



ONENESS

KAPAA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

March 2023

Congratulate Message to Kapaa Hongwanji Mission from Gomonsu

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the centennial of the Kapaa Hongwanji Mission. Soon after the sangha's establishment in 1922, your ancestors experienced a tragedy of losing the temple building by a fire. As a Japanese-American community as well, your sangha went through a long period of hardships, not to mention World War II, but various social turmoil brought about in each historical background. Despite all these difficulties, your sangha celebrated its centennial, and this is all because of the devotion and efforts of the ministers, members, and everyone who contributed to the temple and its activities. For this I would like to express my deepest respect and appreciation. Furthermore, in addition to the long-cherished tradition of Sunday Service, Kapaa Hongwanji has been promoting a variety of new activities for the overall community through which the teaching can be shared, such as, classes of Japanese Language and Bon Dance, and hearing of your engagement in them enables me to feel assured as well as grateful.



Now allow me to turn our eyes to ourselves as human beings. Although the historical Buddha Sakyamuni clarified the truth of this world through the principles of dependent origination, impermanence, and no-self, we, ordinary beings who are filled with human desires, cannot afford to accept the harsh realities of this world as it is. Instead, we are inclined to see things through our own self-centered views. However, things do not always go as we wish, therefore we constantly suffer and sometimes even cultivate unnecessary hostility against others, which causes only pain on both sides. Unable to overlook our situation, Amida Buddha established the Primal Vow that pledges to save every one of us just as we are. The salvific working of this Vow reaches us as Nembutsu, or recitation of Amida Buddha's Name, "Namo Amida Butsu." This is the Buddha's calling to us, "I will never leave you alone. Just entrust yourself to me." Shinran Shonin is the one who clarified this understanding of the Nembutsu for us. His guidance enables us, foolish beings who cannot see things as they are, to encounter and accept Other Power, and as a result we are able to recite the Nembutsu.

This year marks the 850th anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth as well as the 800th anniversary of the completion of his main work, *Kyogyoshinsho*, in which he methodically explains the Jodo Shinshu teaching. Without encountering the Nembutsu teaching that was introduced by Shinran Shonin, we would not be able to even recognize that we are the object of Amida's salvific working. Our indebtedness to a number of predecessors also should not be forgotten. All ancestors of each era are none other than those who have sustained the teaching for more than 800 years until today by manifesting the Dharma through their way of living.

Let us take this anniversary as a great opportunity to reflect on the wishes of our ancestors who cherished the Nembutsu teaching as their spiritual foundation, as well as share our joy of encountering the teaching with people whom we associate as Nembutsu followers. I hope that the Kapaa Hongwanji Mission will continue to uphold the guiding light of the Dharma as a place of refuge where people find comfort and solace for their spiritual needs.

February 7, 2023

OHTANI Kojun

Monshu

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

CONFIRMATION OF NEW BISHOP

Reverend Toshiyuki Umitani, the Resident Minister of Moiliili Hongwanji Mission was confirmed as the 17th Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii at the 111th Legislative Assembly. Bishop-elect Rev. Umitani will officially assume the Office of the Bishop effective July 1, 2023.

MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENT

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will welcome its newest minister Reverend Charlene Kihara beginning March 1, 2023. Rev. Kihara is currently undergoing the Hawaii Kyodan Onboarding Program at Headquarters and she will be assigned to Headquarters half-time, and half-time assigned to Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as an Associate Minister as of March 1, 2023.

BISHOP'S CORNER

“Sharing Joy Together”

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



As we slowly transition from Winter to Spring, like the many flowers and trees in Nature, let us begin to prepare ourselves to fully blossom too. For me, every year, the gift of cherry blossoms from Kamuela, reminds me that Spring is just around the corner and brings joy to me. It warms my heart which motivates me to want to share that beauty and the joy with others. The joy we feel when we see beautiful flowers is seen by others around us. It is a very spontaneous expression and sharing which occurs very naturally. The Joy of the Dharma we feel is the same. It is not a contrived joy or a joy which I, calculatedly, try to

share. For ultimately, the source of that joy is not me, but comes from the flowers themselves or in the case of the Joy of the Dharma from the Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion itself.

As Shinran Shonin explained in one of his poems, *The light of compassion illumines from afar; Those beings it reaches, it is taught, Attain the Joy of the Dharma, So take refuge in Amida, the great consolation.* Also, in his major writing “The True Teaching, Practice and Realization of the Pure Land Way,” he noted that *when we realize the diamondlike true mind (shinjin), we...unfailingly gain ten benefits in the present life. What are these ten? Of the ten, number seven is The benefit of having great joy in our hearts.* It is explained that this joy is a very special kind of joy. It is not one that will dissipate or fade after a while for it comes about *when they touch for the very first time that which is timeless (dharma-body), and therefore a joy that they have not known in the world of samsaric transmigration.* This deep joy is a very big part of Jodo Shinshu and the life of Nembutsu.



In 2023, especially, as our theme and slogan is *Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together*, let us freely allow our awareness, joy and gratitude of Namu Amida Butsu express itself. This is one major way in which we (you and I), as the Nembutsu Sangha, can share the Teachings of the Buddha and the temple with others. By our naturally expressing our joy and gratitude, let our family and friends wonder, and hopefully ask us, “Why are you always so happy and grateful?” For many, this will be the joyous condition that could lead to their discovery of Namu Amida Butsu. It will be the opportunity to introduce to them the Nembutsu and invite them to temple.

At the same time, an important component which should be in place at every temple, is when people come to our temples we should be able to sincerely and happily welcome them. Thus, I would like to encourage every temple to have a Welcoming-Membership Committee which kindly assists those who come to our temples to continue their journey or quest including hopefully eventually become members. Our temples, and each one of us, should be inviting, welcoming, nurturing and supportive places centered on the Buddha-Dharma.

As a well-known Buddhist saying goes *Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.* Also, let us keep in mind the saying *To live a single day and hear a good teaching is better than to live a hundred years without knowing such a teaching.* To make manifest the above Dharma Teaching, please know that Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii continues to share Buddhist teachings and perspectives by continuing to regularly have Sunday Services, Buddhist Seminars and Retreats such as the Spring Session, BSC Summer Session, MLA Retreat and YESS Camp, participate in interfaith and other community organizational events like UN Interfaith Harmony Week, and support other community programs like the Ohana Arts' youth musical "Peace on your Wings" so we may fulfill our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Mission Statement *To share the living Teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism so all beings may enjoy lives of harmony, peace and gratitude* and our purpose as stated in our Hongwanji Constitution *The organization transmits the wisdom and compassion of Amida Tathagata to all people, and in doing so, contributes to the realization of a society in which everyone, both within and outside of the organization, is able to live a life of spiritual fulfillment.* This is our mission and vision that should unite and guide us in all of our endeavors.

In particular, as Jodo Shin Buddhists, let that deep joy that we experience of being accepted as we are and forever embraced by Amida Buddha's all-inclusive Wisdom and all-embracing Compassion express itself and let us naturally share it with others with the wish that others too, may come to know and experience the same joy and happiness. More than ever, let us live the Nembutsu by responding in gratitude to Amida Buddha by "Sharing (the) Joy (of Namo Amida Butsu) Together" by talking about Amida Buddha and reciting Namo Amida Butsu as a manifestation of the saying "As the light of a small candle will spread from one to another in succession, so the light of Buddha's compassion will pass on from one mind to another endlessly."

Thank you and Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion.

**OFFICERS, ADVISORS, AND DIRECTORS OF HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
FOR YEAR 2023**

President: Warren Tamamoto (O)

Immediate Past President: Pieper Toyama (H)

Vice Presidents: Wendy Harman (H), Russell Nonaka (O) , Fay Tateishi (K),
Gary Murai (M), Joseph Gusman (HI)

Secretary: Carol Yamamura (M)

Assistant Secretary: Sharon Nohara (M)

Treasurer: John Toguchi (H)

Assistant Treasurer: Alan Tomita (H)

Advisors: Alan Goto (H), Dexter Mar (H), Rodney Moriyama (O)
Carolyn Uchiyama (O), Alton Miyamoto (K), Michael Munekiyo (M)
Ivan Nakano (HI), Frederick S. Nonaka (HI), Harold Uyeno (HI)

Honorary Advisors: Roy Miyamoto (H), Keiji Kukino (H)

Directors:

Honolulu (5)	Wendy Harman Joanne Kealoha	John Toguchi Prudence Kusano	Alan Tomita
Oahu (6)	Russell Nonaka Clifford Togo	Myra Nohara Miles Tamura	Rene Mansho Evan Watarida
Kauai (2)	Wayne Fujioka	Fay Tateishi	
Maui (4)	George Borg Gary Murai	Sharon Nohara	Carol Yamamura
Hawaii (7)	Edwin Hara	Burt Tsuchiya	Delbert Nishimoto
Miles Okumura	David Oshiro	Joseph Gusman	Jason Hashimoto

Kauai Hongwanji Council Nembutsu Seminar

The Great Undercurrent of Life

Friday, March 17, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm (HST): Zoom

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji



What is the purpose of religion? Why do we need Buddhism in our lives? When we think about our society today, many people are moving away from religion. One reason for this might be that people think religion is an outdated worldview that tells people how they should live. However, is that the only way to define religion? In this discussion, we will look at how the true meaning of religion is to encounter the great undercurrent of life. By doing so, we come to understand our true selves.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji is currently a minister at Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church since August 1, 2020. In addition, he teaches at the Institute of Buddhist Studies located in Berkeley, California. His previous assignment as a minister was at Tacoma Buddhist Temple from December 2017 to July 31, 2020.

He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and Japanese language and literature, Institute of Buddhist Studies at Berkeley, California with a Master's Degree in Buddhist Studies, Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan with a Master's Degree in Shin Buddhist Studies, and completed the doctoral coursework at Ryukoku University. He specializes in the areas of Japanese Buddhism and religion, translation of Buddhist scripture, and Jodo Shinshu doctrine and ethics.

Rev. Miyaji received his Tokudo and Kyoshi qualifications at the Honpa Hongwanji school located in Kyoto, Japan. He also obtained the academic ranking of *Hokyō* recognized within Hongwanji. He most recently completed his doctoral dissertation entitled, "Shin Buddhist Ethics," through Ryukoku University.

Registration Fee: Free (Registration Required)

Donations can be made to the Kauai Hongwanji Council. Please make a check payable to Kauai Hongwanji Council and send it to Lihue Hongwanji Mission 3-3556 Kuhio Highway, Lihue, HI 96766.

The maximum capacity is 100 people, first come, first served. We will email you a Zoom link three days prior to the seminar.

Click below to register!

"Registration Deadline: March 11, 2023"

<https://forms.gle/gD7abvnQJQAENbtQ8>



When you complete the seminar registration, you will receive an automatic confirmation email from Google forms.

For further information, please contact:

Kapaa Hongwanji at 822-4667, West Kauai Hongwanji at 335-3195 or Lihue Hongwanji at 245-6262.

MAHALO FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS & SUPPORT
January 21 - February 23, 2022

Memorial Services

In memory of the late...

Ralph Shintani
Kaoru & Alice Taogoshi - Russell Shimazu
Masao & Tsui Yamamoto

Sunday Service

Ralph Kitashima
Leonora Orr
Carol Saiki
Gloria Shimizu
Roberta Yanagawa

In Memory of the Late

M/M Richard Nagaoka - Ed Nagaoka
Kenzo Kawamoto - Edwin Kawamoto

Miscellaneous Donations

Roy & Leila Nishida
Russell Shimazu
Clyde Takekuma
Reuben Yoshida

Membership

Laura Asari
Sharon Contrades
Wanda Costa
James Jung
Neal Kakimoto
Yoshiko Kano
Edwin Kawamoto
Winston Kawamoto
Haven Kuboyama
Hideaki Murakami
Evelyn Nakamura
Ethel Oda
Hidemi Okamoto
Hiroko Oshima
Raymond Paler
Carol Saiki
Clint Saiki
Calvin Sakai
Mae Sakamoto
Blanche Stokle
Clyde Takekuma
Erin Takekuma
Roy Taogoshi
Barbara Tsunehiro
Alice Yamada
Brian Yamamoto
Etsuko Yoshii

Friends of KHM

Dr. Jay Hiramoto
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Building Fund

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Hidemi Okamoto
Hiroko Oshima
Raymond Paler
Carol Saiki
Clint Saiki
Mae Sakamoto
Calvin & Rona Sakai
Barbara Tsunehiro
Brian Yamamoto

Hall Rental

Ellen Carscadden
Kings Youth Choir
Kimie Sadoyama
Jennifer Toguchi

Volunteer Support

Madison Doo
Marie Hashimura
David & Ruby Ishida
Stanford Iwamoto
Winston Kawamoto
Ralph Kitashima
Haven Kuboyama
Rev. Mieko Majima
Milton Nakamura
Ray Paler
Tami Ramil
Kaleigh Ramil
Taryn Ramil
Carol Saiki
Rona Sakai
Gloria Shimizu
Pearl Shimizu
Joan Slingerland
Dennis & Sadie Sunada
Lane Sunada
Clyde & Kay Takekuma
Erin Takekuma
Keith & Thelma Tsukamoto
Brian Yamamoto

from the president's corner...

Aloha Everyone! Spring is here! "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'" – Robin Williams A new month not only means a new beginning. It also means adjusting our path to stay on the right track.

The Honpa Hongwanji slogan for this year is "Sharing Joy Together." We look forward to sharing joy together with our family, friends and the Sangha.

Many thanks to Rev. Majima for conducting the Installation Service and those who were able to join us for the general membership meeting and Sangha Reunion after the service. Thank you to all who brought delicious desserts.

A BIG MAHALO to the Board of Directors for their dedication and commitment to serve and manage the operations of the temple. The following were installed as your 2023 officers. A few changes were made. Vice President, Ralph Kitashima, Secretary, Kaleigh Ramil, Treasurer, Milton Nakamura, Auditor, Clyde Takekuma and Roberta Yanagawa, President. Without their support the temple will not be able to operate. A successful organization is one where its members participate and support by volunteering to assist in activities and events, attend temple services, general membership meetings, lend a helping hand to clean the temple and the temple grounds. This is your temple so we welcome the opportunity to hear from you whether its to volunteer or suggest new ideas to improve.

Bon Dance Committee Meeting - March 23, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

This is your first opportunity to be involved in a temple event. Our youngest member, Kaleigh Ramil has offered to co-chair the Bon Dance so she will be able to learn and carry on when we, the older members are no longer able to participate. I will co-chair the event with her and hope our members will assist by volunteering to help on one of the committees. We are also thankful for our community volunteers who support us. We are the first Bon Dance and everyone is looking forward to enjoy this long awaited religious as well as cultural Bon Dance Festival. Hopefully this will help to raise the necessary funds to keep our temple operational.

Leasing the Social Hall

The Hall Lease was approved at the General Membership Meeting on Sunday, February 26, 2023. The proposal is to lease the entire hall and the surrounding premises exclusively to the Center for Spiritual Living in "as is" condition with no repairs.

They will also be responsible to maintain the hall and surrounding designated areas.

The monthly hall rentals are not sufficient to support the assessment to the Honpa, minister's salary and maintenance of the buildings.

Memorial Service

March

Kano	Kawamura	50th	3/3/1974
Seiji	Ouye	50th	3/4/1974
Glenn	Shimazu	3rd	3/9/2021
Mineichi	Saiki	13th	3/18/2011
Sally	Okamoto	1st	3/19/2022
Jack	Higashi	7th	3/21/2017
Yasuto	Nishijo	33rd	3/24/1991
Takao	Kojima	13th	3/31/2011

April

Nancy Yoshie	Masada	1st	4/12/2022
Mitsue	Hirata	1st	4/25/2022
Tatsuo	Asari	7th	4/26/2017
Yoshie	Maruta	23rd	4/27/2001
Alice Yasuko	Otaki Halla	17th	4/30/2007

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

We observe Spring Higan Service on March 19.

Higan means “the other shore” and “to Higan” means “reaching the other shore of nirvana.” This service is conducted during the vernal and autumnal equinox when days and nights are of equal lengths.

It is a service of reflection when we should meditate on the harmony of nature and devote ourselves to the realization of this harmony in our inner lives.

Namo Amida Butsu

Temple Cleaning & Flower Arrangement

3/4/2023	Group 5	Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Sakai - Chair Ms. Carol Saiki	Ruby Ishida
3/11/2023	Group 6	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Tsukamoto - Chair Mr. & Mrs. Brian Yamamoto, Mr. Winston Kawamoto	Joan Slingerland
3/18/2023	Group 1	Mrs. Marie Hashimura - Chair Mr. Milton Nakamura, Mr. Ray Paler	Kay Takekuma
3/25/2023	Group 2	Mr. Clint Saiki - Chair Mrs. Yasuko Murakami, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Yanagawa	Rona Sakai
4/2/2023	Group 3	Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Takekuma - Chair Mr. Stanford Iwamoto, Mrs. Erin Takekuma, Ms. Madison Doo, Mrs. Tami Ramil, Ms. Kaleigh Ramil	Ruby Ishida
4/9/2023	Group 4	Ms. Gloria Shimizu - Chair Mr. Haven Kuboyama, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Sunada, Mrs. Pat Yamamoto	Joan Slingerland

KAPAA HONGWANJI MISSION

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Kapaa, Hawaii 96746

ONENESS

The Newsletter of
Kapaa Hongwanji Mission
Minister: Rev. Mieko Majima
www.kapaahongwanji.org
Phone (808) 822-4667



March 2023

Monthly Memorial Service

March 5, 2023, 9:00 am

Family Service

March 12, 2023, 9:00 am

Spring Higan Service

March 19, 2023, 9:00 am

Family Service

March 26, 2023, 9:00 am

