



ONENESS

KAPAA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

March 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

**HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
112TH GISEIKAI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
BISHOP'S WELCOME MESSAGE**

Fellow travelers of the Dharma, Good morning. Welcome to the 112th Giseikai Legislative Assembly of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Your participation is truly appreciated. If this is your first Giseikai, welcome on board. I hope this will be a meaningful and joyful experience for you. If you are a veteran, welcome back, and thank you for your continued support and participation. What we will discuss at Giseikai sets the course for the future of the HHMH. I extend my welcome and appreciation to every one of you for taking the time, despite your busy schedule, to attend the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to welcome our special guests from our sister organizations. We welcome Mr. Glenn Inanaga and Mrs. Michiko Inanaga from the Buddhist Churches of America, Ms. Laura Sugimoto from the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, and Reverend Kiyonobu Kuwahara from the Jodo Shinshu International Office. In order for the Hongwanji to survive and thrive in the future, Hawaii, BCA, Canada, and JSIO must build a close relationship and work hand in hand to tackle various issues. The magnitude may differ, but we all share similar challenges and obstacles, as well as joy and pleasures as Nembutsu followers. I hope you will get to know more about Hawaii Kyodan, and we would also like to know more about you and your organizations. I hope you will enjoy your stay in Hawaii and our Legislative Assembly.

The first time I attended the Giseikai was in 2002, and it was held at the newly built Sangha Hall at the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin. As a new minister, I had difficulty understanding what was happening at that Giseikai. I only remember that Bishop Chikai Yosemite introduced me as an eligible bachelor and asked the delegates to find the “better half” for me so that I would continue to live in Hawaii. Believe it or not, it was at that very Giseikai that I first met my wife, Yoshiko, who was invited to the meeting as a guest with her sister. I will not share with you how we deepened our romantic relationship.

What I wanted to say is that we always talk about causes and conditions in Buddhism. “Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you’re gonna get.” We are the recipients of

countless causes and conditions, and we never know which ones produce a particular result. But one thing we can clearly state is that we are here today because we are nurtured and guided by our Nembutsu forefathers.

Shinran Shonin expressed his joy in encountering the Nembutsu teaching as follows.

“Such is the benevolence of Amida’s great compassion,
That we must strive to return it, even to the breaking of our bodies;
Such is the benevolence of the masters and true teachers
That we must endeavor to repay it, even to our bones becoming dust.”

(“Ondokusan” - Hymns of the Dharma-Ages #59)

Shinran Shonin expressed his profound gratitude to Amida Buddha’s Compassion and the masters and teachers who have transmitted the Buddha’s heart of compassion to him. His sense of gratitude was so deep that he felt compelled to repay that debt of gratitude by sharing the Nembutsu with others. Like Shinran Shonin, we, too, received wonderful conditions to immerse ourselves in the compassionate heart of Amida Buddha together with our fellow travelers. Each condition is unique, and each of us has a story to share. With a feeling of joy and gratitude, let us now endeavor together so that the actions we take today will bring fruitful and meaningful results. Hopefully, those results will serve as wonderful conditions for others to be a part of the Hongwanji movement.

Let us remember that what lies as the foundation of our organization is *Hongan*, the primal vow of Amida Buddha. As a community of people joined together to take refuge in the teaching of Shinran Shonin, let us first and foremost listen to the Nembutsu, the voice of Wisdom and Compassion, recite it in our daily lives, and move. And when I say “move,” I mean for us to “walk the talk” and put our joy of Nembutsu into action, no matter how large or small, for the realization of a compassionate society in which all lives are equally affirmed and appreciated.

I am truly grateful for the ministers and temple leaders who work tirelessly at their temple, district, and the State, oftentimes spending many hours and actively serving the needs of your members and the people in the community. Indeed, great things in business are never done by one person. They are done by a team of people. It is certainly only through a team effort that the Hawaii Kyodan can move forward and share the living messages of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. As your new Bishop, I have visited some temples during the past six months. Each temple and each district has strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities. On the state level, Hawaii Kyodan faces challenges such as declining membership, the need for an alternate source of income, lack of human resources, deterioration of temple buildings, and personnel concerns. But Hawaii Kyodan also has strengths and opportunities. Take a look at the 2023 Annual Report and see how many

activities and programs we have done last year. Many committees and individuals have worked hard in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities. And the greatest strength that we have are people who express their deep concerns about the future of our organization, seriously thinking about what they can do, and actively putting their ideas into action. Again, it is a team effort. I believe that even if the power of each individual is small, if we come together, we can make a big difference. Thank you, Rev. Yuika Hasebe, for your dharma message this morning. Indeed, we don't know the answer to the challenges we face. But, we are not alone in this journey. Let us share our collective wisdom and experiences toward these challenges and opportunities, and move toward the spread of the Buddha-Dharma to our contemporaries. I firmly believe that Buddhism and the messages of Shinran Shonin can contribute to building a more compassionate society.

Last year, the devastating wildfires on Maui destroyed Lahaina Hongwanji and affected many temple members and others in the community. The Hawaii Kyodan immediately established the Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund, and ever since then, we have received tremendous support from around the world.

Recently, Governor Bishop Shoshin Kumona from Honzan visited Hawaii. He is one of the three Governors at Honzan in charge of the Department of Social Affairs and Emergency Management. Governor Kumona was accompanied by Rev. Rie Fujisawa from the Hongwanji International Department. The three of us visited Maui on January 17 and 18.

I would like to report that the Honzan pledged to make another donation of 15 million yen, which is about \$100,000, toward the Maui Wildfire Relief in addition to their initial contributions of approximately \$140,000.

At Kahului Hongwanji, where we met Rev. Hironaka and 20 Lahaina Hongwanji members, we held a short presentation ceremony. We distributed the altar (Obutsudan), Onenju, Shikisho, etc., which were all donated from Hongwanji in Kyoto. At the end of the ceremony, Mrs. Aileen Cockett, the president of the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, delivered a message of appreciation to Governor Kumona, and I would like to quote a part of her message.

“It was not just losing a house or being displaced. We lost our HOME. A place where we had a sense of belonging, comfort, security, stability, and a place of refuge. And for those gathered here today, that is what Lahaina Hongwanji was for them. It's like going on a trip where you enjoy yourself and have a nice time, but in the end, you look forward to returning home. I think we ALL want to go back HOME. It may take a while, but I know one day we will be able to go back HOME.”

Hongwanji Temples are our spiritual HOME, where Amida Buddha and our Sangha members welcome us all with open arms. The Office of the Bishop is committed to supporting the

Lahaina Hongwanji Mission together with the Committee on Social Concerns, the Maui Wildfire Emergency Response Committee, and all of you. There is a resolution of forgiving Lahaina Hongwanji's annual assessment. Your careful and compassionate deliberation on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Lastly, I would like to introduce two individuals who have joined the Hawaii Kyodan. I am sure many of you know them already since they are both full of energy and actively participate in our programs. This is the first Giseikai for them, so please welcome them warmly.

Rev. Blayne Nakasone-Sakata joined the HHMH on June 1, 2023, and currently serves at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister. He is also a School Chaplain at the Pacific Buddhist Academy. He is very young, energetic, talented, and has a deep respect and understanding of the Nembutsu teaching. He is the first-ever Kaikyoshi minister who graduated from the Pacific Buddhist Academy.

Ms. Emi Hashi joined the HHMH at the beginning of October as the Children and Youth Activities Specialist. She grew up attending Makawao Hongwanji Mission on Maui where I served as its Resident Minister when Emi was around middle school age. In the last "Ka Leo Kāhea" newsletter, Emi mentioned that her aunties and uncles at the temple shaped her into the person she is today. Again, we never know what causes and conditions would bring a particular result. I am so happy to have Emi back in the Hawaii Kyodan. She is currently working hard to reactivate youth programs such as YESS Camp and BSC Fellowship Club.

Please extend them your warm welcome.

Let us remember that people gather only where there is movement. I humbly ask for your active participation and support for the Hongwanji movement. Once again, welcome to the 112th Legislative Assembly.

Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani
February 9, 2024

CONDOLENCES

Mrs. Fusae Yamashita Kiyokawa, a member of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, passed away on December 8, 2023. Mrs. Kiyokawa served as the Hawaii Federation of BWA president for 6 years (1994-1999). The Posthumous Title (INGO) of JI-GEN-IN 慈眼院, which translates as "The one who possessed the eyes of compassion" in recognition of her life of Nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani on February 3, 2024.

**OFFICERS, ADVISORS, AND DIRECTORS OF HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII FOR
YEAR 2024**

President:	Warren Tamamoto (O)	Advisors:
Immediate Past President:	Pieper Toyama (H)	Joel Determan (H)
Vice Presidents:	Alan Goto (H)	Dexter Mar (H)
	Russell Nonaka (O)	Dean Sakamoto (O)
	Wayne Fujioka (K)	Rodney Moriyama (O)
	Gary Murai (M)	Alton Miyamoto (K)
	Jason Hashimoto (HI)	Aileen Cockett (M)
Secretary:	Carol Yamamura (M)	Michael Munekiyo (M)
Assistant Secretary:	Sharon Nohara (M)	Ivan Nakano (HI)
Treasurer:	John Toguchi (H)	Frederick S. Nonaka (HI)
Assistant Treasurer:	Wayne Y. Yoshioka (H)	
Honorary Advisors:	Roy Miyamoto (H)	
	Keiji Kukino (H)	

Directors:			
Honolulu (6)	Cynthia Alm	Alan Goto	John Toguchi
	Wayne Y. Yoshioka	Joanne Kealoha	Prudence Kusano
Oahu (6)	Russell Nonaka	Rene Mansho	Clifford Togo
	Miles Tamura	Carolyn Uchiyama	Evan Watarida
Kauai (2)	Wayne Fujioka	Carol Valentine	
Maui (4)	Wayde Toyama	Sharon Nohara	Carol Yamamura
	Gary Murai		
Hawaii (6)	Jill Atwal	Edwin Hara	Delbert Nishimoto
	David Oshiro	Joseph Gusman	Jason Hashimoto

CONDOLENCES

Mrs. Alice Yamada, a member of Kapaa Hongwanji Mission, passed away on September 7, 2023. The Posthumous Title (INGO) of MON-KO-IN 聞光院, which translates as “The one who listened to the working of the Buddha’s Light of Wisdom” in recognition and appreciation of her exemplary contributions and the role she played as a true Nem-butsumi follower, including her service as the temple president in 1991-1992, was conferred by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani on December 28, 2023.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Joshin, Minako, and Yuma are excited to welcome our new baby girl, Nanami Kamuro!
On January 6, 2024, Nanami (七海) was born healthy, although it took 16 hours to give birth after the water broke. Nanami means seven seas or seven oceans. We can't wait to watch her grow, learn, and build bridges across the seven seas.

Born: January 6, 2024

7 lbs. 1 oz., 20.5 inches



BUDDHIST STUDY CENTER SPRING FESTIVAL

The Buddhist Study Center will hold a Spring Festival wellness fair on April 6th. The theme is "Nurturing Mind and Body" and there will be a variety of workshops and food/activity booths. Admission is free and open to the entire family! Please come on by if you are in the area or help spread the word by including the flyer in your temple newsletter. Please see our flyer for more detail. Hope to see you there!

SHARING NEMBUTSU MOMENTS PROJECT

Please Encourage Your Sangha to Share Their Nembutsu Moments.

The 2024 Hongwanji Theme and Slogan is

"Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments."

The Commission on Buddhist Education and the Buddhist Study Center Committee invite everyone to participate in this year's slogan activity by sharing their Nembutsu Moments. We hope to share these Nembutsu Moments in future editions of Ka Leo Kāhea, your temple newsletters and eventually, a book with a compilation of everyone's Nembutsu Moments.

Mahalo for Your Contributions & Support

January 21 - February 14, 2024

Memorial Service

In memory of...

Charles & Helen Saiki -
the Saiki Family

In Memory Donations

Kenzo Kawamoto - Edwin Kawamoto

Junichi & Toshiko Iida - Sally Yokota

Nirvana Day

Carol Saiki
Gloria Shimizu
Roberta Yanagawa

Columbarium Donations

Alice Yamada - Virginia & Bonnie Yamada

Membership

Laura Asari
James Jung
Ruth Kano
Edwin Kawamoto
Winston Kawamoto
Richard Kubota
Roy Morita
Hidemi Okamoto
Calvin & Rona Sakai
Joan Slingerland
Blanche Stockle
Tami Takekuma
Roy Taogoshi
Barbara Tsunehiro
Glenn Yagihara
Etsuko Yoshii

Social Concerns

Ethel Aiko Oda

Hall Rental

Center for Spiritual Living

Minister's Support

Rev. Shawn Yagi
Rev. Tomo Hojo
Rev. Mieko Majima

Volunteer Support

Marie Hashimura
Stanford Iwamoto
Winston Kawamoto
Ralph Kitashima
Haven Kuboyama
Rev. Mieko Majima
Milton Nakamura
Ray Paler
Kaleigh Ramil
Tami Ramil
Carol Saiki
Calvin & Rona Sakai
Gloria Shimizu
Pearl Shimizu
Joan Slingerland
Dennis & Sadie Sunada
Clyde & Kay Takekuma
Erin Takekuma
Keith & Thelma Tsukamoto
Brian Yamamoto

Friends Donations

Jonathon Kato
June Lizama
Gail Matsukawa
Pamela Shimomura

Building Fund

Winston Kawamoto
Richard Kubota
Roy Morita
Jessie Muramaru
Joan Slingerland
Kathleen Taira
Norman Taira
Glenn Yagihara

Miscellaneous Donations

Cynthia Alm
Jessie Muramaru
Hidemi Okamoto
Patricia Sugai
Rev. Takaaki Tanabe
Etsuko Yoshii
Puakea Grll - Kristin Yanagawa



MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENT

Rev. Sol Kalu, the Office of Buddhist Education Assistant, will oversee the Mililani Hongwanji Mission from March 1, 2024, until the new Resident Minister is assigned. He will also continue his duties as the OBE Assistant.

from the president's corner...

Aloha Everyone! The new year is quickly progressing as we welcome the month of March. We are truly grateful to have a dedicated and supportive Sangha. You have once again made a difference with your selfless giving in our time of need with many unexpected construction repairs. Your commitment and generous contributions to keep the temple active are gratefully appreciated.

Let us continue to build a healthy sangha and share the joy of Nembutsu Moments to bring awareness and realization of the teachings in our daily lives. The world seems to be in a state of turmoil, so it is an opportune time to share the Dharma to alleviate suffering and attain peace in the world. Peace begins with each of us. If "each one can reach one," we will be able to grow a healthy and compassionate Sangha. Namo Amida Butsu...

Temple Services- We will be able to open the temple for services beginning March, however, we may need to close when we begin the next phase of construction on the ocean side of the temple. The temple will be available for Memorial, Funeral and other services with the kind assistance of Reverend Shawn Yagi of Lihue Hongwanji Mission and Reverend Tomo Hojo of West Kauai Hongwanji Mission. Please join us on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. at our temple office to view the online Zoom services provided by Reverend Tomo Hojo & the West Kauai Hongwanji Mission.

Temple Repairs - We are happy to inform you that the temple ceiling restoration is also moving along and will be completed at the end of February. The outdated light fixtures will also be replaced with energy efficient ones. We will soon be planning the next phase of the construction project as soon as we receive an updated estimate to repair the ocean side of the temple. This will be done in a timely manner to prevent damage the altar.

General Membership Meeting & New Year's Luncheon - March 2 @ 9:30 am @ Parsonage
Please join us for this very important meeting. Your attendance and input will be appreciated. We will discuss financial reports, projects, events, concerns, suggestions and enjoy the fellowship with our Sangha. If you are unable to attend, please let me know if you have any concerns which need to be addressed or suggestions to improve the operations of the temple. You may call or email: mail@kapaahongwanji.org

Bon Dance Practice - It's time to get ready for the Bon Dance Season. Pearl Shimizu is ready to begin dance practice. Practice will begin on March 11 @ 6:00 p.m. on Mondays until our Bon Dance in July. Everyone is welcome! Mahalo Pearl & Gloria!

Kapaa Hongwanji's Bon Dance will be held on Friday, July 26 - Saturday, July 27, 2024
Attention, all Bon Dance enthusiasts, we need **you** to co-chair and plan this event. Planning must begin in April to coordinate the logistics of food preparation, refrigeration, cooking equipment, and purchasing, etc. The building where the broiled chicken was cooked has a trench which needs to be filled with soil and the sides of the building will need to be enclosed before July. **Volunteers are needed to kokua with this project. Please call me at 808 822-4667 if you are available to assist.**

Hanamatsuri Service - Sunday, April 7, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m. hosted by Waimea Shingon Mission. This service commemorates the birth of the Buddha. Please save the date.

Memorial Service

March

Margaret Mikayo	Yata	33rd	3/1/1992
Kaeko	Wakumoto	13th	3/3/2012
Matsuno Shimomura	Togikawa	13th	3/5/2012
Yutaka	Oshita	33rd	3/11/1992
Clyde Takeshi	Ishida	1st	3/14/2023
Masue	Nishimitsu	50th	3/14/1975
Sally	Okamoto	3rd	3/19/2022
Minoru	Yoshii	23rd	3/22/2002

April

Teru	Oda	33rd	4/4/1992
Nancy Yoshie	Masada	3rd	4/12/2022
Masako	Ito	33rd	4/16/1992
Toshimi	Kodani	13th	4/24/2012
Mitsue	Hirata	3rd	4/25/2022

The "Ohigan" refers to a period during which Buddhists respect their ancestors and reflect on the transient nature of life. Literally meaning "the other shore," Ohigan signifies the spiritual journey from the shore of ignorance and suffering to the shore of enlightenment and liberation. It is observed twice a year, in the spring and autumn equinoxes, when day and night are of equal length, symbolizing the balance of light and darkness, life and death. During Ohigan, Buddhists often visit gravesites, offer incense, and contemplate the impermanence of existence, emphasizing the importance of living in Nembutsu and gratitude.

Namo Amida Butsu

Temple Cleaning & Flower Arrangement

4/6/2024	Group 1	Mrs. Marie Hashimura - Chair Mr. Milton Nakamura, Mr. Ray Paler Mr. Robert Hiraoka	Ruby Ishida
3/2/2024	Group 2	Mr. Clint Saiki - Chair Mrs. Yasuko Murakami, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Yanagawa	Ruby Ishida
3/9/2024	Group 3	Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Takekuma - Chair Mr. Stanford Iwamoto, Mrs. Erin Takekuma, Ms. Madison Doo, Mrs. Tami Ramil, Ms. Kaleigh Ramil	Joan Slingerland
3/16/2024	Group 4	Ms. Gloria Shimizu - Chair Mr. Haven Kuboyama, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Sunada, Mrs. Pat Yamamoto	Kay Takekuma
3/23/2024	Group 5	Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Sakai - Chair Ms. Carol Saiki, Brook Madrone	Rona Sakai
3/30/2024	Group 6	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Tsukamoto - Chair Mr. & Mrs. Brian Yamamoto, Mr. Winston Kawamoto	Roberta Yanagawa

KAPAA HONGWANJI MISSION

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Kapaa, Hawaii 96746

ONENESS

The Newsletter of
Kapaa Hongwanji Mission
Minister: Rev. Mieko Majima
www.kapaahongwanji.org
Phone (808) 822-4667



March 2024

Temple is closed for the renovation.

For any inquiries regarding funerals or memorial services during the renovation period, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at 808.822.4667.

We understand the importance of honoring your loved ones, and we are happy to assist you.

Namo Amida Butsu

