



The Messenger

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude

Calendar of Events

February 2026

01 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
08 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
15 Sun 9:00 am Pet Memorial Service
15 Sun 10:00 am WHM Board Meeting
22 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
22 Sun 10:00 am - noon New Year's Party

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 9:00 am 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

Save the Date:

WHM Hatusbon Service Saturday, June 6, 2026 at 6:00 pm

WHM Bon Dance June 12 - 13, 2026



WHM New Year's Party - Sunday, February 22nd

We can't wait to see everyone! See the last page of this newsletter for more information and to sign up! Join us for food, fun and fellowship!

We welcome donations of desserts for the party. If you are able to donate a dessert, please place a check mark in the box next to "Yes, I can bring a dessert to the party"

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.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Minister's Message - Hoshi



This month's theme is Ho-shi, which means "Service."

As Buddhists, we may ask ourselves: How can we offer service to others and to ourselves in our daily lives?

One of the fundamental Buddhist practices is Dana. Dana means the perfect practice of selfless giving — the act of offering that arises from a sincere and compassionate heart. If everyone in the world were to practice Dana, there would be no wars or conflicts. Peace would naturally flourish among all people. Therefore, it is important for us, as followers of the Buddha's teaching, to try to practice Dana in our daily lives.

Although the practice of Dana may seem difficult at first, it becomes easier when we approach it with the spirit of mindfulness and gratitude. The Buddha taught that Dana is not limited to material giving. In fact, there are seven kinds of Dana that anyone can practice without spending any money.

1眼施 (Gense) – Giving through the Eyes

This means looking at others with warmth and kindness. Avoid giving cold or harsh looks. A gentle and friendly gaze can bring comfort and peace to others.

2和顔悦色施 (Waganetsujise) – Giving through the Face

This means to share a pleasant and gentle smile. A smile is a universal expression of kindness that can bring joy to those around you.

3言辞施 (Gonjise) – Giving through Words

This means to speak kindly and gently. Avoid using harsh or hurtful language. Our words have great power—they can either harm or heal. Let us use them to encourage and uplift others.

4身施 (Shinse) – Giving through the Body

This means to offer your time, effort, and actions to help others. When someone asks for help, respond willingly and sincerely. Volunteering and helping those in need are beautiful expressions of Dana.

5心施 (Shinse) – Giving through the Heart

This means to act with a heart of compassion and sincerity. Without a kind heart, it is difficult to perform truly meaningful actions. When our hearts are filled with compassion, goodness naturally flows from us.

6床座施 (Shozase) – Giving through One's Seat

This means to give up your seat or place to others. It is a small but thoughtful gesture that shows humility and respect.

7房舎施 (Boshase) – Giving through Hospitality

This means to offer the best welcome to others. It is not only about receiving guests in your home, but also about being kind and considerate to everyone you meet.

Let us keep these seven forms of Dana in our hearts and do our best to practice them in our daily lives. Through these simple yet profound acts of giving, we can bring more kindness, understanding, and harmony to our families, our communities, and to the world.

In Gassho,
Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

WHM Calligraphy & Japanese Classes

Sunday	8:00am-8:45am	Calligraphy
Monday	9:00am-10:00am	Easy Reading, Writing and Conversational Japanese
Wednesday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Conversational Japanese
Cost: One session of 5 classes		

Wahiawa Hongwanji Member \$25.00 Non Wahiawa Hongwanji Member \$37.50

If you are interested in registering for classes or have any questions, please call the WHM Office at 808-622-4320 and leave a message for Takako Hashimoto



President's Corner

The Honpa Hongwanji's theme for the next four years is "Nurturing Nembutsu," and the slogan changes every year. For 2026, the slogan is "Sharing Gratitude," and gratitude is the foundation of Jodo Shinshu.

Each temple member has received an envelope labeled "Social Concerns." You may have wondered what Social Concerns entails and how the contributions are utilized.

Honpa Hongwanji has a Social Concerns committee that is chaired by Rev. Blayne Higa of Kona Hongwanji. The committee is composed of members that represent each island from Kauai to the Big Island. In 2024-2025, the committee successfully collected \$32,955.00. The current fund drive will run from November 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026.



The committee convenes quarterly to identify non-profit organizations in need of financial assistance. Their requests are presented to the Honpa Hongwanji Board of Directors' meeting for approval. On December 13, 2025, the following was approved:

\$1,000 - Honokaa Hongwanji Feed the Keiki and Kupuna Program

\$1,000 - Family Promise of Hawaii

\$1,000 - Lanakila Pacific

\$1,000 - Ma`o Farms

\$1,000 - The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii

\$1,000 - Pacific Health Ministry

\$2,000 - Hawaii Red Cross

\$2,000 - A Cup of Cold Water

\$2,000 - Maui Farm

In addition to the above, with the recent federal government shutdown and the disruption of SNAP benefits, the committee made emergency donations of \$2,000 each to the following organizations to help address food insecurity in our communities:

- Hawaii Foodbank

- Maui Foodbank

- Hawaii Foodbank Kauai

- Kauai Independent Food Bank

- The Food Basket, Hawaii Island's Food Bank

Please consider your own contributions to these or other worthy organizations that are making a difference in our community. Non-profits play a crucial role in our social safety net, helping to keep our community strong during these challenging times.

You can bring or mail your Social Concerns envelope to Wahiawa Hongwanji, address checks to Wahiawa Hongwanji with "Social Concerns" on the memo line. To date, our temple has raised \$1,570. At the end of the campaign, Wahiawa Hongwanji will write one check to Honpa Hongwanji.

We want to express our deepest gratitude for all your generous donations; at temple services, special events such as bon dance and our various fundraisers. Your generosity will undoubtedly strengthen the Dharma in our community.

In Gassho,
Venus and Carolyn

**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

Hoonko Service

Rev. Takako Hashimoto was our Dharma speaker on January 18th for our Hoonko service. This service was a memorial service of our founder, Shinran Shonin.

Following the service the refreshment committee treated us to a delicious kinpira, beautiful morimono plate, shira-ae, and zenzai with WHM made mochi!



Joya No Kane - December 31, 2025

Thank you to everyone who came out to help us ring in 2026!





Rainbows of Aloha: Our Interfaith Community and World Peace



Sangha Day 2026

Sponsored by:
Oahu Hongwanji Council

Keynote Speaker: Gerald Oda
Coach of Honolulu's Little League World Series Champions in 2018 and 2022

Minister: Reverend Joshin Kamuro
President: Rene Mansho
Sangha Day Chair: Steve Chinen

Contact: Oahuhc@gmail.com

Sunday, March 1, 2026
8:30 am–1 pm
Mililani Buddhist Temple
95-257 Kaloapau Street, Mililani, Hawaii

Register: by Sunday, 2/22/26
<https://forms.gle/hXrXG6W9Qi8F77EM7>

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

United Jr. YBA of Oahu News

We are so excited to get this year started with events on our calendar. The United held our first meeting of 2026 at Pearlridge CPK and planned the next few months over spinach artichoke dip & chips and pizza. Two of our Mililani Alumni, Jenna and Ty, joined us for lunch. It was so nice to talk story with them while they sat in our meeting.

Upcoming Important Dates:

Next Meeting: Sunday, February 1, 1:00pm at Mililani Hongwanji

United Outing to Punahou Carnival to support Taylor: Saturday, February 7 at 2:00pm. We plan to invite the United of Honolulu as well!

Rescheduled Beach Day! Sunday, March 8, at 1:00pm up at North Shore. Beach TBD.

We are still planning details such as carpooling and lunch. We will hold a short meeting and then have a beach social.

If you are interested in joining us to go to the Punahou Carnival or the beach, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Jr. YBA members or advisors for more information. Former Jr. YBA members are also welcome to come!

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

Theme: Star Wars

Early Registration by February 1: \$60 Regular Registration by March 10: \$90
Final Registration by March 30: \$120

For more information and to register visit the website: YessCamp.com

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 Aunty Arynn Ishikawa (advisor) at arynn.m.ishikawa@gmail.com or jrybafoahu@gmail.com if you have questions or for more information.



2026 WHM New Year's Party



Sunday, February 22, 2025 10:00 am - noon

Join us in the Wahiawa Hongwanji Social Hall to celebrate the start of the year. Please RSVP using the form below.

Menu: BBQ beef & chicken, chicken katsu, meat jun, chicken long rice, fried mandoo, mac salad, assorted namul/kimchi, and rice. Note: Dine-in only; no "grab-and-go"

Schedule:

- 10:00 AM: Tea & Talk Story
- 10:30 AM: Games
- 11:15 AM: Lunch

Name of person completing the form _____

Phone number _____

Yes, I can bring a dessert to the party

Name of person(s) attending	Adult Lunch \$17	Kids (12 and under) \$0	Total lunches
1	\$		
2	\$		
3	\$		
4	\$		
5	\$		
6	\$		
7	\$		
8	\$		
Totals	\$		\$

Mail/drop off completed form with payment by **Saturday, February 14, 2026** to ensure you're included in the final lunch count. We want to make sure there's plenty for everyone!

Mail to: Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission, 1067 California Ave, Wahiawa, HI 96786

Make checks out to: Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

----- For Office Use -----

Date Received: _____ Cash / Check # _____ Date of Chk _____ Rec by _____