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Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

GOJI

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SEPTEMBER 2023
NEWSLETTER
of the
Honpa Hongwanji
Hawai'i Betsuin
hawaiiibetsuin.org

2023 Slogan:

"Building Healthy
Sanghas: Sharing Joy
Together"

BETSUIN
MINISTERS

Chief Minister
Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Ministerial Staff
Rev. Shingo Furusawa
Rev. Blayne
Nakasone Sakata
Rev. Charlene Kihara

Autumn Higan, "The Other Shore"

Rev. Charlene Kihara

The Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin will celebrate the yearly Autumn Higan Service on Sunday, September 17th, at 9:30 a.m. Here at the Hongwanji, let us take this Higan Service to reflect on "the other shore." It is also another occasion to remember that our lives are impermanent and remind ourselves that we are interconnected to others.

What is Higan? Higan is observed during the equinoxes. Equinoxes are solar events that occur twice yearly in the Spring and Fall. The Sun's path appears to be directly above the equator rather than to the north or south of the equator. On the equinox day, the Sun appears to rise due east and set due west.

Why is Higan essential in Buddhism? Higan has a literal reference in Buddhism due to the rising of the Sun in the east and the Sun setting in the west, to mean Amida Buddha's Pureland, which is in the western direction. The western shore is Higan other shore), the other shore. Shigan (this shore) is the opposite word to Higan.

Higan/To-Higan symbolizes the beginning of a new season. The equinox occurs in the Spring, the vernal equinox, and the Fall, the autumnal equinox. On this day, the length of time for day and night is equal. The meaning of Higan

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An Isogashii Sensei is our Dharma Teacher for September Higan Service.

Rev. Grant Ikuta of the Steveston Buddhist Temple in Canada will be the English Service Speaker for the Higan Service on Sept. 17, 2023 at 9:30 am. Ikuta Sensei will be sharing his Dharma Message entitled "Ohigan – A time for balance." In his Dharma talk he will explain what Higan means in his life. He will also share with us the importance of Higan.



Beginning In 1992 to 2011 Ikuta Sensei served at Toronto Buddhist Church and Steveston Buddhist Temple and was the first Sansei Minister assigned to the Buddhist Churches of Canada. Ikuta Sensei was the Bishop of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada from 2011 to 2013.

His favorite Japanese word is Isogashii which means 'to be busy' because of the meaning behind the word. The character is composed of 2 halves. The left side is known as risshinben and it is an abbreviation of the character kokoro which means 'heart' or 'mind', 'the central portion of our being'. The right side nakusu means to lose. Therefore, when we put the two together and we get the word for busy, Isogashii, which literally means to lose one's mind or heart, it is expressing the loss of focus.

Message from Wayne Yoshioka, Hawaii Betsuin President

The scale and severity of the recent wildfires on Maui has surprised and dismayed us all. I am currently project manager of a major highway project in West Maui. One of our subconsultants is an archaeologist/cultural historian based on Maui. In a recent online meeting, she told us how distraught she was about the terrible impact to life and property in Lahaina and the loss of major historic sites. She lives in Kihei and also had to briefly evacuate as other wildfires burned mauka of that town. I also had an e-mail communication with Rev. Hironaka, and he related how quickly the fire spread through Lahaina. He and his family were fortunately

able to get out safely, but they only have a couple day's worth of clothes and IDs and passports. Lahaina Hongwanji Mission was destroyed.

Incidents such as these force us to put our own lives in perspective. While we often grumble about things that do not go our way, these inconveniences pale in comparison to the issues that face those who lived in Lahaina or their relatives and friends who are concerned about their well-being.

As we take stock of our present situation, let us be grateful that O'ahu was largely spared from the conditions that affected Maui and the Big Island. And let us show compassion for our fel-

low Hongwanji ohana and other residents on Maui by offering whatever support that we are able to.

The Kyodan has organized a "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund." Please see either hongwanjihawaii.com/peace-day-2023 or hawaiibetsuin.org to find out more information.

The people of Hawai'i have always shown the ability to pull together and help each other in times of crisis. I'm sure they will do so again.

In Gassho,
Wayne Y. Yoshioka



GOJI

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DEADLINE:

Articles must be submitted no later than the 10th of the month prior to publication by e-mail (goji@hawaiibetsuin.org), mail (1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI, 96813) or fax (808-536-0919). Address submissions to the **GOJI**. Please include your name and contact information. Original images should be labeled on the reverse side with caption and return information.

The opinions expressed by individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawai'i Betsuin.

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SEPTEMBER 2023 Speakers Schedule

9/3
Birthday Sunday
8AM Furusawa
9AM No Service
10AM Hagio

9/10
8AM T. Hashimoto
9AM No service
10AM Nakasone Sakata

9/17
Autumn Higan
8AM Hasebe
9AM No service
9:30AM G. Ikuta

9/24
Maui Wildfire
Memorial Service
8AM Furusawa
10AM Umitani

In Memoriam Continued from page 12

MAY 2023

5/8/2023	SAKATA, Marjorie Tamie (95)
5/15/2023	HEE, Naomi Goda (80)
5/20/2023	YASUDA, Misae (100)
5/21/2023	OSHIMA, Masako (88)
5/22/2023	MORITA, Gary Hiroshi (72)
5/23/2023	NIHEI, Alice Aiko (95)
5/30/2023	HASHIMOTO, Lindy Uto (71)
5/31/2023	MURAKAMI, Yaeko (97)

Deaths that occurred prior to June 2023 but were just recently reported to the Betsuin.

11/24/2021	INOUE, Virginia Asae (90)
3/28/2023	TOKUDA, Keith Riichi (58)
4/27/2023	YOTSUJI, Kenichi (96)
4/29/2023	INOUE, Ray Yoshito (70)

Message from the Executive Director: Jon K. Matsuoka

Our strategic plan stipulates the diversification of our congregation and income sources, and making Jodo Shinshu Buddhism more relevant to the times. To achieve these objectives, we must engage in outreach to the broader Hawai'i community. The Honpa Hongwanji system and its flagship temple the Betsuin, have been relatively cloistered for a long time. Like a lake that is cut off from freshwater sources that sustain it, our temples are drying up. Our strategies for renewal involve seeking and diverting new flows to restore vitality. Going forward, Hawai'i Betsuin must become more publicly visible. This involves bringing new people to campus as well as finding creative ways to promote our values and beliefs.

Building on the vision of Mary Mikahala Foster is one way to bridge ethnic and organizational lines. As our primary benefactor of land and the first Buddhist of Hawaiian ancestry, her legacy is critical to our initiative on diversification. We have formed a planning group that includes

representatives from several O'ahu temples, have made contact with her descendants, and are currently working with Foster Botanical Gardens to hold an outdoor concert in her honor. The concert will be held on September 8, 2023 at 5.00 pm. It will feature internationally and locally renowned musicians, choral groups, and hula halau. There is no admission fee but donations are appreciated. We see this as the first of many events that call greater attention to her legacy of goodwill and generosity.

Forgiveness is a critical and relevant concept for Jodo Shinshu Buddhism – one that hasn't been fully expounded and applied.

We have developed a relationship with the Mindful Hawai'i and Forgiveness communities and will be collaborating on holding a conference at Hawai'i Betsuin February 15-17, 2024. Featured speakers include Frederic Luskin, Director of Stanford University's For-

giveness Project, Diane Jampolsky, creator of Attitudinal Healing, as well as renowned local leaders Puanani Burgess, Maya Soetoro-Ng, and John Waihe'e. The global movement in forgiveness corresponds with Buddhist principles and Aloha, which combine to offer innovative approaches in conciliation. As a co-sponsor, our temple is positioned with others to manage society's crisis related to racial polarization and disharmony, and the condemnation of the LGBTQ+ community.

The political subjugation of non-binary individuals by conservatives and evangelicals is unacceptable. Even the milder Methodist order has split over matters related

to LGBTQ+ accession.

As appalling as it is, it creates opportunities for Buddhism to embrace diversity and reach out to those being ostracized. Actor and social activist George Takei has accepted an invitation to come to Hawai'i Betsuin, February 17-19, 2024. He will be speaking on topics ranging from race in America, Japanese American internment, and contemporary challenges facing the LGBTQ+ community. While they're here, he and husband Brad have agreed to engage in fundraising activities to benefit the Betsuin.

As we extend beyond traditional margins of Honpa Hongwanji, we are excited to find a community that is curious about Buddhism, wanting to learn more, and ready to work together. This bodes well for our future.



Higan continued from page 1

is specified to be the exact time that the Sun is midway in the sky, symbolizing neither Higan nor Shigan. The word Higan in Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition is a shortened form of "To-Higan," "to reach the other shore." Higan is also representative of the Six Paramitas. The Sanskrit word "Paramita" means "to cross over to the other shore," this was translated into Chinese from Sanskrit to mean "perfection of virtue" or "perfections." The Six Paramitas are:

1. Dana - charitable giving,
2. sila - moral conduct/discipline,
3. ksanti - patience,
4. virya - effort/diligence,
5. dhyana - mindfulness/concentration/focus. And
6. prajna - Wisdom.

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**E Ho'ohanohano i ke Ola
o Mary Mikahala Foster**

Please join us for a
**twilight concert honoring
Mary Mikahala Foster**

Sponsored by the Honolulu District
Hongwanji Buddhist Temples and
Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens
at the Foster Botanical Garden, Daibutsu area

September 8, 2023
5:00 - 6:30 pm

Free admission; donations welcome
Picnics permitted / no alcoholic beverages
Bring beach chairs and mats

Performers include: Nola Nahulu and the Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus;
Udi Bar-David (Cellist, Philadelphia Symphony); Herb Lee Trio (Hawaiian Slack Key);
Lehua Matsuoka (Hula o Lehua o Nana'ihale); Katsumi Takemoto
(Shakuhachi Japanese Flute); Pacific Buddhist Academy (Taiko Drummers)

For more information, please contact Jon Matsuoka at (808)536-7044 or jmatsuoka@hawaiibetsuin.org

BWA News and Events

Fujiko Motobu

SEPTEMBER BWA ACTIVITIES

9/1 Honu sewing circle to make holiday honu for the Family Promise Keiki / in the Eshinni Room 9:30-11:30AM

9/16 Executive Board Meeting, 9:00-11:00 AM Info session on the Ala Wai Genki Balls project with Chikako Nago via Zoom -MEETING IS IN PERSON in the lounge.

FIVE WAYS TO BE MINDFUL: Recent studies have shown that most of us today disconnect ourselves readily. You may be seated with your family eating dinner and conversing, yet your mind is miles away thinking about something totally different than the conversation that is going on. You can call it being in two places at once, however, mental health experts say it is more problematic. It is an open invitation to stress and unpleasant emotions. When the body is in a neutral or pleasant place, the mind tends to focus on worries about the future or things that happened in the past.

The concept of mindfulness is based on Buddhism. It is generally defined as paying attention to your thoughts, bodily sensations and environment. The benefits of mindfulness practice can help lower stress, reduce anxiety, increase a person's capacity to rely on positive experiences, stop disruptive thoughts, and promote concentration.

Meditation is a way to achieve mindfulness, but we Jodo Shinshu Buddhists do not practice meditation. Here are five ways to practice mind-

fulness if meditation is not your thing:

1. Listen to music. Getting lost in a good song is a good way to practice mindfulness. Focus on the words in the song, notice the melody and how your body feels and moves. If you are midway through the song and thinking of something else, go back to the beginning of the song and give your attention to the fullest.
2. Use the 5-4-3-2-1 method. Identify 5 things that you can see and 4 things you can touch. Then look for 3 things that you can hear, and 2 things that you can smell and 1 thing you can taste or that you are grateful for. This exercise should help you feel safe, calm and peaceful.
3. Work on a puzzle. Jigsaw puzzles exercise your brain, foster creativity and promote mindfulness.

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BWA Holo Holo Adventure: Field Trip 2023

Hawaii Betsuin BWA members eagerly signed up for an Aug. 19 BWA field trip that offered them a great opportunity to ride the new Skyline light rail system. On the morning of the excursion, two dozen BWA members and guests traveled by bus from Hawaii Betsuin to Halawa Aloha Stadium station and used their new Holo Holo cards to gain entry to Skyline rail. As the Sky-

line doors opened, everyone found seats quickly. All settled in for the relaxing ride and enjoyed the passing scenery from a new perspective.

At the final station, Kualaka'i East Kapolei, BWA folks posed for a happy group photo in front of the colorful mural and they were then transported by bus to Ka Makana

Wendie Yumori

Ali'i shopping center to have lunch wherever they wished. After lunch, folks were free to gather and chat or walk about and shop before boarding the bus to return to Hawaii Betsuin. Mahalo to BWA President, Jo desMarets for coming up with this terrific BWA Holo Holo adventure on Skyline rail!



Annual Peace Walk Focuses Minds on Peace and Compassion for Maui

It was the annual Four Petals Peace Walk from Hawaii Betsuin to the Nagasaki Peace Bell Memorial near Honolulu Hale. We gathered first in the Hawaii Betsuin hondo, where Rimban Yuika Hasebe opened her aspiration with words of compassion for those suffering on Maui. On our silent walk, each step was an aspiration for relieving suffering of those affected by the fires as well as an aspiration for peace in the world.



Photo collage by David Atcheson



Photo by Shingo Furusawa

About fifty of us from various religious traditions formed a circle around the memorial, one by one ringing the standing bell we'd brought to place at the base. Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani offered a reflection/aspiration. Many participants from Boy Scout Troop 49 joined the event.

The return trip to Hawaii Betsuin was by chartered school bus. A miscommunication delayed the bus and two groups had already started back on foot. But our peaceful frames of mind

transformed inconvenience into a bonding experience, with cheers as the bus made two stops on the way back to pick up peace walkers. #NoOneLeft-Behind

Mahalo to Dexter Mar for event coordination, including the pre-walk film screening of Atomic Flame. Mahalo too to the volunteers who assisted with lanterns and safety on the walk. The "Four Petals" partners are from the Buddhist, Quaker, Catholic, and Protestant traditions.

- Submitted by David Atcheson

September is Give Aloha Month! Coincides with Start of End of Year Fund Drive

During September, you can make a donation to Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin at any Foodland or Sack N Save checkout. In turn, Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will match a portion of the donation.



How to Donate:

- 1) Shop at Foodland or Sack N Save.
- 2) Show your Maika'i card to the cashier or enter your phone number at checkout.
- 3) Tell the cashier Hawaii Betsuin's code number, 78500, and the amount of your donation (up to \$249).
- 4) Review your receipt to confirm the following appears: our temple name, your donation amount, and your Maika'i number.

September also marks the beginning of our End of Year Fund Drive (a separate appeal letter will be mailed). If you would like your Give Aloha donation to count toward your end-of-year donation total, please bring in or mail us a copy of your receipt along with any additional donation.

In Gassho for your support for Hawaii Betsuin!

Mahalo to all who contributed to the Hawaii Betsuin BWA School Supplies Drive!



Dharma School News

Debbie Kubota



We welcome all ages to join us for our 5th Virtual State Dharma School Gathering, "Just As You Are," via Zoom on Sunday, October 15, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to engage and interact with Hongwanji friends across the islands and to hear a Dharma message by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani. Our service will highlight Dharma School student emcees representing each of our Hongwanji districts along with our District Dharma School minister advisors. Following the service, we will have breakout rooms; Adult Breakout Room with Bishop Umitani (sharing a more in-depth Dharma Message) with Q&A session, and Dharma School Breakout Rooms (divided by age groups) featuring activities related to the theme "Just As You Are." If you are a Dharma School Teacher/Educator, please join us before the service from 8:45 to 9:45 am to receive resources from the BCA Federation of Dharma School Teachers League (FDSTL) Convention attended by BJ Soriano and Edythe Vassall, representing Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. They will join us to answer any questions and provide additional information. We will also ask Dharma School teachers to share successful activities they have had since resuming in-person sessions.

Please note that people are welcome to join as individuals, or as a sangha with broadcasting in the temple. Let us know if you have any questions. Looking forward to seeing you all then!

~ Planning Committee – Rev. Tomo Hojo (Kauai), Ann Ishikawa (Oahu), Shirley Kakuda (Kauai), Debbie Kubota (Honolulu), Joan Tamori (Maui), Sandy Taniguchi (Hawaii Island)

Hongwanji Ohana Pulls Together to Support Lahaina Hongwanji and Maui

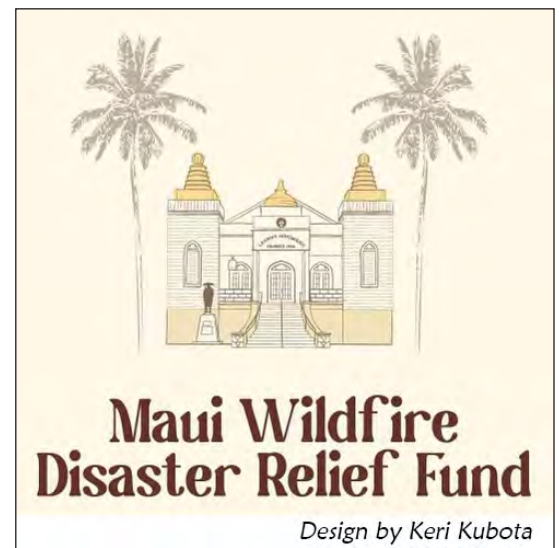
Our hearts and minds go out to those who have lost loved ones, homes, livelihoods, and treasured structures and belongings in the Maui fires. Many have asked how they can help. The following is adapted from an August 20, 2023 Betsuin Bulletin email:

The Bishop's Office has been publishing updates on the Maui wildfire disaster on its website. You may display or share the updates by using shortcut link honpahi.link/fire, intended to be easy to remember, or simply visit hongwanjihawaii.com and find prominent links. Updates include official communications about the disaster and ways to donate/help.

The Bishop's Office has a mailbox at the Hawaii Betsuin business office. We can attest to the outpouring of support in response to the Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund as we see stacks of envelopes come in. As of this writing, the related GoFundMe has surpassed \$80,000, not counting what is being contributed via PayPal. Here are the ways to donate:

1. Using this special-purpose PayPal donation link:
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=FZBWPWSUDDR58
2. Through GoFundMe at the following link:
<https://gofund.me/ff77a520>
3. Check and cash donations can be sent directly to Hawaii Kyodan Headquarters. You can also drop off your donation at the Hawaii Betsuin business office. Please make check payable to HHMH and in the memo line designate "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" to ensure proper credit.
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 1727 Pali Highway Honolulu, HI 96813
Lahaina Hongwanji Sticker Pack: Keri Kubota, a Honolulu Hongwanji

Dharma Schools alum, created a sticker pack with Lahaina Hongwanji as a remembrance and keepsake. All proceeds will go to Lahaina Hongwanji. To see and/or purchase the stickers, you may visit Keri's Our Garden Collective website at ourgardencollective.com/shop/lahaina.



Scouting News Girl Scout News and Events

Brownie Troop 257 visits the Honolulu Zoo

Girl Scout Brownie Troop 257
Laci Goshi, GS Troop Leader



Earlier this summer, Brownie Troop 257 visited the Honolulu Zoo as part of their Take Action project and to fulfill the requirements for being an honor troop. The field trip to the zoo was selected because the scouts decided that they wanted to help animals using proceeds from their Girl Scout Cookie sales.

Prior to the field trip, the Brownies learned about the Honolulu Zoo and all the ways that they can support the animals. They created a poster to educate people on how they can help the zoo, which was displayed at the end of the year Awards Ceremony.

On the day of the field trip, the

Brownies had a chance to bring donated household items to the zoo which would be used to create enrichment activities for the animals. We also had the opportunity to visit with Honolulu Zoo staff and learn about how they take care of the animals. The Brownies were able to get answers to their questions about how the zoo runs and submit ideas for naming the new rhino.

Brownie Troop 257 also made a donation and worked together to select items to purchase from the Honolulu Zoo's wish list. The scouts had a blast learning more about the zoo and spending time together as a troop. A wonderful time was had by all!



BWA continued from page 4

4. Focus on your movements. Your walks can be mindful. Pay attention to your feet connecting with the ground, and repeat the words lifting, moving, placing, shifting. Frequently in walking with my dog, I say to myself, "Lift, down, walk. Lift, down, walk." Continue to take steps carefully so that you do not slip and fall.

5. Pay attention to your pet. When you go out walking with your dog, notice his tail wagging, the sounds of his panting, or his nails clicking on the pavement, and the feel of his warm breath. When your mind starts to wander away, quickly shift your attention to your dog, even for a second or two.

These five points are simple to follow, so try them every day and keep your mind sharp, be mindful. Remember that MINDFULNESS is Buddha's teaching.

LOSS OF HEARING, POOR VISION CAN AFFECT COGNITION: A new study on Alzheimer's Disease reports show that impairments in hearing and vision are associated with major cognition problems among older adults. People with bad hearing and vision problems have eight times the chance of cognitive problems. This can be due to decrease in brain stimulation due to social disengagement and loneliness.

Older adults should continue to visit their doctors and check on their hearing and vision. Cheaper hearing aids and cataract surgeries can transform lives and protect the brain. Take care of yourself when you get old.

WHAT NOT TO EAT: The following

food and drinks give you the most weight gain, so watch out and stay away from these foods.

Potato chips, potatoes, sugary drinks, red meat and alcohol. Eat fresh vegetables and fruits and fish and seafood. Weight gain will be subdued. You do not want to be too skinny either, so take care of yourself. Only you can care for yourself.

HUMOR: Story #1. Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one fine September day. One remarked to the other, "Windy, isn't it?" "No." the second man replied. "It's Thursday." And the third man chimed in, "So am I. Let's have a beer."

Story #2: Marriage is the combination of three rings. Engagement Ring, Wedding Ring, and Suffering.

About He Iwi Hilo: Also known as “the Hawaiian Heart Sutra”, inspired by Makahannya Haramitta Shingyo. English words composed as poetry in 2020 and 2021 by Norma Ryuko Kawelokū Wong Roshi; translated to ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i in one evening in 2022 by Dr. Hiapoikeikikāne Kichie “Hiapo” Perreira. Iwi hilo is the thighbone or last rib bone; poetically, the very core of one’s being. He Iwi Hilo is to be chanted only in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. (Norma Wong sent this beautiful sutra translated into English, to Jon Matsuoka as a way to acknowledge the tragedy in Lahaina).

HE IWI HILO

He ‘ike mai ka pō mai
He kupuna nō a he kupuna
He mele oli lau ‘ōlelo
He mele oli

*Here is ‘ike shared by long distant relatives
Their ancestors are our ancestors
An oli in many languages
This oli*

‘Ike kūkonukonu
‘Ike kūli‘uli‘u
‘Ike kūpanopano

*Of wisdom beyond knowledge
So great
Beyond great*

Alo lua, maka kahi
A loko nōkī
Kāo’o like ana
Me he moana kai hohonu lā

*Who it is we are
In the heart of our na’au
This source that binds us
Like the ocean itself*

Kino lau... kino ‘ole

Our life has many forms, and no form

‘O ka pu‘umamina // ‘O ka pu‘u’eha
Ka ‘eha iho, ka ‘eha ākea
‘A’ole nō a he ‘eha pilikino
He ‘eha wale iho nō

*Our sorrow
The ‘eha of our life and our peoples
Is not who we are
It is just sorrow*

Kino lau...kino ‘ole

Our life has many forms, and no form

Ma kēia kino ‘uhane ‘ana
‘A’ohe nō kino e ‘uhane ai
‘A’ohe kino
‘A’ohe ‘ōnohi
‘A’ohe pepeiao
‘A’ohe mana’o
‘A’ohe kani
‘A’ohe hua

*In our spirit existence
There is no form (hakakino)
No body
No eye
No ear
No thought
No sound
No words*

‘O ka hua ‘oko’a pū nō na’e ia
Ka hua, ke aka ola ehuehu
He lani ko luna
He honua ko lalo

*And yet it is everything
This spirit existence
It is everything
And everywhere*

Eia he ‘ike na Lili‘u mai
Ua bodhisattva lā ‘o Lili‘u ho’i
“E lohe i ka leo kani ‘ole,
E ‘ike i ka maka ‘ike ‘ole
E ‘ike i ka ‘ike ana ‘ole
‘O ia ia mea he aloha.”

*Here is ‘ike from Lili‘u
The Lili‘u who is a bodhisattva
“to hear what is not said,
To see what cannot be seen,
To know the unknowable –
That is aloha.”*

Eia kā kākou mele
No ka ‘ike kūkonukonu
He aloha hele i ka loa
He aloha hele i ka laulā

*This is our mele
Of wisdom beyond knowledge
Aloha so great
Beyond great*

Alo lua, maka kahi
A loko nōkī
Kāo’o like ana
Me he moana kai hohonu lā

*Who it is we are
In the heart of our na’au
This source that binds us
Like the ocean itself*

Ring Your Bells for Peace Day on September 21!



From Honpa Hongwanji Mission of
Hawaii’s Peace Day Committee:

In the spirit of promoting Peace Day in Hawaii and throughout the world, we invite the world to join us in ringing bells for PEACE DAY, Thursday, September 21st at 9:01 a.m.

At 9:00 a.m., we will have a minute of silence to honor all those who sacrificed for us to achieve peace. Immediately following the minute of silence, bells will be rung by representatives at all the respective temples, churches, schools, and community organizations and individuals. They’re our future in ensuring peace throughout the world.

We are also planning to capture the program and all participants on a Zoom screen, simultaneously, so get your computers ready when you are sent the link to join the event.

Please RSVP by Sept. 12, 2023. For more information and a registration link, please see hongwanjihawaii.com/peace-day-2023 or you may request a Participation Form from Rene Mansho at 808-291-6151 or by email at renemansho@hawaii.rr.com

Headquarters Connections

'Headquarters Update' and 'Ka Leo Kāhea' (The Calling Voice) newsletters are available at [News & Announcements – Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii](#)



Message from the Bishop July 2023

It is with immense joy and a sense of humble responsibility that I began my duty as the 17th Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. While I am fully aware that I have much to learn and that the responsibilities of this role are significant, I am also filled with an unwavering enthusiasm to serve alongside each and every one of you.

As we continue this shared Nembutsu journey, I want to, first of all, express my gratitude for the dedication and commitment you have put into your temple, district, and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Thank you very much. I am humbled to be surrounded by such inspiring ministers and Dharma friends. I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to meet you and collaborate with you to share the joy of the Nembutsu teaching with people in our community.

Please know that my door is always open, and I am here to support you in any way that I can. Whether it is guidance, encouragement, or simply a listening ear, I am committed to fostering a warm and nurturing relationship within the embrace of Amida Buddha. Together with the entire Headquarters staff, I look forward to working together with you. If you are in the vicinity, please drop by to say "Hi" and visit **YOUR** HQ's Office and Bookstore.

May our life's journey be inspired and guided by the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu,
Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani
bishop.umitani@honpahi.org

'Headquarters Connections' is curated by Steve Lohse and Cindy Alm.
Please see [July 2023 Headquarters Update](#) for this message from Bishop Umitani. Namō Amida Butsu.

Higan continued from page 3

As we begin the month of September and approach Higan Day, it seems appropriate to reflect on the Six Paramitas, especially the Paramita of Dana, considering the situation in Maui.

The wildfires on Maui caused the devastation of the city of Lahaina. Over 100 people thus far have lost their lives in the fires that spread quickly in the city fueled by the winds of Hurricane Dora. More than 2000 structures

burned to the ground. The historic town of Lahaina, which had been established in 1820 first as a fishing and whaling village and then the capital of the Kingdom of Hawaii, is no more. Historic buildings lining Front Street, the main street of Lahaina, all burnt to ashes in the blaze. All that remains of the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission is the columbarium. The Sangha members of Lahaina Hongwanji lost their homes and businesses.

Because of the conflagration, as people

worldwide watched the devastating fire on television, many wanted to do something to help the people of Lahaina. The outpouring of aid for the people of Maui is an example of the paramita of Dana.

We will see you at the Higan Service at the temple. Let us remind ourselves of the meaning of Higan, reflecting on the paramita of Dana. Please continue to help the people of Maui in their long road to recovery.

Radio Programs SEPTEMBER 2023

Japanese Language,
SATURDAY AT 7:30 AM

9/02...Rev. Shingo Furusawa

9/09...Rev. Ryoso Toshima

9/16...Rev. Grant Ikuta

9/23...Rimban Kazunori Takahashi

9/30...Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

Information Regarding Sunday Services

Attendee limits for in-person funerals and memorial services are now based on room capacity and families' comfort levels. Other service options are available. Please call the Betsuin office at (808) 536-7044 for current information and to plan for your family's needs.

The 10 a.m. English-language services (as well as the occasional 9:30 a.m. combined services) are now open to in-person attendees. A Zoom option continues to be available. Also, the 8 a.m. in-person Japanese language services have resumed. The Betsuin Dharma School returns in September 2023.

Many past services are available for replay on the Hawai'i Betsuin YouTube channel. For current information on Betsuin services, including Zoom connection details, see the online calendar at hawaiiibetsuin.org. You may also check the Betsuin Bulletin sent by email on Fridays (subscribe at hawaiiibetsuin.org/email-signup/). Or, you can call the Betsuin office at (808) 536-7044.

In Memoriam



JUNE 2023

The Hawai'i Betsuin extends its deepest sympathy to the families of the following members who recently passed away. May the family members and friends find solace and comfort in the Nembutsu. Namō Amida Butsu

11/24/2021 INOUE, Virginia Asae (90)
3/28/2023 TOKUDA, Keith Riichi (58)
4/27/2023 YOTSUJI, Kenichi (96)
4/29/2023 INOUE, Ray Yoshito (70)
5/08/2023 SAKATA, Marjorie Tamie (95)
5/15/2023 HEE, Naomi Goda (80)
5/20/2023 YASUDA, Misae (100)
5/21/2023 OSHIMA, Masako (88)
5/22/2023 MORITA, Gary Hiroshi (72)
5/23/2023 NIHEI, Alice Aiko (95)
5/30/2023 HASHIMOTO, Lindy Uto (71)
5/31/2023 MURAKAMI, Yaeko (97)
6/6/2023 KOYANAGI, Shigeko (104)

Please see page 2 for deaths that occurred prior to June 2023 but were just recently reported to the Betsuin.

Schedule of Monthly Nursing Home Services

Leahi Hospital

Service every 2nd Tuesday at 10:00

Hale O Meleana

Service Every 2nd Friday at 10:30 A.M.

Hale Ho Aloha

Service Every 3rd Tuesday, at 10:00 A.M.

Maluhia Hospital

Service Every 3rd Wednesday at 10:00 A.M.

2023 Memorial Service Schedule

2023 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2022: 1st year	2011: 13th year	1991: 33th year
2021: 3rd year	2007: 17th year	1974: 50th year
2017: 7th year	1999: 25th year	1924: 100th year

The great practice is to say the Name of the Tathagata of unhindered light. This practice, comprehensively encompassing all practices, is perfect and most rapid in bringing them to fullness. For this reason, it is called "great practice." Saying the Name then breaks through all the ignorance of sentient beings and readily brings all their aspirations to fulfillment. Saying the Name is in itself mindfulness; mindfulness is nembutsu; nembutsu is Namō-amida-butsu.

-Shinran Shonin