



1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI 96813

# GOJI

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JUNE 2025  
NEWSLETTER  
of the  
Honpa Hongwanji  
Hawaii Betsuin  
[hawaiiibetsuin.org](http://hawaiiibetsuin.org)

2025 Slogan:

“Nurturing Nembutsu:  
Cultivating Awareness”

## BETSUIN MINISTERS

Chief Minister  
Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Ministerial Staff  
Rev. Shingo Furusawa  
Rev. Charlene Kihara

## Obon, Obon, It's Festival Time!

Betsuin 's 2025 Bon Scheduled for  
Friday, June 27 & Saturday, June 28

Obon season is here!!

Obon is the time of remembrance and appreciation. The origins of Obon can be traced back to the story of Mogallana, who sought to find his departed mother. Using his extraordinary powers, Mogallana was able to see where his mother was after passing away. To his horror, he found her suffering in the realm of hungry ghosts. Witnessing her pain, Mogallana sought guidance from Shakyamuni Buddha. Through the guidance of Buddha, the other monks, and the merit of all beings, his mother was liberated from her suffering in hell. Filled with joy, Mogallana danced in celebration. This event marks the origin of the Bon Dance.

This story highlights the importance of the “Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha.” It also reveals a profoundly human experience which is the pain of longing for loved ones and the desire to save them from suffering, as well as the joyful expression found in dance. Guided by Buddha (Buddha), encountering the teachings (Dharma), and journeying together with fellow Dharma friends (Sangha), our lives become richer and more meaningful.



## 2025 BON LANTERNS

*Hawaii Betsuin is pleased to offer the opportunity to memorialize your departed loved ones with one or more traditional paper lanterns to be displayed in the Hondo (main temple) during the Bon season.*

*An order form is available on our website ([hawaiiibetsuin.org](http://hawaiiibetsuin.org)) and at the Business Office.*



*For a private family Bon service, please call the office to make a reservation.*

**(808) 536-7044**

On this joyful occasion of Bon Dance, please enjoy not only the dance but also the spiritual connection to your ancestors and the Dharma. May you fully appreciate this wonderful season of Obon!

## Dharma Message: “Obon Season Has Arrived In Hawaii! ” Rev. Yuika Hasebe

On June 27th and 28th, a Bon Dance will be held at Hawaii Betsuin. The Obon major service will be observed on July 6th.

Obon is not only the time to dance, but it is a time people gather together to remember and honor those who have passed away and reflect on the teachings of Amida Buddha. It is the time for gathering and deepening our spiritual connection. This is a time to reflect on the reality that our lives are not solely our own but are made possible through the vast, interconnected web of countless lives that support us.

The Buddhist scholar Daiei Kaneko once said, “We human beings, who

cannot live without helping each other, are also those who must hurt each another. That is the sorrowful karma of being human.” I feel that these words ask us to question whether we have taken our lives for granted and forgotten that we have been supported by countless others each day. It is arrogant and ignorant that I feel my life is solely my own when it has been nurtured and sustained by the care and efforts of innumerable people. We, humans are able to live only by helping one another and by being helped. However, even though we cannot live without helping and supporting one another, when people come together, we sometimes end up hurting, saddening, or causing suffering to each other. Shinran Shonin looked deeply

into his heart and shared the following words for us:

“Ignorance and blind passions abound, pervading everywhere like innumerable particles of dust. Desire and hatred arising out of conflict and accord are like high peaks and mountain ridges.” Human beings, though dependent on each other to live, are also bound by bonno; our self-centered desires and passions. Therefore, suffering and conflict inevitably arise in our lives. Living a life means not only experiencing joy and happiness but also encountering sadness and pain. Even when we are suffering from the delusions that arise from our own hearts, Amida Buddha is always there, embracing us unconditionally and always. During this Obon season, let us take the time to once again reflect on our lives, and remember that we are not living alone. Our lives are being supported by countless others and always being in the embrace of Great Compassion and Wisdom.

Namo Amida Butsu



### GOJI

The **GOJI** is a monthly publication of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawai'i Betsuin, Tel. (808) 536-7044.

#### DEADLINE:

Articles must be submitted no later than the 10th of the month prior to publication by e-mail ([goji@hawaiibetsuin.org](mailto: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.

#### GOJI STAFF:

Editorial: *Jo desMarets; Dianne Ida, Randy Kawamoto, Rev. Shingo Furusawa, Japanese section editor* Production: *Colleen Kunishige*; Circulation: *Colleen Kunishige, Elmer Cagaoan*; Contributing reporters from *Hongwanji Mission School, Buddhist Women's Association, Dharma School & Parents, Project Dana, Green Team, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Pacific Buddhist Academy, Betsuin Board and Social Concerns, and the Kyodan.*

## Hawaii Betsuin JUNE 2025 Speakers' Schedule

### 1 Sunday Services

Japanese: Rev. Furusawa  
English: Rev. Kihara

### 8 Sunday Services

Japanese: Rev. Hasebe  
English: Rev. Furusawa  
1:00 PM: Nicchu: Rev. Hagio

### 15 Fathers' Day Service

Japanese: Rev. Toshima  
English: Rev. Hasebe

### 22 Juneteenth Service

Japanese: Rev. Hasebe  
English: Rev. Kuniyuki

### 29 No Sunday service

## Attention All Golfers & Duffers!!!

This year's Betsuin golf tournament will be held on

**Thursday, August 14, 2025  
at the Ala Wai Golf Course**

Brandon Yokota and Kel Miyaoka are co-chairs for the tournament, with Mel Kawahara serving as Advisor/Consultant, Emeritus!



Please see the  
Golf Tournament insert  
for more information

## President's Message: Bon Dance, A Cultural And Community Event



Cindy Alm,  
President

Join us for a joyful Bon Dance at Hawaii Betsuin. Taiko performance at 6:00 PM followed by a brief religious service. Dancing starts at 6:30 PM. Dances by Bando Mitsumasa II (Joyce Araki sensei), Honolulu Fukushima Bon Dance Club, Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai, and Iwakuni Odori Aiko Kai. Enjoy delicious food, temple tours, kids' fishing game, and shopping for vintage Japanese items at the Bontique. Dress up in a kimono and have your photo taken. Purchase a T-shirt from Hongwanji Mission School's 5th graders to support their fundraiser. Make a donation to the temple. The 2025 Bon Dance will be on Friday and Saturday, June 27 and 28. Practice nights are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, June 24–25, 7:30–9:30 PM. Gayle Hirohata-Goto and Rick Tabor are again co-chairing the planning committee. Scouting America, Honpa Hongwanji Girl Scouts, Buddhist Women's Association, Hongwanji Mission School, Pacific Buddhist Academy, Board and temple members, and community volunteers will be helping with food, activities, and overall support.

### Mahalo for May Activities

- Dharma School: Wendy Harman, Dharma School Director/Teacher for reusable tableware for refreshments following the Sunday service; Rene and Art Kimura, for intergenerational Gateball activity in the Social Hall
- Hawaii Betsuin Choir: Gotan-e and Memorial Day services
- Buddhist Women's Association: bake sale during Pickleball Tournament for Maui Relief
- Scouting America and Honpa Hongwanji Girl Scouts: Decorating graves at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery for Memorial Day
- Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (David Atcheson): "CyberSecurity: Email Scams & More" presented by Giovanni D. Williams, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

### Board Actions – May 2025

- Authorized Facilities Vice President to sign a permit certification for backflow preventer installation
- Approved funds for transportation, travel, and shipping expenses for main temple altar refurbishment (\$16,483.50 from capital campaign account)
- Adopted revised Conflict of Interest Policy
- Initiated policy review on handling and sharing of documents and materials relating to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii/Hawaii Betsuin
- Authorized chief minister to decide on koden for funeral of two board members who passed away in April. General policy relating to funerals for board members has been drafted and is being reviewed by the Board.

In addition to the Board actions reported in last month's newsletter, approved in April 2025:

- Acceptance of Sacramento Betsuin's invitation for a sister temple relationship. We will start with initiatives such as gift and cultural exchange and expand to include additional programs.

Leadership Updates: The Board mourns the passing of two members, and a resignation, from our 42-member board. The Executive Director position remains unfilled; staffing requirements will be reviewed by the Board toward the end of the calendar year.

### June Activities and Reminders:

- June 15, Pan Pacific Festival Parade
- June 22, Appreciation to Rev. Daido Baba and family following the 9:30 am Sunday Service. Rev. Baba is Executive Assistant to Bishop Umitani and will be assigned to Hawaii Island in July. The Baba family has been active in Hawaii Betsuin, Hongwanji Mission School, Dharma School, and Buddhist Women's Association.
- June 24 and 25, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm, Bon Dance Practice
- June 27 and 28, 6:00 pm – 10:30 pm, Bon Dance
- June 29, No temple service (day after Bon Dance)

Save the Date: Golf Tournament, Aug 14; Craft Fair, Oct 18; Temple Clean Up Day, Nov 23

## BWA News and Events

### OUR TEACHER, GAUTAMA BUDDHA

Buddha was born about 2500 years ago in Lumbini Garden in Nepal. He was born a prince to a father who was a king and was named Siddhartha Gautama, also known as Shakyamuni Buddha or simply, Buddha. As a young prince he led a rich life of the Shakya clan, but when he saw many people suffering from disease and lack of food, he left his castle and began to study on his own.

After six years of training vigorously Buddha reached enlightenment. This means he understood the entire truth of this world. After reaching enlightenment he devoted himself to teaching the people how to live without suffering. Until he died at age eighty, he taught the people how to be kind and find peace of mind. Buddha's teachings are called BUDDHISM, and are followed in Japan and around the world today. He taught us the following: DON'T DO BAD. DO MUCH GOOD. PURIFY YOUR HEART. THIS IS THE TEACHING OF THE BUDDHA.

One thing that Buddha taught us is to avoid evil. He said to acquire happiness is having a pure heart and doing good things to help others. There are eleven things to avoid as they are considered evil. 1) To unduly kill living creatures. 2) To steal. 3) To tell lies. 4) To spread false rumors. 5) To say mean things about people. 6) To use bad words. 7) To hog things when you should share. 8) To be greedy. 9) To get angry. 10) To be jealous. 11) To break promises.

When Shinran Shonin was close to death at 80 years old, he reminded us to just remember to follow six things in life. These are: 1) Be kind 2) Listen to others and do what they tell you to do. 3) Don't tell lies. 4) Don't be

greedy. 5) When you are working, don't grumble. 6) Remember to say THANK YOU not only once but many times even to one person.

### WHEN SENIORS LIVE TOO LONG YOU MUST BE CAREFUL

On the television I viewed a horrible news episode recently. An old woman carrying a large bag with her purse inside was walking down the street with her cane. Then there came a large young man who grabbed the old woman's bag and tried to run away. The little old lady would not let go of her bag and so she was dragged on the road while she clung on to her bag and screamed for help. Luckily there were people who came to her aid and captured the young robber.

Upon seeing that TV episode I realized that old people need to learn to protect themselves with their canes. Old people are generally peace loving, gentle people who never spanked their children but just used words. Old women especially are strong willed but gentle people and they won't give up their money in their purse if it is being stolen.

After seeing so many of my friends with canes I talked to my doctor and asked him that when he prescribed a cane for his patient, did he tell him to get some lessons on the use of the cane? Of course the answer was negative. I feel that the doctor and the cane provider should give lessons on the use of the cane. The cane should be used as a "kendo" stick or sword to protect oneself.

I notice that there are several kinds of canes. One is just a straight stick with handle. Another type has a

## Fujiko Motobu



stand on the bottom of the cane so it can stand by itself. There is also the four-wheeler that keeps one in good balance.

For safety many seniors are now using canes to keep from endangering themselves. I think all cane users should make sure that they can defend themselves and use the cane as protection. People today are aggressive and greedy whereas when the seniors were growing up people were all very nice and helpful to one another.

### HUMOR TO PREVENT DEMENTIA--- EXERCISE YOUR BRAIN

Here is one from Sheri:  
"Oh dear, I sat on my glasses. I Guess hindsight is not 20/20."

The ohana wheeled Nana out on the lawn in her wheelchair, where the activities for her 100th birthday were taking place. Nana couldn't speak very well, but she would write notes when she needed to communicate. After a short time on the lawn, Grandma started leaning off to the right so some family members grabbed her, straightened her up, and stuffed pillows on her right. A short time later, she started leaning off to her left, so again the family grabbed her and stuffed pillows on her left. Soon she started leaning forward so the family members again grabbed her then tied a pillow case around her waist to hold her up. A nephew who arrived late came up to Grandma and said, "Hi, Nana, you're looking good! How are they treating you?"

Nana took out her little notepad and slowly wrote a note to the nephew. "They won't let me "Otote" (fart)."

# Scouting News: Girl Scouts Gold Award Project

Malia McCoy,  
Senior & Ambassador Troop 415

Did you know that about 90% of food is imported to Hawaii?!? This heavy reliance on imports leaves the islands vulnerable to supply chain disruptions and contributes to a significant carbon footprint. On May 3rd, Malia McCoy, an Ambassador

Girl Scout from Troop 415, brought her community together to address this issue through her Girl Scout Gold Award project at the Awaweiei Agriculture Food Farm.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the



highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve, requiring a project that addresses a community need and creates a lasting impact. Malia's project not only restores native plant habitats but also raises awareness about the importance of local food production and sustainable living.

Partnering with Mālama Learning Center, Malia led 25 volunteers in a workday focused on sustainable practices and native plant restoration. Volunteers weeded, planted tea leaf plants, and laid cardboard to suppress future weed growth—simple yet impactful steps to support local agriculture and reduce the need for imported foods.

Participating Girl Scouts earned a special fun patch, symbolizing their commitment to sustainability and community service.

Malia extends a heartfelt mahalo to everyone who came out to support her project, reminding us all to consider how our daily choices can promote sustainability and reduce our dependence on imported food.

## Hawaii Pet Expo 2025 Miyaka Nishihira, Senior & Ambassador Troop 415



Scouts from Troops 415 and 383 volunteered at the Hawaii Pet Expo on Saturday, May 3, 2025. Some of our duties were to help collect food bank donations, pass out informational flyers and pet poop bags, and man the pet photo booth. It was a fun activity as we got to see and meet a whole variety of pets. Our scouts even got to bring our own pets to the event.

## A Nembutsu Moment in Meditation Class

April 21, the day that Pope Francis died, was Earth Day Eve and a Monday. On Monday evenings at 7 p.m., Lama Wangchuk offers Tibetan meditation and chanting in Hawaii Betsuin's Annex Temple. I'm a regular and appreciate Lama's gentle guidance as we try different meditation techniques and chant in Tibetan.

On the evening of April 21, after helping with the simple setup in the Annex, I went for a short walk before meditation. My loop took me through a small park and over a pedestrian bridge to the other side

of Pali Highway. From a vantage point that was new to me, I took a picture of Hawaii Betsuin completely framed by tree branches and greenery.

Lama opened the session that evening with some words about Pope Francis and his compassionate nature. We focused our first meditation on him.

Along with the gratitude I felt for Pope Francis, a profound sense of *ichigo ichie* (one lifetime, one encounter) came over me. In the unrepeatable moment I was in, a Shin Buddhist son of an Episcopal minister was being guided by a Tibetan Lama in a meditation on Pope Francis.  
Namo Amida Butsu

Later in the session, I found my mind wandering toward haiku. Here is what materialized:

Dusk at the temple  
Lama strikes the singing bowl  
We breathe with the Pope

Lama Wangchuk invites anyone interested to join us Monday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Annex Temple. If you have questions, you may text Lama at (808) 256-5999. (Note: When the temple is closed on Monday for a holiday, there is no meditation class.)

Shared by David Atcheson



### Betsuin Dharma School on Summer Break!

Sunday, May 25, 2025, was our last day of Dharma School classes at the Betsuin. The students enjoyed a full year of fun and engaging projects while learning about Buddhism. We also explored the different forms of Buddhism practiced around the world. It was a meaningful and enriching year for both the teachers and the students! We are already looking forward to the new school year ahead. If you have any questions regarding Dharma School or for more information about enrolling in the coming year's classes, please leave a message for me at the Betsuin Office and I will get back to you.

With Gratitude,  
Wendy Harman  
Dharma School Director/Teacher

### New Hawaii Betsuin Buddhism Class

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at  
7:00 p.m. in the  
Lounge and via Zoom  
Starting June 3rd  
Based on the videos.

*Everyday Buddhist*  
Info & registration <http://hhhb.link/letsko>

Radio Programs  
KZOO (1210 AM)

Japanese Language,  
SATURDAY AT 7:30 AM  
JUNE 2025

07....Rev. Arika Okanishi  
14....Rev. Ryoso Toshima  
21....Rev. Shinkai Murakami  
28....Rev. Shingo Furusawa

### Information Regarding 9:30AM 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.

Services are open to in-person attendees and a Zoom option continues to be available for the 9:30 a.m. English-language Family Services. The 8 a.m. Japanese language services continue in person only.

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](http://hawaiiibetsuin.org). You may also check the Betsuin Bulletin sent by email on Fridays (subscribe at [hawaiiibetsuin.org/email-signup/](http://hawaiiibetsuin.org/email-signup/)). Or, you can call the Betsuin office at (808) 536-7044.



EVERYONE WELCOMED!

## In Memoriam



APRIL 2025

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. Namo Amida Butsu

The Betsuin was recently notified that the following members have passed away:

11/14/2024	WATANABE, Roy Noboru (77)
1/14/2025	YAMAMOTO, Walter Katsuto (88)
1/23/2025	MATSUKUMA-YOUNG, Kiyomi Gloria (75)
2/17/2025	KUWANA, Henry Chikara (83)

### APRIL 2025

01 YAMAMOTO, Vivian Sueko (96)	21 ISHIDA, Gladys Tsugie (96)
02 KOBAYASHI, Kay Kei (93)	21 OYAMA, Gerald Shiro (93)
08 KURANAGA, May Hwa (81)	24 YASUKOCHI, Herbert Mitsuru (84)
12 FUKUDA, Shigetoshi (101)	27 KAYA, Diane Hatsuko (98)
14 MIYASAKI, Jeanne Sumiko (77)	

#### 2025 Memorial Service Schedule

2025 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2024: 1st year	2013: 13th year	1993: 33th year
2023: 3rd year	2009: 17th year	1976: 50th year
2019: 7th year	2001: 25th year	1926: 100th year

### Schedule of Monthly Nursing Home Services

#### Leahi Hospital

Service every 2nd Tuesday at 10:00 AM

#### 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.

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佛

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 Namo-amida-butsu.

-Shinran Shonin