



The Messenger

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude

Calendar of Events

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

May 2026

03 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service
 10 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service
 17 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service
 24 Sun 9:00am Temple Clean Up - No Sunday Service
 25 Mon 1:00-2:30pm Public Bon Dance Practice in the social hall
 31 Sun 8:00am Yagura set up - No Sunday service
 31 Sun 1:00-2:30pm Public Bon Dance Practice in the social hall

Upcoming Events:

June 6 at 8:00am Bon Dance Tent and Booth Set Up
 June 6 at 6:00pm Hatsubon Service
 June 8 at 7:00pm -8:30pm Public Bon Dance Practice around yagura
 June 11 at 8:00am Booth Table and Equipment Set Up
 June 14 at 8:00am Bon Dance Clean Up



Hanamatsuri Flowers Needed

HANAMATSURI is a service held in April to honor the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha in Lumbini Garden, in India.

We need your help to decorate the hanamido on Saturday, April 11th

- Donate: Drop off fresh flowers at the temple between 8:00 am and 9:00 am.
- Volunteer: Help us decorate the hanamido starting at 9:00 am.

Thank you for helping us bring the beauty of Lumbini Garden to our temple!

HHMH Welcomes New Statewide Kyodan President

During the 114th Giseikai, the slate of officers, Advisors, and Directors for the year 2026 was approved by unanimous consent, and the HHMH welcomed Mr. Michael Munekiyo as the new statewide Kyodan President.

Mr. Munekiyo has been active at Wailuku Hongwanji since returning to Maui in the late 1980s. He served as Temple President from 1992-1993, 1999-2000, and 2013-2025.



At the statewide level, he served as a past Director on the HHMH's Board of Directors and as a past Advisor to the HHMH's Board. He served as the past Chair of the HHMH's Research and Planning Central Committee and is currently a member of the Bylaws Committee. He previously worked with an Ad Hoc Committee to formulate a new governance and operating structure for the Hawaii State Lay Association (HSLA). In addition, he leads the HHMH's Ad Hoc Lahaina Hongwanji Recovery and Rebuilding Committee, which guides the planning process to rebuild Lahaina Hongwanji.

The HHMH and its members would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation and welcome to Mr. Michael Munekiyo for assuming this leadership role. We would also like to express our gratitude to Dr. Warren Tamamoto, who completed his six years of service as our President.

Minister's Message - Six Characteristics of the Human Life Process



Many years ago, **Rev. Seigen Yamaoka** shared a teaching that helps us reflect on how our human life process is deeply connected with the Dharma of Jōdo Shinshū. Through his insight, we come to understand six characteristics that naturally unfold within our lives.

These six characteristics are:

1. Encounter (Deai)**
2. Reflection (Naisei)**
3. Interrelationship (Goen)**
4. Happiness (Shiawase)**
5. Thankfulness (Kansha)**
6. Meaning (Jinsei no Imi)**

These were selected to show the relationship between the Dharma and the way our lives are lived. For teaching purposes, they are presented in a linear order. However, our life process is not linear. It is infinitely complex, with each aspect always influencing and supporting others.

1. Encounter (Deai)

In our human life process, we experience countless encounters. An encounter may take the form of a person, an event, spoken words, a truth, or even unseen conditions that quietly support our lives.

Every moment that touches our life holds the potential to awaken us to a deeper truth.

2. Reflection (Naisei)

Usually, our reflections pass quickly. However, at times, an encounter stirs something within us and gives rise to concern.

When this concern remains self-centered, it may lead to frustration or emotional struggle. Yet even these moments become important opportunities for deeper awareness.

3. Interrelationship (Goen)

Through encounter and reflection, we begin to see life not as something isolated, but as something supported by countless relationships and conditions.

When we recognize interrelationships, we can see the deeper meaning within our encounters and reflections. We realize that nothing arises on its own.

4. Happiness (Shiawase)

Happiness is experienced when a meaningful encounter is received deeply and reflection opens us to interrelationship.

This is the essential issue of self and other—when the self is no longer limited to itself but opens to the wider reality of life as it truly is.

5. Thankfulness (Kansha)

From this realization naturally thankfulness arises.

When we become aware of how our life is supported by innumerable causes and conditions, gratitude emerges—not as something forced, but as something awakened within us.

6. Meaning (Jinsei no Imi)

All human beings seek meaning in life. Meaning gives value and direction to our existence.

Within the life process, meaning appears as milestones—quiet moments of realization that reflect growth, maturity, and awakening.

Shiran Shonin wrote:

If we are fortunate enough to receive the practice and Shinjin, we should rejoice in the deep karmic connections from the distant past. By Kyogyoshinsho, Sojo

Encounter, then, becomes the beginning of the process that leads to Shinjin.

Through our experiences, we think, feel, and learn. Gradually, we come to realize the truth of our life as it is—received, supported, and embraced by boundless compassion.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,
Rev. Kojun Hashimoto

President's Corner



The Oahu Hongwanji Council comprises seven temples – Aiea Hongwanji, Ewa Hongwanji, Mililani Hongwanji, Pearl City Hongwanji, Wahiawa Hongwanji, Waialua Hongwanji, and Waipahu Hongwanji. Every year the Council sponsors Sangha Day, which is held the first Sunday in March.

This year's host was Mililani Hongwanji and Sangha Day was held on March 1st with the theme "Rainbows of Aloha: Our Interfaith Community and World Peace." The following individuals represented their faith in the service and shared their beliefs. They are Edward Young Jr. & Wynne Nakamoto representing the Baha'i Faith, Elder Edward Hurd representing the Church of Latter-Day Saints, Congregant Lilette Subedi representing Ka Hale O Hamashiach, Pastor Keith Wolter representing the Mililani Christ Lutheran, Murabbi Hashem Usman representing the Muslim Faith, and Gerald Oda representing Soka Gakkai USA as the keynote speaker.

Gerald Oda is the coach for Honolulu's Little League. His team won the Little League World Series Champion in 2018 and 2022. He is touted as one of the most successful coaches in Little League history. He relayed how he was brought to his faith at Soka Gakkai. At 40 years old, he wondered what was the purpose in his life? Seeking answers and traveling on this different path, he changed the way he coached his team. Oda, along with his brother, adopted the philosophy of We>Me (We more than Me). What does that mean? According to Oda, it's not just a slogan, it is the core of his coaching.

While coaching kids in baseball would appear as the main goal, Oda told us that having kids who play baseball well is a by-product. His main goal in these kids is that "team, family, and community come before the individual." He focuses on respect, compassion, and humility. He touts a lot of his success in grooming well-rounded kids to one single rule. If you are going to be on his team, you must hug and tell each other "I love you" after every practice and every game. The Aloha spirit shines through all his kids and extends to their families, too. This is especially noticeable when meeting other teams and traveling to the mainland. No other groups behave with such respect and care for others as Coach Oda's group does.

Let's spread the "Rainbows of Aloha" as we share our Buddhist values. As one kind word or one helping hand will spread like ripples in a pond to touch others in our community and make a difference.



In Gassho,
Venus and Carolyn
Co-Presidents

Coach Gerald Oda, two-time Little League World Series champion, delivers the keynote address at Sangha Day. Oda shared how his "We > Me" philosophy and the spirit of Aloha foster both community and character.

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

Phone: 808-622-4320

Email: 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

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

Jr. YBA Happenings

We hope you had a nice Spring Break and if you attended Mililani Hongwanji's Spring Fling, we want to thank you for supporting the Jr. YBA Fishing Booth!

Our March meeting was held at Haleiwa Jodo Mission. Thank you to Rev. Ezaki and his family for graciously allowing us to come to visit. It was so nice to meet Rev. and Mrs. Ezaki and their daughters, Miku and Sai. We picked up lunch from Kua 'Aina Sandwich and after eating we visited the Hondo and had a short service. Rev. Ezaki shared a little bit of history of Haleiwa Jodo Mission and it was cool to learn that the sugar trains used to go right through the property where the Hondo now stands! We stayed in the Hondo to conduct our meeting and make the goody bags for Spring Fling. We ended the afternoon hanging out at the beach. Shout out to Ruby who brought her bestie, Isla, to join in the fun afternoon.



Last chance to register!

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

Final Registration by March 30: \$120

First time attendees: \$60

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

REGISTER NOW! 69th Jr. YBA State Convention in Hilo Friday, June 19-21.

Register via link below:

<https://www.hilobetsuin.org/home/affiliates-temple-organizations/jr-yba/2026-jr-yba-convention#h.fssc.vbfbeydi>

Please try to register before our next meeting.

Upcoming Important Dates:

Next Meeting: Sunday, April 12, 1:00pm at Aiea Hongwanji

Spring Federation Meeting: Saturday April 25, 3:00p-5:00p via Zoom. Link will be sent to those who confirm attendance.

Scan QR Code for Serendipity Federation Newsletter or [CLICK HERE](#)



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

Follow us on Instagram! [@jrybaofohu](#) and [@hawaiiifedjryba](#)





Support Our Bon Dance Booths!

We are gearing up for the Bon Dance and need your help!

What We Need:

- Country Store: Scrubbies, kitchen towels, pot holders, handmade crafts, and gently used happi coats/kimonos. We also welcome baked good, snack mixes, fresh produce, flowers, and jams.
- Mochi Booth: Kinako (7–8 oz), turbinado, white sugar, shoyu (1 gal), and tsubushian (18 oz cans).
- Food Booth: Cases of bottled water (16.9 oz), bags of white rice (15–25 lbs), and cans of Spam.



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 Schedule

The best time to bring donations is before or after Sunday Service or during our Prep Days:

- May 24 (Sun): 9:00 am – Noon (Temple Cleanup)
- May 31 (Sun): 9:00 am – Noon (Yagura Setup)
- June 11 (Thu): 9:00 am – Noon (Country Store Baked Goods only)

Important Notes

- Labeling: Please mark all items clearly for the "Country Store," "Food Booth," or "Mochi Booth."
- When donating, please label items clearly with your name and phone number
- Ingredients: For baked goods with 2+ ingredients, please include a full list (ordered from greatest to least).
- Contact Preference: To ensure accuracy and avoid misunderstandings from phone messages, email is the preferred contact method.

Questions?

- Country Store: Email Jan Fukada at janfukada@gmail.com
- Food or Mochi Booths: Email office@wahiawahongwanji.org



YOUNG BUDDHIST INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL STUDY EXCHANGE

JAPAN TRIP

JUNE 30 - JULY 9, 2026

YBICSE is an educational **trip to Japan** which offers young Buddhists from North America, Hawaii, Canada, and South America the unique opportunity to experience Japanese culture. You will visit our mother temples and other historic sites in Kyoto, engage in peace programs in Hiroshima, and connect with Dharma friends from around the world. Join this once-in-a-lifetime adventure of discovery and connection!

Eligibility: Participants should be **high school graduates to 24 years of age**, have an interest in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, able to travel internationally and participate in program activities.

Estimated Cost: \$2,000 (final price announced at time of booking, trip includes international flights, lodging, and meals)



MINSTER CHAPERONE:
REV. BLAYNE NAKASONE SAKATA

APPLY NOW UNTIL APRIL 25, 2026

<https://forms.gle/1Uptmm1r2Jjwgwfa7>



SPONSORED BY THE JODO SHINSHU INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, JODO SHINSHU HONGWANJI-HA, AND HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

Buddhist Study Center

Spring Festival

APRIL 18, 2026

9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

1436 UNIVERSITY AVE

“Appreciating Our Ohana”

Intergenerational workshops, entertainment, food, snacks, games and activities for the whole family!

Gratitude Chain, Brain & Body Yoga, Read Together, and Intergenerational Conversations workshops! Performances by PBA Taiko & Oubaitori, Shakuhachi and Koto.

Easy access via TheBus Routes A, 4, 6, & 13. Parking at UH Mānoa music building (free if no event).

For more information
contact (808) 973-6555 or
ehashi@honpahi.org

