



# ONENESS

## KAPAA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

January 2024

### 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 the last year, innumerable people worldwide have been affected by natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, and forest fires. I was particularly shocked by the wild fires that devastated the island of Maui in the state of Hawaii. This disaster completely destroyed the temple hall of Lahaina Hongwanji Mission and one temple member was reported to have lost his life. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to all who have perished in those calamities. I would also like to express my sympathies to those who are still coping with the dire situations. It is my sincere hope that all who have been affected will soon be able to return to a normal daily life.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022 is still continuing. Not only that, conflict between Israel and Palestine has once again flared up from October 2023, embroiling nations concerned with victimizing a large number of people many of whom are civilians. Looking at the appalling state of the world, the following words of Sakyamuni Buddha come to mind. "Everyone fears violence and is scared of death. In consideration of all life, do not kill and do not make others kill."

Every one of us who has received life as a human being, no matter the reason, must be ensured equally of human rights, and no one's life should be threatened. In reality, however, conflicts and terrorist attacks have occurred everywhere in the world and for many people, their right to live and exist has been threatened. As Buddhists who aspire for peace, we must keep Sakyamuni Buddha's words seriously in our hearts and pursue our endeavor of contributing toward world peace and security.

During the last year, we observed the Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching at Hongwanji, Kyoto for a total of 30 days, divided into 5 sessions during the period

from March 29 to May 21. On this occasion, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who came to Japan to attend, as well as those who supported it in various ways. This celebratory event could be realized only because our predecessors have cherished the Jodo Shinshu teaching as their spiritual foundation for many years no matter when or where they were, and carefully transmitted it to us today.

Let us, too, continue listening to the teaching as the center of our life while cherishing each day.

January 1, 2024

OHTANI Kojun  
Monshu  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

### Bishop's Message



To welcome the New Year, I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to you all. On behalf of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all of you for your support, dedication, and participation in our services and activities.

Since I took the Headquarters Office as the new Bishop last July, I have been able to visit some of your temples. I bow my head to the ministers, temple leaders, and temple members for their tireless effort in protecting their temples and sharing with others the joy of Namo Amida Butsu. Each temple has its challenges and opportunities. As a community of people joined together revering the teaching of Shinran Shonin, let us work toward the realization of a society in which everyone can live a life of spiritual fulfillment.

This year, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will observe the Triple Celebration at Ala Moana Hotel on September 7-8, 2024. The Triple Celebration commemorates the 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Shinran Shonin, the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teachings, and the 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. The Steering Committee is working hard towards the two-day celebration event and its related programs. I would like to invite you all to attend this auspicious anniversary.

Our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Theme and Slogan for 2024 is **“Building Healthy**

**Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments.**” What are the “Nembutsu Moments”? These are the moments when the voice of the Nembutsu, “Namo Amida Butsu,” spontaneously flows from our lips.

The main body of *the Sutra on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life* explains the Forty-eight Vows of Amida Buddha, who undertook to establish a Pure Land for the enlightenment of all sentient beings. Shinran Shonin regarded that our act of saying “Namo Amida Butsu” is derived wholly from the working of Amida’s Vow. It means that the sound of “Namo Amida Butsu,” the promise Amida Buddha made to embrace and never abandon all beings, is already fulfilled and extended to all beings. It is the calling voice from the Buddha of Immeasurable Light and Life that holds the Buddha’s boundless empathy, concern, and compassion toward all beings. Such a message of universal compassion reaches into our hearts and minds, and flows from our lips spontaneously as “Namo Amida Butsu.”

What we experience in our daily lives could be the opportunities to ascertain and appreciate the truth of Boundless Wisdom and Compassion that embraces our lives. Let us experience, savor, appreciate, and share the Nembutsu moments with our families and friends in our daily lives.

May the sound of the Nembutsu flow from our lips. May the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha inspire and guide us always. Namo Amida Butsu.

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani

Bishop

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

**President’s New Year’s Message for 2024  
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, 2024. The year 2023 was an eventful one. Many of our Sangha were able to attend the Joint Celebration (Commemoration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin’s Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching) at our Honzan in Kyoto on May 10, 2023. The Joint Celebration program was well organized and meaningful. The 17th World Buddhist Women’s Convention (WBWC) followed on May 11 and 12 at the modern (although 50 years old) Kyoto International Conference Center. These two events were a highlight of the year for those who were able to attend. I will always remember the warm welcome that we received from our hosts at the Honzan and at the World Buddhist Women’s Convention.



Soon after our return from Japan, we said “Mahalo and Aloha” to outgoing Bishop, Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Mrs. Tamayo Matsumoto, Chika and Caden at a luncheon in July. In August we warmly greeted incoming Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani, Mrs. Yoshiko Umitani, and daughters Naho and Riho at a luncheon.

Then, the disastrous Maui Wildfires of August 8, 2023 destroyed the historic town of Lahaina. Our Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, located near the center of the town was not spared. The temple, social hall, and minister’s residence burned to the ground. Only the columbarium appears to have survived the fire. Fortunately, Rev. Ai Hironaka and family along with many other temple members evacuated in time. However, we have learned that one temple member lost his life in that fire. It

appears that 2023 will be remembered as the year of the Maui Wildfires and the year that Lahaina Hongwanji was lost to the fire. This was a great loss for Lahaina town and the entire Hawaii Sangha.

However, this was not the end of the story. Community, state and federal agencies rushed into action and are still on the ground in Maui, planning for the future of Lahaina town and helping those displaced by the fire. Maui temple ministers and Sangha have warmly supported Lahaina members displaced by the fire. The Hongwanji community statewide, nationally and internationally has responded with compassionate action in the form of postcards, letters, gifts and generous monetary donations. Like the recent “disaster” that affected us, the COVID-19 pandemic, we learned that we are adaptable and we are resilient. The Lahaina community, and Lahaina Hongwanji Sangha in particular, I believe will respond with grit and determination.

Our theme and slogan for 2024 is “***Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments***”. We live with joy and gratitude for Amida’s universal and unconditional compassion for us. Since we are connected with and care for the people around us, we *share our Nembutsu moments*, so that others may awaken to, and appreciate the Buddha’s limitless Compassion. In this way, we can each contribute to *building healthy Sanghas*.

With Gassho,

Warren Tamamoto

President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

### Return to Lahaina Hongwanji

As the re-entry restriction to zone 12B was lifted for the residents of Lahaina on Monday, November 27, 2023, Rev. Ai Hironaka, Business Manager Derrick Inouye, and I returned to the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission for the first time since the wildfire devastated the town of Lahaina on August 8, 2023.

Upon arrival at the temple, the three of us stood on the top of the stairs leading to the temple's front entrance. We placed our hands together in Gassho and chanted the sutra Sanbutsuge as we overlooked the debris-filled altar area destroyed by fire. The sound of the Nembutsu echoed through the quiet town.

We then entered the Nokotsudo (columbarium) building. The exterior seemed to have minor damages, such as cracks in the glass doors and some heat damage to the roof, but the interior, including all the niches and the altar, was intact. This is truly good news for the temple family, especially for those who have their loved ones interred in the Nokotsudo. We offered the incense and again chanted the sutra Sanbutsuge in front of the altar. It is indeed fortunate that the Nokotsudo was intact.

We then wore protective gear and began searching through the burnt rubble and assessing the situation. Although cloudy on the day, it wasn't easy to continue working with protective clothing for a long time. It was necessary to take breaks every 30 minutes or so to rehydrate. The temple building, minister's residence, garage, temple office, social hall, and the Japanese School building were all burned down, leaving only a few remnants, such as the stone pillars and walls. We carefully and respectfully searched the remains, especially in the altar area, while taking photographs of the damaged area. It is truly regrettable to report that the *Gohonzon* (Amida Buddha's statue) and the other altar ornaments, such as picture scrolls of Shinran Shonin and Rennyo Shonin, *Daikin* bell, *Shumidan*, *Maejoku* table, pews in the *Gejin* area, etc., were all burned to the ashes. We discovered some altar ornaments, but they were all heavily damaged, and it was hard to identify what they were.

In the desolate scenery, the statue of Shinran Shonin was still standing firmly with great dignity. His back, blackened by fire, indicated the fierceness of the blaze that engulfed the temple. By the side of Shinran Shonin, the small tree that the Gomonshu planted during his official visit to Hawaii in 2017 survived the fire and sprouted some new green leaves. The blackened statue of Shinran Shonin and a humble tree with greenery symbolize our resilience and commitment to the future. The road to recovery has just begun. We never know what the future holds. But we will move forward together. The Lahaina Hongwanji's statue of Amida Buddha has disappeared, but in our own voice of the Nembutsu, the three of us clearly heard the voice of Compassion that still embraces and sustains us warmly. Namo Amida Butsu.

On behalf of Rev. Ai Hironaka, the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, and the people of Lahaina, I would like to humbly ask for your continued support.

In Gassho,  
Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani

Note: Go to the HHMH Website at <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2023/12/05/return-to-lahaina-hongwanji/> for some pictures and video we took during our visit on Monday, November 27, 2023, along with the link to the Maui News article and the Kyodo News video.



HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII  
TRIPLE CELEBRATION

# ONLINE BUDDHIST EDUCATION SERIES 2024

What is Mahayana Buddhism?

1

JANUARY 13, 10 AM  
DR. DAVID MATSUMOTO

JANUARY 20, 10 AM  
DR. MATSUMOTO

2

What is Pure Land Buddhism?

Development of Jodo Shinshu in Japan and Hawaii Part 1

3

FEBRUARY 3, 2 PM  
PROF. MITSUYA DAKE

FEBRUARY 17, 2 PM  
PROF. DAKE

4

Development of Jodo Shinshu in Japan and Hawaii Part 2

Significance of establishment of Jodo Shinshu Tradition

5

MARCH 16, 2 PM  
PROF. EISHO NASU

APRIL 13, 10 AM  
REV. MUTSUMI WONDRA

6

Kyogyoshinsho: Teaching

Kyogyoshinsho: Practice

7

MAY 18, 10 AM  
REV. YUKI SUGAHARA

JUNE 22, 10 AM  
REV. KIYONOBU KUWAHARA

8

Kyogyoshinsho: Entrusting Heart

Kyogyoshinsho: Realization

9

JULY 20, 10 AM  
REV. HENRY ADAMS

AUGUST 24, 2 PM  
REV. GENE SEKIYA

10

The world is waiting for Buddhism and Shinran Shonin: Joy of the Nembutsu



Scan to register

TRIPLE CELEBRATION

## September 7 & 8

Email: [triple.celebration@honpahi.org](mailto:triple.celebration@honpahi.org)

850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth  
800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching  
135th Anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

# Mahalo for Your Contributions & Support

November 20 - December 20, 2023

## Memorial Service

*In memory of the late...*

Mitsuo Wakumoto - Patricia Sugai

Kimie Osaki - Marian Joe

Ken Shimizu - Gloria Shimizu

Ken Shimizu - Kari Shimizu

## Social Concerns

Haven Kuboyama

Patricia Sugai

## Miscellaneous Donations

Haven Kuboyama

## Volunteer Support

Marie Hashimura

Stanford Iwamoto

Ralph Kitashima

Haven Kuboyama

Rev. Mieko Majima

Milton Nakamura

Kaleigh Ramil

Tami Ramil

Carol Saiki

Calvin & Rona Sakai

Gloria Shimizu

Pearl Shimizu

Joan Slingerland

## Membership

Robert Hiraoka

Arlene Iida

Lane Sunada

Betty Yamamoto

## Hall Rental

Center for Spiritual Living

## Building Repair Fund

Laura Asari

Raymond Kawamoto



## Announcements

### **Membership Renewal**

We will be sending out the 2024 membership renewal forms soon.

### **112 Legislative Assembly**

February 9-10, 2024 (In person or Zoom)

Kapaa Hongwanji will have 1 delegate to attend and observers who wish to attend.

I will be attending on Zoom to save on the registration, airfare and hotel costs.

### **Mahalo & Aloha, Rev. Majima**

Thursday, January 25, 2024 @ 10:30 a.m.

The gathering will be held on the lawn in front of the parsonage. Please RSVP as soon as possible by texting or calling 808 822-4667 or email at [mail@kapaahongwanji.org](mailto:mail@kapaahongwanji.org) so we will be able to make preparations. Invitations will be sent out soon to you and our guests.

**from the president's corner...**

*Happy New Year! We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your efforts and contributions throughout the past year. Our Temple is built on the dedication and commitment of our Sangha. Although we are faced with unexpected challenges, each one of you have made valuable contributions to keep the temple progressing while we continue to work in harmony with self reflection and gratitude. Namo Amida Butsu...*

*We also express our sincere appreciation to Rev. Mieko Majima for her many years of dedicated service as our resident minister. During her tenure she has reorganized the office, set up a digital system for our death records, memorial services, and many other efficient and effective initiatives to improve our temple. We are forever grateful.*

*Many people make resolutions to improve in the New Year. What can we improve or do better in 2024 as a Sangha? Many things come to mind, however, the priority would be to have your continued participation and support to grow a happy and respectful Sangha.*

*We will not have a resident minister beginning in January, however, we will continue to provide funeral, memorial, bedside and other services for you. Please call me at 808 822-4667 to make arrangements to schedule the service. We will request the kind support of the Kauai Hongwanji ministers, Rev. Yagi and Rev. Hojo during this time.*

*The construction of the temple is continuing. The interior of the parsonage has been completed so we will be using the living room for private services. It can comfortably hold about 25 people. We will also have Sunday gathering in the absence of a minister to chant "Gasho to Amida," sing gathas and share messages from ministers. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions to improve.*

**2024 Board of Directors** - President: Roberta, Vice President: Ralph Kitashima, Secretary: Kaleigh Ramil, Treasurer: Milton Nakamura, Auditor: Clyde Takekuma

**2024 Kauai Hongwanji Council Officers** - President: Ralph Kitashima, Vice President: Rev. Tomo Hojo, Secretary: Roberta Yanagawa, Treasurer: Milton Nakamura, Auditor: Lynne Matsumura. These officers will serve a 2 year term until December 2025. The council is also in need of a volunteer to serve on the Hawaii Kyodan Board of Directors to represent Kauai District. Please let me know if you would like to serve as a director.



## Memorial Service

### January

Toshie H.	Shimizu	13th	1/5/2012
Yoshihiro	Nakamura	17th	1/7/2008
Wakumoto	Sandy	1st	1/13/2023
Shimoyo	Sugibayashi	17th	1/17/2008
Fred Satoru	Okazaki	27th	1/18/1998
Tamura	Itsuko	13th	1/22/2012
Kenneth Koichi	Fujii	27th	1/25/1998
Howard	Nagaoka	1st	1/31/2023

### February

Manzo	Mori	50th	2/1/1975
Tsuruko	Torii	50th	2/1/1975
Asayo	Ishida	50th	2/5/1975
Usaburo	Tamura	50th	2/11/1975
Asako	Mitusi	13th	2/14/2012
Narimatsu	Asano	27th	2/18/1998
Nakamura	Shizue	27th	2/19/1998
Masuda	Masumi	27th	2/23/1998
Joseph Tetsuo	Nakamura	50th	2/23/1975

### Services

For any inquiries regarding funerals or memorial services during the repair period, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at 808.822.4667. We understand the importance of honoring your loved ones, and we are happy to assist you.

### From Minister's Desk

Wishing you and your family a wonderful New Year. Thank all of you for kind and generous support.

When we are in harmony with body and mind, we are at ease, looking with compassion and doing at our best, which can make us live in harmony with others.

Namo Amida Butsu

## Temple Cleaning & Flower Arrangement

1/13/2024	Group 1	Mrs. Marie Hashimura - Chair Mr. Milton Nakamura, Mr. Ray Paler Mr. Robert Hiraoka	Joan Slingerland
1/20/2024	Group 2	Mr. Clint Saiki - Chair Mrs. Yasuko Murakami, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Yanagawa	Kay Takekuma
1/27/2024	Group 3	Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Takekuma - Chair Mr. Stanford Iwamoto, Mrs. Erin Takekuma, Ms. Madison Doo, Mrs. Tami Ramil, Ms. Kaleigh Ramil	Rona Sakai
2/3/2024	Group 4	Ms. Gloria Shimizu - Chair Mr. Haven Kuboyama, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Sunada, Mrs. Pat Yamamoto	Ruby Ishida
2/10/2024	Group 5	Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Sakai - Chair Ms. Carol Saiki	Joan Slingerland
1/6/2024	Group 6	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Tsukamoto - Chair Mr. & Mrs. Brian Yamamoto, Mr. Winston Kawamoto	Ruby Ishida

KAPAA HONGWANJI MISSION

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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



January 2024

**New Year's Day Service**

Minister Only

**Monthly Memorial Service (Minister Only)**

January 8, 2024

**Hoonko Service (Minister Only)**

January 23, 2024

**Family Services**

TBD

