



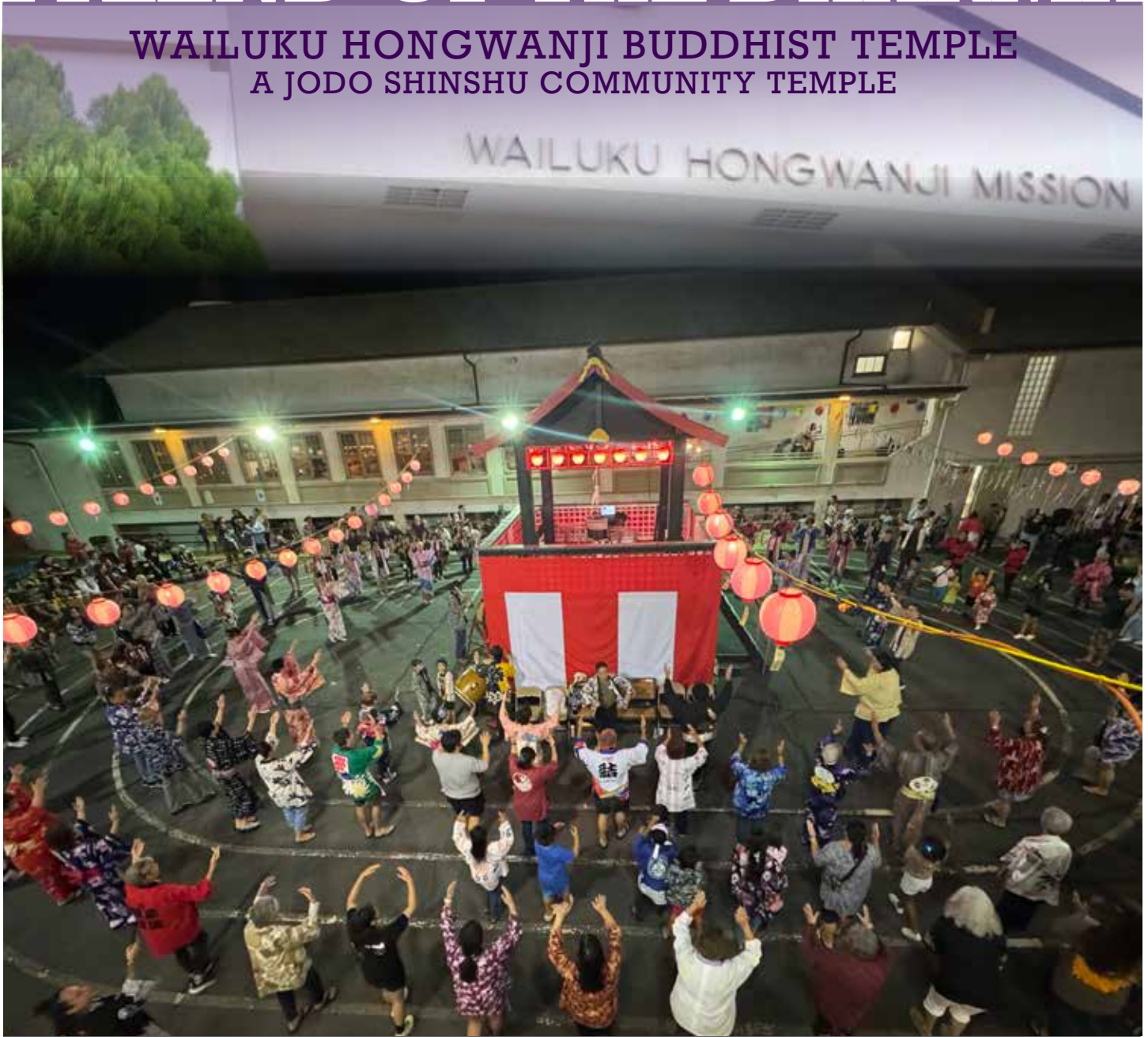
@wailukuhongwanji



JULY 2025 // VOLUME 62

FRIEND OF THE DHARMA

WAILUKU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
A JODO SHINSHU COMMUNITY TEMPLE



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Delegates Sought**

WAILUKU HONGWANJI MISSION
1828 Vineyard Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Permit No. 39
Non-Profit Organization
Wailuku, HI 96793

TEACHINGS FROM THE MINISTER

Obon Service or Obon Dance?

Reverend Shinkai Murakami

Namo Amida Butsu

The 2025 Obon season began on Maui in June, and many residents—as well as visitors from across the U.S. and abroad—came together to enjoy our island's vibrant cultural events. Obon has become one of Hawai'i's most cherished traditions. Regardless of religious background, people gather at temples to enjoy delicious food and participate in the joyful Bon Dance.

At Wailuku Hongwanji and many other Buddhist temples, Hatsu-bon and Obon services are held prior to the Bon Dance. Hatsu-bon is a special memorial service that honors

loved ones who have passed away since the previous year's Obon season. These services offer families and friends a chance to reflect on their loss, express gratitude, and find comfort through the teachings of the Buddha.

However, I've often heard a common misunderstanding—even among Buddhist church members—that Obon and Hatsu-bon services are only meant for families who have experienced a recent loss. As a result, some people may choose not to attend the service if they haven't lost someone recently, instead waiting outside to enjoy the food booths or dancing. While

it is natural to be drawn to the festive atmosphere, it is important to understand that the heart of Obon lies in its spiritual meaning.

Food and fellowship are certainly meaningful parts of the Obon celebration. They provide nourishment for our bodies and support for our temple through fundraising efforts. But Obon, at its core, is a religious observance—a time to reflect, express gratitude, and honor those who have passed on, regardless of when they departed this life.

I'd like to share a deeper history of the Bon Dance that is often less well-known but especially meaningful for Nembutsu followers. Most are familiar with the story of Moggallana, whose act of filial devotion to his mother is said to be the origin of Obon. However, during Japan's Heian period (around 1180), a practice called Odori Nembutsu—dancing while chanting the Nembutsu—became closely tied to Obon rituals.

These early rituals were understood as a way to welcome the spirits of the departed and offer them special memorial services. In the Kamakura period (1185–1333), Ippen Shōnin (1239–1289), founder of the Ji sect, inherited Odori Nembutsu from his teacher, Kūya. Ippen

ANNOUNCEMENT

2025 Temple Coin Now Available -
Theme: Interdependence

Danny Topp



The 2025 temple coin, featuring this year's theme of Interdependence, is now available! Only 100 coins were minted, and just 30 remain—so act quickly if you'd like to reserve one. Coins from previous years (2022–2024) are also available. Each coin is priced at \$10. To purchase, please contact Danny Topp directly.

taught that when we recite the Nembutsu, a sense of profound awareness and joy naturally arises in our hearts. Expressing this joy through movement and dance gave rise to what we now recognize as the Bon Dance.

Communities across Japan embraced Ippen Shōnin's teachings. Dancing became a joyful and embodied way to express gratitude for Amida Buddha's compassion and the gift of the Nembutsu. As time passed, these practices evolved. People began to wear colorful garments, incorporate musical instruments, and develop regional styles of Bon Dance, turning it into both a spiritual and communal event.

By the Muromachi period (1336–1568), drums and other instruments made the music livelier and more accessible to all. Dances were often held on July 15, when the full moon lit up the evening sky, and torches provided a warm glow to the gathering. In the Edo period, as communities became more

stable and prosperous, Bon Dance celebrations flourished across Japan—sometimes continuing well into the fall season.

Today, it is common to build a yagura (a raised platform) in the center of the dance circle, where singers and musicians perform. These ondo-tori lead the dancers with their voices, a tradition that predates microphones and sound systems. The yagura itself is believed to have originated from early Odori Nembutsu practices, reminding us that the roots of our celebration are spiritual and profound.

Bon Dance has always been more than entertainment—it served as a way to strengthen community bonds and foster a sense of unity and pride. Even neighboring villages developed their own unique songs and movements, which is why we still enjoy a variety of Bon Dance music today. Songs such as Fukushima Ondo, Iwakuni Ondo, Tankō Bushi from Fukuoka, and Kawachi

Ondo from Osaka reflect the rich diversity of the tradition.

For us as Jōdo Shinshū Hongwanji followers, the true significance of Obon lies in encountering the Nembutsu—Amida Buddha's call to us, filled with infinite wisdom and compassion. We believe that those who have passed on return to us as Buddhas (gensō eko), gently guiding us toward the truth of life. For this reason, we refer to the Obon service as Kangi-e, or the "Joyful Gathering."

As we enter this meaningful season, may we participate in the Obon services with open hearts. Whether or not we've experienced a recent loss, this is a time for all of us to remember and honor our loved ones, reflect on the impermanence of life, and walk the spiritual path together. In doing so, we come to appreciate the deeper meaning of the Bon Dance and the profound joy of being part of this timeless tradition.

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!



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

EITAIKYO

Stan Higashi - *In memory of the Higashi & Hiraoka Families*

Courtney Shishido - *In memory of the Fujitani & Shishido Families*

KYODAN

Janet Shimoda

Paul & Julie Petro

Ann Araki - *In memory of Fred Araki*

OBON

Ralph Ichiyama

Nancy Shimoda

GOTAN-E

Calvin & Kayoko Endo

Claire Fujii-Krall

Franklin & Guy Hamasaki

Sandra Hirata

Eric & Cathy Ikeuchi

Machiko Moriyasu

William & Jeanne Smythe

Toshiko Sugiki

Leonard & Patricia Tomita

Yukimi Shoda - *In memory of Seimu Shoda & George N. Shoda*

Ethel Fujii

Paul & Susan Gushiken

Margaret Honda

Janet Kubota

Richard Ouchi

Florence Tanaka

EXPRESSIONS OF DANA

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

Elaine Akashi - *Drinking Cups*

Richard & Amy Blue – *Yard landscaping & maintenance*

Cora Cabral - *Lunch plates*

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*

Carol Mae Kurisu – *Altar flowers*

Wayne & Sandy Matsuda - *Tabasco*

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 - *Folgers coffee, Yuban coffee, coffee filters, reuseable plates*

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*

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.

RECREATIONAL GROUPS

Maui Hongwanji Choir Debuts at Fujimatsuri Celebration

Joan Tamori

The newly formed Maui Hongwanji Choir made its heartfelt debut at the recent Fujimatsuri (Wisteria Festival), commemorating the birth of founder Shinran Shonin. Marking a meaningful milestone in the joint spiritual efforts of the island's Hongwanji temples, the choir opened the service with moving presentations of two gathas: *Amida's Guide to Life* and *To All We Owe*.

The MHC sings
*Amida's Guide
to Life!*



Directed by Joan Tamori, the choir features dedicated members from Kahului, Lahaina, and Wailuku Hongwanji who practiced diligently for months in preparation for their first performance.

The choir is open to all interested members from any temple who wish to explore and share the Dharma through the joy of music. New voices are always welcome!



L to R: Joan Tamori, Mary Tokumaru, Tamara Manley, Carol Suda, Ed Tamori, Kallie Keith-Agaran, Danny Topp, Eric Ikeuchi, Aileen Cockett, Mari Ann Kato, Diane Lee, Carolyn Kaya, and Rev. Shinkai Murakami.

KAHUKU HONGWANJI MISSION SCHOLARSHIP

The Kahuku Hongwanji Mission closed its doors in February 2013 after serving its membership for 111 years.

To maintain the legacy of the Kahuku Hongwanji Mission and to develop the future generations of the Hongwanji, Kahuku Hongwanji Mission established a scholarship to support students at the college level.



Eligibility:

- The applicant must be a student attending or registered for enrollment in an accredited university, college, or a post-high school program in the State of Hawaii.
- The applicant must show interest in Buddhism, and be active in a Hongwanji program, either at the Hawaii Kyodan level or at a branch temple.
- The applicant must be a full-time student and registered for a minimum of 12 college credits per semester.
- The applicant, at the time of the application, must have a required minimum high school, college, or university in Hawaii GPA of 2.5.
(*Those who registered for enrollment and not yet received Hawaii college/university GPA must submit their GPA after the first semester.)
- The applicant must submit the application form with an essay on "Dharma and My Life".

Application Deadline: July 31 of the year of application

Scholarship Amount: \$2,000.00 each / two recipients



HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813

(808) 522-9200

hqs@honpahi.org



Call for Submissions **2026 HONGWANJI CALENDAR**

Five-Year Theme (2025-2029): NURTURING NEMBUTSU

2026 Slogan: Sharing Gratitude

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH) Calendar Committee invites members, Dharma friends, and affiliates to provide photos for the 2026 Hongwanji Calendar that shows,

- **Deadline: Sept. 15, 2025.**
- If you have questions, leave a message for Yumi Suzuki at (808) 522-9200 or hqs@honpahi.org.
- Submit photos to Alan Kubota at lenscapeshawaii@gmail.com.

EDUCATION

DS Students Achieve Big in 2024-2025!*Joan Tamori*

Wailuku Hongwanji Mission's 21 Dharma School students had a wonderful year filled with exciting and innovative activities, as well as meaningful class and group lessons on Jodo Shinshu teachings. Most inspiring was their dedication to service throughout the year. These remarkable students volunteered as kansho bell ringers, emcees, greeters, offertory collectors, and aspiration readers during temple services—demonstrating both enthusiasm and a strong sense of community.

Supporting them every step of the way were their devoted parents and grandparents, who generously gave their time and encouragement. The Dharma School staff—Laurie Fukushima-Tsai, Sandy Hirata, Julie Petro,



Cornhole Tournament champions at the annual Fujimatsuri Day celebration. Victors (from L to R) are Mary Tokumaru, Kaimana, Danny Topp, and Rev. Murakami.

Shelley Quipotla, Sammy Takamura, and Joan Tamori—extend heartfelt thanks to all parents, church members, and the Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) for their continued support.



On May 25, the students were recognized for their achievements with certificates and gifts, and parents received a token of appreciation in gratitude for their involvement and encouragement throughout the year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Wanted: Student Volunteer

Need Community Service Hours? Wailuku Hongwanji Needs Your Help!

We're looking for a volunteer to take out 5–10 bags of trash each week (about 10–35 lbs). It only takes about one hour—perfect for Fridays after school!

- Great for high schoolers
- Community service hours
- Easy to support the temple

Interested? Call the office at (808) 244-0406 (Mon–Fri, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.) or drop off a short letter saying why you'd like to help.

Mahalo for giving back!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cyber Threat Alerts:**Suspicious Email Circulating Among Members:**

Several members received an email claiming to be from "Rev. Murakami," sent from parishdesk0665@gmail.com. The message used unfamiliar language and Christian references not in keeping with our tradition. This is part of a common scam—please check sender addresses and contact the office if you're unsure.

ScreenConnect Being Mis-

used: Criminals are impersonating trusted organizations like the UK's NHS or Australia's Medicare to send harmful links. As always, be cautious when opening unexpected messages or clicking on unfamiliar links. More info: <https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/alerts/2024/03/12/screenconnect-used-malicious-activity>

Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ 2026

**Nominations Due
August 1, 2025**



hongwanjihawaii.com/living-treasures



Save the date for the 51st Living Treasures of
Hawai'i Recognition Program and Luncheon!

ADULT ORGANIZATIONS

Buddhist Women's Association News

Gwen Hiraga

The BWA held its General Membership Meeting on June 8th, sharing updates on ongoing projects and upcoming activities. The 120th Anniversary Celebration Committee also met on June 1st to plan the event, scheduled for September 21st.

Members will participate in the General Clean Up on July 20th, focusing on the Temple and Nokotsudo. Omigaki will take place a day earlier than usual—Saturday, July 19th at 8:30 a.m.

The BWA will have pre-sales of Obon food items on July 13th and July 27th. Food items (which may include assorted salads, assorted rice dishes, assorted desserts and pickled vegetables) will be available after service and during refreshments time. The BWA welcomes all to attend the church services and to shop for your dinner meals and snacks to enjoy at home.

Happy Birthday to our members born in July: Joan Akai, Cora Cabral, Margaret Honda, Tamara Manley, Machiko Moriyasu, Jane Nishiguchi, Celeste Rabang, Phyllis Sato, Florence Tanaka, Dan Thompson and Judy Toba Stillwell.



Pickled Onions Courtesy of Gwen Hiraga

5 pounds Maui onion, peeled

Wash and sterilize a canning jar or container with cover large enough to fit all the Maui onions. Cut both ends of the onion. Slice in half, then into quarters, keeping the quarters intact.

Pickling Liquid:

- 2 cups white vinegar
- 2 ½ cups water
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 2 TBSP Hawaiian salt
- 2 Chili pepper (thinly sliced and remove seeds), optional

Put all ingredients in a saucepan and bring to boil over high heat. Remove from heat, pour over onions, and cover jar or container tightly. Let sit on counter for 24 hours, then refrigerate.



**BWA 120th
Anniversary
Committee**



YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Sakura 4-H Clubs - The Clover Report

Sammy Takamura

In May the Shining Stars had a club meeting and held their end of year and Achievement celebration. Thank you Sensei for helping us celebrate!

In late April, the Aloha Girls had a fun end of 4-H year celebration. They were able to go to the Maui Butterfly Farm thanks to a grant from the 4-H Leaders Foundation. The girls not only got to see and hold beautiful butterflies but they also learned how important these delicate insects are to our ecosystem. The girls had a blast as Monarchs and Swallowtails flitted around and on them. Thank you Aloha Girls for a great year! Thank you leaders, parents, and the Wailuku Hongwanji Mission for all the support!

Congratulations to all students for completing another year of school! As we go into summer our clubs are preparing for their new 4-H year, voting on officers and their project year for 2025-2026.



Thank you, Sensei! From the Shining Stars.



Shining Stars celebrating their year of accomplishment.



Aloha Girls visit the Maui Butterfly Farm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOGO Krispy Kreme

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 two dozen! Please make check payable to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission.



YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Troop 40 Service and Growth

Celeste Rabang

Troop 40 had a busy month! The troop did their traditional flag placing honoring our Maui Veterans on Memorial Day. Then they helped prepare and cook chow fun for the Maui Matsuri. Several of our newest scouts earned their Totin Chip which allows them to safely carry a pocket knife.



Leone and Trenton placing a flag on the Columbarium.



Eagle Scout D'Marco and his younger brother Dominic.



Ethan helping prepare the noodles.



Pouring the finished chow fun in the pan.



Robbie, Liam, Jacob, Drew, Matthew, and Caden all earned their Totin Chip.



The troop.



Caden using the proper ax technique he just learned.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

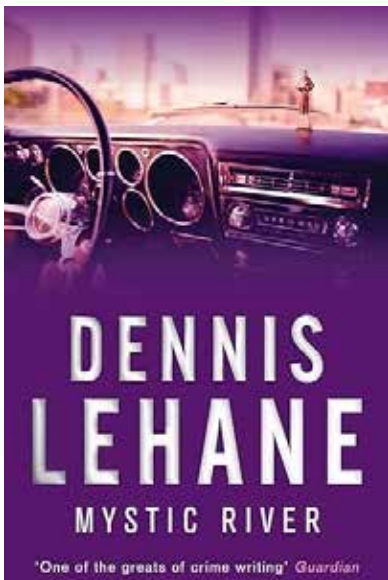
Temple Wish List

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



RECREATIONAL GROUPS

Buddha Reads: Mystic River*Danny Topp*

The Buddha Reads book club met recently to discuss *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane—a gripping, character-driven crime novel set in the working-class neighborhoods of Boston. Our discussion explored the novel’s richly drawn characters, layered plot, and haunting atmosphere.

Bob highlighted the intricate relationships between the characters and Lehane’s evocative depiction of Boston’s neighborhoods. He noted that

the epilogue invites speculation, especially about Sean’s future. Laurie questioned whether the epilogue was necessary at all, comparing it to ambiguous endings in other novels. She suggested it might even be a dream sequence and reflected on how the story felt shaped by fate, as if the characters were unable to escape their destinies. Gary agreed the epilogue was unusual but wasn’t bothered by it, and added that he found the book slow at first, but much more engaging in the final section.

Danny focused on the themes of karma and the moral ambiguity of justice in the novel. He expressed some reservations about the story’s sense of determinism and raised questions about the legality of certain police actions. Gary, drawing on his background, provided a legal perspective on one of the more controversial plot points.

The group agreed the book was well-written and filled with memorable characters, but not necessarily something they’d recommend to everyone. As Gary put it, this one is best suited for fans of “hard-boiled murder mysteries.” Joan and Danny appreciated the novel but didn’t connect with it as deeply as others did. Joan offered a great summary of her experience: she thought it was “just a little better than okay.”

Looking ahead, our next book will be *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris. We’ll meet via Zoom on Saturday, July 13 to discuss it. Danny will also be finalizing the list of candidate books for our next round of voting. If you have any titles you’d like the group to consider, please send your suggestions his way!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seeking Delegates for Lay Association Convention: Sept 12-13, 2025

Gary Murai

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii State Lay Association’s 62nd annual convention is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, September 12 and 13, 2025 in Honolulu. The Friday session will be held at Jikoen Hongwanji Mission from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm and the Saturday session will be held at Honpa Hongwanji Mission from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. The Convention will be a hybrid of in-person and virtual attendees.

The Lay Association serves as the representative body of the lay members of the HHMH temples and supports the objectives of the HHMH, the principles of Jodo Shinshu, and assists in the operation and administration of member temples.

Wailuku Hongwanji is entitled to send five delegates. Conference fees, transportation and lodging will be provided. Positions for non-voting observers are also available. The registration deadline is July 16, 2025. Any Wailuku Hongwanji member is eligible to be a delegate or observer.

To sign up to be a delegate or observer, or if you have any questions, please contact Gary Murai at 808-344-7611 or garymurai@yahoo.com or Sharon Higa at the temple office. The convention website is <https://sites.google.com/view/hsla2025convention/home>.



HAWAII STATE LAY ASSOCIATION 62ND ANNUAL CONVENTION BULLETIN # 1



May 2, 2025

TO: All Temple Presidents, District Presidents, & State Vice-Presidents

FROM: State President: Russell Nonaka

Convention Co-Chairs: Rene Mansho, Rick Tabor

SUBJECT: 62nd Annual Convention Invitation

You are cordially invited to the 2025 Hawaii State Lay Association Annual Convention. Please extend this invitation to your temple members and leaders and encourage them to join in and participate in a gathering of fellow Jodo Shinshu practitioners. In addition to the usual business agenda, we will conduct workshop discussions that may lead to major operations & leadership issues affecting all temples.

Convention Theme: “LET’S BE THE AUTHORS OF OUR FUTURE!”

When: September 12-13, 2025

**Where: Fri. - 5:30 PM – Jikoen Hongwanji Social Hall
Sat –8:30 AM -Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin**

**Cost: Regular Registration Fee, by July 16: \$75.00
Zoom Registration Fee, by July 16: \$45.00**

2025 Lay Convention Website: (Under Construction)

<https://sites.google.com/view/hsla2025convention/home>

Registration Deadline: July 16, 2025.

Resolution Submittal Deadline: Per our Bylaws, resolutions requiring financing shall be submitted 60 days (July 14) prior to the convention. All other resolutions shall be submitted 5 weeks (August 4) prior to the convention.

Email resolution drafts to: Dean Sakamoto at OahuLay@gmail.com.

Nominations for 2025 Deadline: July 31, 2025. A Nominations

Form which identifies the officer positions that each district shall provide a nominee will be included in Bulletin #2. Mahalo!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers Needed for Obon Preparation

Wailuku Hongwanji's annual Obon is a significant Temple and community event. We are grateful for the support our Sangha and affiliate organizations have provided in past years and look forward to continued manpower help to make our 2025 Obon a success. The following pre-Obon and post-Obon activities will require volunteer time and energy, and we seek your help if you are available.

- **July 31 - Lights & Decoration Set-up:** Set up lighting and hang decorations, moving benches, moving Social Hall tables and chairs and a number of labor-intensive works on Thursday, July 31, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Volunteers will be stringing lights and hanging chochins (lanterns). These tasks are expected to last about one and half hours.
- **August 02 - Dismantle Yagura starting at 10:15pm**
- **August 03 - Clean Grounds Starting at 7:30am:** complete limited cleanup of the temple campus and store Obon supplies.

Your participation and support are appreciated in making these events successful.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, July 20: Yagura Setup and Temple Cleanup Schedule

Temple members and friends are encouraged to participate in our annual general cleanup and setup of the yagura on Sunday, July 20, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Participants are asked to bring their tools, rags, newspapers, and any other items needed for the cleanup.

General Cleanup Chair Eric Ikeuchi respectfully asks our affiliate organizations to under-take the following specific areas of work.

ORGANIZATION	ASSIGNED AREAS	CHAIRPERSON
BWA	Temple & Nokotsudo (Columbarium)	Gwen Hiraga
Boy Scouts	Social Hall - Classrooms	Celeste Rabang
Cub Scouts	Social Hall - Windows (Kaniela st. side) Ceiling Fans & Spot Cleaning Floors	Kawika Beauchamp
4-H Club	Social Hall - Windows (Courtyard Side)	Samantha Takamura
Judo	Karate / Kendo Hall	Ronald Hiyakumoto
Karate & Kendo	Dharma School	Ed Tamanaha and Mike Sone
Lunch	Dharma School	Joan Tamori & Sandy Hirata
Young Adults (Need someone to climb the ladder to remove & replace filters)	Kitchen Filter Vents and Wok Area; Remove, wash, dry, and replace filters; Wash and dry oil film from stainless steel walls by the oven and work areas	Eric Ikeuchi

Each chairperson is requested to inform their members of their organization to ensure that this year's event is successful.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Refreshment Donations for Obon

The Obon Committee is asking for donations to defray the cost to purchase refreshments for the dancers and guests. Your continued support and kokua are again solicited and will be most appreciated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS***Wednesday, July 02: Graveside Memorial Service***

The Graveside memorial service at Makawao Veteran's Cemetery in observance of the Obon season will be held on Wednesday, July 2, beginning at 3:00 p.m. On the same day, the memorial service at Maui Memorial Park will be held at 5:00 p.m. Members who have relatives or friends buried at these cemeteries are invited to participate in these services.

ANNOUNCEMENTS***Obon Mairi (Home Visitation) Offered to Members***

Reverend Shinkai Murakami continues to perform "Obon Mairi" for Wailuku Hongwanji members until the end of August. Please call the office to schedule your Obon Mairi service (808-244-0406). Members are reminded to clean their butsudan (family altar) and place fresh flowers for the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS***Handicap Parking Available for Obon***

Parking will be available in the back parking lot (Mill St. Entrance). Troop 40 will assist with parking. Do not leave valuables in the car.

ANNOUNCEMENTS***Friday & Saturday, 1-2 August: Hatsubon (First Obon) Service***

Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple "Hatsubon" (first Obon) Service will be held on Friday, August 1, and Saturday, August 2, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The following members will be memorialized each night at the service.

MEMORIAL	BUDDHIST NAME	PASSING DATE
Joseph Yoda	AN RAKU	July 28, 2024
Harolyn Tanji	KU DIOKU	August 8, 2024
Denise Tanaka	E SHO	August 13, 2024
Judy Sakai	RAKU HO	August 22, 2024
Val Ogata	SHO GAN	October 18, 2024
Bert Tagami	SHO MAN	October 26, 2024
Isamu Iwaishi	KO SHO	October 30, 2024
Robert Sueo Takahashi	JITSU SHO	December 8, 2024
Francis Tamotsu Kimoto	SHO DO	December 28, 2024
Sadako Nakao	TEI GAN	January 2, 2025
Donald Sadami Karimoto	YUI MYO	January 5, 2025
Fred Kazuyoshi Araki		February 19, 2025
Thomas Toru Fujii	KU KUN	February 23, 2025
Elaine Shizuko Mori	JAKU JO	March 18, 2025
Micah Koa Nobuo Saito	JO SHO	March 25, 2025
Kazuo Koyanagi	WA GEN	April 9, 2025
Itsue Hanada	E GAN	April 23, 2025
Tsuzuki Kimura	SHO GAN	May 3, 2025
John Kiyoshi Okamura		May 12, 2025
Charlotte Satsuko Hayase	HO SHIN	May 22, 2025

"Hatsubon" means "first Obon", the first memorial since a loved one's passing after the previous Obon. It offers family and friends a moment to reflect on how their loved one's presence continues to touch their lives through memories, words, and actions. For those observing Hatsubon — and for all of us who have experienced loss — this is a time to recognize life's impermanence and the lasting influence of those who came before us. Obon dance begins at 7:45 p.m.

Our Deepest Sympathies



Tsuzuki Kimura (SHO GAN – Buddha's Incomparable Vow), age 96, of Kahului, passed away on May 3, 2025.

John Kiyoshi Okamura (SEI KOKU – Built Pure & Peaceful Land), age of 79, of Wailuku, passed away on May 12, 2025.

Namo Amida Butsu

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Ofuse: *Thank You for Your Compassion*

Hanada Family - *In memory of Itsue Hanada*

Brian Koyanagi - *In memory of Kazuo Koyanagi*

Howard & Lynette Kimura - *In memory of Tsuzuki Kimura*

Brian Koyanagi - *In memory of Kazuo Koyanagi*

Floyd & Kevin Nagoshi - *In memory of Winifred Nagoshi*

Ryan & Patti Ann Leval - *In memory of Winifred Nagoshi*

Frederick & Arlene Toyama - *In memory of Winifred Nagoshi*

Michael & Annadele Yahiro - *In memory of Winifred Nagoshi*



Nokotsudo: *Thank You*

Ann Araki - *In memory of Robert Shimada & Yoneko Shimada*

Ralph Ichiyama - *In memory of Juichi & Shizumi Ichiyama*

Keith Regan & Lynn Araki-Regan - *In memory of Robert Shimada*

David Silva - *In memory of Amy Silva*

Linda & Allan Smith Sr. - *In memory of Jitsuo & Yoshime Tanouye, and Ronald Fukushima*

Ruth Takanishi - *In memory of Yoshito & Sumiko Migata*

Teri Wong - *In memory of Kesajiro Ogawa*

Mae Yorimoto - *In memory of the Yorimoto Family*

James Yoshimori - *In memory of the Yoshimori Families*

MEMORIAL SERVICES

July Hoji Memorial Services



1st YEAR - 2024

DAY NAME

28 Joseph Fujio Yoda (AN RAKU)

3rd YEAR - 2023

DAY NAME

01 Edith Misao Omuro (TEI HO)

12 Katsue Shishido (SHO MYO)

21 Jeanne Miyoko Matsuoka (SHO KEN)

22 Harold Tsuneo Yoneda (MU RYO)

7th YEAR - 2019

DAY NAME

13 Edward Nadao Hamasaki (GU ZEI)

16 Shufflo Honda (CHI JO)

13th YEAR - 2013

DAY NAME

01 Isamu Hiyakumoto (YU CHI)

28 James Nagoshi (SHO DO)

17th YEAR - 2009

DAY NAME

07 Mitsue Konno (JO KEN)

10 Hatsue Oshiro (KO GAN)

20 Sakae Yamasaki (EI SHO)

25th YEAR - 2001

DAY NAME

25 Toshio Karen Kojima (MYO BIN)

33rd YEAR - 1993

DAY NAME

01 Yoshiko Tamashiro (MYO KO)

27 Takeshi Tokuoka (JUN TOKU)

To schedule a memorial service, contact the main office at (808) 244-0406, M-F between 8:00am and 12:00pm.

ANNOUNCEMENT**Lahaina Hongwanji Rebuilding Update***Michael Munekiyo***Status Update**

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's (HHMH) Lahaina Hongwanji Recovery and Rebuilding Committee continues work to facilitate the rebuilding of the Lahaina Hongwanji campus. While there are multiple hurdles to address the need to reestablish the Nembutsu teachings in West Maui, the Committee is making steady, consensus-based progress towards this goal. The following are noteworthy milestones.

1. Visioning and planning strategic sessions have been held with the Lahaina Hongwanji Sangha to receive input regarding their priorities for the future of the Temple.
2. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed clean-up of the Lahaina Hongwanji property.
3. HHMH, through the Office of the Bishop, coordinates with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HiEMA) to obtain needed clarification regarding funding qualifications and criteria for Federal reimbursements. This process included site visits with FEMA, HiEMA, HHMH and Lahaina Hongwanji Sangha representatives.
4. FEMA recently completed its funding obligation process to provide HiEMA the Federal funding for the planning, design and construction processes.
5. HHMH retained the professional services of FAI Architects to conduct an initial feasibility and masterplan for the Lahaina Hongwanji campus.

The foregoing are but a few of the many steps required to advance the rebuilding process. While much more work is needed, the current effort of FAI Architects to prepare the rebuilding feasibility study is a focus of the Committee.

**Need for Lahaina Hongwanji Campus Photographs**

A key research item for the FAI study is the need to obtain pre-fire photographs of the Lahaina Hongwanji campus and buildings. With the exception of the former two-story school building on the campus, there are no architectural plans for the other structures lost in the fire. Recreating the historic character of the campus is a requirement for Federal funding. In this regard, the Committee is asking our Wailuku Hongwanji Sangha for any photographs you may have of Lahaina Hongwanji. The photographs will be useful in supporting FAI Architect's work to in the masterplan process.

If you do have photographs of any Lahaina Hongwanji campus building, may we ask that to provide a copy to the Wailuku Hongwanji Temple office. If your photos are in a digital format, they may be emailed to: WHM@wailukuhongwanji.org.

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

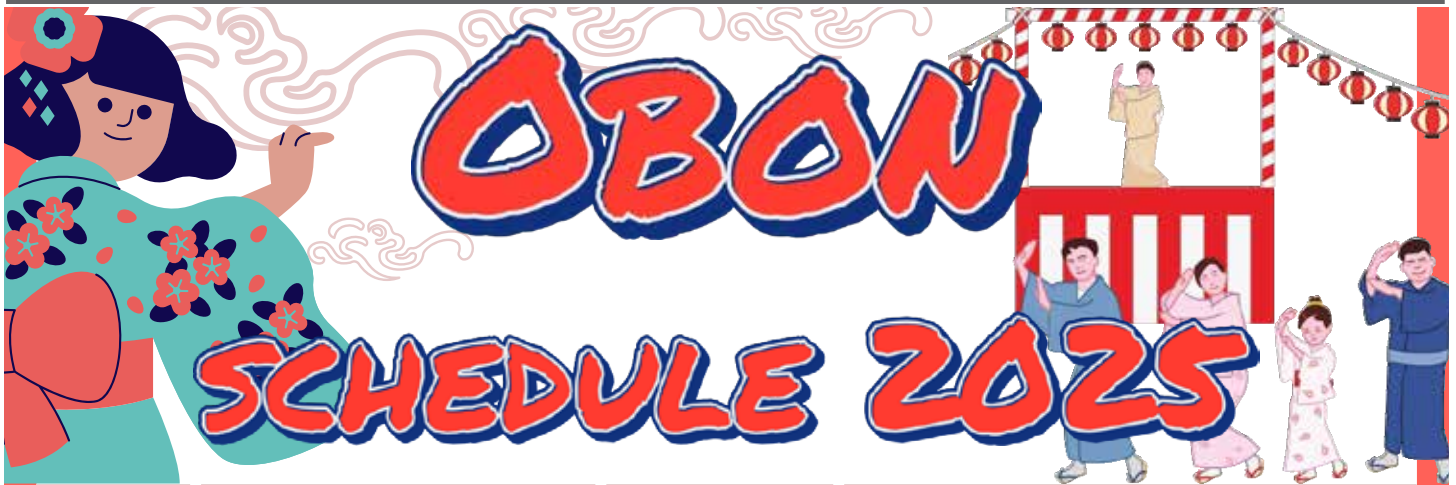
FRIEND OF THE DHARMA

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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.



Date	Temple	Service Dance	Information
June 7 (sat)	Puunene Nichiren Mission	6:00pm 7:00pm	871-4831 / 9 Ani Street, Kahului
June 14 (Sat)	Wailuku Shingon Mission	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	244-3800 / 1939 North Street, Wailuku sorapapa@yahoo.com
June 20 (Fri)	Wailuku Jodo Mission	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	244-0066 / 67 Central Ave., Wailuku
June 28 (Sat)	Kahului Jodo Mission	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	871-4911 / 325 Laau St., Kahului
July 11, 12 (Fri, Sat)	Mantokuji Soto Zen Mission	11th 6:00 pm Service only (No Bon Dance) 12th 6:00 pm Taiko / 7:00 pm Bon Dance (No Service) 579-8051 / 253 Hana Hwy, Paia / info@paiamantokuji.org	
July 18, 19 (Fri, Sat)	Kahului Hongwanji Mission	6:00 pm 7:30 pm	871-4732 / 291 S. Puunene Ave., Kahului kahuluihongwanjimission@gmail.com
July 25, 26 (Fri, Sat)	Makawao Hongwanji Mission	5:00 pm 7:00 pm	572-7229 / 1074 Makawao Ave., Makawao makawaohongwanji@gmail.com
August 1, 2 (Fri, Sat)	Wailuku Hongwanji Mission	6:30 pm 7:45 pm	244-0406 / 1828 Vineyard St., Wailuku whm@wailukuhongwanji.org
August 9 (Sat)	Lahaina Community Bon Dance (Lahaina Cannery Mall parking lots)	6:30pm	Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, Lahaina Shingon Mission and Lahaina Jodo Mission will participate
August 16 (Sat)	Paia Rinzai Zen Mission	6:00pm 7:00pm	579-9921 / 120 Alawai Rd, Paia monk.sen@rinzai-maui.org
August 23 (Sat)	Kula Shofukuji Mission	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	113 Puanani Pl, Kula mail@lahainashingon.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July / August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 BWA Hosha Day BWA ACCW Delv. 7pm Troop Mtg.	4 Independence Day Holiday (Office Closed)	5
	Young Buddhist Internation CSE					
6 8am Sunday Service	7 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	8	9 5:30pm Obon Pract.	10 7pm Troop Mtg.	11 Paia Mantokuji Soto Zen Mission Obon 6:00pm - Service	12 Paia Mantokuji Soto Zen Mission Obon 6:00pm - Dance
Young Buddhist Internation CSE						
13 8am Sunday Service 9:30am BWA Mtng.	14 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	15	16 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom	17 BWA ACCW Delv. 7pm Troop Mtg.	18 Kahului Hongwanji Mission Obon 6:00pm - Service 7:30pm - Dance	19 8:30am Omigaki Kahului Hongwanji Mission Obon 6:00pm - Service 7:30pm - Dance
20 8am General Clean Up & Yagura Construction (D.S. Hosting Brunch)	21 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	22	23	24 7pm Troop Mtg.	25 Makawao Hongwanji Obon 5:00pm - Service 7:00pm - Dance	26 Kupuna Aloha Luncheon Makawao Hongwanji Obon 5:00pm - Service 7:00pm - Dance
27 8am Family Service	28 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	29 6:30pm Cubs	30	31 4:30pm - 6pm Set up Temple Grounds for Obon 7pm Troop Mtg.	1 Wailuku Hongwanji Obon 6:30pm - Service 7:45pm - Dance	2 Wailuku Hongwanji Obon 6:30pm - Service 7:45pm - Dance
BWA Obon Prep						
3 No Sunday Service (Obon Clean Up)	4 DoE Students First Day 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	5 Gakuen Students First Day	6 Social Hall Rental	7 BWA Hosha Day BWA ACCW Delv. 7pm Troop Mtg.	8 6:30pm Kahului Hale Makua Obon	9 6:30pm Lahaina - 3 Temples Obon Eagle Scouts Banquet
10 9am Lahaina Wildfire Recovery Service 9:30am BWA Mtng.	11 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	12	13 5:30pm Obon Pract.	14 7pm Troop Mtg.	15 Statehood Day (Office Closed)	16 Social Hall Rental Lanai Obon Paia Rinzai Mission Obon 6:00pm - Service 7:00pm - Dance
17 8am Sunday Service	18 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	19 6:30pm Cubs	20 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom	21 BWA ACCW Delv. 7pm Troop Mtg.	22	23 4pm Cub Carnival & Recruitment Kula Shofukuji Mission Obon 6:30pm - Service 7:30pm - Dance
24 8am Family Service	25 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	26	27	28 7pm Troop Mtg.	World BWA Representative Mtg.	
					29	30 Social Hall Rental
31 9am VIDSTA Kickoff Picnic - Keopuolani Park Minister's Spouses Assn Seminar (HI)						