



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

REVISED March 2025

02 Sun No Service at WHM - Sangha Day at Pearl City Hongwanji
 09 Sun No Service - Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden (WHM team running)
 16 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service with Lillian Lee & Rod Moriyama
 23 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 30 Sun 9:00 am Spring Ohigan Service

April 2025

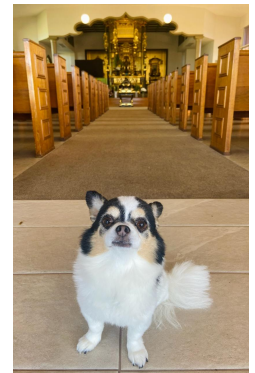
06 Sun 9:30 Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day
 13 Sun 9:00 am WHM Hanamatsuri Service
 20 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 27 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

Upcoming Events:

5/18 Sun. 9:00am Gotan-E Service with Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki
 5/25 Sun. 9:00am Temple Clean Up
 6/7 Sat.6:00pm Hatsubon Service
 5/31 Sat. 8:00am Yagura Set Up
 6/13-14 Fri.,Sat. WHM Bon Dance

Pet Memorial Service

On Sunday, February 9th, 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.



Spring Ohigan

Please join us for our Spring Ohigan service on Sunday, March 30th, at 9:00 a.m.

Spring Ohigan, also known as the Spring Equinox, is a time to recognize and appreciate the harmony of the world around us. "Ohigan" signifies "the Other Shore," a concept central to Buddhist teachings. This special service offers an opportunity for Jodo Shinshu Buddhists to welcome the new season and reflect on its significance.

Occurring twice a year, in spring (March) and autumn (September), Ohigan marks a time when the sun rises directly in the east and sets directly in the west, resulting in equal lengths of day and night. The mild weather during this period creates ideal conditions for cultivating selfless sharing, discipline, diligence, patience, loving-kindness, and wisdom.

For Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, Spring Ohigan is a time for deep introspection, allowing us to contemplate the kindness we receive from others and the world around us. We hope you will join us for this meaningful service.

Minister's Message - Right Conduct



I would like to talk about Right Conduct or Right Behavior, which is the fourth step of the Eightfold Path. Right Conduct means not destroying any life, not stealing, and not committing adultery.

How many of you have never destroyed a life or have never stolen?

Not destroying any life is very difficult for us to live by. If someone says, "I have never killed any living being," I want to ask, "How have you lived until now?" We need to eat in order to survive, which means we rely on the lives of others. But nowadays, we have an abundance of food, so we often forget the significance of this.

One day, a minister asked a child to look at some pictures. First, he showed a picture of a cow and asked, "Is this a life or food?" The child replied, "It is a life." Next, the minister showed a picture of a sheep and asked the same question. The child again replied, "It is a life." Then, he showed a picture of a human and asked, "What about this?" The child answered, "Of course, a human is a life." The final question was about a cabbage. The children all answered, "It is food."

It's easy to separate life and food: if it has a voice, it's life; if it has no voice, it's considered food. This is a general way of thinking.

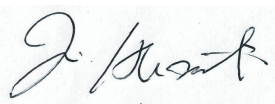
A long time ago, I went fishing with my family. Kano and Shoshi caught fish for the first time. We brought these fish home and cooked them, but it was difficult because the fish were still alive. I felt guilty. On the other hand, as you know, I have a garden full of vegetables, and it's easy to harvest them. I don't feel any guilt.

However, Buddhist thought teaches that everything in this world has life. Through all things, we survive. The Buddhist word "Engi" means that everything is interconnected.

If we understand that everything is connected, we will never forget to feel gratitude for all things. Even when we have to destroy a life, we should always put our hands together and say, "Thank you." That is Right Conduct.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,



Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

New Tenant Announcement: Bridge Tax Consulting, Inc.

We have a new tenant - Bridge Tax Consulting, Inc. They do income taxes and bookkeeping services. Their office is located downstairs below the temple in the former minister's quarters. If you are interested, or in need of their services, please call 808-622-4108 for an appointment.

Please note: Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission is not affiliated with Bridge Tax Consulting, Inc.

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

Phone: 808-622-4320

Email: office@wahiawahongwanji.org (allow 48 hours for email response)
www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org

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

President's Report

Not that long ago, the Lahaina Wildfires was front-page story. Many of us have friends and relatives who were directly affected by the fire. The overwhelming response to that tragedy was tremendous from throughout the state and many places around the world. The Buddhist Churches of America set up a coordinated effort and sent funds to the Honpa Hongwanji Lahaina Wildfires Fund. Since that time, Lahaina has been starting the road to rebuilding and recovery.



Beyond our wildest imagination, another wildfire in Southern California would be a disaster many times worse than the Lahaina Wildfires. As of January 30th, at least 29 people have died, destroyed more than 16,000 structures, and burned nearly 48,000 acres. The areas affected were the Palisades fire in Pacific Palisades and Malibu, and the Eaton fire in Altadena and Pasadena. The disaster caused \$250 billion in economic losses making it the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

The Eaton fire came close to the Pasadena Buddhist Temple. The quick action by neighbors, wetting the hot spots, saved the temple from burning. But 16 Pasadena Sangha members lost their homes. The Pasadena Buddhist Temple suffered smoke damage and will need to be cleaned professionally.

The Buddhist Churches of America has set up the Wildfire Relief Fund. We, at Wahiawa Hongwanji, would like to help in this effort. We kindly ask for you to donate to this effort by sending your donation to Wahiawa Hongwanji and writing "BCA Wildfires" on the memo line. We will send the total amount to BCA.

In closing, we'd like to share BCA Bishop Marvin Harada's words. "Our homes give us a sense of comfort and security. To lose such memories and mementos is like losing a part of our past, our history, our life. What can we say in the face of such destruction? What comes to mind is the Japanese expression, 'You fall down seven times, but you get up eight.' This means that in the face of great challenge, a great loss, and a great tragedy, we just have to stand up again, hard as it might seem, but that is what we have to do."

In gassho (gratitude),
Venus Oshiro and Carolyn Uchiyama
Co-President

WAHIAWA HONGWANJI MISSION
SOCIAL HALL

YOUR PERFECT VENUE FOR ANY CELEBRATION AWAITS



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 TO BOOK YOUR EVENT.

YESS CAMP 41

Final Deadline: **MĀLAMA AMIDA**
April 8, 2025

Bring a friend for a 50% registration refund! Neighbor island flight subsidies available.

- Bonding
- Games
- Service Project
- Dharma Learning
- Campfire

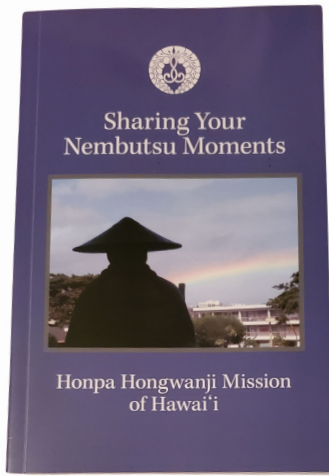
REGISTER Here



OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
YESSCAMP.COM

April 18-20, 2025
YMCA
Camp Erdman

More info: Contact
yesscamp@honpahi.org



Sharing Nembutsu Moments: A Celebration of Honpa Hongwanji's 5-Year Theme

2024 was the last year of Honpa Hongwanji's 5-year theme of "Building Healthy Sanghas." To commemorate the occasion, the Commission on Buddhist Education and the Buddhist Study Center Committee collaborated and collected stories from throughout the State of Hawaii centering on the slogan "Sharing Nembutsu Moments."

The stories arrived from Lihue, Kauai to Pahala on the Big Island. In all, there were 82 contributors writing over 115 stories. A big mahalo to the editors from each island and the Propagation Grant committee for their support of this project.

We unveil our publication, *Sharing Your Nembutsu Moments*, that began as a seed of an idea and blossomed into this beautiful book. A comment by a reader: "You can feel some of the stories in your heart. I think it is the heart of Jodo Shinshu. The stories are about real people."

This book may be purchased through Wahiawa Hongwanji by filling out the pre-order form. The cost of the book is \$7.00. Please send the form and check to WHM and write SYNM on the memo line.

Sharing Your Nembutsu Moments

Name

Phone number

of books: _____ x \$7.00 = \$_____ total amount for books

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

Make checks out to: Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission and write SYNM on the memo line

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

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



WAHIAWA HONGWANJI MISSION

1067 California Ave.
WAHIAWA, HAWAII 96786

TELEPHONE: 622-4320

February 12, 2025

Dear Temple Member:

Thank you so much for another wonderful year!

With your help and support, Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission continues to be an integral part of Wahiawa and our neighboring towns. Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission provides a venue for many activities that are an indispensable part of the community, such as the Veterans Day Parade, Obon, Pineapple Festival, Peace Day, Sakura Safari, the annual Go Green recycling program, and other community festivals. Our temple is also part of a greater family of temples that share seminars and events as part of Honpa Hongwanji of Hawaii.

For 2025, Gojikai Dues remain at \$175. It can be paid in full or in installments. Our annual assessment paid to headquarters continues to increase. We are grateful to members who help other members by giving more than the minimum \$175. Please encourage your family and friends to renew or join The Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission.

Thank you for your continued support in sustaining our programs and the maintenance of our temple. If you already submitted your payment, thank you very much.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- You are an integral part of our Wahiawa Hongwanji family
- Learn the Buddha's teachings and ways to incorporate them into your life with Rev. Hashimoto's Dharma messages
- 24/7 on-call emergency ministerial services
- Access to online services throughout the state and the country.
- Receive Wahiawa Hongwanji & Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Statewide newsletters
- Facility usage and Social Hall rental for wedding ceremonies, receptions, birthday parties, annual memorials, and more at discounted member rates
- Discounts on temple activities

Come and Join Us in the Many Fun Activities We'll Be Having This Year!

In gassho (Gratitude),

On behalf of the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission & the Board of Trustees

Venus L. Oshiro *Carolyn Uchiyama*

Venus L. Oshiro, Co-President

Carolyn Uchiyama, Co-President

If you have already paid your 2025 Membership (Gojikai) Dues, please complete and return this form. Otherwise, please return this form with your Membership Dues. Thank You!

2025

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission
Membership (Gojikai) Dues

NAME: _____
(Last, First)

SPOUSE: _____
(Last, First)

HOME ADDRESS: _____
Street City Zip Code

Mailing: Same as Home

_____ Street City Zip code

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: Home: _____ Cell: _____

GOJIKAI DUES: \$175 Additional Amt. \$ _____ TOTAL: \$ _____

For Office Use: Date Received: _____ Cash/CK# _____ Amt.: _____

WAHIAWA HONGWANJI MISSION - FAMILY RECORD		Revised 2/2025
Head of Family:	_____	Birth Date: _____
Last, First, Middle		
Address:	Home _____	Date Joined: _____
Street City Zip Code		
Mailing <input type="checkbox"/> Same as Home		
Street City Zip Code		
Phone:	Home _____ Cell #s _____	
Head of Family Spouse		
E-Mail Address:	_____	
Spouse:	_____	Birthdate: _____
Last, First, Middle		
Children:	_____	Birthdate: _____
_____		Birthdate: _____
_____		Birthdate: _____
Parents:	_____	
Head of Family	_____	WHM Members? Y / N
Spouse	_____	WHM Members? Y / N