



1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI 96813

GOJI

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JULY 2025
NEWSLETTER
of the
Honpa Hongwanji
Hawai'i Betsuin
hawaiibetsuin.org

2025 Slogan:

“Nurturing Nembutsu:
Cultivating Awareness”

BETSUIN MINISTERS

Chief Minister
Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Ministerial Staff
Rev. Shingo Furusawa
Rev. Charlene Kihara

Betsuin Obon Service Scheduled for July 6: Guest Speaker will be Rev. Mieko Majima

You are cordially invited to join Hawaii Betsuin’s 2025 Obon service on July 6th, 9:30AM.

Obon is a season of remembrance. It is the time we reflect on and honor our departed loved ones. While we often think of our lives as our own, it’s important to recognize the countless people who have supported us. Not only our late parents, grandparents, or close relatives, but also many others have touched our lives in seen and unseen ways.

For Jodo Shinshu tradition, Obon holds another profound meaning. In our tradition, those who have passed before us are already embraced by Amida Buddha’s Great Compassion and Wisdom. This means they are fully in the embrace of Amida; therefore, the Obon service is not held for those who have departed rather it is held for us who are still living. It is our opportunity to hear, reflect on, and encounter Amida Buddha’s boundless Compassion and Wisdom. This is a precious gift from your ancestors... we are not giving anything to them, but they left a gift for us.

Rev. Mieko Majima

This year, we are privileged to have as our Bon speaker Rev. Mieko Majima. Rev. Majima is a Jodo Shinshu minister, affiliated with the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), and currently serving five temples in the South Valley region of Central California. Born in Nagoya, Japan, she holds a B.A., M.A., and completed Ph.D. coursework in Buddhist Studies at Ryukoku University, where she continues her research as a fellow. Her academic focus lies in Yogācāra philosophy and the cultural history of Buddhist visualization practices in Central Asia, especially how people in the 5th century understood and experienced the presence of the Buddha. In addition to her ministry, she has worked internationally in publishing and software localization, and remains active in education and community service.



Reminder!

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!



Check with the office for more information...

Don’t Forget...



No August
Goji

Dharma Message: “Can I do kind and beautiful deeds?”

The “Golden Chain of Love” says that we should try to help all who are weaker than ourselves. However, is this even possible?

We try our best to be kind, to do pure and beautiful deeds, and to keep our link bright and strong.

I will give an example of my attempt to follow the “Golden Chain of Love.”

This principle, which encourages us to help those weaker than ourselves, was at the heart of my experience. I was unsuccessful in my attempt, but it was a valuable learning experience. I was at Ala Moana Beach Park several years ago to walk in the annual Martin

Luther King Jr. Peace Parade. I noticed a large bird while waiting for our group's turn to join the parade. It was larger than any bird that I had seen in Hawaii. It looked like a raven. It was blackish with a large yellow beak. As I watched the bird, I noticed it was hopping, favoring one leg. I took a picture of the bird with my camera to identify it. The bird which I mistook for a raven was a marsh bird called a Black-Crowned Night Heron. It was indeed the size of a raven but not a raptor. This bird is common in California, Texas, and other parts of the US. As the bird unfurled its wings, revealing a wingspan larger than that of a myna bird, I was filled with awe. It was a breathtaking sight, a testament to the beauty and diversity of nature. I watched the injured bird hopping, and as I zoomed in on its leg with my

Rev. Charlene Kihara

camera, I saw that it had a cut on it. I felt that I needed to report the bird to someone because I thought that the wound might get infected, and the bird would die.



As the bird flew off towards the trees, I felt a wave of helplessness wash over me. I was left with a myriad of questions and a deep sense of frustration. How could I help this bird? Who could I turn to for assistance?

As the bird glided away, it was now the Hongwanji's turn to enter the parade. The parade went through Waikiki and ended at Kapiolani Park. The route was about a mile, passing the Ilikai, the Prince Hotel, and Fort Ruger. It was a great parade, and our BWA members passed out paper cranes to the spectators.

Soon, we were at the park and the end of the parade. During the parade, I kept thinking about the bird and how I could help. I was glad I had taken a picture of the bird.

When I got back to Hongwanji, I did some internet searches about the birds and agencies that could help. I found a website for wild birds that I thought would help. There was no number, but there was an email address. I soon found out that it was impossible to help the injured bird.

I described the bird and also sent an email with the picture I had taken of the injured bird. They asked me where I had taken the picture and the time of day that I had spotted the bird, so I described the area where I spotted the bird and the time, which was about 8:00 a.m.

When the agency suggested following

Continued on page 6



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), 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:

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Hawaii Betsuin JULY 2025 Speakers' Schedule

6 Bon Service

Japanese: Rev. Majima (Zoom)
English: Rev. Majima (Zoom)
(Due to a schedule conflict,
Rev. Bert is not able to speak
for Obon)

13 Sunday Service

Japanese: Rev. Furusawa
English: Rev. Kihara
1PM: Rev. Hasebe

20 Hondo dedication service

Japanese: Rev. Hasebe
English: Rev. Furusawa

27 Sunday Service

Japanese: Rev. Hagio
English: Rev. Hasebe

President's Message: Bon Dance Memories

What is your memory of Bon Dance? Enjoying the delicious local foods, dancing around the yagura, performing taiko, playing children's games, shopping at Bontique for vintage Japanese items, or dressing in kimono and having your photo professionally taken? Spending time with friends and family? Offering incense in the temple? Making a donation and receiving a Bon Dance towel? Attending a virtual temple tour? Volunteering your time?



Cindy Alm,
President

It is my hope that you were able to join us for the Bon Dance and that you have joyful memories.

Mahalo for supporting Hawaii Betsuin in continuing a tradition connecting the temple with the community in gratitude. Special thank you to Bon Dance Co-Chairs Gayle Hirohata-Goto and Rick Tabor (second year co-chairs), the planning committee, Chief Minister Yuika Hasebe and Associate Ministers Reverend Shingo Furusawa and Reverend Charlene Kihara. Thank you, also, to the organizations that supported the Bon Dance including Scouting America (Troop 49 and Cub Pack 49), Honpa Hongwanji Girl Scouts, Hawaii Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association, Hongwanji Mission School, Hawaii Betsuin Taiko, Pacific Buddhist Academy, Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce, Cherry Blossom Festival including the 73rd Queen and court members, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Club 100, Hawaii Ballroom Dancing Association, Lions Club, our temple board members and advisors, and many individual volunteers. Gratitude to our temple staff – Jenny Wakumoto (Business Manager), Colleen Kunishige (Office Coordinator), and Elmer Cagaoan (Maintenance).

Board Actions – June 2025

Committees: Membership Committee members were approved. Resignation of Glenn Yokoyama as a non-member director and a member of the Facilities Management Committee was accepted. We are grateful for Glenn's experience in construction.

Approved: Panda Express fundraiser (Cub Pack 49)

Events

Special Screening of **Shikata Ga Nai**, a film about a WWII veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Co-Sponsored with Nisei Veteran's Legacy, Aug 3, 1 PM (doors open at 12:30), at Hawaii Betsuin

Buddhist Study Center, **Summer Session**, "The Path Comes to Meet Me Awakening to Namu Amida Butsu with Enrique Galvan-Alvarez, Aug 4 – 8, 6 PM – 8 PM, hybrid.

16th Annual Four-Petals **Peace Walk** from Hawaii Betsuin to the Nagasaki Memorial near Honolulu Hale, Aug 9, Movie: "GATE: The Atomic Flame," 3 PM; 5 PM Service; 5:30 PM Peace Walk.

28th Annual Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin **Golf Tournament**, Ala Wai Golf Course, Aug 14, 12 Noon, shotgun start. Sign up to golf, sponsor, or donate prizes (preferably in groups of 3). Fundraiser for Hawaii Betsuin.

Save the Date:

Craft Fair, Oct 18

Pride Parade, Oct 18

Temple Clean Up Day, Nov 23

BWA News and Events

MOTHER'S DAY SPEAKER:

Rev. Charlene Kihara spoke recently on Mother's Day and it was heartwarming. Many of you were not able to attend the service so I got her speech and jotted down the highlights for you to enjoy. Mother's Day is celebrated here in America in the month of May, and Father's Day in June. The Reverend told us about Mother's Day in Japan, HAHANOHI. In Japan Haha No Hi was celebrated on March 6, the birthday of Emperor Akihito's mother, Empress Kojun. In 1949, after World War II, the date change took place to the second Sunday of May following the western calendar, and the meaning of Mother's Day changed. Now, instead of honoring the Empress as the mother of the people of Japan, the date honors all mothers.

Rev. Kihara recalled how to calculate how many ancestors it would take to create one person at present. To be born you need two parents, four grandparents, eight great grandparents, 16 second great grandparents, 32 3rd great grandparents, 64 4th great-grandparents, 128 5th great-grandparents, 256 6th great grandparents, 512 7th great grandparents, 1,024 eighth great grandparents, and 2,048 ninth great grandparents. For you to be born today from 12 previous generations you need a total of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Shakyamuni Buddha had two mothers. His birth mother was Queen Maya and his father was King Suddhodana. They did not have any children for many years. One night Queen Maya dreamed that a white elephant with six tusks ran down the mountain, entered the room where she was sleeping and entered her left side. After waking the Queen rushed to the King to ask him what the dream meant. The King gathered the Royal Astrologers and discovered that a Prince would be born. This news was a

celebration for the King and Queen.

The celebration did not last long as the Queen died seven days after giving birth. The Queen's younger sister had just given birth to a baby daughter a few weeks before the prince was born, so she was given the prince. Mahaprajapati Gautami took the crying baby to her breast to nurse him as if he were her son, and Maharajaati became the prince's stepmother, foster mother and maternal aunt.

Rev. Charlene said In a few days her mom would be a hundred years old. "Happy Birthday Mom. My mom, Sue Sumie Shinohara came to Hawaii from Hiroshima, Japan in 1938 when she was 13. She arrived with my grandmother and my aunty Kay Yasuko. Mom attended school at Hawaiian Mission Academy as a boarding student." Although she attended a Christian school, Rev. Charlene's mom maintained her Buddhism religion deep within and later on passed it on to her children like Charlene, who became a Buddhist minister.

Rev. Charlene's parents who kept her connected with Buddhism have shown us that parental guidance is very important. Good Luck to all. NAMO AMIDA BUTSU. We must learn from Charlene that family guidance is very important in raising our children into the Buddhist religion, and as Charlene's mother guided her children in growing up, it is important to keep in close contact with your children these days. Your children have their iPhones and computers that keep them occupied and busy and they very often do not communicate enough with their parents. Parents should never forget nor neglect their responsibilities in raising your children right.

Fujiko Motobu



WALKING CANES:

I have noticed recently that many of my friends are now with walking canes. As I observe them I have noticed that there are at least three different kinds of canes. I am not sure if the doctor, the manufacturer or the person decides on the kind of cane they wish to have. One is the old fashion type that we used to see as children when old people walked by with their canes. The canes were basically an inch or inch and a half round stick with or without a handle. If you had a cane like this and you sat down you needed to lay your cane down or let it lean against something, for it would not stand alone. Today, some people have this type of cane. Another type of cane is very much like the old fashioned "stick" type but on the bottom there is a five inch stand platform for the cane so that it can stand alone, and for the user it seems safer to have the standing up cane. The third kind is the one with four wheels and the person needs to manipulate with his two hands (walker).

I became concerned about using the cane because on the TV I saw an awful attack on an old woman by a young man who tried to steal her bag. She was carrying a large cloth bag and her purse was inside the bag. We all seem to know that old ladies like to carry all their money with them and they have cash rather than credit cards most of the time. She held her walking cane on the other hand, both hands with something, then suddenly the young man grabbed her bag and tried to run off. The old woman did not let go her bag, she hung on and screamed for help while being dragged by the young man hanging on to her bag. Luckily, people heard her and helped her by capturing the young robber and he was taken by the police and the little old lady was safe. Since she clung on to her bag, she should have taken her cane and beat him

Continued on page 6

Scouting News: Girl Scouts

The Honpa Hongwanji Girl Scouts came together to celebrate a year filled with growth, service, and sisterhood. At the year-end Awards Ceremony, all troops gathered to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of the girls, with special honors given to those who earned their Bronze and Silver Awards—meaningful achievements that reflect their leadership and dedication to community service. The ceremony also celebrated scouts who bridged to their next troop level, marking a proud and exciting step forward in their journey. A beautiful floral arrangement decorated by the girls



Shayna Lum Robertson
Troop Leader-Troop 844

served as the symbolic bridge, and each bridging scout walked across it with pride.

In addition to the shared ceremony, each troop got together to celebrate their year together. The Daisy troop enjoyed a memorable outing to Clay Cafe, where they painted pottery pieces to serve as lasting mementos of their time together.

Dharma Message continued from page 2

the bird, I had to explain that it had flown away. It was a disappointing realization that even with the best intentions, sometimes we simply cannot help. The agency, too, was unable to locate the bird, highlighting the harsh reality of the situation.

In the Tannisho, Yuien writes that Shinran Shonin explains that everything does not go as we wish. We cannot expect that we will always have our way. We will not be winners all the time. We teach this lesson in the “Golden Chain of Love.”

BWA continued from page 4

as though using a sword. Cane users must be taught to use the cane safely to protect themselves. The canes can be used like a long sword and counter attack. In the past, the old generation of old ladies were gentle and kind and did not hit or spank their children but just scolded them verbally. Most boys took up kendo, sword fighting with their bamboo canes. Using the bamboo sword motif when canes are purchased, they must teach us how to use the cane for protection if ever needed.

HUMOR IS NECESSARY TO KEEP YOUR BRAIN ACTIVE:

A little boy about three years old looking at a photo of his parents. “Who is that man, mommy?” “That’s your daddy when we got married. I was in the pretty white gown and your father was nice and slim and had nice brown curly hair.” Then the little boy asked, “Then who is that bald wrinkled, fat man who lives in our house and has a room down the hall next to you?”



IN REMEMBRANCE AND REFLECTION
Commemorating 80 Years
Since the End of World War II

A Narrative from a Hiroshima Hibakusha
& an Exhibition on the Atomic Bombing

On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, we gather in solemn remembrance of all those whose lives were profoundly affected by the consequences of war. We reflect on the immense human cost of conflict, and through the preservation of historical memory, we seek to deepen our understanding and commitment to peace.

Guided by the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha, we rededicate ourselves to building a community—and a world—where every life is equally valued and embraced. May this gathering inspire us to walk together on the path toward a more peaceful and harmonious society.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

At 5:00 p.m.
Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin
(Access to parking is from 1742 Lusitana Street)

Guest Speaker: Ms. Sadae Kasaoka

Ms. Kasaoka was exposed to the atomic bomb when she was 12 years old in her first year of girls' high school. At the moment of the explosion, she was at home, which was 3.5 km (2.2 miles) away from the hypocenter.

ATOMIC BOMB PHOTO POSTER EXHIBITION

In the Hawaii Betsuin Social Hall from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Event Organizers:

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii—Office of the Bishop and Peace Day Committee
Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin
Honolulu District Ministers Association

With special cooperation from the
Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and Ms. Sadae Kasaoka

Hondo Naijin Restoration Project Update

When we are in the Hondo (main hall), we place our hand together in gassho and say the Nembutsu facing our beautiful Naijin (altar area). We see the golden statue of Amida Buddha in its ornate central shrine which is gold leafed to signify purity and virtue. We take in the golden glow of the smaller shrines that frame the honored portrait scrolls of Shinran Shonin and Rennyo Shonin and the lustrous gold of the Naijin walls. Gazing upon the Naijin, it is said, enables us to practice visualizing the Pure Land.

We greatly appreciate Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin's 100+ year old iconic temple structure with its unique combination of Indian, Western, and Japanese design elements. However, beautiful things age and it eventually became clear that the Shinran Shonin and Rennyo Shonin shrines in the Naijin needed to be refurbished and that the gold wallpaper needed to be replaced.

In Feb., 2024, the HHHB Fund Raising Committee (FRC) proposal to restart the 2nd Century Capital Campaign to focus on the Hondo was approved by the HHHB Board. The project had been on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic and the travel restrictions that prevented craftsmen from Japan from coming to Hawaii.

It was estimated that it would take approximately \$200,000 to complete the Hondo Naijin restoration project. Fortunately, the FRC's application for a grant from the Freeman Foundation, administered by the Historic Hawai'i Foundation, had been approved in 2021 for \$50,000. In addition, Reverend Toyokazu Hagio, who was Rimban at the time, had applied for a grant from Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) (Japan) in 2019 and received a grant of five million yen in 2020, which amounted to \$46,455.45.

The FRC then launched an effort to raise \$100,000 from individual donors.

Many, many thanks to the nine donors who contributed a total of \$105,500 by June, 2024, for the Hondo project. A gratitude ceremony is planned for July, 2025. The project was also funded by \$9,800 from temple reserve funds (reinforcement of sagging alcove ceilings and installation of new laminate) and \$16,483.50 from general capital campaign donations (larger than anticipated transportation, travel, and shipping expenses).

The HHHB Board approved the FRC Committee's budget proposal for the Hondo Naijin restoration at the end of July, 2024. In mid-Sept. 2024, craftsmen from Wakabayashi Butsugu MFG, Co. Ltd. (Japan) carefully removed the two shrines, disassembled them, and packed them for shipping to Kyoto, Japan for refurbishment. In February 2025, Ralph S. Inouye Company, Ltd. prepared the Naijin walls for the installation of new wallpaper. The alcove ceilings above the shrines were reinforced with drywall to provide a firmer sub-surface for the wallpaper. Ralph S. Inouye also placed new laminate on the alcove ledges and retouched paint in the alcove areas.

In March 2025, Wakabayashi craftsmen installed new gold-colored wallpaper of the same design as the existing wallpaper. The newly refurbished shrines returned from Japan in March and the craftsmen from Wakabayashi reassembled the shrines and placed them in their respective alcoves. Preservation architect, Glenn E. Mason, who oversaw the project for the Historic Hawai'i Foundation grant, commented in his letter, "I have rarely seen the quality of craftsmanship that Mr. Murata and Wakabayashi have exhibited. Although the altar pieces were not installed when I was there, I was able to inspect each section and as I commented on site, the gold leafing was truly wonderful."

The Hondo Naijin Restoration project has made a difference in our temple that goes beyond what is seen in before and after photos. We have fully embraced the goals

Cindy Alm and Wendie Yumori

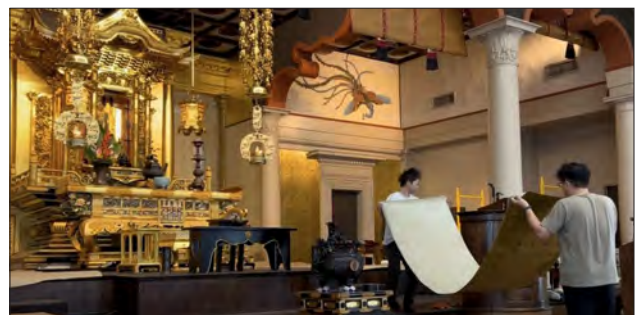
of the Historic Hawai'i Foundation with respect to preserving, restoring, and honoring defining features of our historic temple. Our eyes will return, again and again, to our beautifully-restored Naijin, and be reminded of our spiritual home and Amida Buddha's aspiration for our creating a Pure Land community today.



Wakabayashi craftsmen take down the roof of the shrine. Rev. Furusawa assists.



Shrines after restoration
(May 18, 2025 Gotan-e Service)



Wakabayashi craftsmen hanging wallpaper (individual squares of gold paper are attached to a larger paper for installation)

In Memoriam



MAY 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:

03/2/2025	TOMITA, Grace Fumiko (94)
4/6/2025	KAM, Janice Tsugie (68)
4/15/2025	SUZUKAWA, Sanami (95)

MAY 2025

06	TAMAYORI, Keiko Uehara (89)
12	SUGIMOTO, Alice Hatsune (100)
15	TSUNODA, Rose Fumiko (104)
23	HONJO, Tatsuko (96)
30	TOKUMARU, Ronald Tatsuo (95)
31	TANIMOTO, Reynold Kenji (86)

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.

Radio Programs
KZOO (1210 AM)
Japanese Language,
SATURDAY AT 7:30 AM
JULY 2025

05....Rev. Jay Shingo Okamoto
12....Rev. Yuika Hasebe
19....Rev. Ryoso Toshima
26....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. 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.



EVERYONE WELCOMED!

南
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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