



# ONENESS

**KAPAA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

January 2022

## New Year's Greeting

Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

Over these past couple of years, we have had to adjust our lives in accordance with the scale of the spread of COVID-19. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to those who fell victim to the disease and express my sympathies to those who are undergoing treatment. I would also like to express my respect and sincere gratitude to the doctors, nurses, and frontline medical professionals who have been engaging in the treatment of infected people, as well as all essential workers who have made it possible for us to continue with our lives.



This infectious disease has not only greatly affected the life of each one of us, but also revealed many issues that had been contained in our society. Sakyamuni Buddha, who passed on the Dharma to us, made clear of the fact that we cannot see the truth because we are too attached to our own thought. Therefore, it is only natural that conflicts and divisions come about in a society in which those who, like us, fundamentally self-centered beings, act in accordance based on one's own thought.

In the following *wasan* poem, Shinran Shonin deeply reflected on himself and described what we humans are like,

Although I take refuge in the true Pure Land way,  
It is hard to have a true and sincere mind.  
This self is false and insincere;  
I completely lack a pure mind.   *(Hymns of the Dharma-ages)*

As the *wasan* shows, we are basically incapable of accepting the reality of this world, such as, dependent origination, impermanence, and no-self. And because of this we constantly suffer. Only through being aware of and appreciating Amida Buddha's compassionate and salvific working, are we enabled to accept our true self. Shinran Shonin clarified that such ignorance is the very reason why Amida Buddha's salvific working has reached every one of us. Keeping in mind that we are always embraced in Amida's compassionate Light, let us live each day to the fullest, even though we have yet to see the end of the tunnel.

I feel truly assured hearing that many of you have been making efforts to share the Jodo Shinshu teaching within the greater society through various and innovative ways despite the current situation. It is my hope that your temples will continue serving as your spiritual home, and therefore, I humbly ask for your understanding and cooperation in support of your temples. I would like to conclude my new year's greeting with my heartfelt appreciation to you all.

January 1, 2022

OHTANI Kojun  
Monshu  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

### 2022 Bishop's New Year Message

The New Year has always been a time of hope, renewal and new beginnings. I am hopeful that the year 2022 will be brighter and happier for you and your Ohana of family and friends, and all of us! Needless to say, the Pandemic has adversely affected all of our lives in various ways including the feeling of isolation and disconnect. However, let us not despair. Please always fully understand that Amida Buddha as Namo Amida Butsu is always with us embracing us as Great Compassion. There is a Jodo Shinshu expression "Ki-Hou-Ittai no Namo Amida Butsu" or "Namo Amida Butsu of the oneness of Amida Buddha and those to be saved." For this reason, we are able to be born in the Pure Land to attain Enlightenment and, even in the here and now, we are never truly all alone!



Further, there is another dynamic in which we can appreciate the truth that we are always supported by others and thus never alone. I recall the life of an Oahu Hongwanji member who was always so grateful for the food she ate every day. She couldn't help, but place her hands together in gassho/anjali to express her appreciation and gratitude to the plants and animals for their gift of life and all others who played a role in her receiving the precious gift of the meals she ate each day. She was aware of the so many other lives which surrounded and supported her. She had to try to live her life as best she could out of appreciation and gratitude.

However, on the plane of human social interaction, yes, COVID has severely impacted our ability to interact with each other even among family members and as a Sangha at temple. I know many of you miss so dearly being able to come to the temple, the physical symbolic home of Amida Buddha. As the situation with the Pandemic slowly improves, please consider gathering, once again, at your temple. We must still be cautious especially with the discovery of the Omicron Variant, but when the time is right, please join us at the temple both current members and newcomers. Let us reconnect and connect with each other! The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii including your temple needs you! Please remember, there are three treasures not only two.

As we begin a new year, this would be the opportune time for us to reconnect with family and friends. Depending on the situation with the Pandemic, it might not be physically just yet, but there are other ways to connect such as writing down (or video recording) your most precious thoughts, wishes and aspirations as in a journal or as letters as did Lady Eshinni and Lady Kakushinni, and even Shinran Shonin. What is that which is most precious to you? What are the best memories you have? Why is the Teachings of the Buddha and the temple so important to you? Would it make you happy if your family becomes part of the Hongwanji Sangha?

Let us make manifest our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Theme & Slogan for 2022 which is “Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others.” Of course, this “Connecting with Others” is not limited to our close circle of family and friends, but with others around the world too. This year’s Hawaii Kyodan Calendar highlights His Eminence Kojun Ohtani’s “Our Pledge” which more concretely shares why and how we may connect with others. In this New Year, let me encourage you to begin reciting Gomonshu-sama’s “Our Pledge” on a daily basis.

To conclude, please join me to recite Namu Amida Butsu or The Buddha’s Name Which I Call (in gratitude) in response to Namu Amida Butsu or The Buddha’s Name That Calls Me (to entrust). Namu Amida Butsu. Thank you and Happy New Year from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and the Office of the Bishop.

In gassho/anjali,

Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

### **President’s New Year’s Message**

#### **Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**

Happy New Year! Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu! Hauoli Makahiki Hou!



I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and in good spirits as we enter the New Year, 2022. Last year, as I wrote my message, we had reason to hope that the year 2021 would be one in which we would have control of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, millions of people in our country (and more around the world) are still unvaccinated and therefore susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection. Also, the natural world is unpredictable - with new variants of the coronavirus appearing in different areas of the world. We do not know what effect the new variants will have on the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is that the vaccines have proven to be very effective at preventing or reducing the chance of developing severe COVID-19 disease. They are also proven to be very safe in all

of the trials and young children starting at the age of 5 can now be safely vaccinated. The COVID-19 situation is much better than a year ago at this time and it is very likely that it will continue to get better.

Our theme and slogan for 2022, **“Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others”** is particularly appropriate for 2022. Buddhism teaches that everything is interconnected. No one is completely independent of other people or the environment surrounding them. We are connected with and dependent on everything around us, for example the the air that we breathe. As we carefully re-open our temples, let’s all make an extra effort to connect with our Sangha, especially those we have not seen for a year or two.

The past two years have been difficult for all of our temples. At least one temple (Papaaloo Hongwanji) will close its temple doors permanently in 2022 and consolidate with Honohina Hongwanji. The COVID-19 pandemic was not the only factor in Papaaloo Hongwanji’s closure, but it certainly hastened the process. Buddhism teaches us that all things are impermanent, everything changes, and that “the root of suffering is attachment”. However, Shinran reminded us that we are all “bonbu” - foolish beings. We still have attachments. So it is still difficult for us to have many fond memories of a place and time in our past and not feel sadness that it will not be there the next time we visit. We can still be grateful that Papaaloo Hongwanji shared Buddhist values with the Hamakua community for over 100 years and during that time planted the seeds of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in many people, including this writer. Namo Amida Butsu.

As I reflect on our theme, **“Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others”**, I start with being grateful that Amida Buddha, through his Teachings, is with me and wants me to be happy. I am grateful that I was introduced to Buddhism by the good fortune of being born to a wonderful family in a little plantation town on the Hamakua Coast of the Big Island of Hawaii. Grateful that Papaaloo Hongwanji was built by the issei and nisei in spite of severe financial hardship. Grateful that Aiea Hongwanji was there for us when Claire and I were looking for a temple for our family. Grateful that I have made a connection with so many of you through our involvement in the Hawaii Sangha. Let’s continue to nurture these connections.

With Gassho,  
Warren Tamamoto MD  
President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

### CONDOLENCE

Rev. Yoshiko Shimabukuro, a retired minister of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, passed away on July 20, 2021, at the age of 109. A private family service was held on December 18, 2021 at the West Kauai Hongwanji Mission Hanapepe Temple. The Ingo (Posthumous Title) of 浄香院 (Jou-Kou-In) which means "Imbued with Pure Fragrance" has been conferred upon Rev. Yoshiko Shimabukuro by the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Denomination in grateful recognition of her exemplary achievements and accomplishments.

## BISHOP'S CORNER

“As we say good-bye to 2021, let's...”

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

As 2021 draws to a close, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to each and every one including our Hawaii Kyodan State President Dr. Warren Tamamoto, for your responding in gratitude to Amida Buddha in the form of your perseverance and continued moral and financial support of especially your local temple, but also our state-wide organization of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, its affiliate organizations, and various projects and programs. It has not been without struggles, but we have survived another year of this Pandemic not only for ourselves, but including trying to help others too. Thus, once again, I say “Thank you to you, the Sangha, for responding in gratitude to the Buddha and being guided by the Dharma.”

The Jodo Shinshu or Nembutsu way of life, as being emphasized by His Eminence Kojun Ohtani, is very important and significant for us. As shared previously, in April of this year, Gomonsu Kojun Ohtani shared in a Message,

*Jodo Shinshu is the teaching that we will attain enlightenment beyond form and become buddhas in the “Pure Land of naturalness” through shinjin alone. In shinjin we accept without doubt the heart of Amida Tathagata’s Vow of “Namo Amida Butsu” - “Entrust yourself to me. I will liberate you just as you are.”*

*When we are touched by this warm compassion and learn of Amida Tathagata’s wish for our life, we are empowered to live at ease, share joy and sadness with people, and a world of mutual respect and support opens up. With ease and joy, Shinran Shonin walked the path of gratitude for being saved by Tathagata’s compassion. Aspiring to learn from his way of living and transmit his teaching to the next generations, I would like to express the essentials of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching in the following passage.*

### Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching

Namo Amida Butsu.

“Entrust yourself to me. I will liberate you just as you are.” This is the calling voice of Amida.

My blind passions are embraced in the Buddha’s awakening, So the Buddha calls to me “I will liberate you just as you are.”

Gratefully responding to the Buddha’s call,

I find that I am already on the path that leads to the Pure Land.

And the Nembutsu flows freely from my thankful heart.

Living with the Dharma as my guide

Softens my rigid heart and mind.

Gratitude for the gift of life I have received

Frees me from becoming lost in greed and anger,  
And allows me to share a warm smile and speak gentle words.  
Sharing in the joy and sadness of others,  
I shall strive to live each day to its fullest.

*In 2023, we are going to conduct a Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching. In gratefulness for the birth of Shinran Shonin and his expounding of the teachings of Jodo Shinshu, let's recite "Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching" together, work together, and live a life of Nembutsu together to spread his teaching."*

Today, I want to conclude by especially having us take note of His Eminence's words **"live a life of Nembutsu together to spread his (Shinran Shonin's) teachings."** We, the Hongwanji Sangha, each and every one of us, have a part to play in sharing Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion. Thus, as we come to the end of 2021, let us take a moment to reflect on this and in the New Year, also, rededicate ourselves to our Hawaii Kyodan Mission Statement *"to share the living teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, so all beings may enjoy lives of harmony, peace and gratitude."*

Thank you and Namo Amida Butsu.

#### MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Reverend Toyokazu Hagio, currently serving as the Rimban (Chief Minister) of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, will retire from the active ministry of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of December 31, 2021. Rev. Hagio became a Kaikyoshi minister in May, 1981 and has served at Waialua Hongwanji (also, in charge of former Kahuku Hongwanji), Honomu Hongwanji (also in charge of Papaaloa and Honohina Hongwanji), Wailuku Hongwanji (also in charge of Lanai Hongwanji), Waipahu Hongwanji (also in charge of Waianae and Ewa Hongwanji), Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin (as Rimban), Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (as Fuku Rimban) before assuming the Rimban of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.

Rev. Hagio served Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for almost 38 years. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to Rev. Toyokazu Hagio for his dedication and effort of spreading the Buddha-Dharma to our members and community. Thank you Rev. Hagio and congratulations on your retirement.

# MAHALO FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS & SUPPORT

November 20-December 19, 2021

## Memorial Services

*In memory of the late ...*

Takeshi Yamamoto - Betty Yamamoto

Yukiyo Togikawa -

Camilla Sone,

Hawaii Truck Parts & Services

Patsy Sugita - Joan Sugita

## In memory of the late...

Kanemaru/Nishimura Family - Craig & Judy Iida

Masaru Kawamoto - Winston Kawamoto

## Etaikyo Service

Rev. Mieko Majima

Ethel Aiko Oda

## Bodhi Day Service

Jim Jung

Yoshiko Dimples Kano

Ralph Kitashima

Karma Klein

Rev. Mieko Majima

Carol Saiki

Gloria Shimizu

Roberta Yanagawa

## Sunday Service

Mildri Cifuentes

Jim Jung

Yoshiko Dimples Kano

Ralph Kitashima

Karma Klein

Gloria Shimizu

Roberta Yanagawa

## Membership

Donald Sunada - 2021, 2022

Arlene Iida - 2021

Roy Morita - 2021

Blanche Stockle - 2022

## Hall Rental

Denise Castillo

Malama Kauai

## Temple Donations

Sharon Contrades

Mitsue Hirata

Ralph Kitashima

Ethel Oda

## Statewide Newsletter

Ethel Aiko Oda

## Year-end Donation

Anonymous

Laura Asari

Wanda Costa

Fusako Harada

Jim Jung

Jonathan Kato

Winston Kawamoto

Ralph Kitashima

Richard Kubota

Haven Kuboyama

Gary & Susan Morita

Brian Okamoto

Mae Sakamoto

Barry Shain-The Shain Group

Gloria Shimizu

Joan Sugita

Roy Taogoshi

Barbara Tsunehiro

Mitsuo Wakumoto

Glenn Yagihara

Kristin Yanagawa

Sidney Yanagawa

Jill Yoshimatsu

## Social Concerns

Haven Kuboyama

Mae Sakamoto

Eleanor Seshiki

Gloria Shimizu

Barbara Tsunehiro

Glenn Yagihara

Rueben Yoshida

## Volunteer Support

Cindy Alm

Stacy Bradshaw

Madison Doo

Marie Hashimura

Stanford Iwamoto

Winston Kawamoto

Ralph Kitashima

Rev. Mieko Majima

Milton Nakamura

Tami Ramil

Taryn Ramil

Carol Saiki

Calvin & Rona Sakai

Barry Shain

Gloria Shimizu

Joan Slingerland

Clyde & Kay Takekuma

Erin Takekuma

Keith & Thelma Tsukamoto

Brian & Wendy Yamamoto

Sidney Yanagawa



## from the president's corner...

*New year's greetings to all! May the New Year bring a positive outlook for a joyful, compassionate and peaceful 2022.*

*First of all, let us reflect and express our gratitude to all for their dedication, compassion, and generosity throughout the past year. The many helping hands who took the time to assist us have made a huge difference in our survival.*

*Arigato gozaimasu to Rev. Majima for finding innovative ways to provide Sunday services, private services and zoom memorial services to accommodate the needs of our members. Our special thank you for the many things she does to keep our temple alive and thriving.*

*Second, although the covid pandemic has affected our way of life, we still need to be connected to the "Three Treasures, the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha." Attending the Sunday or Major Services would be a great opportunity to be connected. It is unfortunate that we have been somewhat out of touch and isolated due to the new covid variants. Those who attend the temple services have mentioned that there is a special feeling and connection when you are sitting in the temple with the Sangha, hearing the Dharma message, chanting the sutra, and singing the gatha.*

*Last but not least, we put our hands together in gassho and recite Namo Amida Butsu daily to express our gratitude to Amida Buddha for guiding us with wisdom and compassion. Namo Amida Butsu ...*

### **End of the year donations**

A BIG MAHALO to our members, friends and supporters of Kapaa Hongwanji for your selfless giving (dana) and dedication. Your generosity and heartfelt support have enabled us to have a fresh start in 2022. You certainly made the difference.

### **2022 Board of Directors**

We are fortunate to have most of the 2021 Board of Directors serving in 2022.

President: Roberta Yanagawa, Vice President: Clyde Takekuma, Secretary: Stanford Iwamoto, Treasurer: Milton Nakamura, Auditor: Clint Saiki and Ralph Kitashima.

### **Calendar Distribution**

We have received the Honpa Hongwanji 2022 Calendars. We will be distributing the calendars soon. Please feel free to pick up a calendar at the temple on Sundays from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. or call to make arrangements. Some deliveries will be made and the remote areas will be mailed.

### **Membership Renewal**

We will be sending out the 2022 membership renewal forms. Thank you to those who have sent in their payments. Please fill in the forms and return so we will be able to update your information. Mahalo for your cooperation.

## Memorial Service

### JANUARY

Jean Masako	Nakamura	13th	1/6/2010
Hatsumi Kuboyama	Haraguchi	17th	1/9/2006
Tomoko	Mitsui	13th	1/17/2010
Yoshimatsu	Yamamoto	33rd	1/22/1990
Natsuko Yamamoto	Tada	7th	1/24/2016

### February

Nejiu	Yanagida	33rd	2/6/1990
Tameko Togikawa	Iwai	17th	2/7/2006
Laura	Tada	7th	2/8/2016
Kenzo	Kawamoto	3rd	2/9/2020
Tome	Saiki	50th	2/11/1973
Hiroko	Wakumoto	3rd	2/14/2020
Chieno	Masuda	50th	2/25/1973
Jarret	Yoon	1st	2/28/2021

## HOONKO SERVICE

January 16, 2022 9:00 am

As the most important Jodo Shinshu observance, this is the date chosen to commemorate Shinran Shonin's passing. At Honzan, seven days of services are conducted. During this period, we have a chance to "hear the light" through listening to the Dharma.

### *In Memoriam...*

Kapaa Hongwanji Mission extends its deepest sympathy to families who have recently lost their loved ones.



Namo Amida Butsu.

### From Minister's Desk

Wishing you and your family a wonderful New Year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for kind and generous support throughout last year.

Please contact us if you are planning to have a service or visiting the gravesite at 808.822.4667. Thank you again for your kind support to keep our temple alive.

Namo Amida Butsu

## Temple Cleaning & Flower Arrangement

1/8/2022	Group 1	Mrs. Marie Hashimura - Chair Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hiraoka, Mr. Milton Nakamura, Mr. Ray Paler	Ruby Ishida
1/15/2022	Group 2	Mr. Francis Nishizawa - Chair Mrs. Yasuko Murakami, Mr. Clint Saiki, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Yanagawa	Joan Slingerland
1/22/2022	Group 3	Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Takekuma - Chair Mr. Stanford Iwamoto, Mrs. Erin Takekuma, Ms. Madison Doo, Mrs. Tami Ramil, Ms. Taryn Ramil	Kay Takekuma
1/29/2022	Group 4	Ms. Gloria Shimizu - Chair Mr. Haven Kuboyama, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Sunada, Mrs. Pat Yamamoto	Rona Sakai
2/5/2022	Group 5	Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Sakai - Chair Ms. Carol Saiki	Roberta Yanagawa

KAPAA HONGWANJI MISSION

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# ONENESS

The Newsletter of  
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Email: [mail@kapaahongwanji.org](mailto:mail@kapaahongwanji.org)

January

**New Year's Service**

January 2, 2022 9:00 am

**Monthly Memorial Service**

January 9, 2022 9:00 am

**Hoonko Service**

January 16, 2022 9:00 am

**Family Service**

January 23, 2022 9:00 am

**No Service**

January 30, 2022

