



1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI 96813

GOJI

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SEPTEMBER 2025
NEWSLETTER

of the
Honpa Hongwanji
Hawai'i Betsuin
hawaiihetsuin.org

2025 Slogan:

“Nurturing Nembutsu:
Cultivating Awareness”

BETSUIN MINISTERS

Chief Minister
Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Ministerial Staff
Rev. Shingo Furusawa
Rev. Charlene Kihara

Betsuin Autumn Higan Service scheduled for September 7

You are cordially invited to attend the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Autumn Higan service on Sept. 7, 2025 at 9:30 am to celebrate the yearly Autumn Higan and welcome as our guest speaker Rev. Hibiki Murakami from Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. (LA Betsuin uses “Hompa” spelling.) During the time of Autumn Higan, let us 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. Higan is one of the six major services that are celebrated at Honpa Hongwanji in Hawaii.

Reverend Hibiki Junkyo Murakami

Reverend Hibiki Junkyo Murakami is an Associate Minister at the Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. He was born and raised as the oldest son of Jonen-ji Temple in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka, Japan. Rev. Murakami received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Shin Buddhism from Ryukoku University in Kyoto in 2016 and 2018 respectively. He received Tokudo ordination in 2013 and Kyoshi certification in 2015. His Buddhist name is Shaku Junkyo.



Rev. Murakami completed the International Ministerial Orientation Program (IMOP) at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, CA in 2018. Upon completion of his IMOP studies in January 2020, he was assigned to the Los Angeles Betsuin.

Outside of his ministerial functions, Rev. Murakami enjoys working on and driving his car. He also has a fondness for Aikido and outdoor activities such as golf, skiing, and relaxing at the beach. Recently, he has been developing his skills as a sketch artist.

The purest time in nature’s realm,
In the early spring and fall,
These are the days when hearts of man
becomes one with self and all.
The autumn sky its golden haze,
In its radiant splendor,
Tells man’s searching heart,
The flow of nature’s ways.

from “Higan” (Haruo Yamaoka and Hiro Imamura);
HHMH Praises of the Buddha; page 63.

Dharma Message: Striving Not to be Self-Centered

Reflecting on ourselves, we tend to be self-centered. We always distinguish ourselves from others, tend to see everything with a self-centered view, and judge others selfishly. What will happen in the community if we are self-centered?

If we all become selfish and say, "I am right, you are wrong," conflicts will start. Our self-centeredness is what causes our relationships to break down, and it is very difficult for us to face. It is because we tend to be unaware that we are being self-centered. What should we do?

Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo

Shinshu or Shin Buddhism, advised us to rely on Amida Buddha.

At our temple, we often recite the "Golden Chain of Love." It reveals that how we should deal with our self-centeredness.

The beginning of the Golden Chain of Love states, "I am a link in Amida Buddha's Golden Chain of Love that stretches around the world. I must keep my link bright and strong." We all are connected to Amida Buddha's Golden Chain of Love. Please think that "Golden Chain of Love" means the Buddha's Great Compassion.

So those who accept Amida's Compassion can become aware of the connection with others, too.

Also, the Golden Chain of Love states,

Rev. Shingo Furusawa

"I will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than myself and "knowing that on what I do



now depends not only my happiness or unhappiness, but also that of others." These statements show us that those who are awakened to the connection with others will be able to try to make an effort not to be controlled by their selfish mind.

Specifically, as the Golden Chain of Love says, "I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to say pure and beautiful words, and to do pure and beautiful deeds," the people will be able to strive to have the right thoughts, speak in a correct manner, and behave appropriately without self-centeredness.

The ending of the Golden Chain of Love states, "May every link in Amida's Golden Chain of Love be bright and strong, and may we all attain perfect peace." It means that those who listen to the Buddha Dharma will be able to try their best to help and support each other for establishing a peaceful community.

In this way, we will be able to strive to get through our self-centeredness and to make a better community through Amida Buddha's compassion. In Gassho.



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.

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Hawaii Betsuin SEPTEMBER 2025 Speakers' Schedule

07 - **Autumn Higan and Grandparents Day**

Japanese - Rev Toyokazu Hagio
English - Rev Hibiki Murakami

14 - **Peace Day**

Japanese - Rev Hasebe
English - TBD
1:00 pm - Rev Kihara

21 - **Choralfest**

Japanese - no service
due to Choralfest
English - Rev Hasebe

28

Japanese - Rev Ryoso Toshima
English - Rev Kihara

President's Message: Compassion In Remembrance



Cindy Alm,
President

Hawaii Betsuin was one of the organizers of the Commemoration Service and Atomic Bomb Photo Poster Exhibition on August 14, one of the many events marking the end of World War II in 1945. The photo exhibit in our social hall documented the devastation of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The guest speaker for the service was Ms. Sadae Kasaoka, a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bomb. She spoke of her experiences and hope that all may lead lives without the fear of war. A video of the service is publicly available until Sept 22: <https://youtu.be/hj7iZiCJhBQ>

Earlier, on August 3, "Shikata Ga Nai" (It Cannot be Helped), an independent film inspired by the real-life stories of 442nd/100th Battalion veterans, was screened in our social hall. It explored the hidden struggles of those who endured the trauma of war but rarely spoke about it.

On August 9, the screening of the documentary "GATE: The Atomic Flame" prior to the 16th Annual Four-Petals Peace Walk from our temple to the Nagasaki Memorial, provided inspiration for silent meditation during the walk.

These events offered opportunities for remembrance, inspiration, and compassionate reflection.

Board Actions – July 2025

- **Pacific Buddhist Academy:** New ground rent payable by PBA to Hawaii Betsuin for 2025-2026 approved.
- **Upper Annex Restroom:** Fundraising for restroom remodel, modification of adjoining Lotus Room, and replacement of Lounge entry doors approved.
- **Hawaii State Lay Association:** Delegates approved.
- **Rental of Assistant Chief Minister's residence:** New six-month rental agreement approved. This provides income to the temple.
- **Approved:** Fundraising by Hongwanji Mission School, 5th Grade Class, at Hawaii Betsuin's Golf Tournament.

Events and Programs – September and early October

We look forward to the state lay convention (Sept. 13), Choralfest statewide choir (Sept 20 and 21), Ring Your Bell for Peace (Sept. 22), "Letters To Home" Book Talk (Oct 4), and Nembutsu Seminar (Oct 11).

Opportunities for Support

We are grateful for the many ways members and the community support Hawaii Betsuin, most recently Bon Lanterns and the 28th Annual Hawaii Betsuin Golf Tournament.

In September, please consider:

- **Give Aloha.** Your donation to Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (#78500) is partially matched by Foodland.
- **Living Gratitude.** Donations support statewide efforts to Educate members, youth and the public about Jodo Shinshu, Innovate through use of technology and target outreach, and Sustain Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii into the future.

Mahalo

Gratitude to Scouting America (Troop 49) and Pacific Buddhist Academy for collaborating on removing the overgrown plants and installing gravel in the side yard adjacent to the Annex Temple for easy maintenance.

Save the Date: Fall Craft Fair, Oct 18; Pride Parade, Oct 18; Temple Clean Up Day, Nov 23; Nuuanu Valley Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Nov 25

BWA News and Events

Fujiko Motobu

SIMPLE BUDDHIST LESSONS FOR ALL OF US

We must all avoid evil. Buddha said that the key to happiness is having a pure heart and doing good things to help others. The following list is what Buddha gave us to always remember never to do. 1. To kill, unduly, living creatures 2. To steal 3. To lie 4. To spread false rumors 5. To use bad words 6. To say mean things about other people 7. To hog things when you should share. 8. To be greedy 9. To get angry 10. To be jealous of others and 11. To break promises.

Your happiness alone is not enough. You must think about the feeling of others. It would be wonderful if all the people on earth has found happiness. We should always think of others and hope that they have found happiness. Everyone wants to be happy so a long long time ago many people asked Buddha, "What is happiness?" Buddha gave a different answer to all who asked. Can you guess why? Happiness means something different to each and every person. People do not realize when they are happy. People are happy when they are not fighting. When their hearts are happy and they are good, they will be happy.

Buddha taught us to be happy and to live long. Perhaps people were happy in this senior generation because many seniors are living through ages 90 and 100. Perhaps if this does not continue the next generation will not live so long. Let's have a nice clean heart and be kind to all and we will all live long.

I often wonder how I will feel when

I am dying. Perhaps the best way will be when I go to sleep. I sleep, die, and never get up in this world but will be reborn in Nirvana as soon as I take my last breath on earth. The living relatives will find me without any breath when they try to get me up in the morning. I always think that this is the way I would like to go. Therefore, when I go to sleep at night I always recite "NAMO AMIDA BUTSU" and hope it is the end for me.

STRESS AND HOW TO RELIEVE STRESS: HOW TO LIVE A LONG LIFE

Are you having a lot of stress? Somehow, these few years with the climate change and many wars going on we are under undue stress. Here are 11 suggestions to follow to ward off your stress. Learn to live the rest of your life in comfort and happiness.

1. Keep a journal and write down what is causing your stress.
2. Talk to your friend, family member, counselor, or minister about your feelings.
3. Laugh
4. Play with your pet
5. Volunteer
6. Work on arts, craft or paint
7. Work on a puzzle
8. Read something you enjoy
9. Listen to audio book or music
10. Meditation
11. Prayer.

HUMOR GETS YOUR BRAIN TO EXERCISE

A lady was sitting next to another lady in the bus and she looked at her wedding ring, and she said, "excuse me but you are



wearing your wedding ring on a wrong finger." The other woman looked at the lady sitting next to her and said, "That's ok. I married the wrong man".

EDUCATION LESSON FOR YOU

THANK YOU is said in many languages. In English it is THANK YOU. In Japanese it is ARIGATO. In Vietnamese it is CAM ON. In Filipino it is SALAMAT PO. In Korean it is GAM-SA-HAM-NI-DA. In Chinese it is XIEXIE. and in Hawaiian it is MAHALO.

Only three months left in year 2025, so make good, good use of them. Stay healthy and happy. In gassho..NAMU AMIDA BUTSU.



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

2025 PEACE DAY IN HAWAII

International Day of Peace

You're Invited!

"RING YOUR BELL for PEACE DAY"

Monday, Sept. 22, 2025- 8:30-9:30 AM

Register here: bit.ly/PeaceDay2025

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, on Zoom.

Monday, September 22nd at 9:01 AM.

At 9:00 AM, 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, community organizations, individuals in their offices and homes. You are our future in ensuring peace in the world.

We are also planning to capture the program and all participants on a Zoom Screen, simultaneously,

Join Jake Shimabukuro, Hawaii's Ambassador for Peace

Please RSVP by Sept. 18, 2025

You may request a Participation Form to

**Rene Mansho - ph: 808-291-6151
renemansho@hawaii.rr.com**

Reminder! The Betsuin's
Fall Craft Fair

October 18!

For More Information,
Please Contact the
Betsuin Office

**JUNE AND JULY
IN MEMORIAM
CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 8**

JUNE 2025

- 03 HONGO, Jane Takeko (93)
- 07 KOYAMATSU, Masako (91)
- 07 TSUBOTA, Russell K. (75)
- 10 TAIRA, Albert Akio (94)
- 12 FUKUCHI, Doris Shizue (90)
- 13 SHINOBI, Jeanette
Nakatsu (93)
- 17 IZUO, Robert Mitsuo (79)
- 17 OSHIRO, Sharon Yoko (90)
- 22 MATSUYAMA, Ann Midori (90)
- 23 MATSUMOTO, Masami (98)
- 29 CAWLEY, Richard
Thomas (88)

JULY 2025

- 01 TANAKA, Florence Sanae (90)
- 02 MURAOKA, Violet
Haruko (102)
- 04 HIGA, Yukio (100)
- 04 OKUMOTO, Paul Teruo (81)
- 06 KURIHARA, Thomas Y. (69)
- 11 FUJITA, Donald Seiji (77)
- 11 IZUMIHARA, Charles
Mitsuo (85)
- 12 KANO, Richard Yoshihisa (76)
- 13 HYDE, Jane Taeko
Takesono (83)
- 14 HIGASHI, Janice Toshiko (74)
- 14 IKEDA, Alice Hisako (86)
- 15 KOGA, Albert Masashi (88)

All Aboard the Dharma Express! Welcoming the 2025–2026 Dharma School Year & Our New Families!

Welcome to a brand new school year at Dharma School! As we embark on the exciting journey of 2025–2026, we're thrilled to welcome back our returning families — and give a heartfelt hello to those joining us for the very first time.

To celebrate, we took a joyful ride together on Sunday, August 17, 2025, with the Hawaiian Railway Society. This excursion was a symbol of adventure, learning, and connection. Just like a train, we move forward together, each car linked by shared experiences, curiosity, and community spirit. We stopped at Ewa Hongwanji first to have a small service conducted by Rinban Yuika Hasebe then we had lunch.

This ride represents: 1) A fresh start full of promise and potential; 2) The friendships and memories waiting to be made; 3) The commitment we all share to nurturing and growing young minds; 4) Whether you're a long-time rider or hopping on for the first time — we're so glad you're here.

Here's to a school year full of joy, discovery, and meaningful connections. Welcome aboard — let's make this year unforgettable!

With Compassion and Gratitude,

Wendy Harman,
Dharma School Director/Teacher
Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin

Plant Donations Needed for Our Craft Fair!

We are humbly asking for donations of plants for our upcoming Craft Fair, which will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2025.

If you would like to contribute, please drop off your plant donations at the Betsuin Office on Friday, October 17, 2025.

Your support is greatly appreciated and helps make our event a success.

With Gratitude,
Wendy Harman
Sudhana Fellowship

Annual Foodland Give Aloha Now Through September 30th!! See insert for details!




*Honpa
Hongwanji
Hawaii
Betsuin*

#78500



**Honpa Hongwanji
Mission of Hawaii**

Choralfest 2025

**September 21
at the Betsuin**

**10:30 AM
Music Service**

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

SEPTEMBER 2025

- 06....Rev. Hibiki Murakami
- 13....Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 20....Rev. Kerry Kiyohara
- 27....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!

In Memoriam



JUNE and JULY 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. Namu Amida Butsu

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

3/22/2025	NISHIMOTO, Thelma Sumiko (83)
3/28/2025	GOYA, Helen Yasuko (94)
4/04/2025	YAMANAKA, Kimiyo T. (97)
4/15/2025	SUZUKAWA, Sanami (95)
4/27/2025	KAYA, Diane Hatsuko (98)
5/08/2025	ISHIMOTO, Marion Tomoe (101)
5/22/2025	OMURA, Alice Kazue (95)
5/26/2025	IWAHASHI, Tooru (94)
5/27/2025	YOSHIKAWA, Stephen Hideo (79)

JUNE AND JULY IN MEMORIALS ARE ON PAGE 6

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.



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 Namu-amida-butsu.

-Shinran Shonin