



The Messenger

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude

Calendar of Events

October 2026

04 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service with Tokudo Minister Assistant Rod Moriyama
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
*Wahiawa Zippy's is closed for renovations.

November 2026

01 Sun 9:00am Waialua Hongwanji Clean Up - No service at Wahiawa Hongwanji
08 Sun 9:00am NO Sunday Service at Wahiawa Hongwanji (Temple leadership attending closing service at Waialua Hongwanji)
11 Wed. Wahiawa Veterans Day Parade
15 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service with Tokudo Minister Assistant Rod Moriyama
22 Sun 9:00 Eitaikyo Service with Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki
29 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service

Upcoming Events

Dec. 6 9:00am - Bodhi Day Service
Dec. 13 9:00am WHM General Membership Meeting and Clean Up
Dec. 31 5:00pm Joya-e Service

BWA Tsuito-E Service

The annual Tsuito-E Memorial Service honors all deceased members of the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Buddhist Women's Association (BWA). This year's service takes place on Sunday, October 18, at 9:00 AM. The guest speaker will be Mrs. Kamuro, a Mililani Hongwanji BWA member, mother of two, and wife of Rev. Kamuro, minister of Mililani Hongwanji.

If you have any questions or need additional information about this BWA service, please contact Dale Shimaura at 808-392-3253 or email her at dshimaura@yahoo.com



WHM Annual Eitaikyo Service Sunday, November 22nd

Eitaikyo, often translated as the Sangha Memorial Service, holds a deeply personal meaning for our temple family. It is our time to pay tribute to the loved ones, mentors, and pioneers who passed away before us. Through their dedication, warmth, and shared joy of the Nembutsu, they built the very community we cherish today—creating a welcoming, safe space where we continue to gather and share life's meaningful moments. Above all, it is an opportunity for each of us to pause, reflect, and immerse ourselves in the compassionate working of the Buddha.

Our temple is so much more than a building; it is the living heart of our Sangha. Generations before us poured their hearts, time, and care into making this a home away from home—a place filled with fond memories, laughter, and warm reunions. It is where we share ideas, learn together, and support one another through every season of life.

The Eitaikyo Service is one of our most sacred major services. Literally meaning “continuous sutra chanting,” it honors the Buddhist names (Homyo) of those who walked this path before us. As we join our voices in chanting the sutras, we express our heartfelt gratitude for their legacy and the enduring connection we share.

We warmly invite you and your family to join us for this special service as we come together in gratitude, remembrance, and community.

Minister's Message - Life is a Daily Encounter with Dharma



Hi, everyone. I would like to share a message written by Mr. Daiei Kaneko. His Message teaches us how we should live our daily lives as Nembutsu followers.

One of Rennyo Shonin's followers, named Zenju, is mentioned in passage 197 of the *Rennyo Shonin Gochidaiki-kikigaki*. He assisted Rennyo Shonin in rebuilding the Hongwanji in Omi Kanemori (present-day Moriyama City, Shiga Prefecture), where he resided. Once, someone asked Zenju, who was in his eighties, if he had ever been bored. Zenju replied that he had not, explaining as follows:

"Since I always try to be mindful of Amida's benevolence and read the various Wasans and Shinshu scriptures, my heart is filled with happiness. Further, because I feel such reverence for Amida, I have never been bored in my life."

This is nothing less than a manifestation of the joy of the Dharma by someone nurtured in the teaching of truth. Another Nembutsu follower, Zentaro from Arifuku, Shimane Prefecture, stayed up all night with his Dharma friends, intoning the Nembutsu and talking about how grateful they were for Amida's teachings. In this way, Zentaro's life, which was free from tedium, embodied the Nembutsu teachings every day. Similarly, another follower of Rennyo Shonin, Kyomon-bo, said, "Even if I were to listen to the Dharma my entire life, I would never tire of it." These are words we should deeply contemplate.

In Japanese, *Monpo* means "to listen to the Dharma teaching," which includes religiously oriented dialogue. This is because *Monpo* is the act of conversing about and discussing the Dharma, that is, listening and conversing, and conversing and listening. *Monpo* is not listening with the expectation of hearing something new or wondrous. It is hearing one thing [the Buddha Dharma], so it is important to maintain the mindset of listening to the revered Dharma teaching as if hearing it for the very first time. Likewise, Rennyo Shonin said that listening to the Dharma (*Monpo*) means listening to the unchanging truth in Buddha Dharma; thus, one should listen as if hearing it for the first time. This is how those who have received *Shinjin* listen to the teachings.

During our stay at home, we should view this as a good opportunity to review the Dharma teachings we have heard.

In Gassho,
Rev. Kojun Hashimoto

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

Follow us on Instagram - @whm96786

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

President's Corner

The Wahiawa leadership of Venus Oshiro, Carolyn Uchiyama, Dale Shimauro, and Henry Kitagawa attended the 63rd Annual Convention of the Hawaii State Lay Association at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin on September 18-19, 2026. The theme of the Convention was “Embrace Change: Developing Strategies for Stronger Sanghas.”



The convention began with the theme firmly in mind. Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani's Dharma message began with playing a Wordle game. The audience tried to guess his 5-letter word. Excitement escalated to guess the letters of the word. After many tries the word was revealed - PIVOT. He explained PIVOT is “A central pin, shaft or fixed point that something turns, rotates, or balances on.” He hears this word in reference to basketball. Pivoting is the technique that allows the rotation of the body around one planted foot while holding the ball. The player can change direction, protect the ball, or look for another opportunity to pass or shoot the ball.

Bishop Umitani used the basketball analogy with our being Jodo Shinshu Buddhists. In our world of impermanence, we know that everything is constantly changing. We are like playing basketball in this rapidly changing society and to navigate this field, we need to use the technique of pivoting.

“Embrace Change” does not mean to discard our Hongwanji traditions and history. Like the basketball player, we keep one foot firmly planted and begin to pivot. We remain firmly grounded in the Dharma that doesn't change, but the “expression” of that Dharma must be attuned to the needs of the target audience. So, while we place one foot firmly on the Dharma, we pivot with the other foot strategically to explore. How do we welcome people to our temples? How do we communicate with the various groups of people in our Sangha? How do we work with the community? How do we nurture new leaders? How do we share our resources so we can continue transmitting the Dharma to the next generation?

All of us have something special and unique we can contribute to the temple so let's work together to explore these various areas and yet remain grounded in the Dharma.

In Gassho,
Venus and Carolyn
Co-Presidents

Waialua Hongwanji Needs Our Help!

Waialua Hongwanji will officially close its doors and hold its final service on Sunday, November 8th. While attendance for the service is by invitation only due to limited seating, our sangha can still join together to prepare the temple for this historic farewell. We are seeking about 16 volunteers to help with a cleanup day.

When & Where

- **Date & Time:** Sunday, November 1st at 9:00 AM
- 67-313 Kealohanui St, Waialua (near historic Old Waialua Sugar Mill)
- **RSVP:** Email office@wahiawahongwanji.org to sign up

Key Tasks

- **Temple:** Dusting pews, sweeping, and mopping floors.
- **Social Hall:** Sweeping, mopping, wiping surfaces, and setting up tables and chairs.
- **Bathrooms:** Light touch-up cleaning.

What to Wear & Bring

- Wear covered shoes and cool, comfortable clothing (a hat is optional).
- Bring a water flask to stay hydrated.
- Supplies are available, but extra brooms, mops, small buckets, and rags are welcome.

Thank you for your kokua!



Classes at Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission!

Our community program lineup offers a variety of ways to stay active, learn a new skill, and connect with temple friends. Check out our ongoing schedules and upcoming class details below!

Special Programs & Series

- **Chanting Meditation Class (Led by Rev. & Takako Hashimoto):** 2 more classes left (Oct. class moved to Oct. 23, and one more class on Nov. 13). \$15 members / \$25 non-members (covers remaining 2 sessions). Email hashimoto@wahiawahongwanji.org to register.
- **Yoga:** Yoga meets Wednesdays from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Social Hall, and no registration is needed. Attendance is free for temple members, with a suggested \$2 donation to the temple for non-members. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat or towel. If you have any questions, email office@wahiawahongwanji.org or text 808-291-3102 (no phone calls, please).

Martial Arts (Accepting New Students)

- **Aikido (Ages 7+):** Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 PM. (*Breaks: June & mid-Dec to early Jan*). Contact Reid Moriyama: (808) 783-4411 | reid.moriyama@gmail.com.
- **Kendo:** Mondays & Wednesdays, 7:00–8:30 PM. Contact Iwao Sato (808-349-1287) or Tusha Buntin (808-372-0757). Text preferred.

Language & Cultural Arts (BWA Room) *To register, email office@wahiawahongwanji.org:*

- **Japanese for Beginners:** Mondays, 9:00–10:00 AM
- **Japanese Class:** Tuesdays, 6:00–7:00 PM
- **Calligraphy Class:** Sundays, 8:00–8:45 AM



Chanting & Meditation



Yoga



Kendo

WHM at Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden



On August 29, 2026, Wahiawa Hongwanji participated in the Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden, a family friendly 5 km relay race starting at Kapiolani Park. Rooted in an Edo period Japanese tradition where runners pass a sash to symbolize teamwork, the event was a wonderful showcase of unity and collective effort.

Our team, consisting of Jay Acohido, Jon Acohido, Cy Acohido, Rev. Hashimoto, and Candace Okouchi, helped promote fitness while strengthening our temple community. We look forward to joining future events together!

Jr YBA Happenings

We had our Installation of Officers followed by our monthly meeting.

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)



Again, Congratulations to our new officers! We are looking forward to another fun year together.

Thank you for all your orders for our Annual HBY month manju fundraiser. We will be donating a portion to Hawaii Community Foundation O'ahu Strong Fund. The final date to order is October 4 and mail-in orders must be postmarked by October 3. Mark your calendar for the Pick-up / Delivery date on Sunday, October 18.

Upcoming Important Dates:

Next Meeting: Friday, October 9, 6:00pm via Zoom.

Manju Making: Friday, October 16, 6:00pm-9:30pm and Saturday, October 17, 9:00am-1:00pm, at Waipahu Hongwanji.

Sashiko and Sangha

Following our schedule adjustment from Hurricane Lala, friends and members gathered in the WHM Social Hall for our final two sessions to explore the peaceful art of Japanese Sashiko. Guided by the talented Jennifer Okuma, participants practiced traditional hand-stitching techniques to transform simple thread and fabric into intricate geometric patterns. Beyond learning a classic craft, the workshop offered a wonderful space for quiet focus, creativity, and warm fellowship.

Take a look at the photos from our recent classes to see everyone hard at work and the beautiful progress on their projects!

Thank you to Jennifer Okuma for sharing her expertise, and to everyone who joined us to learn and create together.



Above & left:
Sashiko
projects made
by
participants



Members & friends working hard on their projects.



Jennifer helped everyone create their projects. Each participant received a small bag to keep their sashiko supplies in.



🇺🇸 Join Us to Honor Our Veterans! 🇺🇸

March with us in the **80th Wahiawa Lions Club Veterans Day Parade!**

📅 **Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2025**

🕒 **Parade starts at 10:00 AM**

📍 Starts at Wahiawa District Park, ends at Kaala Elementary School

🎉 Veterans Day Celebration to follow at Kaala Elementary School from 10:30 AM–2:00 PM

👟 Wear comfy shoes & a purple shirt if you can

🕒 **Be at Wahiawa District Park by 9:00 AM**

✉ Sign up: office@wahiawahongwanji.org

Let's march in honor of those who served! 💜🇺🇸



Veterans Day Parade 2025



BUDDHISM AND AI

Exploring Wisdom. Embracing Possibility. Serving Humanity.

Sponsored by Buddhist Study Center & BDK Hawaii



Location: Buddhist Study Center

1436 University Avenue

In Person or Online



<https://bschawaii.org/>



Part I — Friday, October 9 • 6:00–8:00pm

The Middle Path in the Age of AI: Navigating Between the Fear and the Hype

An introduction to generative AI for Buddhist communities:

- What AI is — and isn't
- How it affects temples, ministers, Dharma schools, and lay practitioners
- A Buddhist middle path for engaging AI with curiosity, discernment, compassion, and clear boundaries



Featured Speaker **Brant Horio, PhD**

Brings systems thinking, computational social science, and complexity studies to his engagement with the Dharma. A member of Ekeji Buddhist Temple in Fairfax Station, VA, he explores how technology and science can support new ways of understanding and sharing Buddhist teachings.

Part II — Saturday, October 10 • 9:00am–Noon

The Middle Path in the Age of AI: From Possibility to Practice

How Buddhist communities can move from understanding AI to using it wisely:

- Dharma study, translation, teaching, music, creative media
- Practical prompting and agentic systems
- Managing risks, preserving human judgment, and building shared tools and guidance

Register:

<https://honpahi.link/ai>



Open to all practitioners



In Person or Online



Technology in service of compassion



Ancient Wisdom • Modern Tools • Mindful Future

| Sponsored by Buddhist Study Center & BDK Hawaii