

2022-23 Hawai'i Betsuin Board of Directors Election Candidate Profiles



Cynthia (Cindy) Alm is a Hawaii Betsuin director, co-chairs the Fundraising Board Committee and the capital campaign. Honpa Hongwanji and Buddhist teachings have been part of her family's lives for generations. Her goal is to build on the Betsuin's 100-year legacy of service to our members and the broader community. She is president of the Buddhist Women's Association. Cindy is an attorney and manages her family's real estate investments.



David Atcheson: I first joined the board as Secretary in 2013 and later remained on the Executive Committee as a vice president. I would like to continue contributing as a board member. Other ways I have contributed to Hawaii Betsuin are as convener of the Green Team and volunteer website manager, Facebook admin, and co-manager of the temple YouTube channel. I am currently serving as the temple's Interim Executive Director. I help provide linkage to HQ via my roles as a member of the Committee on Social Concerns and chair of the Archives Committee.



Ben Bruch: My family and I are grateful to be part of the Betsuin 'ohana, and it has been an honor to serve on the Board. As a parent and a teacher at Pacific Buddhist Academy, I value the Betsuin as a place that promotes peace, compassion, service to others, and stewardship of the environment. I humbly ask for your support so that I can continue working to help our sangha grow.



Joel Determan: Member of the Betsuin Board since 1999, currently participates on the Fundraising Board Committee (co-chair), facilities, personnel, finance, Planned Giving & Endowment and Executive Board committees. Member of Kyodan BOD. Served for over 10 years as Chair of Pacific Buddhist Academy Board of Trustees. Retired Clinical Microbiologist, veteran US Army, married to the former Marjorie Kiyoko Maneki, two children, Paul Kenji and Ann Reiko. I wish to help the Hawaii Betsuin continue to grow and thrive as an influential member of Hawaii's rich interfaith community.



Jo desMarets: For over one-hundred years, the Hawaii Betsuin has been the "footprint of Buddhism" in our community. With your support, and guided by Amida's compassion and light, I will continue to work for the growth and development of the Hawaii Betsuin as our spiritual home and a community resource that welcomes all. Mahalo for your consideration.



Jacqueline Furuta: Buddhism, Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, and its affiliates have been an integral part of my life. I am an alumna of Hongwanji Mission School and as a young girl, was a Junior YBA member and attended Dharma School. In college, I was one of the founding organizers of YESS Camp along with Christina Shioi, Rev. Alan Urasaki, and many others. I presently serve as a Board member, and I am a co-leader for a couple of Honpa Hongwanji Girl Scouts troops. I would like to continue to support this temple to strengthen what Buddhism and its teachings bring to nurture compassion, harmonious relationships, a way of living, and peace for all.

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Joel Ganotisi: I am honored to be considered on the Betsuin Board of Directors. My family have enjoyed our involvement in the Dharma School for about 10 years. We have made wonderful friends with other families

throughout the years. I look forward to being a part of the discussions and planning for the future.



Thanh Giang: I appreciate this opportunity to be considered for a position with the board. Having been around temples all my life, I really enjoy being at the Betsuin and serving on the Dharma School PTO. I strongly believe in strengthening the connections

between all members of our Temple from our senior members down to the children. I look forward to further contributing to the temple, and its work for the betterment of our community.



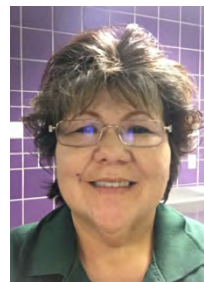
Alan J. Goto: For Hawaii Betsuin – Former vice president for religious affairs; a Minister Lay Assistant; Tokudo ordained (2003); Member, Board Committee -- Hongwanji Mission School; Member, Board Committee -- 21st Century

Fundraising Campaign. For Hawaii Kyodan – Chairperson, Central Research & Planning Committee. and Interfaith Activity -- Planning committee member -- Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani Lecture Series for Buddhist-Christian Dialogue, Chaminade University Hawaii and Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK).



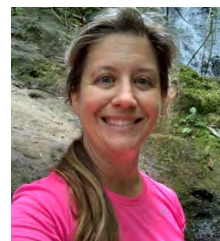
Alexandrianna Harman: I am a graduate of Moilili Hongwanji Preschool, Hongwanji Mission School and Pacific Buddhist Academy. I was born and raised in a strong Buddhist family. While growing up I was active in sports

and community work. I was the President of Jr. Young Buddhist Association- Honolulu, Buddhist Club and was given the honor of attending YBICSE. Also, a member of the HHHB Girl Scouts. I would like to give back to the temple for all of their support throughout the years. If I am elected I promise to serve the Board to the best of my ability and to uphold the beliefs and standards of the Betsuin.



Wendy Harman: My family are long time members at different Hongwanji Temples. I have had the honor to serve on many different kinds of Boards and the greatest honor to serve on the Hawaii Betsuin Executive Board and to assist and head different

committees. I am committed to ensuring that the board continues to serve as an open, responsive and respectful forum to share concerns and ideas with the goal of improving our temple and giving back to the community. I have always believed that transparency is so important in positions that are held and things that are done.



Kimberly (Kim) Harsanyi: Aloha! I am a new-ish member of the temple and the Hongwanji community. I'm married with three children, including a kindergartner at HMS, and two puppies. I'm a

member of the HMS PFA and the Betsuin's BWA. I work at HMSA, and I'd like to serve on the board in order to contribute more to the temple and our community.

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Dianne Ida: In January 2019, after being elected President of Hawaii Betsuin's BWA, I became a BWA representative to the Board of Directors. Hawaii Betsuin has been part of my life since elementary school. I attended Dharma School and was in Jr. YBA. I became an organist, Sunbeams' accompanist, Teens in Motion coordinator, Dharma School teaching assistant, and Living Treasures Luncheon Co-chair, among other roles. Career wise, I taught at Kapi'olani Community College for almost 40 years. I would like to continue to serve on the Hawaii Betsuin Board and ask for your vote.



Mike Inouye: My family has enjoyed our time at Hongwanji Mission School and so thankful for the entire community. I had the privilege to serve on the HMS PTO Board and have met a lot of great people and leaders from the HHHB and would be humbled to serve along with them. I am a Vice President at Ralph S. Inouye Co., Ltd. (a general contractor) and willing to serve as director and provide support to the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin and Board.



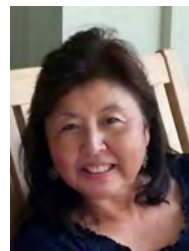
Mel Kawahara



Randy Kawamoto: Active with Honpa Hongwanji as a child at Kaimuki Hongwanji and Jr YBA, and as a parent. Hold a graduate degree in business from the University of Hawaii and am retired from a career in Human Resources with the Federal Government and the Hawaii DOE. Served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Korea.



Alan Kubota: Born and raised in Hilo, and grew up with Hilo Betsuin Dharma School and Jr. YBA. Involved with Hawaii Betsuin since moving to Oahu from Guam in 1984. As an active member of Hawaii Betsuin, I hope to continue offering my energy and skills to perpetuate the Mission, Temple and Sangha. I am committed to working together with the Board to ensure that the Temple continues to be a place of peace, comfort and inspiration.



Debbie Kubota: I am honored to be considered for a position on the Betsuin Board. Because of my involvement in Buddhist Education, Dharma School and thinking of my own family, I look forward to being a part of the discussions and planning process to ensure that we continue to perpetuate the Dharma and to be a prominent gathering place in the community for all generations in the years to come.

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Keith Lee: I have attended all board meetings (just missed one) since late 2019 as an observer and then Board Advisor. I am on the Social Concerns Committee and was the moderator for its first Dialogue session (September 2021). I've been a part of the Bylaws Committee since 2020. I became a first-time gojikai member in 2019. I trained in Hongwanji's 2018 Minister Lay Assistant program. I have taken ten or so classes at the Buddhist Study Center since 2015. I am indebted to those who have served the Betsuin and feel called to be more involved.



Steve Lohse: Thank you for considering me for Secretary of the Betsuin Board! Currently, I serve on the Board's Bylaw and Social Concerns Committees, the Green Team, and I assisted Betsuin ministers with nursing home services before Covid and I will again when we can. I also serve as a delegate to the Honolulu District Council, the State Federation of Lay Associations, and the statewide Legislative Assembly. It's a privilege to serve Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii as I am able. My favorite bumper sticker, "Respect Cause & Effect."



Dexter Mar: As your immediate past President, there is still much more that needs attention. By running for Vice President for Religious Matters, my training as a certified Minister Lay Assistant can be used to developing a Lay-Clergy partnership with our Rimban, Ministers, and Minister Lay Assistants. A "seekers path" and re-energized lay minister program are needed to share the Dharma, teachings, and Buddhist values. Attention also needs to be directed to a "virtual ministry" that adapts to individual needs during the pandemic and beyond. I humbly request your vote. Namo Amida Butsu!



David Miyamoto: I am a consulting engineer and currently serve on the Betsuin Board. I have served on the Betsuin Board for 10 years and had served on the Hongwanji Mission School Board for 8 years. I would like to continue my service on the Board and ask for your support and endorsement as a Betsuin Board member for the upcoming year. Aloha.



Roy Miyamoto: Roosevelt HS, UH, UMichigan and UWisconsin Law School alumni. Prior Hawaii attorney licensing board administrator. Retired attorney and Ala Moana Center retailer. Retired teacher/retailer wife Charlotte. Civil engineer son (and pharmacologist wife with 2 children). Attorney daughter residing in Portland. Served in military at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. Hawaii Kyodan director/advisor, and President (1992 – 1998). Hawaii Betsuin director for decades.



Ralston Nagata: *Member:* HHHB, Gojikai, since 1980s. Editor, Hongwanji Hour, Sundays, 10AM, KZOO Radio, since 2007. "Wednesday Gang," since 2001. Community: Iwakuni Odori Aiko Kai (Betsuin alternate year Bon Dance invitee). *Former (Member):* USNPS: Kalaupapa National Historic Park Commission. SOH: State Parks Administrator, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Historic Places Review Board, Deferred Compensation Board of Trustees, Registered Professional Architect. C&C: Design Advisory Committee

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Irene Nohara: I have volunteered for events at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin since 2003 when my son joined the Cub Scouts. The

temple, the affiliate organizations and the people of the Betsuin have continued to impress me such that I wanted to assist in a higher capacity to show my heartfelt appreciation for what the Betsuin represents to me. Therefore, I would like to continue as a board member.



Ranelle Omura: The temple has always played an important role in my family's life. All three of my children attended services and Dharma School, sang with the Sunbeams /TIM, and participated in

scouting and Jr. YBA. I took a temporary break after they graduated from high school, but have always remained a Gojikai member. Now that I am retired, I would be honored to once again assist the temple with it's goals of sustainability and membership building.



Dennis Sekine: It would be an honor and a privilege to help the Betsuin on its journey into the next 100 years.



Sharyn Sekine: After being a Dharma School teacher for 15+ years and being actively involved in the BWA on all three levels (temple, district, state) in various capacities, I felt like being involved in general

temple matters. By doing so, it would enable me to be a part of the decision making in moving our temple forward in the 21st century and creating a legacy for the future. I have had the honor of serving on the Betsuin Board for 10+ years and would like to continue serving for as long as I am able.



Charlyne Tom: I have a long history with Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. My mother, Alice Omura, was the secretary in the Betsuin office for many years. Both of my children graduated from

Hongwanji Mission School (HMS) and Pacific Buddhist Academy. My family and I have worked at and attended Betsuin events and fundraisers for over twenty-five years. I am currently in my eighteenth year as the receptionist/health aide for HMS. I was recently appointed to be an advisor on the executive board of the Buddhist Women's Association. Thank you, and I look forward to continuing to serve the Betsuin.



John Toguchi: Like many our Hongwanji community, I was raised on a neighbor island. I made my way to Honolulu after graduating from Hilo High School to attend UH

Manoa. I connected with the Hawaii Betsuin while a parent of a Hongwanji Mission School student. My desire to continue to support HMS led me to become a Hawaii Betsuin director. I'm a practicing architect and am currently your Vice-President for Facilities. I look forward to building our post-pandemic future together.



Alan Tomita: The HHHB is a special place for my family and me. Both of my children were raised at the temple through Dharma School, Girl and Boy Scouts, and the Sunbeams. And for the past 35 years, I served in

various temple positions from Bon Dance Chair, to Vice-President of Betsuin Facilities, to HMS School Board Chair, to Chair of the multi-million dollar Centennial Temple Renovation and currently serving as Sudhana Fellowship President. As President I would like to continue this service and work together with our members to plan how our temple can thrive for another 100 years.

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Craig Wagnild: I have had the honor and privilege of serving on the Betsuin Board of Directors and as an Auditor for the past six months. My wife Debbie and I have two boys who grew up attending HMS, and I served as President of the HMS PTO. I am a real estate/business attorney and former President of the Hawaii State Bar Association. I am committed to helping the Betsuin grow and move into a new generation of members and leadership. I would be honored to continue serving the Betsuin as an Auditor and Director. I humbly ask for your support.



Florence Wasai: My participation with the Board of Directors of HHHB began with a wish to learn how our temple operates. Presently it is a very exciting time at our temple with many improvements in the plans and with many capable individuals participating at all levels. My hope is that I can contribute especially by adding to improvement of communication within the temple and elsewhere.



Reid Yamamoto: Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Betsuin. My family has a long history of service to the temple and I would like to carry on the tradition. I currently sit on the Board and hold the position of Treasurer. While I still have a lot to learn, I see many opportunities to help the Betsuin improve its financial situation so it can be sustained into the 2nd century and beyond. I would like to support all of the Sangha where I can.



Wayne Yoshioka Hawaii Betsuin and its members are an important part of my life. I am a minister's lay assistant and a Dharma school teacher. I've served on the Betsuin Board since the mid-1990s and am currently its 1st Vice President. I also serve as the chair of the Board Committee for the Hongwanji Mission School (HMS Board). It is important that the Betsuin Board prioritizes responsiveness to and engagement with Betsuin members as well as nurturing the future growth of the Betsuin.



Wendie Yumori: I've been honored to serve on the Hawaii Betsuin Board of Directors since 2008. I'd like to continue to serve as Music Committee Chair and prepare for the time when we can safely bring music back to the temple. As an active BWA member, I find it very rewarding to support partnership efforts between our BWA and temple affiliates and between our BWA and community organizations for the benefit of our temple ohana and for the welfare of our community. I wish to see the compassionate reach of Hawaii Betsuin extend far into the future.