



The Messenger

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude

Calendar of Events

September 2026

06 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service
13 Sun 9:00am Aki No Higan (Fall Equinox) Service
20 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service with Tokudo Minister's Assistant Rod Moriyama
27 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service

October 2026

04 Sun 9am Sunday Service
11 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service
18 Sun 9:00am Tsuito-E Service - Dharma Speaker Mrs. Minako Kamuro
25 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service
25 Sun Zippy's fundraiser tickets expire

Upcoming Events

Nov. 1 - Clean up at Waiialua Hongwanji in preparation for their closing ceremony. No service at WHM
Nov. 22 - Eitaikyo Service - Dharma Speaker - Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki

Deadline Extended!



ZIPPY'S

Did you use all your tickets? Did you miss the order deadline? We still have tickets left! Please see the last page for our Zippy's Fundraiser Ticket Order Form.



Sashiko and Sangha REVISED class schedule

Join us for the meditative art of Japanese Sashiko and fellowship led by Jennifer Okuma. **Due to Hurricane Lala, our August 16th class was canceled. Here is our revised schedule:**

Revised Class Dates

- **Sept. 13:** Sashiko Basics 10:30 - 1:30
- **Sept. 27:** Sashiko Projects 10:00 - 1:00
- **Oct. 4:** Sashiko Projects 10:00 - 1:00

Place: WHM Social Hall

Cost (Per Class): \$10 WHM Members | \$20 Non-Members

Register: bit.ly/WHMSashiko or email office@wahiawahongwanji.org

Foodland's Give Aloha Program Sept. 1-30

Support Wahiawa Hongwanji this September through Foodland's Give Aloha program! 100% of your checkout donation comes to us, and Foodland will match a portion of it.

How to Donate at Checkout:

1. Give your Maika'i number or card to the cashier.
2. Say: **"I'd like to make a donation to Wahiawa Hongwanji, code #79089."** (Donate up to \$249)
3. Check your receipt to confirm the donation.

Please save your receipt for tax purposes, as Foodland does not provide us with a list of donor names. Note: WHM only receives checkout donations and matching funds, not purchase proceeds.

Mahalo for your generosity!

Look for our banner in Wahiawa Foodland!



Minister's Message - How the Buddha's Compassion Awakens True Joy



When we look back on our daily lives, we often measure happiness by output, position, or conditional approval. Yet, true spiritual well-being reaches far deeper than temporary highs or societal success. When unexpected storms arrive and our familiar ground crumbles, where do we find an unshakeable foundation?

It is precisely in our moments of deepest vulnerability that true spiritual security opens its arms, assuring us that we are already embraced.

In the Jodo Shinshu, founded by Shinran Shonin, we learn that as human beings, we naturally struggle with blind passions and moments of inner emptiness. Yet, we are never left in the dark. The Great Compassion and Universal Vow of Amida Buddha embrace us 100%—flaws, anxieties, and foolishness included.

We are not required to "earn" our salvation through performance or perfection. The Buddha's wisdom shines like a gentle, protective light, quietly assuring our hearts that we are accepted exactly as we are.

This profound truth is vividly illustrated in the Sutra of Contemplation through the story of Queen Vaidehi. Confronted with heartbreaking betrayal, extreme suffering, and family tragedy, she was plunged into the darkest depths of sorrow. Yet, during her imprisonment and despair, she turned her heart to the Buddha. Remarkably, her immense grief became the very condition that led her to encounter the Buddha's unconditional compassion. Her story reminds us that even our deepest tragedies and mistakes can be transformed into the very pathway toward spiritual awakening and liberation.

In our daily lives, as we reflect on our body, speech, and mind (Shin, Ku, I), we recognize how easily our minds become clouded by pride or anxiety. Yet, Buddhist wisdom invites us to reframe every encounter. Challenging circumstances and difficult people can be seen as "temporary guides" unexpected mentors that shatter our rigid egos and nurture our spiritual depth. Ultimately, listening to Dharma is a quiet transition from trying to control or accumulate, to surrendering our restless hearts into Great Compassion. When we realize that we are perpetually held in this warm, non-judgmental embrace, fear gives way to profound relief (Kangi) and lasting gratitude (Kansha). In this quiet faith, we discover a steady joy that no worldly trial can ever take away.

Namo Amidabutsu

In Gassho,
Rev. Kojun Hashimoto

Please join us for our Aki No Higan (Fall Equinox) Service on Sept. 13th at 9:00



July 26th Sunday Service
Dharma Speaker Denise



We were honored to welcome guest speaker Rev. Soga from Waipahu Hongwanji for our August 9th Obon Service!

We were also delighted to have a special visit from Gail, the Managing Editor of *Ka Leo Kāhea*—the official statewide newsletter of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Thank you both for joining us!



President's Corner

As we enter the third quarter of 2026, we thank all members for your continued support of Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission through donations, service attendance, and volunteer efforts that sustain our temple and community.

Thanks to your generosity and the success of our recent obon festivities, the temple remains on solid financial footing. However, we continue to face significant expenses, particularly insurance. While our 2026 premium is lower than in 2025, it remains much higher than in past years. Careful financial planning and your ongoing support have allowed us to meet these costs.

With revenue typically declining in the third quarter, we will hold fundraisers to help offset the shortfall. Order forms for our Zippy's fundraiser have been mailed; of the \$11.00 ticket price, \$5.00 goes to the temple. We hope for your strong support. During September, we will also be participating in Foodland's Give Aloha program, where a portion of any donation you make at the register to Wahiawa Hongwanji will be matched. In December, we will hold a mochi sale. These efforts are vital to maintaining our financial stability.

Several important Hongwanji events are also scheduled. On September 12, 2026, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH) Board of Directors will meet at Hawaii Betsuin, followed by an Aloha Luncheon at the Pacific Buddhist Academy, honoring outgoing President Dr. Warren Tamamoto (Aiea Hongwanji) and welcoming incoming President Michael Munekiyo (Wailuku Hongwanji). We thank Dr. Tamamoto for his leadership through the COVID years and Mr. Munekiyo for his service leading the Lahaina Taskforce after the Lahaina Wildfires.

On September 18-19, 2026, the Hawaii State Lay Association will hold its 65 th Lay Convention at Hawaii Betsuin. As the organization continues its reformation, workshops will focus on "Bridging Generations: Lessons in Leadership and Transition" to "Dealing with Resistance to Change" to "Strategic/Succession Planning" to "Insurance." Wahiawa will be represented by Venus Oshiro, Carolyn Uchiyama, Dale Shimaura, and Henry Kitagawa, who will bring back valuable insights for our temple's future planning.

The recent Tropical Storm Lala highlighted the strength of our community, as members worked together to report the conditions, solve problems, share updates, and express appreciation for one another's efforts. It was a strong reminder of what we can accomplish through cooperation and communication. As we move through the remainder of 2026, let us continue this spirit of teamwork and mutual support to strengthen Wahiawa Hongwanji and serve our community.



In Gassho,
Venus and Carolyn
Co-Presidents

A huge Mahalo to our Saturday morning crew, Lori, Henry, Denise, Ethel, Doris and Rev. H for keeping our columbarium beautiful!

Many hands make light work, and extra help is always welcome. Join us any Saturday from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM to lend a hand!

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours: Tuesday, Friday & 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

United Jr. YBA of Oahu HBY Month Fundraiser



In October, the United Jr. YBA of Oahu will sell Baked Manju filled with Koshian (red bean paste) to fundraise for our HBY (Hawaii Buddhist Youth) Month. The Federation has not yet chosen a charity to support but know that it will be a good cause. Please see the information and order form below.

Thank you for your continued support!

ORDER DEADLINE: October 4, 2026

Please email orders to: jrybafoahu@gmail.com

(Include name, address, contact number, temple pickup location, and number of orders)

OR

Mail order form (bottom) to:

**Mililani Hongwanji Mission, attn: Jr. YBA
P.O. Box 893308, Mililani, HI 96789**

Pick-up/Delivery date: October 18, 2026

Must be postmarked by October 3, 2026

Pick-up locations: Aiea, Mililani, Wahiawa, or Waipahu Hongwanji

Payment: Cash (exact change) or checks payable to United Jr. YBA of Oahu

Please enclose payment or pay at the time of pick up/delivery.

For any questions regarding order or delivery, contact Aryn Ishikawa at (808) 271-8254

Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

Pick up temple location: _____

OR

Delivery Address: _____



Manju: one order is 5 pc for \$5

TOTAL: ____ orders x \$5 = \$ ____

Payment enclosed: Yes ____ No ____

Jr YBA Happenings

Can you believe that school started again? We can't. Summer went by way too fast and now we've just completed the last bon dance for the summer. We'd like to send out a huge Thank You to the volunteers who helped us with our beverage booth.

Our first event of the year went well. We went to Wai Kai, thank you to the United of Maui for giving us their discount tickets! We had so much fun with Ruby, and 3 guests: Kaliyan, Jagger and Dayton. We hope to welcome them to Jr. YBA this year!

At our first meeting for the new year we chose officers. Congratulations to our new officers!

President – Amane Tomori (Aiea Hongwanji)

Vice-President – Darius Thomson (Mililani Hongwanji)

Secretary – Vacant (collectively we will all add to minutes)

Treasurer – Ruby Colbert (Mililani Hongwanji)

We will have Installation of Officers at our next monthly meeting on September 20.

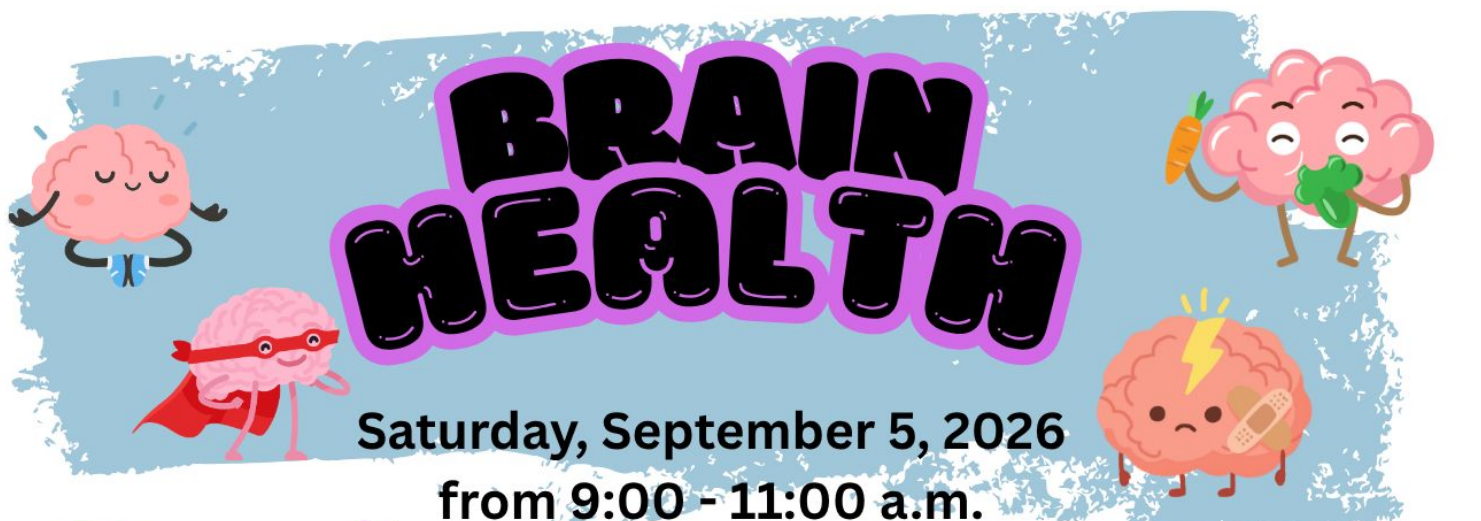
The moment you all wait for each year is the Jr. YBA Manju sale! Funds from this fundraiser go toward a charity chosen by the Federation each year. We were not decided on a charity during the State Convention but we will be voting on who we will be supporting when we meet again for our Fall Federation meeting later in October. Please see the order form that is in this newsletter. The deadline to order is October 4 and postmarked by October 3 for mail-in orders. Pick-up / Delivery date is Sunday, October 18.

Next Meeting: Sunday, September 20, 1:00pm at Mililani Hongwanji. We will have installation of officers at this time.

Convention Planning Meeting: With planning convention, we will be having regular planning meetings, mostly via Zoom, in addition to our monthly meetings. The first Zoom meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 13 at 5:30pm HST**. The Zoom link will be sent out to the Jr. YBA distribution list. If you are interested in helping us plan the State Convention, please contact Aunty Aryn for more information.

Save the Date: October 24, Fall Federation Meeting on O'ahu. Details are TBD

Save the Date! June 25-27, 2027. United of O'ahu will be hosting the 70th Jr. YBA State Convention. Our Theme is DHARMA CROSSING. See the save the date flyer and we hope to see you there! With [om](mailto:jrybaofahu@gmail.com) or jrybaofahu@gmail.com if you have questions or for more information.



BRAIN WEALTH

Saturday, September 5, 2026
from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission
Social Hall
1047 California Ave.
Wahiawa, HI 96786

Sign-up on our website
www.whawahiawa.org

What you can look forward to:

- Signs & symptoms of concussion and other brain injuries
- How concussions and brain injuries may affect us.
- How the injuries happen
- How you can protect yourself



Wahiawa Health + Wellness Association
EST. 1943

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL of MEDICINE



ZIPPY'S



Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission is participating in Zippy's Fundraiser Program to raise money to repair, maintain and update our aging campus.

Each ticket purchased may be redeemed at any Zippy's location until **OCTOBER 25, 2026** for one of the following:

- Meat & Egg Breakfast with Small Coffee or Regular Soft Drink (redeemable during breakfast hours only. Orange Bang and Lilikoi drinks are not included.)
- Cornbread (5 pieces)
- Portuguese Bean Soup (1.5 lbs.)
- Zippy's Chili in Original, Vegetarian or No-Bean (1.5 lbs.)

If you wish to purchase tickets please submit the order form below and your payment. If you have any questions please call/text **(808)386-3849** or email **kitagawahk@gmail.com**. Thank you for your support!

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Fundraiser – Zippy's Ticket Order Form

Deadline has been extended to **Sept. 20, 2026**

Name: _____
(First) (Last)

Telephone #: _____

of tickets: _____ x **\$11.00** = \$_____ total amount for tickets

Donation to WHM (optional): \$_____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____

Please check one below

_____ I will pick up my tickets at Wahiawa Hongwanji on **SATURDAY, Sept. 26th, 9:30am-10:30am**

_____ Please call / text me at the telephone number listed above to arrange a pick up time.

_____ Please mail me my tickets. I have included a self-addressed stamped envelope with my order.

Office Use Only

Date received _____ Cash/Check # _____ Date of Check _____ Received by _____

Ticket #s _____