



# The Messenger

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude

## Calendar of Events

### March 2026

01 Sun 8:30 am Sangha Day at Mililani Hongwanji - No WHM Sunday Service  
 08 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service  
 15 Sun WHM at Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden - No WHM Sunday Service  
 15 Sun 9:00 am WHM Bon Dance planning meeting in Social Hall  
 22 Sun 9:00 am Haru no Higan (Spring Higan/Spring Equinox Service) with Rev. Shigenori Makino  
 29 Sun BWA State Convention - No Sunday Service

### April 2026

05 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service  
 05 Sun 9:30 am Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin  
 12 Sun 9:00 am Hanamatsuri Service  
 19 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service  
 26 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

### Save the Date:

WHM Hatsubon Service Saturday, June 6, 2026 at 6:00 pm  
 WHM Bon Dance June 12 - 13, 2026

## WHM New Year's Party!

The Wahiawa Hongwanji welcomed 2026 with a joyful New Year's luncheon on February 22nd filled with food and fellowship. Guests enjoyed tea, talking story, and games, followed by delicious food from Best Drive In - Sand Island. Mahalo to everyone who donated desserts.

While playing games, we learned more about Co-Presidents Venus and Carolyn, whose combined ages total 121! We also played a lively round of All or Nothing, where Rod Moriyama was literally the last man standing and the winner. Thank you to all who made it a wonderful celebration.



## Spring Ohigan



Please join us for our Spring Ohigan Service on Sunday, March 22nd, at 9:00 a.m., featuring Rev. Shigenori Makino as our Dharma speaker. Spring Ohigan, celebrated at the Spring Equinox, is a time to reflect on balance, harmony, and gratitude. In the Jodo Shinshu tradition, Ohigan, meaning “the Other Shore,” invites us to welcome the new season and reflect on the kindness we receive from others and the world around us. We hope you can join us for this meaningful service.

# Minister's Message - Reflecting on "Eko" During Ohigan Season



Ohigan is the time of year when day and night are the same length. It is a special time for us to reflect on our lives and to remember the world of Enlightenment—the “Other Shore.”

It is a time to look within and to live with gratitude and awareness of the Buddha’s compassionate guidance.

In Buddhism, we often hear the word “Eko” (回向), which means “to turn or direct merit.” It is the act of sharing the goodness or virtue that arises from our thoughts and deeds—not for our own sake, but for the sake of all beings. In this way, Eko expresses the heart of compassion and interconnectedness.

In Jodo Shinshu, we speak of “Oso-Eko” (the Eko of Going Forth) and “Genso-Eko” (the Eko of Returning). Together, these are called “Ogen-Eko”—the two aspects of Amida Buddha’s boundless working.

- Oso-Eko refers to Amida’s guiding us to attain birth in the Pure Land through the working of Other Power (Tariki).
- Genso-Eko means that those who are born in the Pure Land return to this world to guide and benefit others who still suffer.

Shinran Shonin expressed this beautifully in the Shoshinge:

*“Our going and returning, directed to us by Amida,  
come about through Other Power.*

*The truly decisive cause is Shinjin.”* By P24 in the service book

Both our journey to Pure Land and our compassionate return to help others are not our action; they are the expression of Amida’s infinite compassion working through us.

During the Ohigan season, we remember our loved ones who have gone before us and reflect on how we, too, are embraced by Amida’s great vow. When we live each day with gratitude—offering a smile, a helping hand, or a kind word—we are participating in the Buddha’s Eko, turning our hearts toward others.

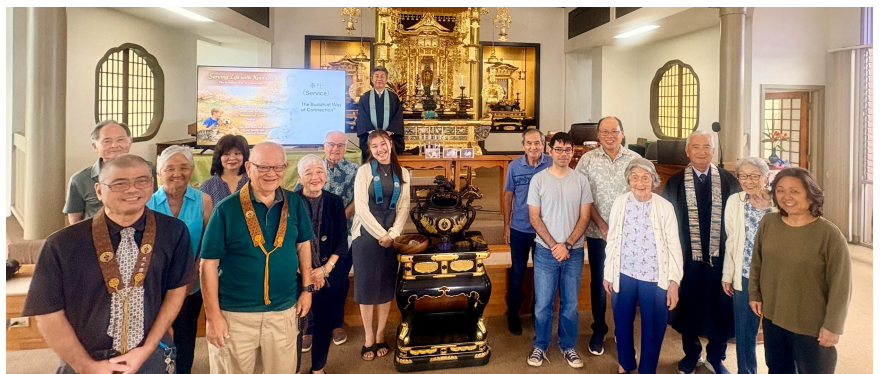
May the Ohigan remind us that every act of kindness is a shining expression of Amida’s light within our lives.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,  
Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

## Pet Memorial Service

On Sunday, February 8th, WHM held its annual Pet Memorial Service. Thank you to all who attended for being a part of this meaningful and heartwarming service to remember our pets who have enriched our lives with their companionship and love.



**Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 9:00am - noon**  
(Appointments are highly recommended)

**Phone: 808-622-4320**

**Email: [office@wahiawahongwanji.org](mailto:office@wahiawahongwanji.org)**

To ensure clarity and accuracy, email is the preferred contact method. This avoids the potential for spelling mistakes or misunderstandings that can arise from unclear answering machine messages

**[www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org](http://www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org)**

**Columbarium Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm**

# President's Report

This past February, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii held their yearly Legislative Assembly, or Gisekai, which is the legislative body of the organization. This year marked the 114<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly with delegates and observers from every district from Kauai to Hawaii Island. The business is similar to our own State Legislature. On February 20, 2026, the service began in the Hawaii Betsuin temple with the business of the day in the Social Hall. Major reports were given, and the following resolutions were passed:



- Closing of Waianae Hongwanji Mission who had their closing service November of 2025
- The establishment of the Minister's Supplemental Compensation Fund that will help with the prospective increase in the minister's salaries that are currently below the Buddhist Churches of America's minister's salaries
- Resolution to Promote Jodo Shinshu Teachings in Hawaii and Grow Hongwanji Temples
- Condolences and Appreciation for distinguished individuals from various temples who passed away in 2025
- 2026 HHMH Budget

The budget for 2026 was supplemented by the generous gift of property in Kalihi from the late Rev. Soshin Kie and Mrs. Akiko Kie. Although they left the property to HHMH, Moiliili Hongwanji, and the Pacific Buddhist Academy; their generosity will benefit the entire sangha. The three entities received \$3 million through the sale of the property. HHMH received 40% and the Kie's directed the funds towards Buddhist education and training for Jodo Shinshu Buddhist ministry or lay ministry.

The Rev. Soshin Kie & Mrs. Akiko Kie Buddhist Study Endowment Fund will have an annual transfer of funds to the HHMH budget. It came to \$22,000 for 2026 and \$6,500 will be going to "Reimaging Dharma School: One Day Workshop for Hawaii Hongwanji Dharma Educators" on May 2, 2026, at the Buddhist Study Center. The workshop is open to individuals from all districts and the \$6,500 will help to offset airfare costs for the neighbor island participants. The remaining \$17,500 will go towards the 2026 budget, to lower it from \$612,895 to \$595,395. This is an example of how someone's gratitude gifted to the HHMH affects us all.

On February 21, the Legislative Assembly reconvened with morning service, followed by remaining business, and concluded with the Living Treasures Luncheon at the Coral Ballroom. The Living Treasures program recognizes and honors individuals who have demonstrated excellence and high achievement in their respective fields. The honorees were veterinarian Dr. Billy Bergin - Keeper of the Paniolo Spirit; Dr. B. Ka'imiloa Chrisman - Reviving the Lost Arts of Hawaii; Mapuana de Silva - A Lifetime of Hula, Healing, and Leadership; Jim and Vickie Kennedy - Making the Invisible Visible; and Sheree Tamura - Japanese Dancing Tradition Forward. The first recipient of the Shining Spirit Youth Award was Jaimee Paula Yoshie Yokoyama, a young person who exemplified compassion, humility, leadership, and selfless service grounded in Buddhist values.

We will continue to share the happenings within the temple, our community, and our state. The more informed we are, the better decision makers we become to create a calm and harmonious world.

In gassho,,  
Venus Oshiro and Carolyn Uchiyama  
Co-President

## Wahiawa Hongwanji Social Hall Rental

Celebrate special occasions at the WHM Social Hall! Rentals available for up to 200 guests. Member rates start at \$300, non-members \$800 (plus \$100 refundable security deposit and \$100 non-refundable reservation deposit). Call 808-622-4320 or email [office@wahiawahongwanji.org](mailto:office@wahiawahongwanji.org) for more information.

# Wahiawa Hongwanji Bon Dance 2026



Mark your calendars! Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission's annual Bon Dance will be held on **Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13, 2026**. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community to dance, shop, eat, and enjoy the festivities!

Whether you're a seasoned dancer or a first-timer, there's something for everyone at our Bon Dance. We also invite you to volunteer and help make this event a success. If you're interested in volunteering during the event or assisting with preparations, please let us know by sending an email to [office@wahiawahongwanji.org](mailto:office@wahiawahongwanji.org).

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Donations Needed for Bon Dance Food & Mochi Booth

We are seeking donations of ingredients for the Bon Dance food & mochi booth! These items will be used to prepare delicious mochi toppings and foods for the event. The quantities listed below are our total goal—we do not expect one person to donate everything. Even donating a few bags or cans helps, and together we can reach our goal by May 31.

- Kinako – 24 bags total (7–8 oz bags, depending on brand)
- Turbinado sugar – 10 pounds total
- White sugar – 12 pounds total
- Shoyu – 1 gallon total
- Tsubushian – 24 cans total (18 oz each)
- Cases of bottled water (½ liter/16.9 oz bottles)
- Bags of white rice (15 pounds - 25 pounds bags)

If everyone donates a little, we'll get there! Thank you for helping make the Bon Dance booths a success. If you have any questions, please email [office@wahiawahongwanji.org](mailto:office@wahiawahongwanji.org). Thank you for supporting the Bon Dance and our food and mochi booth!

## Calling All Crafters: Get Ready for the Bon Dance Country Store!

It's time to dust off those sewing machines, organize your yarn stashes, and fire up the glue guns! Our Bon Dance Country Store is officially looking for donations to make this year's bon dance a success.

We know our Sangha and community are full of talented makers, and we want to showcase your handmade treasures. Whether you're a woodworking whiz, a crochet enthusiast, or a master of home décor, your contributions help support the temple.

### What We Are Looking For:

- Handmade Craft Items: We are looking for beautiful items for the home, kitchen accessories (potholders, bowl cozies), handmade stationery, bags, or decorative pieces.
- Japanese Attire: We are accepting new or gently used Happi coats and Yukata. (Please ensure these are clean and in good condition!)

### What We Cannot Accept:

To keep our Country Store focused, please note that we **cannot** accept:

- General clothing
- Miscellaneous household items (white elephant goods)

Drop-off dates and times will be shared in the May Newsletter. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at [office@wahiawahongwanji.org](mailto:office@wahiawahongwanji.org).

# Jr. YBA Happenings

Happy Spring! Wow, it's already March!

On Jan 24-25 we had our Winter Fed meeting. After a meeting at the Buddhist Study Center, we hung out at Ala Moana at Dave and Busters new location. We stayed overnight at the BSC and attended service at Mo'ili'ili where we saw Rev. Fujimoto. The Juniors had such a good time and went out after the Fed meeting.

Aunty Arynn had a free room at Air Park Karaoke through Yelp. Amane, Ruby, Aunty Gay and Aunty Arynn had a great time singing and having mocktails!

Aunty Gay and Aunty Arynn braved the weather and went to Punahou Carnival to support Taylor as it was her class' carnival. We bumped into Federation President, Maslyn, and bought 4 dozen malasada. Aunty Arynn didn't win her silent auction item but it was still an enjoyable afternoon!

## Upcoming Important Dates:

**Sunday March 1, 8:30am at Mililani Hongwanji.** This is an Oahu Hongwanji Council event so everyone in the district is included. Juniors will be providing beverages for lunch and will participate in the breakout session so please make sure you're registered. The Keynote Speaker is Gerald Oda, the Coach of Honolulu's Little League World Series Champions.

**Registration Link:** <https://forms.gle/hXrXG6W9Qi8F77EM7>

**Bento Order Link:** <https://bit.ly/SDBento2026>

## Next Meeting: Beach Meeting Day on Sunday, March 8, 1:00pm at Haleiwa Jodo Mission

Please meet at Mililani Hongwanji at 12:00 for carpool. We look forward to meeting Rev. Ezaki and his family. This is also a great opportunity to invite other Jr. YBA youth to come out for fellowship and enjoy the afternoon together.

## Mililani Hongwanji Spring Fling: Saturday, March 21, 9:00am-1:00pm

Jr. YBA will be running a fish pond booth. We will have a sign up sheet for shifts at our next meeting. We will also be putting together the goody bags for the kids who are fishing.

## **YOU CAN STILL REGISTER FOR YESS CAMP!**


**Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers (YESS) Camp: Friday, April 3-5, 2026 in Kona. Theme: Star Wars**

Regular Registration by March 10: \$90

Final Registration by March 30: \$120


**For more information and to register visit the website:** [YessCamp.com](https://YessCamp.com)

## Scan QR Code for Serendipity Federation Newsletter

We welcome any youth who are entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade through 2 years after high school graduation are welcome to join Jr. YBA! You do not need to be a member of the temple so bring your friends! Please contact a Jr. YBA member or Aunty Arynn Ishikawa (  ) at [arynn.m.ishikawa@gmail.com](mailto:arynn.m.ishikawa@gmail.com) or [jrybaofohu@gmail.com](mailto:jrybaofohu@gmail.com) if you have questions or for more information.

Follow us on Instagram! @jrybaofohu and @hawaiiifedjryba

Hawaii Buddhist Council



# BUDDHA DAY SERVICE



**Sunday, April 5, 2026, 9:30 AM**

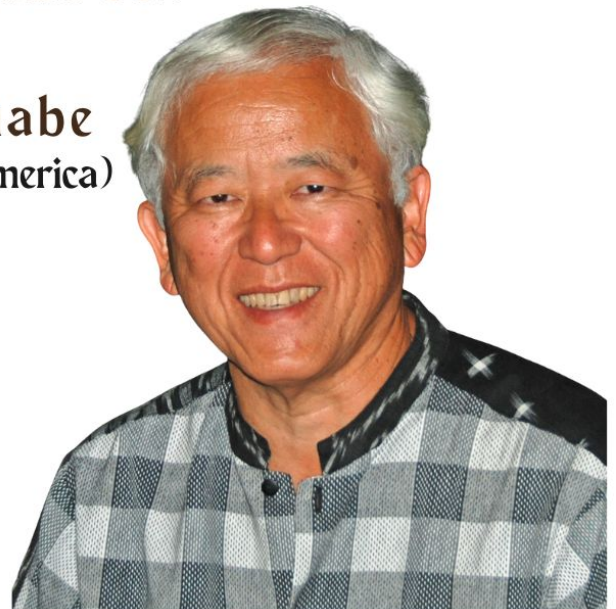
**Venue: Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin**

**1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI 96813 / Phone: (808) 522-9200**

**(Enter from Lusitana St.)**

**Guest Speaker: Dr. George Tanabe**  
(President of BDK Hawaii and BDK America)

George Tanabe is a retired Professor of Japanese Religions at the University of Hawaii. He is currently the president of BDK Hawaii and BDK America. He is the co-author with his wife Willa Tanabe of Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawaii (UH Press). His latest publication is Making Belief: Stories of the Formation of Shinto and Buddhism in Japan.



**Dr. George Tanabe**