



# ONENESS

## KAPAA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

September 2023

### MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

#### “Statement regarding the Disaster on Maui”



I would like to express my deepest condolences to those who lost their lives as a result of the disaster in Maui, and my heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost their homes and are living as evacuees.

The fire that broke out on August 8, 2023, devastated the city of Lahaina. As of today, 93 people are confirmed to have died, and more than 2,000 buildings have been damaged or destroyed. The historic town of Lahaina, which was once the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom and a beautiful tourist destination visited by many people, was burnt to the ground.

Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, located in the center of the city, was not spared the destruction by the fire. The Resident Minister, Reverend Ai Hironaka, his family, and many of the temple members have safely evacuated and are currently living a life of inconvenience. As for the damage to the temple, it is expected to take some time to confirm its state, partly because the town is under lockdown.

The history of the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission began in 1904. Since then, the light of the Nembutsu Dharma has been successfully passed down through the dedication and contribution of the Resident Ministers, their families, temple members, and many people in the community. Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, along with other churches and temples, was the place of refuge for the people living in the area. I remember the sound of the Nembutsu reverberating in the Hondo on Sundays. It is truly sad for all of us that such a practice hall of the Nembutsu was destroyed by the disaster.

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii established the Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund. Since then, we have received much support not only from within the State of Hawaii but also from all over the world, including the mainland United States, Canada, and Japan. On behalf of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii ministers and members, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those who extended compassionate words and actions for those on Maui. I would like to humbly ask for your continued support.

Recovery on Maui could take years. Many people are living in anxiety about their uncertain

future. As fellow travelers of the Nembutsu, let us stand in solidarity with those who are experiencing suffering and sorrow brought about by this unprecedented encounter.

Even though the temple buildings have been damaged, our sincere aspiration of listening to and sharing the Nembutsu teaching never disappears. This is not the end of 119 years of the history of Lahaina Hongwanji. We are all the more determined to dedicate ourselves to establishing a society where the sound of the Nembutsu prevails.

May the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha embrace us all. May the sound of the Nembutsu brings us peace and comfort, and gives us the courage to move forward. Namo Amida Butsu.

Toshiyuki Umitani  
Bishop

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Aloha all. I hope you are well. The Maui Wildfire Disaster fills the news as we find out a little more each day about the wildfire's rapid spread, the work being done to care for those displaced from their homes, and the ongoing effort to find those who are still missing. We do know that the Lahaina Hongwanji temple buildings (with possible exception of the columbarium) have burned to the ground. My sincere condolences to those who have lost loved ones and sincere sympathy to those who have lost their homes and possessions.

We are grateful that there has been an outpouring of support from around the world. Donations of food, clothing, and monetary donations have arrived on Maui. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is on the ground in Maui, coordinating the disaster response with State and County agencies and personnel.

I am grateful that we (Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii) have been able to respond to this disaster, working together as a family. A GoFundMe effort was quickly organized, spearheaded by Rev. Kerry Kiyohara and has raised tens of thousands of dollars. The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's **Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund** was established with the goals of supporting non-profit agencies providing relief for everyone affected by the disaster (such as the Red Cross and Hawaii Community Foundation's Maui Strong) and the Lahaina Hongwanji temple members. Information about the Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund was shared with our sister organizations at the Buddhist Churches of America, the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada and our mother temple (Honzan) in Kyoto, Japan. We have many friends all over the world and they are eager to help.

The **Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund** has raised tens of thousand of dollars. If you are

not familiar with this term, please check with your temple leaders or go to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii website at <https://hongwanjihawaii.com>. The HHMH Social Concerns Committee will be responsible for distributing the money collected for this fund drive, with valuable input from Maui members.

Here are a few of the things that we are doing to help our friends on Maui. The Social Concerns Committee helped with setting up the Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund, disseminating the information on social media and by keeping us informed of relief efforts that are available on Maui. The HHMH website is updated regularly and is an excellent place to find information about our effort to support the people of Maui. A group of ministers and temple leaders from Maui meets regularly via Zoom with the goal of connecting with Lahaina members and providing assistance with housing and other immediate needs. Phone calls to the Lahaina Hongwanji temple have been rerouted to Headquarters to help our Lahaina leadership and possibly get information about missing members. At the time of this writing, we are still trying to collect as much information about our Lahaina members as possible. Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani visited Maui on August 19<sup>th</sup>, to meet with key ministers and temple members on Maui. Thank you, Bishop Umitani.

I am thankful for the tremendous effort that our Sangha has made to help those who are suffering from the effects of the Maui wildfires. Headquarters personnel, District Councils, suborganizations such as the BWA, individual temples, and Sangha members have contributed to the relief effort. There may be more that we can do. If you have any suggestions or are able to help, please call our headquarters or send an email.

In Gassho,

Dr. Warren Tamamoto

President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

### **MAUI WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND**

In the spirit of compassionate action, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii have established the **MAUI WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND**. You can donate in the following ways:

Online at [www.hongwanjihawaii.com](http://www.hongwanjihawaii.com) by clicking on the “Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief” button under the “Donate” tab.

Through GoFundMe at the following link: <https://gofund.me/ff77a520>

Check and cash donations can be sent directly to Hawaii Kyodan Headquarters. Please make check payable to HHMH and in the memo line designate “Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief” to ensure proper credit.

**Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**

**1727 Pali Highway**

**Honolulu, HI 96813**

All donations collected will go to support Lahaina Hongwanji and relief efforts on Maui. The Office of the Bishop and Committee on Social Concerns will prioritize addressing the immediate and short-term needs of temple families displaced by the fires and supporting the greater community as it rebuilds. The Committee will select reputable relief agencies and organizations to support in order to ensure our donations will directly aid those impacted by this disaster.

Updates will be shared on our website at <http://honpahi.link/fire>

Mahalo for your generosity and support during this time of tragedy.

### **MAUI WILDFIRE MEMORIAL SERVICE**

The State Ministers Association assisted by Maui District Ministers Association would like to host a memorial service for the Maui wildfires under the guidance of Bishop Umitani.

The following is the service date and time.

Date: Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin

Platform: In-Person and Zoom

Dharma Talk: Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani

All donations from the service will go to the HHMH Maui Wildfire Relief Fund.

Everyone is invited to the service in-person and Zoom.

More details will be shared with you later.

### **MAHALO LUNCHEON FOR OUTGOING BISHOP ERIC MATSUMOTO**

A very special event was held on July 8, 2023, at the Ala Moana Hotel Ballroom in Honolulu. It was the Mahalo Luncheon for Outgoing Bishop Eric T. Matsumoto, who spent the last 12 years providing religious guidance to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH) and as part of the Interfaith community. Over 200 people turned out to show their gratitude for his wise and compassionate leadership. His wife Tamayo, son Caden, and brother Alan were present for the festivities. There was a performance of songs from the musical “Peace On Your Wings” by several of the cast members. After Aloha messages from guests, gift presentations from the HHMH, State Ministers’ Association, Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women’s Association, Hawaii Federation of Lay Association, Hawaii Federation of Junior YBA, and Pacific Buddhist Academy. We also celebrated his new journey as resident minister of Aiea Hongwanji Mission.

## INVESTITURE CEREMONY

The Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin on the Pali Highway on August 5, 2023, was the scene for the inauguration of the New Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Former Bishop Eric Matsumoto officiated a short service as the ministers and audience chanted the Juseige along with Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani. During the service, Former Bishop Eric Matsumoto read a letter of appointment from Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani, the spiritual head of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha tradition, conferring the title of Bishop upon Reverend Umitani.

In a moving ceremony in front of the audience which consisted of the ministers from all over the state and members of the Sangha watched as Reverend Toshiyuki Umitani was given the vestments for his new role as Bishop. The congratulatory gifts of new Bishop's special robes and religious items were given to Reverend Umitani from the State Ministers' Association, Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Association, Hawaii Federation of Lay Association, and Hawaii Federation of Junior YBA.

There was a short break in the service as Bishop Umitani changed into his new robes. The audience gathered with the newly installed Bishop to take commemorative pictures with Bishop Umitani.

## WELCOME LUNCHEON FOR THE 17<sup>TH</sup> BISHOP REVEREND TOSHIYUKI UMITANI

"Ko Ko Sho Gon," *Adorned with the Fragrance of Light*, was the luncheon theme for the welcome luncheon of the new Bishop Reverend Toshiyuki Umitani. The party was held at the Sheraton Waikiki after the Investiture Ceremony on August 5 and was an intimate gathering of around 200 people. The welcome luncheon marks a new era of change as the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii embarks on recovering from the economic fallout of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Bishop's daughters, Naho and Riho, performed two numbers to surprise their father and mother. To the delight of the attendees, Naho's beautiful singing was accompanied by Riho's skillful keyboard playing. They were a hit. Thanks to the luncheon committee for decorating the tables for the luncheon with the favors and to Ann Nakata of Moililli Hongwanji for the beautiful floral centerpieces that were filled with the fragrance of light. Bishop Umitani's welcome luncheon ended with a flurry of lights as the attendees held up their cell phones as if to punctuate the music of Keali'i Reichel with a gentle wave. It was a beautiful ending to a delightful luncheon.

New Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Former Bishop Eric Matsumoto officiated a short service as the ministers and audience chanted the Juseige along with Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani. During the service, Former Bishop Eric Matsumoto read a letter of appointment from Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani, the spiritual head of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha tradition, conferring the title of Bishop upon Reverend Umitani.

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There was a short break in the service as Bishop Umitani changed into his new robes. The audience gathered with the newly installed Bishop to take commemorative pictures with Bishop Umitani.

## **PEACE DAY: 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL RING YOUR BELL FOR PEACE DAY**

DATE: Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

TIME: Program is 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. (Bell ringing is 9:01 -9:05 a.m.)

PLACE: ZOOM - International participation promoting Peace

“E KOMO MAI!

Now more than ever, your spirit of hope and promoting peace in the world and our community is needed. Please join in our annual recognition for the United Nations International Day of Peace and Peace Day in Hawaii. Please register and receive inspirational messages, honor those who have fought for our peace, and ring your bells for peace! Maui Strong will be in our prayers during these sad and difficult times. Add your mana, your power and ring your bells, turn on your cameras as we can view friends from Ukraine, Germany, Japan, Canada, the mainland states, and neighbor islands - schools, churches, parks, businesses, and homes will be filled with bells ringing!

Here is the link: [bit.ly/PeaceDay2023](https://bit.ly/PeaceDay2023)

Make sure you stay for the whole program as ukulele virtuoso, Jake Shimabukuro, our Ambassador of Peace, will close the program with his songs for peace.

For questions, call 808-291-6151, email: [renemansho@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:renemansho@hawaii.rr.com)

Rene Mansho, Chair of Peace Day Committee

## **STATE DHARMA SCHOOL GATHERING**

We welcome everyone to join us for our 5<sup>th</sup> Virtual State Dharma School Gathering “Just As You Are” via Zoom on Sunday, October 15 from 10 am-12 pm. Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to engage and interact with Hongwanji friends across the islands and to hear a Dharma message by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani. The service will highlight Dharma School student emcees representing each of our Hongwanji districts along with our District Dharma School minister advisors. Following the service, we will have breakout rooms - Adult Breakout Room with Bishop Umitani (sharing a more in-depth Dharma Message) with Q&A session, and Dharma School Breakout Rooms (divided by age groups) featuring activities related to the theme “Just As You Are.” If you are a Dharma School Teacher/Educator, please join us before the service from 8:45 to 9:45 am to receive resources from the BCA Federation of Dharma School Teachers League (FDSTL) Convention attended by BJ Soriano and Edythe Vassall, representing Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. They will join us to answer any questions or provide additional information. We will also ask Dharma School teachers to share successful activities they have had since resuming in-person sessions.

Looking forward to seeing you all then!

Registration: <https://forms.gle/2pEt3azy5qkwSmPb7>

Mahalo for Your Contributions & Support  
July 22 - August 20, 2023

**Funeral Service**

*In loving memory of the late*  
Fusako Harada  
Katherine Campos & Family  
Doreen Reiko Koerte  
Tammy Koerte & Family

**Memorial Service**

*In memory of the late...*  
Irene Maeda

*In Memory of the late...*

Hiruyo & Sueji Haraguchi-  
Doris Haraguchi

**Sunday Services**

Ralph Kitashima  
Leonora Orr  
Carol Saiki  
Gloria Shimizu  
Roberta Yanagawa

**Obon Cemetery Service**

Gloria Shimizu

**Choba**

Joan Contival

**Social Concerns**

Barbara Tsunehiro

**Service at the Home Altar**

Susan Apilado

**Volunteer Support**

Madison Doo  
Marie Hashimura  
Robert Hiraoka  
David & Ruby Ishida  
Stanford Iwamoto

**Volunteer Support (cont.)**

Winston Kawamoto  
Ralph Kitashima  
Haven Kuboyama  
Rev. Mieko Majima  
Milton Nakamura  
Ray Paler  
Tami Ramil  
Kaleigh Ramil  
Taryn Ramil  
Carol Saiki  
Calvin & Rona Sakai  
Gloria Shimizu  
Pearl Shimizu  
Joan Slingerland  
Dennis & Sadie Sunada  
Clyde & Kay Takekuma  
Erin Takekuma  
Keith & Thelma Tsukamoto  
Brian & Wendy Yamamoto

**Ring Your Bells for Peace Day**

September 21@ 8:30 a.m.

Come one, come all, join us and ring your bell for PEACE Day! Let's have more bells ringing by encouraging your friends, neighbors, and families. We also invite Mayor Kawakami, Council members, State Senators and Representatives to register at [bit.ly/PeaceDay2023](https://bit.ly/PeaceDay2023) Please RSVP by Sept. 12, 2023

**Women's Association**

The Kauai United Hongwanji Women's Association's Fall Conference is scheduled on Sunday, October 22 at 9:00 a.m. Ladies, you are welcome to attend. Please let me know if you are interested.

Date: Sunday, October 22, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Place: Lihue Hongwanji Mission temple and social hall.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Tomo Hojo

Registration Fee: \$12.00 to be paid upon checking in.

## from the president's corner...

*We extend our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones, pets, homes, businesses and communities in Maui. We send our love and support to all as you try to overcome your loss and sadness.*

We have completed the hall preparations and will be signing the lease agreement with the Center for Spiritual Living. They have fixed the chain link fenced area behind the hall and prepared it for the children's activity area. They will begin moving into the hall in September. Many, many thanks to the small crew of volunteers who worked hard to clean and prepare the hall. We couldn't have done it without you.

### **Important Updates: Temple Repairs and Minister's Residence**

We wanted to keep you informed about recent developments concerning the temple's physical infrastructure and our minister's residence. Your safety and comfort are our top priorities, and we are working diligently to address these matters.

#### **Temple Services:**

Please note that the temple will be temporarily closed for services until further notice. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.

#### **Temple :**

Damage to the exterior ceiling in the front breezeway has occurred due to past wind and rain conditions. This has caused peeling and falling of the structure, making it unsafe for us. Additionally, the interior ceiling at the back of the altar area is also experiencing peeling and deterioration. Regrettably, insurance doesn't cover these repairs. However, we're committed to addressing these issues as soon as funds, donations, and membership agreement allow.

#### **Minister's Residence:**

The minister's residence is also undergoing necessary repairs. Cracking walls and peeling paint led the board to conduct paint tests, which revealed the exposure of lead paint. Due to health concerns, the residence is currently closed. Rev. Majima is temporarily housed while we work to prepare the suitable space.

#### **Service Scheduling:**

We understand the importance of staying connected spiritually. To inquire about service scheduling, please call 808 822-4667.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this time. Updates will be provided as we make progress toward resolution.



## Memorial Service

September				October			
Takeo	Inoshita	50th	9/2/1974	Ralph Nobuo	Shintani	1st	10/1/2022
Kazumasa	Morita	17th	9/11/2007	Gordon	Koigawachi	3rd	10/4/2021
Herbert	Nakamura	33rd	9/11/1991	Edith Matsuyo	Nishimura	27th	10/6/1997
Fusae	Furumoto	33rd	9/23/1991	Hatsuyo	Hironaka	27th	10/14/1997
				Mamoru	Mukai	50th	10/28/1974
				Mark Iwao	Morita	7th	10/30/2017

### From Minister's Desk

As Buddha said, "Nothing is permanent," today, our temple, much like ourselves, seeks healing and renewal. Although we can't gather as usual, remember that Amida is always beside us, and our hearts remain intertwined.

Embrace this transformative time as a journey toward a brighter future. Just as the temple undergoes renewal, let us too embrace growth and rejuvenation.

In unity and compassion, let's move forward, connected by our intentions with the Nembutsu, "Namo Amida Butsu"

For inquiries about funerals or memorial services, please contact us at 808.822.4667.

### *In Memoriam...*

Kapaa Hongwanji Mission extends its deepest sympathy to the families who have suffered from the wildfire, especial those who have lost their loved ones.

Namo Amida Butsu

### **Notice of Repairs**

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but for safety reasons, the temple is temporarily closed for repairs.

The columbarium is accessible every day, so please come to offer incense.

We look forward to seeing all of you soon.

### Temple Cleaning & Flower Arrangement

Date	Group	Cleaning	Flower Arrangement
9/2/2023	Group 1	No cleaning due to the temple repairs.	Ruby Ishida
9/9/2023	Group 2		Joan Slingerland
9/16/2023	Group 3		Kay Takekuma
9/23/2023	Group 4		Rona Sakai
9/30/2023	Group 5		Roberta Yanagawa
10/7/2023	Group 6		Ruby Ishida

KAPAA HONGWANJI MISSION

4-1170 Kuhio Highway

Kapaa, Hawaii 96746

# ONENESS

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



September 2023

Monthly Memorial Service

September 3, 2023

No Service

September 10, 2023

Virtual Family Service

September 17, 2023, 9:00 am

Virtual Family Service

September 24, 2023, 9:00 am

