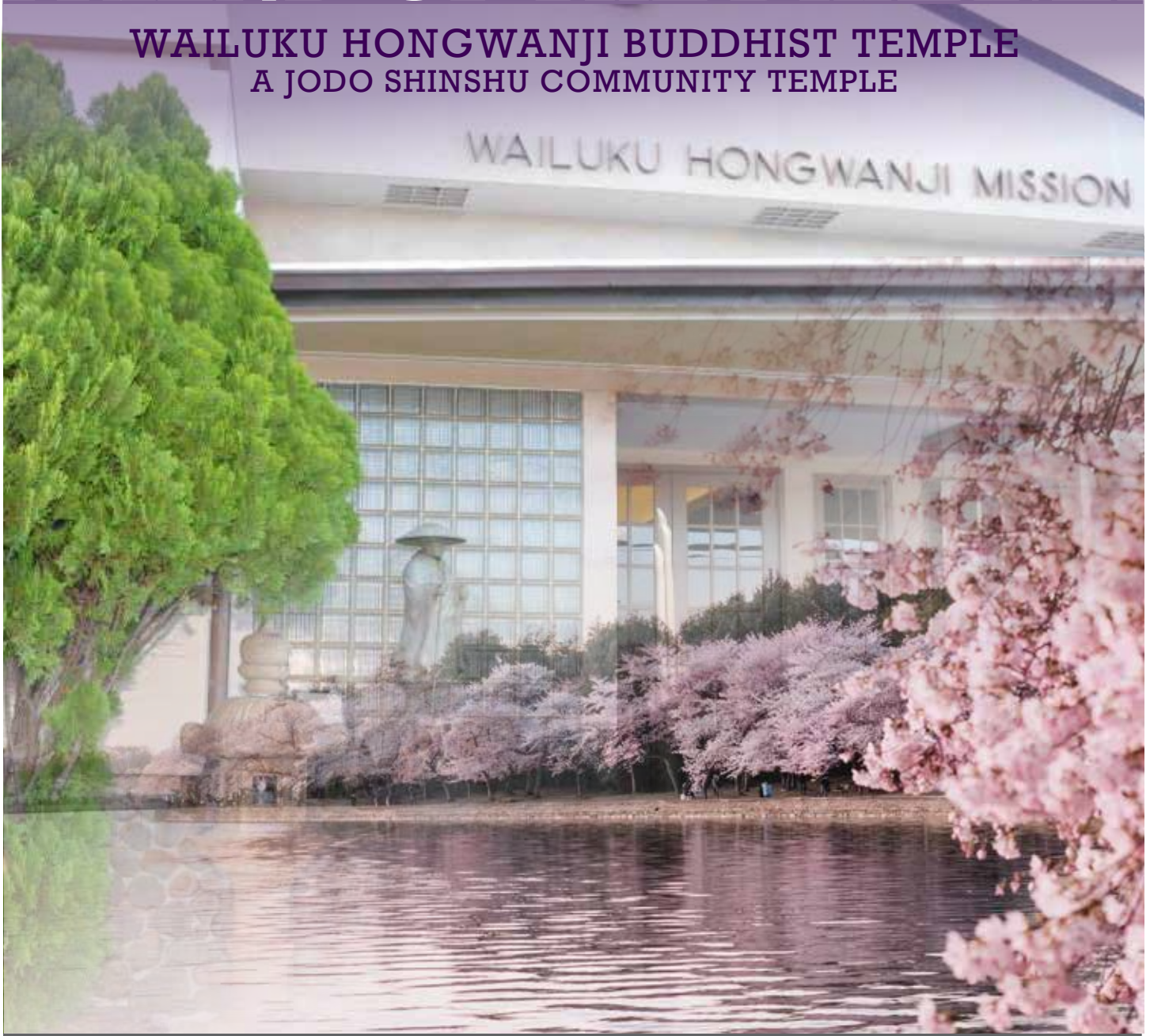




# FRIEND OF THE DHARMA

WAILUKU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
A JODO SHINSHU COMMUNITY TEMPLE



## *IN THIS ISSUE*

**CyberSec. Graduate  
Class Banquet**

**Nembutsu & Spring  
Ohigan Seminars**

WAILUKU HONGWANJI MISSION  
1828 Vineyard Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Wailuku, HI 96793

## TEACHINGS FROM THE MINISTER

## Hongwanji Day

Reverend Shinkai Murakami

*Namo Amida Butsu*

The first Sunday of March is designated as Hongwanji Day in Hawaii. Honpa Hongwanji Mission was founded in 1889, and the first official minister was Reverend Soryu Kagahi of Oita, Japan. Reverend Kagahi was appointed as the first overseas minister by our Mother Temple in Kyoto, bringing the light of the Dharma to Hawaii. He gave great encouragement to many Japanese immigrants, much like bringing fresh water to people stranded in a desert. He spread Buddha's wisdom and compassionate heart to the Issei, uplifting them as they endured complicated lives on the plantation.

With the guidance of Rev. Kagahi and other ministers, the Issei built Hongwanji temples in plantation communities and rejoiced in spiritual joy together. Through temple activities, the ladies organized Fujinkai, the young adults organized YBA, the ministers' wives and other leaders organized Japanese language schools, and the ministers established Sunday schools and martial arts programs. Young people started holding weddings at the temple, with wedding receptions in the social hall. The temple truly became the center of the plantation community.

Today, we have more than 30 temples throughout the state of Hawaii, and our Hongwanji organization continues to provide spiritual support to our community.

**Do We Need Omamori (Good Luck Charms) and Ofuda (Amulets)?**

People often ask me, "Many Buddhist temples provide Omamori and Ofuda, but why doesn't Hongwanji? I want them for

my grandchildren to protect them." Others have said, "I have terrible body pain, and my house needs blessings. I need Omamori for my family's health and Ofuda for good fortune."

According to Hongwanji tradition, we do not use Omamori or Ofuda to determine fortune. We do not rely on these items as our guide, nor do we believe in magic or the superstitions associated with them. There are many superstitions in our lives, and when we hear them repeatedly, we may start to believe them, creating unnecessary fear and anxiety.

One member told me very seriously, "When someone passes away, a big moth will visit their home. Sensei, believe it or not, the moth is the spirit of the deceased." I have seen many large moths near the Nokotsudo, sometimes the day after a funeral or bedside service. But are these moths truly spirits?

A story from over 400 years ago in a Japanese village illustrates this point. At the village entrance stood a small Buddha statue, Ojizou-sama, which the people believed protected them. They offered food and flowers daily, though the food never disappeared. Then, on one hot afternoon, the food left the day before was gone. The villagers panicked, believing something terrible had happened.

That same day, a traveler in a nearby temple fell ill with severe diarrhea. The villagers discovered that he had taken the food from the Buddha statue and quickly concluded that Buddha had punished him for his actions—saying, "Bachi ga atatta" (he received divine punishment).

But did Buddha really punish him?

The truth was, this traveler had been attacked by bandits and had not eaten for days. When he reached the village, he saw the food, ate it, and became sick—because it had spoiled under the hot sun. His illness was not punishment but simply cause and effect.

**Superstition vs. True Guidance**

In Jodo Shinshu, we do not accept misfortune as divine punishment. When someone passes away, we conduct bedside, cremation, and funeral services—not to send their soul to the Pure Land, but to express respect. Some fear that if these services are not held, "Bachi ga ataru"—that they or their family will be punished or experience bad luck. However, these services are not about warding off misfortune, but about healing our hearts and minds.

If divine punishment truly existed, we would all experience it every day. Superstitions only add fear and anxiety. Of course, when we face difficult times, we naturally seek guidance and comfort, but it is important that we do not rely on misguided beliefs.

Many of us heard from our parents and grandparents growing up, "If you do something wrong, you will be punished by the Buddha." While such sayings were used as moral guidance, they are not based on Buddhist teachings.

**Only Rely on Amida Buddha's Great Salvation**

The Jodo Shinshu teaching does not require belief in superstition or reliance on objects. Instead, it teaches us to see life as it is and live with true gratitude and joy. That is why Hongwanji does not use Omamori or Ofuda and does not promote prayers for divine intervention.

Instead, we simply listen to the Buddha Dharma as our true guide, appreciating whatever we have in our precious lives.

Hongwanji Day is a time to express deep gratitude and appreciation to our Nembutsu pioneers, who left us this great guidance. It reminds us that we are inheriting profound wisdom and spiritual values in our lives.

When we truly listen to the Buddha Dharma, we open our hearts and discover the path of truth—Amida Buddha's great wisdom and compassion in our lives. The Nembutsu life encourages us to work together and find joy in the happiness of others.

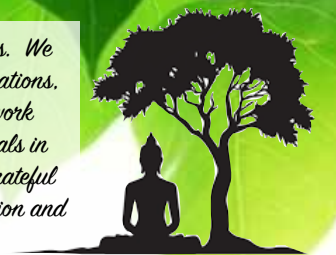
As we observe Hongwanji Day, may we all express our gratitude to our Nembutsu pioneers and ancestors, and may we pass this guidance and wisdom to future generations as our precious gift.

*Namo Amida Butsu*





*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*

**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, Floor tile replacement, & misc. maintenance*
- Jeremy Cabral & Family – *Recycling*
- Sandra & Steve Cross – *Drinking cups, duct tape, wooden chopsticks, forks, knives, & spoons*
- Cubs – *Temple yard & Campus cleanup*
- Dharma Strummers – *Sunday service music*
- FT – *Campus maintenance & Yard cleaning*
- Jeral & Karlynn Fukuda – *Altar flowers*
- 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*
- JoAnn Kono – *Sewing Patterns, fabrics, scrap book paper & assorted craft items*
- 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 – *Bougainvillea bush maintenance, yard landscaping & maintenance*
- Celeste Rabang – *Office support*
- Noreen Saiki – *Assorted snacks and paperbags*
- Nancy Shimoda – *Nokotsudo & flower cleaning, office support*
- Dale Sugiki – *Sunday service organist*
- Toshiko Sugiki – *Office support*
- Gail Tagashira – *Painter’s tape, 9oz Heavy duty duct tape, 7-inch dessert plates, paper cups, Hefty 33-gallon trash bags, Yuban coffee, Reynolds wrap aluminum foil*
- Ed & Joan Tamori – *Altar flowers & yard maintenance*
- Mary Tokumaru – *Office support*
- Danny Topp - *A/V support for services, workshops, meetings, & events*
- Linda Ann Unemori – *Office support*
- Carol Yamamura – *Masking tape and painter tape*

**EITAIKYO**

- Colin Tanaka
- Machiko Moriyasu

**HO’ONKO**

- Ronald Hamai & Gail Iwamoto-Hamai
- Stephen & Farron Cabral
- Sandra Hirata
- Eric & Cathy Ikeuchi
- Richard Ouchi
- Florence Tanaka
- Jeffrey Tsai & Laurie Fukushima
- Paul & Susan Gushiken
- Margaret Honda
- Janet Kubota
- Dale Sugiki
- Raymond & Betty Toyama
- Elaine Yokoyama

**KYODAN**

- Steve & Sandra Cross - *In memory of Isamu Iwaishi*
- Gloria Nashiwa - *In memory of Susumu Komatsu*
- Glenn Okuda
- Glenn & Sandra Sato
- Wayne Shinozuka
- Florence Tanaka - *In memory of Nancy Ushiro*

**NEW YEAR’S SOKAI**

- Elaine Akashi
- Aileen Cockett
- Derrick & Dawn Fujiwara
- Grace & Teri Hamasaki
- Troy Hashimoto
- Eric & Cathy Ikeuchi
- Rogers & Karen Ishizu
- Brent Izutsu
- Diane Kosaka
- Layne Kushiyama
- Floyd & Sharon Nagoshi
- Helen Ohigashi
- Richard Ouchi
- Dale Sugiki
- Yuki Lei Sugimura
- Leonard & Patricia Tomita
- Jeffrey Tsai & Laurie Fukushima
- Ronald Hamai & Gail Iwamoto-Hamai
- Rev. Kerry & Mrs. Mimy Kiyohara
- Tom & Krystene Lam - *In memory of Douglas & Clara Sodetani, and Tomosuke & Yukie Kawahara*
- Ileene & Steven Tanabe - *In memory of Douglas & Clara Sodetani, and Tomosuke & Yukie Kawahara*
- George Uyehara - *In memory of Jitsuji & Masako Takamiya, Prayers for Shigeru Takamiya*
- Alan & Janet Watanabe - *In memory of Yukitaka & Shizue Anai*
- Betsy Cardoza
- Steve & Sandra Cross
- Lisa Fujiyama
- Teri Hamasaki
- Brian Hashiro
- Molly Imoto
- Amy Izutsu
- Hideo & Joyce Kawahara
- Gail Kushiyama
- Machiko Moriyasu
- Michael Nishimoto
- Toshiko Oki
- George & Aileen Shigezawa
- Toshiko Sugiki
- Florence Tanaka
- Douglas Toyama
- Jody Vinoray

**SOCIAL CONCERNS**

- Burt & Betty Taira

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*

As we step into February, we have an exciting month ahead filled with activities and important reminders. Teachers will be focusing on projects related to Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Presidents Day, and maintaining our health throughout the month.

**Chinese New Year Lion Dance at the Kalana O Maui County Building.**



## HIRING: Preschool Teacher

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

**Working Hours:**  
 Monday - Friday from 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>

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

# New Year's Party Thank You

*Ed Tamori*

Happy New Year to everyone!

I would like to recognize the many members who helped make our Sokai Party a success.

A very special thanks goes out to Paul and Susan Gushiken for always accepting to help me out year after year and for creating their delicious dishes. I am very grateful for their unwavering support.

I also want to acknowledge the following: Wayne and Sandy Matsuda for chairing the pupu section and drinks; Faith Tengan for hosting the dessert section and for being a "go to" person; Gwen Hiraga and BWA ladies for providing salads and desserts; Fred and Arlene Toyama, Richard Ouchi, Jeremy Cabral, Jason Toba, Paul and Julie Petro, and Tyler and Caden Orikasa for prepping and cooking; Cathy Ikeuchi for cutting the sashimi with expert arrangement on platters; Eric Ikeuchi, Danny Topp, Mike and Lori Munekiyo, Franklin Hamasaki, Gary Murai, Janet Kubota, Sandy and Wayne Matsuda, and Tamara Manley for coming on Friday afternoon to arrange the chairs and tables including covering them; Emi and Cara Orikasa and Sammy Takamura for decorating the podium and Mike and Lori Munekiyo, Sandy Matsuda, Faith Tengan, Eric and Cathy Ikeuchi, and Sammy Takamura for decorating tables on Saturday morning; Eric Ikeuchi for doing all the odds 'n ends jobs that helped me a lot; Danny Topp for handling all the audio visual needs; Tamara Manley for emceeing the dinner program and Janet Kubota, Sharon Higa, and Sandy Hirata for taking care of the lucky numbers and prizes.

A huge mahalo goes out to WHM member, Kawika Beauchamp, for his exciting and fantastic fire dance and to Kyle Ginoza for humorously conducting his wonderful magic trick performance.

At one point we were worried about running out of food and drinks because there were many extra bodies who were not accounted for. Certain items went out fast, so when the crew got a chance to eat, certain items were gone. In the future, it is hoped that people sign up in time so an appropriate estimation of food can be planned for. I was told that only 130 signed up, however, we have always added on extra numbers to have more than an adequate amount of food.

Thank you to my wife, Joan, for helping me out with the planning, configuring the quantities of ingredients, and organizing jobs for the kitchen crew.

Six years ago, when I accepted being the food chair for the Sokai Party, my intention was to get the Dharma School parents involved to foster a friendly relationship among each other, other church members and the church organization. The kitchen becomes lively with collaboration and camaraderie! I would like to express my gratitude to the many Dharma School parents who volunteered this year and those who have helped in the past years. Mahalo!



**EDUCATION**  
**2025**  
**Graduate's**  
**Banquet** *Shelley Quipotla*



2025 Graduate's Banquet to be held at 808 Old Town in Wailuku on April 8, 2025, starting at 5:30 pm

The Wailuku Hongwanji Mission 2025 Graduate's Banquet will be held at 808 Old Town, in Wailuku on April 8, 2025 beginning at 5:30pm. The banquet will commence with a brief baccalaureate service conducted by Reverend Shinkai Murakami. The keynote speaker will be Jonathan-James Eno, an Orthopedic surgeon of Maui. As of this publication, the following graduating seniors with ties to our church have been identified and have been extended invitations to the banquet.

- Shante Shishido DelCastillo
- Landon Mukai
- Chase Nozaki
- Kalaheo Sakamoto
- Kody Sakamoto
- Bryson Tasaki
- Brady Yokouchi

Mission members are invited to the banquet and are being asked to sponsor a graduate or make a monetary donation to help defray related costs. Seating is limited. Cost to attend is \$33 per person.

Anyone wishing to become a sponsor or make a donation is asked to call Sharon Higa at (808) 244-0406.

If you know of other high school seniors with ties to our church please email Joyce Chun at [jchun.maui@gmail.com](mailto:jchun.maui@gmail.com) or Shelley Quipotla at [shellquips@gmail.com](mailto:shellquips@gmail.com) or call (808)-250-0726 and leave a message.



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

*Sammy Takamura*

You may be wondering why we started a new feature section in our newsletter. We hope this will be another avenue to connect with members that we do not get to see on a regular basis.

From time to time, we hope to share with you the different reasons or perspectives of your fellow members on why they come on Sundays. So please, look for this section every once and a while. Feel free to drop by on Sunday mornings, sit in the back (or front) of the temple. Stay for refreshments afterwards and talk-story time. Yoro shiku onegashimasu! Hope to see you soon!



**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)

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

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

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

**Lunch:** 11:50 am – 1:00 pm

**Lunch:** 12:10 pm – 1:00 pm

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

**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**

**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!

# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## **Intro Class on Cybersecurity** *Protecting Yourself and Your Sangha from Email Scams and More*

### **Speaker:**

***Giovanni D. Williams, Cybersecurity Advisor  
 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)***

***Saturday, May 10, 2025 (hybrid)***  
***10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. (including Q&A)***

***Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (Annex Temple) and on  
 Zoom***

***Enter parking at 1742 Lusitana St., Honolulu, HI 96813***

**Register**

Maybe it's happened to you: You receive an urgent email that appears to be from a trusted person — for example, a minister. There is a “discreet” matter and the “minister” needs your help. The email asks for your prompt response. You are about to hit Reply, but little details make you pause: an unfamiliar email address, uncharacteristic typos. And wasn't there something in the HQ Update about email scams? You delete the email and decide to follow up with the minister by phone. Congratulations, you just escaped a “phishing” attempt!

Phishing is a word that emerged in the 1990s and is a play on the word “fishing.” (The use of “ph” at the beginning of the word is linked to an early hacker scam called “phone phreaking.”) In the example above, the email was the bait and your hunger to be of service nearly made you take it. If you had, you may have been “reeled in” to unwittingly purchase gift cards for a fraudster or provide details that compromise a bank account.

The pervasiveness of phishing emails is staggering. It is estimated that 1.2% of all email traffic is phishing, amounting to billions of messages a day worldwide. Your email service may be blocking many of them, but some will inevitably get through. Recurring reports from members about emails like the one described above confirm this.

There are practical steps we can take to guard against phishing emails and other cybersecurity threats, and among the first is educating ourselves. That's where a workshop on Saturday morning, May 10, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. comes in. Headquarters will host an introductory session, both in person at Hawaii Betsuin and on Zoom, with presenter Giovanni D. Williams, a Cybersecurity Advisor. Giovanni is with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The emphasis will be on phishing and geared to a general audience, but additional cybersecurity topics will be introduced.

Please register, even if you're a “maybe” so you can receive confirmation of workshop details.



**ADULT ORGANIZATIONS**

# Buddhist Women's Association News

*Gwen Hiraga*

The BWA held its Sokai on February 16th. Thank you to all members who attended and to the Sokai Committee for planning and coordinating the event. Attendees enjoyed the delicious buffet lunch and fabulous desserts.

The BWA continues to prepare Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches for delivery to A Cup of Cold Water. Our members prepare the sandwiches on a rotation basis. In addition, the Craft and Sewing Group prepares sandwiches as well.

The Craft and Sewing Group made manju at a recent Thursday gathering. The Group includes BWA members from our temple, Lahaina Hongwanji members and a member from Lahaina Jodo Mission. The Group continues to make origami lei. Fabric/Kukui nut lei will be made for graduation and available in most school colors.

If members have not already done so, please send in your BWA membership dues for 2025 to BWA Co-Treasurers Sandy Matsuda or Phyllis Sato. Payments can be dropped off at the church office (BWA tray).

Happy Birthday to our BWA members born in March: Irene Arakaki, Gwen Hiraga, Mari Ann Kato, Bette Nomura, Nancy Shimoda and June Toma-Rose.



**Above: BWA Sokai**



**BWA Members prepare sandwiches for A Cup of Cold Water.**



**Above: BWA Craft & Sewing Group make manju with Lahaina Hongwanji and Lahaina Jodo Mission members. Below: BWA Craft & Sewing Group Origami and Fabric/Kukui nut leis.**



## Banana Cake Courtesy of Machiko Moriyasu

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 box Yellow cake mix  | 2 tsp. Baking powder |
| ½ tsp. Baking soda     | ¾ Wesson cup oil     |
| 3 eggs                 | 1 tsp. Vanilla       |
| 1 ½ cup mashed bananas |                      |



Sift together cake mix, baking soda and baking powder. Set aside

Mix together rest of ingredients. Add to dry ingredients and blend well.

Bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes in 13x9 pan which is lightly greased. Check if done by inserting toothpick on cake – toothpick should come out clean.

When still hot, poke holes (with toothpick) on cake and pour over a mixture of 1/8 cup milk and 1/2 tsp. sugar.



YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

# Sakura 4-H Clubs - The Clover Report

Sammy Takamura

The **Shining Stars** started their year off with a visit to Dr. Emilie Sumida Dentist office. They learned about hygiene, all about a dentist’s job and played games.

In January the **Aloha Girls** hosted a CPR training and were very fortunate to bring in Shiloh Cabatingan-DeGuzman, a certified American Heart Association trainer. There were members from the Friends Forever and Lōkahi Girls 4-H clubs as well as other affiliate organizations. Thank you, Shiloh, for teaching and everyone for attending this important training! The Aloha Girls also did a fun crafting activity from Aunty Claudia that represented our CPR training and the girls learned about how important our hearts are.

The **Lōkahi Girls** are back at working hard on their crochet skills. The girls have found that crochet can be frustrating as they continue to learn new stitches and patterns but are not backing down from this challenge. They have graduated from mini chicks, some have finished medium size or ‘teenage chickens’, coasters and are now working on double crochet and triple crochet stitches to make heart bookmarks. We wish them luck and are proud of their perseverance.

On January 20, 2025, **Friends Forever** hosted the Maui County 4-H Beach Cleanup at the Waihe’e Refuge. They pulled weeds and invasive plants that could cause harm to the native plants found on the property, cleared the hiking path from being overgrown, planted native plants like Akia and picked up trash and debris along the shore of the beach. In February they visited Haili’imaile Pineapple Factory for a facility tour.

They have also started planning for the county 4-H spring event they will be hosting in May.



Aloha Girls with their heart activity.



Above & Below Left: Lōkahi Girls working together to tackle their crochet challenges.

Above Right: Shiloh teaching Owen how to use an AED.

Bottom Right: Lōkahi Girls enjoying their club room while working on their crochet project.



Bottom Left: Visit at Dr. Emilie Sumida’s Dentist Office.

Bottom Right: Friends Forever hosted a volunteer day at Waihe’e Refuge, also in attendance were a few Shinning Stars and Lōkahi Girls





YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

# Cub Scouts' Winter Activities: Community & Fun!

*Kawika Beauchamp & Paul Petro*



Cub Scouts held the annual pine wood derby.

Congratulations to Ryan Petro with the fastest car, which ran the track in a record 2.6531 seconds!



Pack 40 families hiked the Kapalua Coast Trail in late January.



Cubscout hosted Scout Sunday. The Cubscouts made a salmon lunch and strawberry shortcake dessert.



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



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# Help Needed for BCA Temple Members Affected by the SoCal Wildfires

*Michael Munekiyo*

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) has established the Southern California Wildfire Relief fund in response to the catastrophic and deadly wildfires across Southern California. Monies raised will support BCA's Pasadena Buddhist Temple and other Southern District temples affected by the wildfires. The Pasadena Buddhist Temple was saved because of the quick actions of neighbors. Unfortunately, 16 Pasadena Sangha members lost their homes and a business. There have also been additional Sangha members in Southern California, including members of the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple and Senshin Buddhist Temple, who have lost their homes and have been forced to evacuate.

Donations to the fund can be made through the following methods:

Go to the BCA website at: <https://bca.kindful.com/>  
 (scroll down on the SELECT A CAMPAIGN BOX and select DISASTER RELIEF – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE RELIEF)

You may also make donations by checks made payable to the BCAEF (please note WILDFIRES on the memo line) and mailed to:

Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation  
 2140 Durant Avenue  
 Berkeley, CA, 94704

Your support for the BCA during this challenging time is greatly appreciated.

**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.

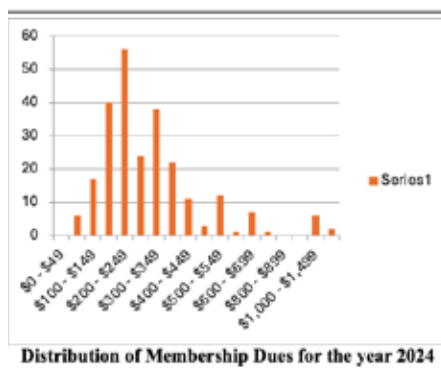
Members are encouraged to contribute an amount that fits their financial ability. No one will be excluded from membership based on their dues.

**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%
	246	100.00%



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# Sharing Your Nembutsu Moments

*Michael Munekiyo*

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii has published the book, Sharing Your Nembutsu Moments, a project coordinated by the Commission on Buddhist Education and the Buddhist Study Center Committee. The book includes an insightful compilation of stories and artwork from Dharma School students, ministers and Sangha members from across the state. Reading the stories and viewing the artwork gives inspiration to living our lives with gratitude, humility and selflessness.

Wailuku Hongwanji will be ordering copies of the book from Honpa Hongwanji. Books will be offered for sale to WHM members at \$7.00 per book while supplies last. If you are interested in reserving a copy, please call the Temple office at 808 244-0406.

**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.

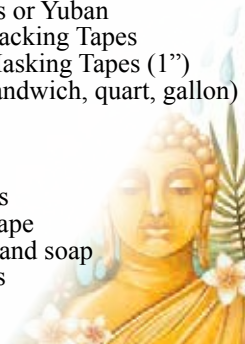
We are especially looking for a high school student seeking community service for college applications. If interested, please call the office at (808) 244-0406 during business hours: M-F, 8:00am - 12:00pm.

**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**

**April 13, Infant Presentation Ceremony**

Reverend Shinkai Murakami invites temple members, parents, and grandparents to join Wailuku Hongwanji's annual Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day) Service and Infant Presentation Ceremony (Hanamairi or Shosan-shiki) on Sunday, April 13, starting at 8:00 a.m.

**Hanamatsuri** (Flower Festival) is celebrated on April 8, marking the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, who became enlightened as Sakamuni Buddha. This celebration symbolizes the release of all sentient beings from suffering and sorrow.

**Infant Presentation Ceremony (Shosan-shiki):** This ceremony allows families to present their child to Amida Buddha and the Sangha for the first time. Reverend Murakami emphasizes the importance of raising a child or grandchild with great thought and the gift of Dharma as one of the most precious offerings. The temple celebrates Hanamatsuri by honoring this tradition. During the ceremony, parents vow to guide their child's spiritual growth according to the teachings of the Buddha. This commitment extends to the temple and its followers, who pledge to support and cherish the child. Each child will receive their first Onenju as a gift. Parents and grandparents interested in participating in the Infant Presentation Ceremony may contact Reverend Murakami or pick up an appreciation form at the temple office.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Revitalizing the Social Hall**

*Sharon Higa*

The Social Hall recently received much-needed care thanks to the generosity and hard work of temple members and community groups. Richard and Amy Blue replaced water-damaged tiles, restoring the space with their time and effort. Following their work, members of the Scouts and Judo Club came together to wax the floor, leaving it refreshed and polished. Heartfelt gratitude goes to all who contributed to maintaining this shared space for the community's continued use.



**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Collect Your's Before They're Gone!**

Own a piece of our temple's history! While the 2025 coin design remains a surprise, past limited-edition coins are still available:

2022 Gratitude Coin    2023 Compassion & Kindness Coin    2024 Community Coin

Each beautifully crafted coin reflects a meaningful theme from our journey. Supplies are limited—complete your collection or gift one today! To order, contact Danny Topp at (808) 244-0406 or whm@wailukuhongwanji.org.



# 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**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# Invitation to Central Maui Hanamatsuri Festival

Sharon Higa

The Maui Hanamatsuri Association warmly invites all temple members to the Central Maui Hanamatsuri Festival, taking place on Sunday, April 6, at the Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. You are encouraged to join your temple members and friends for this significant Buddhist event.

The program will start with a service at 9:00 a.m., followed by a day filled with games and entertainment in the courtyard and social hall. The day will conclude with lunch with attendees coming together in fellowship and reflection as we celebrate Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday.

Hanamatsuri, commemorating the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha over 2,500 years ago, is one of the most cherished observances in Buddhist traditions. This year, the festival is proudly sponsored by Kahului Hongwanji, Kahului Jodo Mission, Makawao Hongwanji, Wailuku Hongwanji, and Wailuku Jodo Mission. Members from the Lahaina Hongwanji and Lahaina Jodo Mission will also be attending the event.

There is no cost to attend the festival; however, to assist the food committee to prepare enough food, please contact the temple office at (808) 244-0406 with your lunch count. The deadline to submit lunch count is Monday, March 24.



**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

## Ofuse: Thank You for Your Compassion

- Mae Karimoto - *In memory of Donald Karimoto*
- Katherine Marushige - *In memory of Ralph Marushige*
- Alan Miyazaki - *In memory of Tsugi Miyazaki*
- Nakao Family - *In memory of Sadako Nakao*
- Liane Ogata - *In memory of Val Ogata*
- Deborah Takahashi - *In memory of Robert Sueo Takahashi*
- Katherine Texeira - *In memory of Takeo Igawa*



## Nokotsudo: Thank You

- Guy & Catherine Hamasaki - *In memory of Elaine Hamasaki*
- Tod & Wendy Hamasaki - *In memory of Elaine Hamasaki*
- Wayne & Lena Kaneyama - *In memory of Nobue Hanada, Minoru Hanada & Juji Hanada*
- Mari Ann Kato
- Hideo & Joyce Kawahara - *In memory of Yukie Kawahara & Clara Sodetani*
- Edwin & Thelma Seki - *In memory of Eugene Endo*
- Lee Seki - *In memory of the Seki Family*
- Linda Shibano - *In memory of the Shibano Family*
- Patsy Sodetani - *In memory of Herbert Sodetani, August Hamasaki, and Mr. & Mrs. Shigeru Hamasaki*
- Dale Tagami - *In memory of Mitsugi & Yoshie Tagami, and Chuhachi & Harue Tagami*
- Willie & Sachi Tokishi - *In memory of Tsuruo & Chitoshi Matsui*
- Helene Yoshizawa

**MEMORIAL SERVICES**

# March Hoji Memorial Services



**1st YEAR MEMORIAL - 2024**

DAY	NAME
24	Sharon Takie Kawachi (E KO)

**3rd YEAR MEMORIAL - 2023**

DAY	NAME
07	Mitsugu Kawakami (SHO GAN)

**7th YEAR MEMORIAL - 2019**

DAY	NAME
04	Megumi Hiraoka (E SHO)
06	Janet Tamiko Tsuchiyama

**13th YEAR MEMORIAL - 2013**

DAY	NAME
24	Tsukio Yamagata (TOKU SHO)
25	Shoichi Nakamoto (SHO JUN)

**17th YEAR MEMORIAL - 2009**

DAY	NAME
08	Satoshi Yonemura (DAI CHI)
09	Mitsuo Furukawa (SEI DO)
11	Teruyuki Ikeda (GAN SHO)

**25th YEAR MEMORIAL - 2001**

DAY	NAME
25	Shigeru Yonamine (JYO HAN)

**33rd YEAR MEMORIAL - 1993**

DAY	NAME
12	Richard Satoshige (MYO E)
17	Hiroto Katayama (JIKI SHO)
20	Doris Iriguchi (JOKI)
20	Yukuo Nakagawa (JO KAI)

**50th YEAR MEMORIAL - 1976**

DAY	NAME
31	Chester Watanabe (RIKI 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.

# *The Power of* **Compassion** *Rediscovering Your True Value*

**Saturday, March 8 -- 9:00am - 3:00pm**

**In-Person at Hawaii Betsuin Social Hall (1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu 96813)  
OR Via ZOOM across the state: one site per district**

Join us for an engaging and hands-on workshop with  
**D. Trinidad Hunt**

International trainer, author, public speaker & contributor to 3  
*"Chicken Soup for the Soul"* books, granddaughter of  
Rev. Dorothy Hunt, author of *"The Golden Chain of Love"*



**Every human being is a leader in their own little circle.**

- Clarify your purpose - what do you want to achieve by the end of your lifetime
- Review & refresh your most important values
- Develop more meaningful interactions with others
- Deepen your experience of the Golden Chain
- Discover the Four Pillars that support the Golden Chain
- Realize the power of influence and inspiration in your life



**PLEASE REGISTER BY SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST**  
**REGISTRATION LINK:**

**<https://forms.gle/87XTYgFNk4NZFi8CA>**

**Questions? Please contact Debbie Kubota ([dekub88@gmail.com](mailto:dekub88@gmail.com))**

**Sponsored by the Commission on Buddhist Education**



**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

March / April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Hongwanji Day 8am Sunday Service; DS gratitude project/ parent session 4-H Mtng	3 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	4	5 Conference Room Rental	6 BWA Hosha Day BWA ACCW Delivery 7pm Troop Mtg. Minister's Cont. Edu.	7 Ryukoku University BSC Spring Seminar	8 Maui District Nembutsu Seminar
9 Minister's Appreciation Day 9am Spring Ohigan Service: Guest Spkr - Rev. Grant Ikuta 10:30am Cub Den Mtg Maui District Nembutsu Seminar	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 11am Choir 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.	Spring Break	
23 8am Sunday Service 10:30a-12:30p 4-H Mtng.	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 Central Maui Hanamatsuri Lunch Deadline	29
30 8am Family Service DS Compassion Activity/parent session 11am Choir 1-4pm 4-H Mtng	31 5:15pm Dharma Strummers BWA Schol. Due	1	2	3 BWA Hosha Day BWA ACCW Delivery 7pm Troop Mtg.	4	5 9am MUBWA Spring Assembly @ WHM 5pm: Hall Setup Central: Maui Hanamatsuri
6 9am Central Maui Hanamatsuri Assn Hanamatsuri Observance @ WHM	7 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	8 Buddha Day (Temple Closed) 5:30pm Graduate Banquet	9 5:30pm Obon Practice	10 7pm Troop Mtg.	11 Conference Room Rental	12
13 8am WHM Hanamatsuri & Infant Presentation Service DS Egg Hunt 9:30am BWA Meeting 10:30am Cub Den Meeting	14 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	15 6pm Cub Scouts "Rain Gutter Regatta"	16 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom	17 BWA ACCW Delivery 7pm Troop Mtg.	18 Good Friday (Office Open) No Gakuen YESS Camp 41 (Camp Erdman)	19
20 8am BWA Eshinni & Kakushinni Sunday YESS Camp 41 (Camp Erdman)	21 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	22	23	24 BWA ACCW Delivery 7pm Troop Mtg.	25 BWA Eshinni Day/Peace Day	26 1pm Cubs Blue & Gold Award
27 8am Family Service 10:30am-12:30pm 4-H Mtng	28 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	29 6:30pm Cubs	30			