



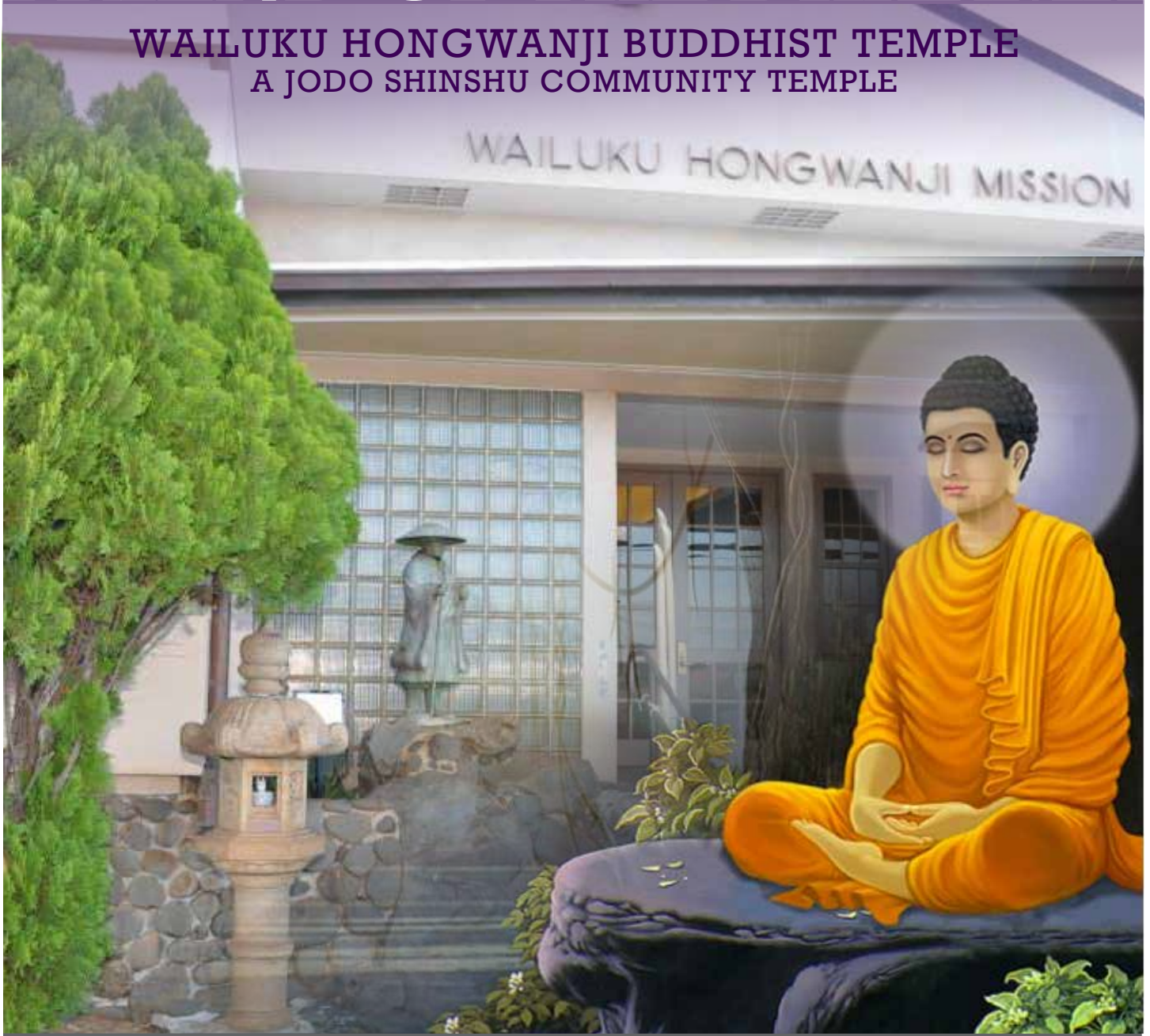
@wailukuhongwanji



FEBRUARY 2025 // VOLUME 62

# FRIEND OF THE DHARMA

WAILUKU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
A JODO SHINSHU COMMUNITY TEMPLE



## *IN THIS ISSUE*

**Calling Cybercrime  
All Grads Alert!**

**Nembutsu Seminar  
March 08-09, 2025**

WAILUKU HONGWANJI MISSION  
1828 Vineyard Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Wailuku, HI 96793

## TEACHINGS FROM THE MINISTER

## Honpa Hongwanji Legislative Assembly

Reverend Shinkai Murakami

## Namo Amida Butsu

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will hold its annual Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) this February at the Hawaii Betsuin Social Hall. This gathering brings together Hongwanji members, district directors, and ministers from across the state to discuss and vote on key resolutions over two days. As one of our most important meetings, the assembly is conducted according to Hongwanji's by-laws, reflecting our shared commitment to the Nembutsu tradition and its values.

This year marks the 113th Giseikai since the establishment of Hawaii Kyodan in 1889. While we don't have records of the first assembly or the resolutions discussed back then, it's clear that our predecessors valued a democratic process in their meetings, which remains a cornerstone of our organization today. Over the decades, the topics have evolved from internal programs and issues to include broader social concerns, reflecting the Hongwanji Mission's integral role in our communities.

As I participate in my 40th Giseikai this year, I feel deeply honored to be part of this enduring legacy. I am grateful for the dedication and sacrifices of the Nembutsu pioneers who built and maintained the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for over 135 years. Their selfless efforts serve as a guiding light for us today.

Our assembly begins on Friday morning with an opening service in the Hondo of Hawaii Betsuin. The recitation of Vandana and Ti-Sarana, followed by sutra chanting, sets the tone for the event. During this service, we honor and remember the dedicated leaders who have passed away since the last assembly. This tradition, maintained for over a century, connects us to the values and legacy of the Nembutsu.

The general assembly follows, with nearly 160 delegates and observers gathering in the social hall to deliberate on

critical issues. Resolutions approved by the majority receive our collective support—both financial and physical—ensuring their successful implementation. In recent years, we've opened the assembly to representatives from affiliated Hongwanji organizations, allowing us to hear their voices and collaborate more effectively. This inclusion strengthens our mission and supports these organizations in their service to the community.

The Legislative Assembly also serves as a reminder of our responsibility to pass on the values of sincerity, compassion, and truth to future generations. As the Buddha taught, "As the light of a small candle will spread from one to another in succession, so the light of Buddha's compassion will pass on from one mind to another endlessly." Through this process, we create a brighter future for the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, ensuring that the teachings of the Nembutsu continue to inspire and guide us.

In the Buddha's teachings, it is said:

"The rain of the sacred teaching falls on all people alike without regard to their conditions or circumstances. Those who accept it gather into small groups, then into organizations, into communities, and finally find themselves in the great Ocean of Enlightenment. The minds of these people mix like milk and water and finally organize into a harmonious Brotherhood. Thus, true teaching is the fundamental requirement of a perfect organization, and it is the light that enables people to recognize one another, to become adjusted to one another, and to smooth out the rough places in their thinking."

Let us remember that we are all embraced by the infinite wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha. May we live each day with gratitude for this boundless guidance.

Namo Amida Butsu

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Join Our Temple Community Today!

Join us at Wailuku Hongwanji and become a cherished member of our temple community! We embrace diversity and welcome individuals and families from all backgrounds with open arms.

**Membership:** Support our shared spiritual journey by becoming a regular gojikai member through annual dues; your contribution ensures the vitality of our community.

**Financial Support:** Everyone's circumstances are unique. If dues present a challenge, reach out to discuss a rate that works for you. Your presence matters most, and we're happy to accommodate.

**Ohana:** Joining our ohana enriches your spiritual journey. Attend services, events, or activities to experience our vibrant community firsthand.

**Membership Benefits:** Enjoy special rates for temple programs, facility rentals, and a voice in decision-making at meetings. Embrace the warmth of community and join us today!

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT  
Cyber Crime Alert

Our temple community has recently been targeted by another wave of cybercrime attempts, and we want to ensure everyone stays informed and vigilant. Fraudulent emails posing as trusted individuals, such as Rev. Murakami, have been reported, again.

## These emails typically:

- Use a fake sender address like [rev.reverend@keemail.me](mailto:rev.reverend@keemail.me).
- Request gift cards or money for urgent or confidential matters, such as "surprising temple members with a gift."
- Warn recipients not to contact Rev. Murakami directly and insist on communicating only via email.

## What You Need to Know:

- Rev. Murakami will never ask for gift cards or monetary donations through email.
- These emails are scams designed to exploit trust and generosity within our community, particularly during times of heightened need.
- The official email of Rev. Murakami has not been compromised; the scammers are using a fake address to impersonate him.

## What You Should Do:

1. Do not respond to suspicious emails or click on any links.
2. Verify the email's authenticity by calling the temple office directly.
3. Report the email to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at [IC3.gov](https://www.ic3.gov).
  - Filing a report is straightforward; provide details of the email and any attachments.
  - Your report helps authorities track these scams and build cases against the perpetrators.

## Why Reporting Matters:

Scammers often target elderly individuals in the community, knowing they are more likely to trust such emails. Reporting cybercrimes involving victims over 70 can result in higher penalties for offenders, making your actions even more impactful.

By staying alert and reporting suspicious activity, we protect not only ourselves but also the broader community. Together, we can help prevent cybercrime and ensure the safety and trust of our temple members.



# THANK YOU

*Thank you for your time, effort, and monetary donations. We are so fortunate to have your support! Through your donations, we continue to service multiple temple programs and work towards securing our future by accomplishing many goals in our 2030 Modernization Strategy. We are extremely grateful for any and all donations towards helping our congregation and advancing our community-minded efforts.*



*Pamela Miyagawa & Sharon Higa*

## HONOTOMO

Jane Chang - *In memory of Mary Uyeda*

## KYODAN

Richard Ibara - *In memory of Hakaru & Hanayo Ibara*

Thomas & Winona Lau Hee - *In memory of Susumu Komatsu*

Michael & Mildred Makino - *In memory of Richard Makino*

Wallace Oki - *In memory of Oki Families*

Lauren Shishido - *In memory of Lawrence Shishido & Katsue Shishido*

Hifumi Taguchi - *In memory of Akira Tanaka*

Ed Tamanaha

## MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Anonymous – *Altar flowers, Assorted snacks, Plastic straws, Brown paper bags, Assorted wish list items, Newspaper, Yard & campus maintenance*

Richard & Amy Blue – *Yard landscaping & maintenance*

Cubs – *Temple yard & Campus cleanup*

Dharma Strummers – *Sunday service music*

FT – *Campus maintenance & Yard cleaning*

Jeral & Karlynn Fukuda – *Altar flowers, Gallon Ziploc Freezer Bags*

Alvin & Martha Fukunaga – *Altar flowers*

Margaret Honda – *Altar flowers, Nokotsudo & Flower cleaning, Office support*

HOSHA Gang – *Temple & Nokotsudo cleaning*

Eric Ikeuchi – *Campus maintenance*

Calvin & Teri Kaneda – *Altar flowers*

Janet Kubota – *Yard maintenance, antibacterial hand soap*

Carol Mae Kurisu – *Altar flowers*

Machiko Moriyasu – *Altar flowers and arrangements, Office support*

Minae Murakami – *Sunday service organist*

Mike Nishimoto – *Yard landscaping & maintenance*

Celeste Rabang – *Office support*

Nancy Shimoda – *Nokotsudo & flower cleaning, office support*

Dale Sugiki – *Sunday service organist*

Toshiko Sugiki – *Office support*

Gail Tagashira – *Commercial coffee filters*

Ed & Joan Tamori – *Altar flowers & yard maintenance*

Mary Tokumaru – *Office support*

Leonard & Pat Tomita – *Antibacterial hand soap*

Danny Topp - *A/V support for services, workshops, meetings, & events*

Linda Ann Unemori – *Office support*

## HO'ONKO

Ed Fujinaka

Alvin & Martha Fukunaga

Wayne & Kay Hedani - *In memory of William Tets Yamaguchi*

Dennis Ouchi

Linda Ann Unemori

## NEW YEAR'S SOKAI

Calvin & Kayoko Endo

Lydia Furomoto

James & Takane Hashi

Wayne & Kay Hedani - *In memory of William Tets Yamaguchi*

Roy & Gwen Hiraga

Sandra Hirata

Cary & Sharon Honda

Calvin & Teri Kaneda

Ritsuko Lana Kato

Melvyn & Sylvia Kawashima

Caroline Oishi

Shinkai Murakami

Colleen Takamura

Raymond & Betty Toyama

Elaine Yokoyama

## NOKOTSUDO

Betsy Cardoza

James & Takane Hashi

Audree Hashibe - *In memory of Hotta Family*

Wayne & Lena Kaneyama - *In memory of Nobue, Mioru, & Juji Hanada*

Winona Lau Hee - *In memory of Prudence Ota*

Hugh & Alma McKenzie - *In memory of the Kesajiro Ogawa Family*

Darryl & Sheryl Nohara - *In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Shokuro*

*Sato, Koichi Sato, & Kiyoko (Sato) Nakamoto*

Noreen Saiki

Lauren Sodetani

Lisa Sodetani - *In memory of Douglas & Clara Sodetani*

Sidney Takenishi - *In memory of Shigeo & Yoshiko Ikeda*

## OFUSE

Rhonda Hamasaki - *In memory of Edward Hamasaki*

Brian Hashiro - *In memory of Itsuo Hashiro*

Linda Nishida - *In memory of Yoshiko Ushiro*

Toni Ogasawara

Diane Tabangay - *In memory of Henry & Nancy Honda*

If you would like to donate to any services or programs, please make checks payable to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission and send to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission at 1828 E Vineyard St. Wailuku, HI 96793. If you would like to volunteer time on any of the upcoming or ongoing projects, please contact the office at (808) 244-0406, Monday-Friday between 8:00am and 12:00pm.

**EDUCATION**



# WAILUKU HONGWANJI PRESCHOOL

144 Kaniela Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 \* Phone: (808) 244-9545  
 Email: [whpreschool808@gmail.com](mailto:whpreschool808@gmail.com) \* Hours: Mon-Fri, 7:30am - 4:30pm

*Jody Vinoray*

Welcome 2025! We're excited to share the highlights and upcoming events for this month.

**Registration Success!** On January 6th, we had our registration morning for new families for the 2025-2026 school year. We are thrilled to welcome 11 new families to our preschool community!

**Cultural Enrichment:** We are delighted to announce that our Hawaiiana Program with Kumu Nitahara starts this month. This program will enrich our students' understanding of Hawaiian culture and traditions.

**Interactive Performance:** Get ready for some fun! Capt'n Mark from Storybook Theatre on Kauai will be bringing his interactive show, "Ocean Friends", to our preschool. This engaging performance promises to be a memorable experience for our little ones.

**January Theme - Community Helpers:** This month, our theme focuses on Community Helpers, encompassing:

- Safety Helpers
- Health Helpers
- Builders and Fixers
- Food Helpers

We look forward to exploring the vital roles these helpers play in our community.

**Renovations Update:** During the last two weeks of December, we undertook several renovations to enhance our preschool environment:

- Renovations of the Tower and Sandbox by Keola Gomes
- Interior Painting by Val Aveiro
- Installation of new fans by Ikaika Lau Hee

A special THANK YOU to parents Steven and Breeana Yoshida, owners of Maui Junkyard Squad, for their generous support in removing tons of old, broken, and heavy items from the preschool!

**Upcoming Events:**

- January 30th Temple visit
- January 31st Career Day "I want to Be???"

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our preschool community. We look forward to a wonderful month ahead.



**Uncle Frank & Uncle Fred helping put together a standing cabinet for our preschool**



**Newly painted walls & new curtains!**

## HIRING: Preschool Teacher

**Contact:**

Wailuku Hongwanji Preschool at (808) 244-9545 or email [whpreschool808@gmail.com](mailto:whpreschool808@gmail.com)

**Working Hours:**

Monday - Friday  
7:30am - 4:30pm

**Requirements:**

- AS Degree in ECE/CDA
- 6-12 months classroom experience working with children ages 3-5 yrs old
- Creativity & Flexibility
- Infant/Child CPR & First Aid Certification

## REGISTRATION

**Regular Session:** August to May  
**Summer Session:** June to July

Closed during public school holidays and breaks, except teachers' institute day and teachers' end-of-semester day

**Contact Information:**

Phone: (808) 244-9545  
 Email: [whpreschool808@gmail.com](mailto:whpreschool808@gmail.com)  
 Site: <https://www.wailukuhongwanji.org/index.php/preschool>



**Renovated tower & sandbox**

**EDUCATION**



**Lessons**

*Joan Tamori*

In December, Sandy Hirata, dharma school teacher, and Tamara Manley, director of religious affairs at WHM, co-directed a lesson in kindness for dharma school students. Using a template and ideas from Ms. D. Trinidad Hunt and her Dharma-Centered Living 101 workshops, Sandy and Tamara shared a unique lesson on “KINDNESS”. They explained each section of the template and had a discussion with the students on their ideas about each. Students shared their personal realizations and were challenged to think further about the ‘actions’ section at home, or school, etc. The “Kindness” concept is just one of many words or emotions that can be used with the template. Nice job, everyone!



**Risa and Jaxon participate in the lesson as Sandy Hirata suggests and encourages responses.**



**Tamara Manley explains sections of the template as Eva and Emma think about and write their responses.**

**EDUCATION**

**Calling All Class of 2025 Graduating High School Seniors**

*Shelley Quipotla*

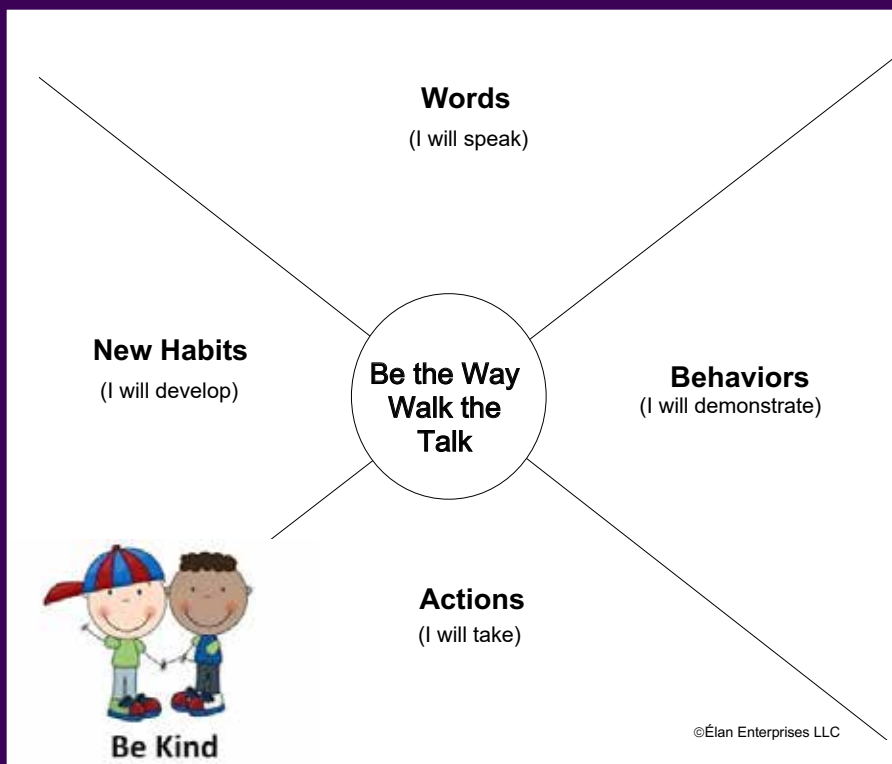


Calling all Class of 2025 graduating high school seniors! Each year, Wailuku Hongwanji takes special pride in celebrating and recognizing the graduating class of students who have been affiliated with the church in some way. Our traditional in-person celebration is yet to be determined.

The following are students of the Class of 2025 students who we currently have in our records. If there are any others that you may be aware of, please email Joyce Chun at [jchun@gmail.com](mailto:jchun@gmail.com) or Shelley Quipotla at [shellquips@gmail.com](mailto:shellquips@gmail.com) or call 808-250-0726 and leave a message.

**Class of 2025 Graduates are:**

- Noa Fong
- Chelsea Konno
- Landon Mukai
- Chase Nozaki
- Kalaheo Sakamoto
- Kody Sakamoto
- Shante Shishido-Del Castillo
- Bryson Tasaki
- Brady Yokouchi



# 2025 Maui District Nembutsu Seminar

Featuring Guest Lecturer



## Reverend Grant Ikuta

Former Bishop of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temple of Canada  
Currently Resident Minister, Steveston Buddhist Temple, Canada

### Two Day lecture

March  
Saturday 8th

March  
Sunday 9th

**1st Lecture:** 9:30 am – 10:30 am (Q&A: 10 min)

**2nd Lecture:** 10:45 am – 11:45 am (Q&A: 10 min)

**Lunch:** 11:50 am – 1:00 pm

**3rd Lecture:** 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (Q&A: 10 min)

**Ohigan Service Speaker:** 9:00 am – 10:00 am

**4th Lecture:** 11:00 am – 12:00 pm (Q&A: 10 min)

**Lunch:** 12:10 pm – 1:00 pm

## Registration form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Refreshment, lunch, and handout materials:

◆ One day \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Two days \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to "Maui Hongwanji Council"

**Seminar site:** Wailuku Hongwanji Mission at 1828 E. Vineyard  
Street, Wailuku (808) 244-0406

**All Are Welcome**

**YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS**

**Sakura 4-H Clubs - The Clover Report**

*Sammy Takamura*



Sakura 4-H Club works alongside cub scouts to clean the social hall. Older girls worked with the boy scouts upstairs.



**YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS**

**Boy Scouts Help with Temple Clean-up**

*Sharon Higa*



Scout Aaron, along with Scout Leader Chad Fukunaga power washed the second story of the hall on December 14, 2024.



Troop 40 Scout Aaron power washed the temple breezeway, along with the stairs leading to the Nokotsudo. Scout leader Chad Fukunaga provides guidance and support.

**MINDFUL LIVING**

**Why Do You Go to Sunday Service?**

*Sammy Takamura*

There are many reasons why I go to Sunday Services and the reasons change week to week, month to month and year to year. However, the first and main reason would be for our children.

I hope they are able to learn about the basic teachings of the dharma such as empathy and compassion, have a familiar place to go or come back to now and in the future but more importantly learn from the other members whom we call family and friends at the mission.

I want them to learn what it means to be part of a community by the genuine smiles, questions of interest from others and even the gentle scoldings from time to time.

These are only some of the reasons I go to Sunday Service.



**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Collect the Temple Coins Before They're Gone!**

*Danny Topp*

Celebrate our temple's rich history and values by owning a piece of it! While the 2025 temple coin design is still under wraps, you can still get your hands on our limited-edition coins from past years:

- 2022 Gratitude Coin
- 2023 Compassion & Kindness Coin
- 2024 Community Coin

Each coin is beautifully crafted and represents a meaningful theme from our temple's journey. Supplies are limited, so don't miss your chance to complete your collection or gift these treasures to loved ones.

To secure your coin today, contact Danny Topp through the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email [whm@wailukuhongwanji.org](mailto:whm@wailukuhongwanji.org).

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

# Cub Scouts' Winter Activities: Community & Fun!

*Kawika Beauchamp & Paul Petro*

Pack 40 Cub Scouts held an annual holiday party with games, dinner and a secret Santa gift exchange. They also volunteered at Hale Makua singing Christmas Carols for the residents.



Pack 40 Cub Scouts assisted with temple clean up.



PACK 40  
WAILUKU HONGWANJI

**JOIN NOW**

## CUB SCOUTS

### PACK 40

We have a variety of fun-filled activities for scouts to learn skills, earn badges, build camaraderie, and help the community - all while having fun!

**OUR ACTIVITIES**

- Pinewood Derby
- Holiday Events
- Raingutter Regatta
- Overnight Camping

**CONTACT US**

808.870.3493    wailukupack40@gmail.com    Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i



ADULT ORGANIZATIONS

# Buddhist Women's Association News

Gwen Hiraga

A few BWA members attended the New Year's Eve service. Members also attended the Sokai held on January 18th, and enjoyed the fellowship, entertainment and great dinner.

BWA membership dues for 2025 should be sent to Sandy Matsuda or Phyllis Sato. Payments can be dropped off at the church office (BWA tray).

The BWA has scheduled its Sokai for February 16th. Members who have not yet signed up, the deadline is February 7th. Please let Sandy Matsuda or Phyllis Sato know if you would like to attend.

The BWA 120th Anniversary Celebration Committee continues to meet. The Anniversary Celebration is tentatively scheduled for some time in June 2025. Details for the event will be provided as we get closer to the date.

Happy Birthday to our newest BWA member, Kristen Takamiya, born in January. Happy Birthday to our BWA members born in February: Stella Kuwae, Akie Sakumoto and Yuki Lei Sugimura.

## Ponzu Sauce Courtesy of Lori Munekiyo

- 1 cup shoyu
- ¼ cup mirin
- ¼ cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon MSG (optional)
- 3 Tablespoon lime juice
- ¼ teaspoon Sesame Oil
- ¼ cup grated daikon

Combine all ingredients together and boil.



**Kawika  
Beauchamp  
performs  
the fire  
dance at  
the annual  
Sokai.**



**BWA Members attending the 2025 New Year's Eve Service**



**BWA Members attending the 2025 Sokai**

# CHORAL FEST 2025

**WHEN**  
**September 20 - 21, 2025**

**WHERE**  
**Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin**  
1727 PALI HWY, HONOLULU, HAWAII

**MUSIC SELECTIONS TO INCLUDE:**  
**TO MY DAUGHTERS —SURELY , WE WILL MEET**  
**AGAIN SOMEDAY— WHERE, OH WHERE—UPON**  
**CLOUDS—TO ALL WE OWE**

**PLEASE REGISTER FOR CHORALFEST WITH**  
**YOUR RESPECTIVE TEMPLES**

**LINKS FOR PRACTICE MATERIALS VIA GOOGLE**  
**DRIVE WILL BE PROVIDED**

**ALL ARE  
WELCOME!**

**CONDUCTOR:**  
**Nola Nahulu**

**PIANIST:**  
**Francis Okano**

**TENTATIVE  
SCHEDULE:**

**9/20 :**

**PM Practice**

**Dinner Program**

**09/21:**

**AM Practice**

**Music Service**

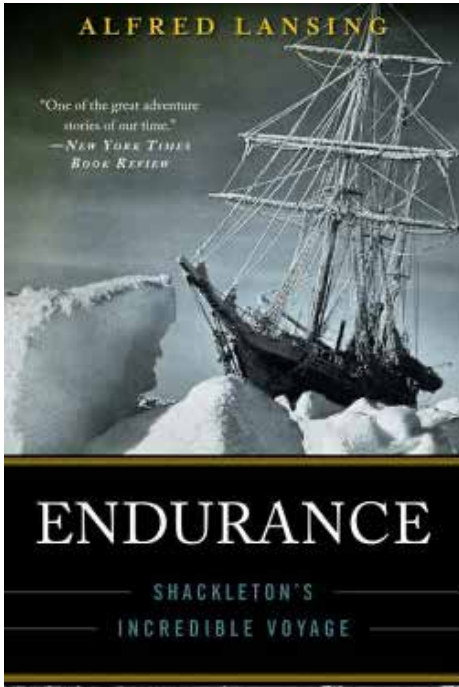
**Fellowship**

**DEADLINE TO  
REGISTER:**  
**April 30, 2025**

**REGISTRATION  
FEE:**  
**\$35**

RECREATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

**Buddha Reads: “Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Voyage” by Alfred Lansing** *Danny Topp*



Our recent book discussion group, featuring Dan, Mary, Bob, and Joan, explored *Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Voyage* by Alfred Lansing. This gripping account chronicles Sir Ernest Shackleton’s 1914–1917 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, which turned into an extraordinary story of survival. Drawing extensively from the diaries and firsthand accounts of the crew, Lansing weaves a vivid narrative of their harrowing ordeal. Everyone in the group thoroughly enjoyed the book and highly recommends it.

Joan and Bob praised the book’s compelling narrative. Joan shared that she couldn’t put it down, marveling at the vivid descriptions of the crew’s endurance. The group re-

flected on the monumental challenges Shackleton’s men faced: navigating icy waters with primitive tools, surviving 387 days stranded on the ice, and enduring some of the harshest conditions on Earth—all without a single fatality. The crew’s resilience and ability to overcome seemingly insurmountable odds resonated deeply with everyone.

Bob highlighted Shackleton’s remarkable leadership, particularly his strategic approach to maintaining harmony within the group. One standout example was Shackleton’s thoughtful organization of tent assignments, pairing personalities to foster teamwork and prevent discord. His adaptability, decisive leadership, and unwavering commitment to his crew’s welfare became central themes in the discussion.

The group also delved into the psychological aspects of the expedition. Mary admired the crew’s perseverance, noting how they overcame exhaustion, hunger, and isolation. Dan offered an intriguing perspective, suggesting that people in the early 20th century may have had a different mindset, better equipping them to endure extreme hardships. This sparked a broader discussion about how modern individuals can draw inspiration from Shackleton’s story to tackle today’s challenges.

The group agreed that Shackleton’s journey offers timeless lessons on leadership, perseverance, and teamwork. His ability to adapt plans, prioritize his team’s well-being, and inspire hope under immense pressure serves as a powerful reminder of the human capacity for resilience. These lessons, the group noted, are particularly relevant in today’s uncertain times.

We will meet again on Sunday, February 2nd, via Zoom to discuss our next book, *Secret Harvests: A Hidden Story of Separation and the Resilience of a Family Farm*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Congratulations 2025 Fukunaga Dana Award Recipients**



We are thrilled to recognize Danny Topp and Gwen Hiraga as the 2025 recipients of the Fukunaga Dana Award. This prestigious honor celebrates their unwavering dedication, compassion, and selfless contributions to our temple and community. Through their actions, Danny and Gwen truly embody the spirit of Dana, inspiring us all to live with generosity and kindness.

Please join us in expressing our heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to Danny and Gwen for their remarkable commitment to the Dharma and their tireless efforts in supporting others.



**New Year’s Eve Service Welcoming 2025**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Samantha Takamura Honored by HEI Charitable Foundation** *Michael Munekiyo*

Hawaiian Electric, through its HEI Charitable Foundation, recently made a \$1,000 donation to Wailuku Hongwanji on behalf of Samantha Takamura. Ms. Takamura was named recipient of Hawaiian Electric’s Kokua Community Champion Service Award for Maui, an award given to a Hawaiian Electric employee who has demonstrated exemplary volunteer service in our community. Her community service includes her active leadership in Wailuku Hongwanji’s vibrant Sakura 4-H club.

We extend our gratitude to the HEI Charitable Foundation and congratulate Ms. Takamura for her excellence, both at Hawaiian Electric and at Wailuku Hongwanji.

# The Maui News



January 15, 2025 | Today's Paper | Submit News | Subscribe Today | Login



## Lele Aloha donates \$240,000 to 14 Lahaina Spiritual Centers

LOCAL NEWS

JAN 12, 2025

SHARE TWEET

✉

🖨



Founded by Archie Kalepa, the Lele Aloha nonprofit organization has awarded a total of \$240,000 to 14 spiritual centers in an effort to help them recover from the August 2023 wildfires. Courtesy photo

The Lele Aloha nonprofit organization has awarded a total of \$240,000 to 14 Lahaina spiritual centers, a contribution that aims to support the restoration and rebuilding efforts of those community hubs and places of worship.

The spiritual centers receiving the donations include Moku'ula, Waiola Church, Lahaina Baptist Church, Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, International Christian Fellowship Church of God and

Lahaina Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Additionally, Maria Lanakila Catholic Church, Lahaina Shingon Mission, Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, The Wo Hing Temple Museum, Lahaina United Methodist Church, Lahaina Jodo Mission, Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses and Grace Baptist Church are also receiving support through Lele Aloha.

"The spiritual centers of Lahaina are not just places of worship, but

also vital community gathering spaces," said Archie Kalepa, founder of Lele Aloha, in a news release announcing the donation. "It is our hope that these funds will help restore their presence and bring healing and hope to the people of Lahaina."

The funding is part of ongoing efforts by the nonprofit organization to revitalize the Lahaina community following the devastation caused by the fires. For more about Lele Aloha and its initiatives, visit [lelealoha.org](http://lelealoha.org).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Scout Sunday on February 02, 2025***

Members of Boy Scouts Troop 40 and Cub Scouts Pack 40 invite temple members and friends to join them for “Scout Sunday” on Sunday, February 2, at 8 a.m.

Scoutmaster Celeste Rabang and Cubmasters Kawika Beauchamp and Paul Petro explain that Scout Sunday commemorates the founding of the Boy Scouts of America, which received a National Charter from Congress on February 8, 1910. This annual observance is celebrated by Scouts nationwide, reinforcing the spiritual values shared by all faiths.

Scoutmaster Rabang warmly invites parents, grandparents, and friends to attend the service, followed by refreshments for everyone.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Special Spring Eitaikyo Service on Saturday February 15, 2025***

Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (WHBT) will hold a Special Eitaikyo Service on Saturday, February 15, beginning at 6 p.m. Reverend Shinkai Murakami invites all members and friends to attend this special service. He stated that this Eitaikyo Service is “Special” because it is being held for all departed members of our temple, especially individuals who have been placed in our temple’s Eitaikyo Register.

This service provides family members the opportunity to quietly meditate and reflect upon the cherished memories of the deceased and reminds us of the impermanence of life. This helps us realize our own changing existence. As we recall the countless benefits bestowed upon us by the deceased, a feeling of gratitude arises within us toward the deceased and others for making life possible for us.

The word Eitaikyo means “perpetual sutra.” Eitai means “perpetual” and kyo means “sutra,” or “teaching of Buddha.” The term “Eitaikyo” is defined as a “perpetual memorial service.”

The Eitaikyo Service was started because members wished that the Buddha’s teachings would continue to their descendants from generation to generation. They established the Eitaikyo fund, a separate fund from the temple’s other funds, set aside for use by the temple in extraordinary circumstances or emergencies. It is a fund that is not to be used for the general upkeep and day-to-day expenses of the temple.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***2025 WHM Calendar Available***

Make your way to the temple office during business hours and claim your copy of the 2025 Wailuku Hongwanji calendar. It is a must-have for the upcoming year!

Please note: Because of the inflated cost of mailing the calendar, you are asked to pick up your calendar in person; you get a chance to enjoy its unique features and take a moment to connect with your temple community.

Do not miss out, come to Sunday Service to secure your 2025 calendar. Let us kick off the new year together!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***2024-2025 Social Concerns Fund Drive***

*Michael Munekiyo*

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is again reaching out to its members asking for support of the Hawaii Kyodan’s annual Social Concerns Fund Drive. Monies raised will support worthy organizations and programs, and will provide compassionate aid during times of disasters affecting our local, national and world communities.

The Social Concerns Committee has supported critical needs, including the distribution of approximately \$300,000 to members of Lahaina Hongwanji and the Maui community in the aftermath of the devastating wildfires of August 2023. Funds have also been provided 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.

The Committee 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 the Hawaii Kyodan Ohana.

The fund drive will run through August 31, 2025. Envelopes for donations will be distributed via our monthly newsletter, or can be picked up at the Temple office.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Krispy Kreme BOGO cards are available in the temple office for \$25 each. With the card, members may purchase any dozen donuts at regular price and receive one dozen Original Glazed Donuts free—that is \$25 for 10 free dozen. Please make check payable to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Help Wanted*** *Frank Hamasaki*

Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple seeks a volunteer for an hour of dana each week. Responsibilities include taking out 5-10 trash bags (including floral waste) to the bin, ideally on Fridays, though Saturday or Sunday is acceptable. The bags weigh 10-35 lbs, and the waste is collected by the trash company on Mondays.

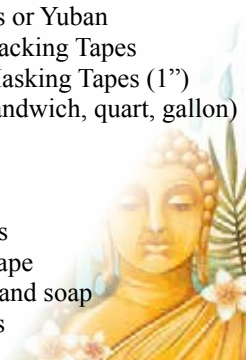
We are especially looking for a high school student seeking community service for college applications. If interested, please call the office at (808) 244-0406 during business hours: M-F, 8:00am - 12:00pm.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Temple Wish List***

We kindly request your support in contributing to our temple’s wish list, which includes essential items to enhance our space and activities. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

- Aluminum Foil
- 12 Cups and larger coffee filters
- Forever postage stamps
- 33 Gal. Trash Bags (No Flex Tech)
- 18 Gal. Kitchen Trash bag w/ draw string (No Flex Tech)
- Paper Towels
- Hashi (chop sticks)
- 7” Dessert Plates
- 12oz Bowls
- Coffee: Folgers or Yuban
- Clear Carton Packing Tapes
- General Use Masking Tapes (1”)
- Ziploc bags (sandwich, quart, gallon)
- Duct Tape
- Napkins
- 15# Bag rice
- 9” Lunch plates
- Blue Painters tape
- Antibacterial hand soap
- 9 oz. Cold cups
- 9 oz. Hot cups



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# 2025 Membership Dues Being Collected

Have you noticed? When we send reminders about gojikai, we often use the term “membership dues.” In Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, gojikai refers to contributions that support the temple. While both terms are interchangeable, younger members typically say “membership dues” or just “dues.”

Each January, we remind members to renew their dues for the year. These contributions are essential for funding religious services, educational programs, community events, and maintaining temple facilities. A portion is also sent to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii to cover our temple’s assessment, which in 2024 totaled \$37,713—or \$153.30 per member (family).

**Suggested Dues:** To help members decide their contributions, the board offers these guidelines:

- Households with two or more members: \$20–\$30 per month.
- Single-member households: \$12–\$15 per month.

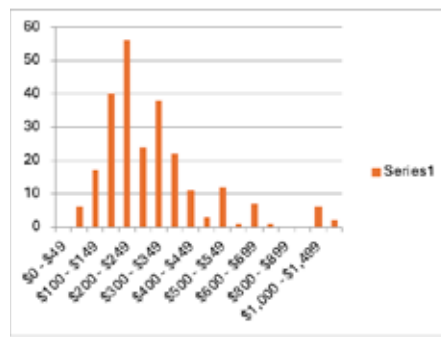
Members are encouraged to contribute an amount that fits their financial ability. No one will be excluded from membership based on their dues.

**Why It Matters**

Paying dues is more than a financial contribution; it symbolizes your commitment to Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and its mission. Your support sustains our programs, services, and community initiatives, ensuring the Dharma continues to thrive.

A breakdown of member contributions for 2024 is on the right. Thank you for your generosity and dedication to our temple and community.

Gojikai Range	Members	Per Cent
\$0 - \$49	0	0.00%
\$50 - \$99	6	2.44%
\$100 - \$149	17	6.91%
\$150 - \$199	40	16.26%
\$200 - \$249	56	22.76%
\$250 - \$299	24	9.76%
\$300 - \$349	38	15.45%
\$350 - \$399	22	8.94%
\$400 - \$449	11	4.47%
\$450 - \$499	3	1.22%
\$500 - \$549	12	4.88%
\$550 - \$599	1	0.41%
\$600 - \$699	7	2.85%
\$700 - \$799	1	0.41%
\$800 - \$899	0	0.00%
\$900 - \$999	0	0.00%
\$1,000 - \$1,499	6	2.44%
\$1,500 - \$2,499	2	0.81%
	<b>246</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



Distribution of Membership Dues for the year 2024

**MEMORIAL SERVICES**

# February Hoji Memorial Services



**1st YEAR MEMORIAL - 2025**

**DAY NAME**

- 17 Eleanor Yonamine (CHI MYO)
- 26 Stephen Shigeru Tsuzaki (JO SHIN)

**3rd YEAR MEMORIAL - 2023**

**DAY NAME**

- 21 Iwao Kanada (GAN SHIN)

**7th YEAR MEMORIAL - 2019**

**DAY NAME**

- 23 Lance Hayami Jo (SHO NEN)
- 27 Kenneth Kenichi Sakagawa (KEN JUN)

**13th YEAR MEMORIAL - 2013**

**DAY NAME**

- 02 Masako Takamiya (SHO GYO)
- 03 Kazuo Teshima (WA GEN)
- 17 Peggy Sugahara (KO DOKU)
- 27 Archie “Fuku” Fukutomi (SEI SHO)

**17th YEAR MEMORIAL - 2009**

**DAY NAME**

- 06 Yoshie Oda (HO KEN)
- 17 Minoru Marugaki (KYO NEN)

**25th YEAR MEMORIAL - 2001**

**DAY NAME**

- 07 Casey Nakamoto (SHO SOU)

**33rd YEAR MEMORIAL - 1993**

**DAY NAME**

- 04 Hatsuno Imai (MYO SHO)
- 05 Machiyo Matsui (KYO SHO)
- 25 George Katsutani (GAN SHO)

To schedule your family member’s memorial service, please contact the main office at (808) 244-0406, Monday-Friday between 8:00am and 12:00pm.

## Our Deepest Sympathies

Val Ogata (SHO GAN – Buddha’s Great Vow), age 72, of Wailuku, passed away on October 18, 2024.

Bert Tadashi Tagami (SHO MAN – Right Fulfillment), age 85, of Torrance, California, passed on October 26, 2024.

Robert Suelo Takahashi (JITSU SHO – Truth of the Infinite Light), age 86, of Wailuku, passed away on December 8, 2024.

Donald Sadami Karimoto (YUI MYO – Amida’s True Light), age 87, of Wailuku, passed away on January 5, 2025.

*Namo Amida Butsu*

**REFERENCES**

**Organization & Project Sign-Up Info**

Interested in joining an affiliate organization, club, association, or looking to volunteer or donate to a project? Below is a list of sponsored organizations and ongoing or upcoming projects at Wailuku Hongwanji and their contact information. We look forward to seeing you and your family, and thank you in advance, for any monetary donations you make to support our efforts!

Altar Flower Donations	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email <a href="mailto:whm@wailukuhongwanji.org">whm@wailukuhongwanji.org</a>
Buddhist Womans Association (BWA)	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email <a href="mailto:whm@wailukuhongwanji.org">whm@wailukuhongwanji.org</a>
Boy Scouts	Call (808) 250-1891 or email <a href="mailto:msdel17@hotmail.com">msdel17@hotmail.com</a>
Buddha Reads Book Club	Call the main office at (719) 200-7300 or email <a href="mailto:Buddha.reads@gmail.com">Buddha.reads@gmail.com</a>
Choir	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email <a href="mailto:whm@wailukuhongwanji.org">whm@wailukuhongwanji.org</a>
Cub Scouts	Call (808) 280-1299 or <a href="mailto:cubpack40@gmail.com">cubpack40@gmail.com</a>
Dharma School	Call the main office at (719) 200-7300 or email <a href="mailto:whm@wailukuhongwanji.org">whm@wailukuhongwanji.org</a>
Dharma Strummers	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email <a href="mailto:Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com">Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com</a>
4-H	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email <a href="mailto:WHMSakura4H@gmail.com">WHMSakura4H@gmail.com</a>
Gakuen (Japanese Language School)	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email <a href="mailto:whm@wailukuhongwanji.org">whm@wailukuhongwanji.org</a>
Hosha Day Clean-up (First Thursday of Month)	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email <a href="mailto:whm@wailukuhongwanji.org">whm@wailukuhongwanji.org</a>
Junior Young Buddhist Association (Jr. YBA)	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email <a href="mailto:whm@wailukuhongwanji.org">whm@wailukuhongwanji.org</a>
Judo Club	Call (808) 244-9094 or email <a href="mailto:rhiyakumoto@hawaii.rr.com">rhiyakumoto@hawaii.rr.com</a>
Karate	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email <a href="mailto:whm@wailukuhongwanji.org">whm@wailukuhongwanji.org</a>
Kendo	Call (808) 244-2650 or email <a href="mailto:michael.sone@gmail.com">michael.sone@gmail.com</a>
Office Support	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email <a href="mailto:whm@wailukuhongwanji.org">whm@wailukuhongwanji.org</a>
Preschool	Call the Preschool at (808) 244-9545 or email <a href="mailto:whpreschool808@gmail.com">whpreschool808@gmail.com</a>
Facility Rentals	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email <a href="mailto:whm@wailukuhongwanji.org">whm@wailukuhongwanji.org</a>
Sunday Morning Announcements	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email <a href="mailto:Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com">Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com</a>
Volunteer Opportunities	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email <a href="mailto:whm@wailukuhongwanji.org">whm@wailukuhongwanji.org</a>
Website & Facebook	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email <a href="mailto:whm@wailukuhongwanji.org">whm@wailukuhongwanji.org</a>
Yard & Facility Maintenance	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email <a href="mailto:whm@wailukuhongwanji.org">whm@wailukuhongwanji.org</a>

**FRIEND OF THE DHARMA**

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**Submission Deadline** is the 15th of the month, prior to the publication date. Submit to [robynmgarner@gmail.com](mailto:robynmgarner@gmail.com)

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*The Friend of the Dharma is published monthly. The opinions written by individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February / March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1						1
2 8am Scouts Sunday Service	3 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 6:30pm Central Maui Hanamatsuri Assn Mtg @ WHM	4	5 Social Hall Rental	6 Honpa BoD & State Ministers Assn Mtg. BWA Hosha Day BWA ACCW Delivery 7pm Troop Mtg.	7 113th Giseikai Legislative Assembly	8 113th Giseikai Legislative Assembly & Aloha Luncheon & Living Treasures Recognition
9 8am Sunday Service 4-H Mtng Choir	10 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	11	12 5:30pm Obon Practice	13 7pm Troop Mtg.	14 Valentine's Day	15 6:00pm Nirvana Day Spring Eitaikyo Service
Social Hall Floor Waxing						
16 8am Nirvana Day Service; DS Intergenerational Compassion Activity/ Parent Session BWA Dana, Sokai, & Mtg.	17 1-4pm 4-H President's Day (Office Closed)	18	19 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom Conference Room Rental	20 BWA ACCW Delivery 7pm Troop Mtg.	21	22
23 8am Family Service 10:30a-12:30p 4-H Mtng. Choir	24 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	25 6:30pm Cubs	26	27 7pm Troop Mtg.	28 Gakugei Kai in Social Hall	1
2 Hongwanji Day 8am Sunday Service; DS gratitude project/ parent session 4-H Mtng	3 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	4	5	6 BWA Hosha Day BWA ACCW Delivery 7pm Troop Mtg.	7	8
Minister's Cont. Edu.						Ryukoku University
Maui District Nembutsu Seminar						BSC Spring Seminar
9 Minister's Appreciation Day 9am Spring Ohigan Service: Guest Spkr - Rev. Grant Ikuta 10:30am Cub Den Mtg	10 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	11 Cub Scouts "Knots & Rockets"	12 5:30pm Obon Practice	13 7pm Troop Mtg.	14	15 Buddhist Study Center Spring Festival
16 8am Sunday Service 1pm MUBWA Spring Rep Mtng at KHM	17 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	18	19 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom	20 BWA ACCW Delivery 7pm Troop Mtg.	21	22
Spring Break						
23 8am Sunday Service 10:30a-12:30p 4-H Mtng. Choir	24 9am Hanamatsuri Mayor's Proclamation 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	25 6:30pm Cubs	26 Prince Kuhio Day (Office Open)	27 7pm Troop Mtg.	28	29
30 8am Family Service 1-4pm 4-H Mtng	31 5:15pm Dharma Strummers BWA Schol. Due	Decorative border with floral patterns				