



WAILUKU HONGWANJI MISSION
A Jodo Shinshu Community Temple

TO: Temple Members and Friends
FROM: Reverend Blayne Higa, Honpa Social Concerns Chair
DATE: November 1, 2024
SUBJECT: **2024 Social Concerns Fund Drive**

The month of November is a special time for reflecting on gratitude. Our Eitaikyo observance and Thanksgiving holiday are opportunities to appreciate the innumerable causes and conditions which sustain our lives and how we are deeply connected to the world around us. It is in this spirit of profound gratitude that we kick-off our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive.

Your generosity enables the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH) with the ability to support worthy organizations and programs making positive impacts in our community. Your selfless giving also enables us to provide compassionate aid during times of disaster and the ability to skillfully respond to issues affecting our local and world communities.

Through an overwhelming outpouring of support, HHMH raised almost \$1 million through our Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund and distributed over \$300,000 to support the members of Lahaina Hongwanji and the Maui community in the aftermath of the devastating wildfires of August 2023. We will continue to lend our support on their long road to recovery.

So far this year, HHMH has continued our support for improving mental health care, building community resiliency, and humanitarian aid in Gaza as well as relief efforts in Japan in the aftermath of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake. HHMH has made donations to organizations such as the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii, Vibrant Hawaii, and World Central Kitchen.

HHMH continues to award Golden Chain Grants to help nurture Sangha-based compassionate action and launched the Dana Matching Grant Program to multiply the impact of charitable giving by organizations in Hawaii Kyodan Ohana. We hope you will take advantage of these innovative programs that help to share our values in the wider community.

The fund drive for Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple begins on November 1, 2024, and runs until March 31, 2025. We request that members and friends submit their collected donations as soon as possible or no later than March 2025. A **Fund Drive Envelope** has been attached. Please make check payable to: **Wailuku Hongwanji Mission** with a memo to: **Social Concern Fund**. Our temple will then remit one combined check to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH). The suggested donation is the cost of one meal per person in a family.

Your support of our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive is greatly appreciated. Mahalo!

In Gassho,

Shinkai Murakami
Resident Minister

Michael Munekiyo
Chairman of the Board



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