flowers at the temple on Saturday, April 12th from 9:00 am - 10:00 am. Thank you!

Wahiawa Hongwanji's Ekiden Team

On March Wahiawa Hongwanji participated in the Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden, a relay race focused on teamwork and community spirit. Our team—Cy Acohido, Rev. Hashimoto, Candace Okouchi, Jay Acohido and Jon Acohido, —took part in this exciting event, showcasing unity and support.

Ekiden is a relay race where teams pass a sash between runners, symbolizing teamwork. It originated in Japan during the Edo period and highlights the strength of collective effort.

The race starts at Kapiolani Park and follows a 5 km loop. It's open to all ages, making it a fun, family-friendly event.

Our team's participation was a great way to promote fitness and strengthen our temple community. We look forward to future events that bring us together!



Minister's Message - Buddha's Compassion



We celebrate Buddha's Day, also known as Hanamatsuri, which is a joyous occasion honoring the birth of baby Buddha.

There are two main branches of Buddhism: Hinayana Buddhism and Mahayana Buddhism. To understand the difference, imagine that Hinayana Buddhism is like a small ship. Before the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha, Hinayana Buddhism was the dominant form of Buddhism. In this tradition, practitioners focused intensely on their own enlightenment. The path was largely about personal effort and individual achievement.

However, after Shakyamuni Buddha attained enlightenment, he introduced Mahayana Buddhism. Mahayana is like a vast ship, one that is big enough for all to board. Shakyamuni Buddha taught that Mahayana Buddhism is the true path for all of us. In the Larger Sutra on the Buddha of Infinite Life, he explained that he was born to spread the compassionate wish of Amida Buddha, which is the desire for the salvation and happiness of all beings.

Unlike Hinayana, Mahayana Buddhism is not solely for those who engage in rigorous personal practice. Its purpose is the happiness of all beings. This is the essence of the Buddha's wish: to guide everyone toward enlightenment, not just the individual.

Some people may say, "Buddhism is not helpful in times of emergency. It doesn't tell us what to do when an urgent situation arises."

While it is true that Buddhism doesn't give specific instructions for handling emergencies, it offers something far more valuable. Buddhism teaches us how to live wisely and happily in our everyday lives, so that when an emergency or hardship arises, we are better prepared. The teachings of Buddhism help us live in a way that cultivates peace of mind, so that when difficult times come, we are not lost or overwhelmed.

Buddhism offers two essential teachings: how to live in happiness and how to die in happiness.

Though it may be difficult to think about the end of our lives, there is one certainty: the Buddha's wish is that our loved ones are always around us, embracing us with compassion. We are never truly alone, and this truth can bring comfort even in our final moments.

Therefore, let us listen to the Buddha's teachings not only as his wish for us but also as the wish of our loved ones. By incorporating these teachings into our daily lives, we will find that Buddhism can guide us through both our life and our last moments with peace and joy.



Hanamatsuri 2024

Namu Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

Rev. Kojun Hashimoto

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 9:00am - noon
(Appointments are highly recommended)

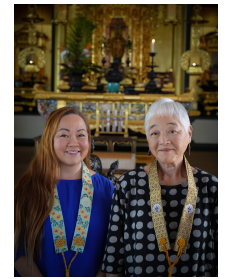
Phone: 808-622-4320

Email: office@wahiawahongwanji.org (allow 48 hours for email response)

www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org

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

President's Corner



We'd like to recap a couple of activities. First, we had our New Year's party on February 23rd in the Social Hall with a catered lunch from Ige's Catering. The prelude to the lunch was a game called "How heavy is this bag?" Attendees carried the bag and tried to guess how much it weighed. Lucky winner was Denise Okouchi. After the



delicious lunch, we honored members of the 80+ Club, who ranged in ages from 80 to 97. We have a very spry group of members. To end the party, we had a game called "Jan Ken Po", and at stake was the dollar bill hanging around each attendee's neck. There were children and adult groups. The winner for the children's group was Keita Tsujihara. There were many tight games among the adults, and it ended between Rev. Hashimoto and Yoshiko Tsujihara. The winner was Yoshiko Tsujihara. The Tsujihara family jan ken po-ed all the winnings!

On March 2nd, Oahu District celebrated Sangha Day at Pearl City Hongwanji with 7 other temples in the district. The day began with a service by Rev. Mariko Nishiyama of Pearl City Hongwanji. Following the service, the students went to the conference room while the adults returned to the Social Hall. The students made instruments using recycled materials. The little band consisted of drums, tambourines, and guitars. They performed the song "Thankful" for the adults. While the students were constructing, the adults listened to the guest speaker, Roy Sakuma, tell of his journey through life and how music helped him become what he is today: educator, performer, and a leader for ukulele in our community.

Attention Everyone!!! Obon is right around the corner. This year it will be held on **June 13-14**. The dates have been changed from the end of June, therefore, many of the pre-obon activities will be held in May or early June. Jot these dates down on your calendar because we will need volunteers to support the activities for a successful 2025 Bon Dance season:

Sun. May 25 – Temple Cleaning at 9:00 am

Sat. May 31 – Yagura Set-up at 8:00 am

Sat. June 7 - Hatsubon service at 6 pm

Other information will be forthcoming in the coming newsletters.

In Gassho,
Venus and Carolyn
Co-Presidents

Above: New Year's Party game winners (top to bottom) Denise Okouchi, Keita Tsujihara, Yoshiko Tsujihara



Oahu District's Sangha Day - Children performed the song "Thankful" for the adults using instruments they made.

New Year's Party

FUN!



Hawaii Buddhist Council

Buddha Day Service

2025

Hosted by the Soto Mission of Hawaii
1708 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

April 6th
SUN 9:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker
Jay Sakashita, PhD
Religion Professor,
Leeward Community College

Parking
Additional parking at
SEEQS Charter School
Honpa Hongwanji Mission School

For more information,
please call 808-537-9409



Young Buddhist International
CULTURAL STUDY EXCHANGE
July 1-9, 2025

YBICSE is an educational **TRIP TO JAPAN** which offers young Buddhists from North America, Hawaii, Canada, and South America the unique opportunity to experience Japanese culture while cultivating awareness. You will visit our mother temple and other historic sites in Kyoto, engage in peace programs in Hiroshima, and connect with Dharma friends from around the world. Join this once-in-a-lifetime adventure of discovery and connection!

- High School Students
- Interested in learning about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism
- Able to travel internationally/ participate in program activities
- \$1,200 cost (includes lodging, international airfare, and meals)

Apply Now to April 25, 2025

<https://forms.gle/1D2vqMrSMjRHqbES8>




Sponsored by the Jodo Shinshu International Office, Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, and Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Jr. YBA Happenings

We hope you had a great spring break! During the break, our United group delivered donations to Oahu SPCA, which were greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity, and to everyone who came to Mililani Hongwanji's Spring Fling—our manju was a sell-out!

It's not too late to sign up for YESS (Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers) Camp! Co-chaired by former Oahu United members Kenji and Koji Suzuki, this camp will be a great chance to meet other young adults and learn about Buddhism. YESS Camp 41 will be held April 18-20, with final registration by April 8 for \$90. A referral discount is available for past attendees who refer a first-timer. Register at:

<https://www.yesscamp.com/>

Jr. YBA State Convention registration closes March 31. The convention will be held in Honolulu from June 20-22, 2025. For more details and registration, visit: <http://bit.ly/jrybaconvention2025>

Mark your calendars for our ziplining outing at Coral Crater Adventure Park on April 6! We'll meet at 3:45 pm for the 4:00 pm tour. The cost is \$10 per person, with the rest subsidized by the United. RSVP with Taylor or Kim.

Upcoming dates:

- Jr. YBA hosted service: March 30, 9:00 am at Mililani Hongwanji
- Jr. YBA Federation Meeting: April 5 (virtual)
- Ziplining: April 6, 4:00 pm at Coral Crater Adventure Park

We welcome all youth entering 6th grade to two years post-high school! Contact us for more info. Follow us on Instagram: @jrybaofaahu



Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

May 4, 2025

CLASS OF 2025

PLEASE JOIN US

Contact Amy Kanemaru by April 13th at
amy.kanemaru@wahiawahongwanji.org if you know a
high school graduate who is interested in participating

Donations WANTED



- handmade craft items for the home
- new or gently used happi coats
- new or gently used yukata

We are accepting donations for our Bon Dance Country Store! Drop off items on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 9:00am - noon until June 8th. Please include your name, phone number, and label donations "Bon Dance Store." We cannot accept clothing or household items. For questions, email office@wahiawahongwanji.org.