



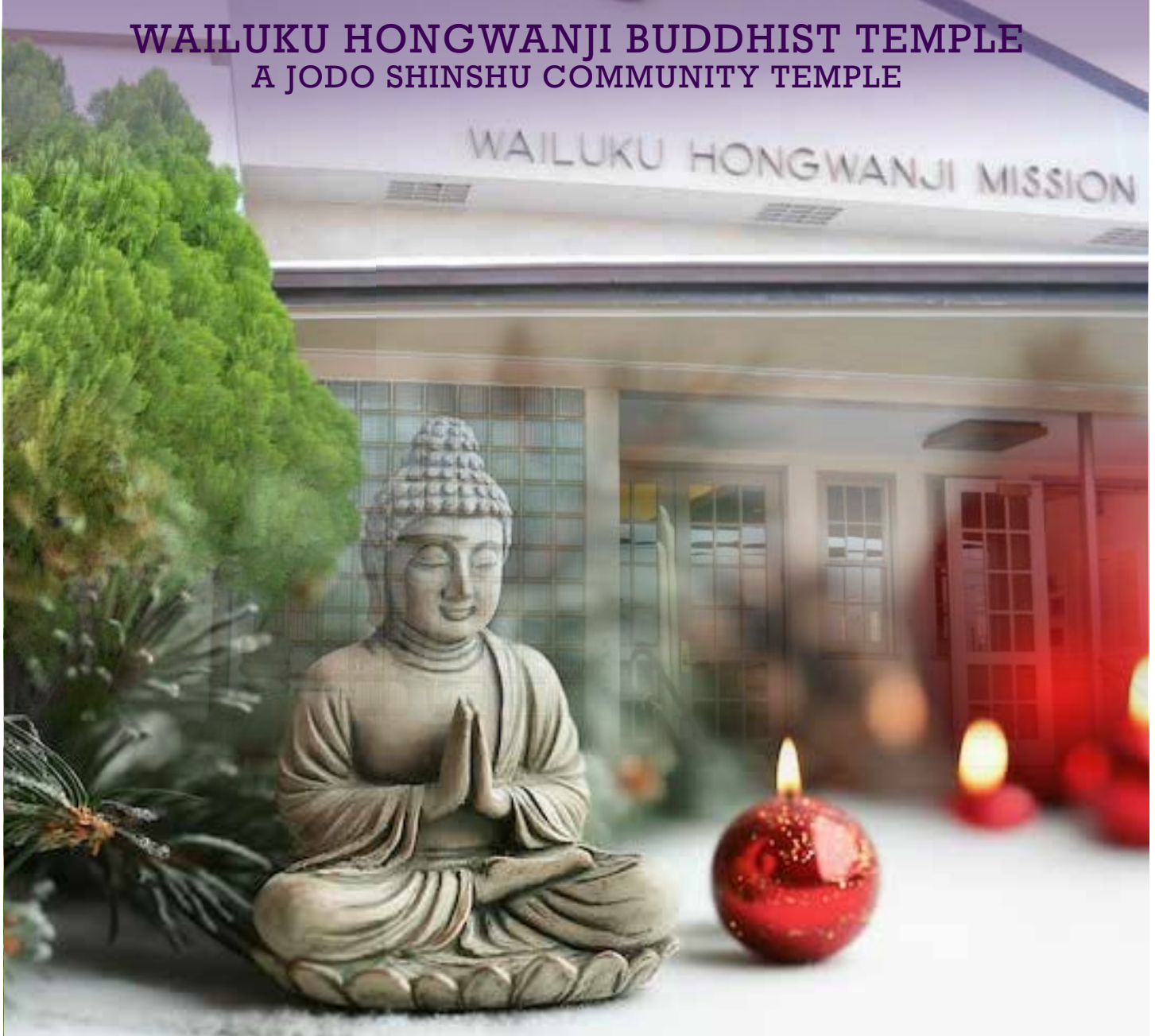
@wailukuhongwanji



DECEMBER 2025 // VOLUME 62

# FRIEND OF THE DHARMA

WAILUKU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
A JODO SHINSHU COMMUNITY TEMPLE



## IN THIS ISSUE

**Temple New Year's  
Survey Service**

**Temple Clean-up,  
Sun, Dec. 21 @ 7:30am**

WAILUKU HONGWANJI MISSION  
1828 Vineyard Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793

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## TEACHINGS FROM THE MINISTER

**Thankful, Thanks to You (Okagesama-de)***Reverend Shinkai Murakami**Namo Amida Butsu*

It is already December 2025; time truly flies! As I look back over the past 11 months, I remember many moments: happy times, times I felt frustrated over small things, times of loud laughter, and times of sadness. When we reflect on these experiences with a heart of “thankful, thanks to others,” isn’t that truly wonderful?

As the Buddha teaches, “All things change.” Not only the world around us, but we ourselves continue to change, our health, age, preferences, and daily habits evolve moment by moment.

Each month I visit the nursing homes in Wailuku and Kahului, where the residents always greet me with smiles and gratitude. I often think of Mrs. Shizuko Mori, who passed away in March of this year. Born in Kumamoto, Japan, and raised in a devoted Jodo Shinshu family, she found deep comfort in the Nembutsu teachings.

Whenever I visited her, she would immediately

place her hands in gassho and say, “Thank you, Sensei, for visiting.” She often shared, “Sensei, I am so lucky. Since I became ill, so many people have come to see me and encourage me.” She would smile and say, “Every morning when I wake up, my eyes can still see my room. My hands and body still move. I am grateful; so grateful.” Even after she fell and broke her hip she told me, “Sensei, I’m lucky. I only have these injuries. I am still alive.” Her words always touched my heart.

Although Mrs. Mori has entered the Pure Land, I continue to remember her grateful spirit each time I visit the nursing home.

As we reflect on the past 11 months, we may recall sadness or hardship. But were we able to live each day with even a little gratitude? Our lives are precious gifts from our parents, and every experience, pleasant or difficult, teaches us something important. Life is coexistence and mutual support. We live because countless beings, such as vegetables, fish, animals, water, and many others, sustain us. When we truly understand this truth, gratitude naturally arises: “Thank you... it is all thanks to you.”

This December, let us quietly look back on the year with grateful hearts. When gratitude begins to grow within us, a warm feeling surrounds us, and the Nembutsu of joy - *Namo Amida Butsu* - naturally flows from our lips with the gentle thought, “Thanks to you.”

On December 31, our annual New Year’s Eve/New Year’s Day (*Joya-e/Shusho-e*) service will be held at 11:15 p.m. Let us gather to offer heartfelt gratitude to Amida Buddha for boundless wisdom and compassion, and pledge to make the most of our precious lives.

*Namo Amida Butsu*



**Rev. Murakami was honored to officiate the wedding of new members Jay and Michelle Nashiwa on October 25 at Wailuku Hongwanji.**



# 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.*



Sharon Higa

## EITAIKYO

Irene Arakaki  
Kawika & Krystle Beauchamp  
Jeremy & Farron Cabral  
Ed Fujinaka  
Lydia Furomoto  
Ronald Hamai &  
Gail Iwamoto-Hamai  
Franklin & Guy Hamasaki  
Margaret Honda  
Ritsuko Lana Kato  
Melvyn & Sylvia Kawashima  
- *In memory of Masato & Ichiko Kawashima*  
Janet Kubota  
Lester & Jodi Kunimitsu  
Machiko Moriyasu  
Gary & Jacqueline Murai  
Patrick & Sue Nomura - *In memory of Tanio Nomura,*

Sumi Nomura, and  
Naoki Nomura  
Dennis Ouchi  
Linda Shibano  
Nancy Shimoda  
Dale Sugiki  
Toshiko Sugiki  
Roy & Flora Tamiya -  
*In memory of Masao & Hisako Tamiya*  
Florence Tanaka  
Linda Ann Unemori  
Shinyei Yogi  
Alvin & Sandra  
Yoshimori - *In memory of Yutaka & Yoshie Yoshimori, and Gary Yoshimori*

## EXPRESSIONS OF DANA

Anonymous – *Altar flowers, snacks, wish list items, yard and campus maintenance*  
Richard & Amy Blue – *Landscaping & maintenance*  
Cubs – *Temple yard & campus cleanup*  
Dharma Strummers – *Sunday service music*  
FT – *Campus maintenance & cleaning*  
Jeral & Karlynn Fukuda – *Altar flowers*  
Margaret Honda – *Altar flowers, office support nokotsudo & flower cleaning*  
HOSHA Gang – *Temple & nokotsudo cleaning*  
Eric Ikeuchi – *Campus maintenance*  
Sylvia Ishikawa – *Office support*  
Calvin & Teri Kaneda – *Altar flowers*  
Carol Mae Kurisu – *Altar flowers*  
Machiko Moriyasu – *Altar flowers & arrangements, and office support*  
Minae Murakami – *Sunday service organist*  
Mike Nishimoto – *Landscaping & maintenance*  
Julie Petro – *AV technology*  
Celeste Rabang – *Office support*  
Nancy Shimoda – *Nokotsudo & flower cleaning, office support*  
Dale Sugiki – *Sunday service organist*  
Toshiko Sugiki – *Office support*  
Gail Tagashira – *Disposable spoons, cups, gloves, and plates; trash bags, packing tape*  
Ed & Joan Tamori – *Altar flowers & yard maintenance*  
Mary Tokumaru – *Office support*  
Danny Topp - *AV support for services, events, workshops, and meetings*  
Linda Ann Unemori – *Office support*

## KYODAN

Dana Agarano - *In appreciation of Kendo*  
Valentin Guiala  
Pearl Kaya  
Edwin & Thelma Seki - *In memory of Tomeichi Seki*  
Raymond & Betty Toyama - *In memory of Kristi Shintaku, and Yoshino & Yukie Inaba*

## SOCIAL CONCERNS

Jeremy & Farron Cabral  
Lydia Furomoto  
Ronald Hamai &  
Gail Iwamoto-Hamai  
Sandra Hirata  
Ronald & Sylvia Ishikawa  
Ritsuko Lana Kato  
Hideo & Joyce Kawahara  
Patrick & Sue Nomura  
Dennis Ouchi  
Toshiko Sugiki  
Florence Tanaka  
Linda Ann Unemori  
Shinyei Yogi  
Alvin & Sandra Yoshimori

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

## Food &amp; Culture at Gakuen

Eri Nomura

Musubi, or onigiri, is a traditional Japanese rice ball often filled with pickled or salted ingredients and wrapped in nori. Portable and convenient, musubi has long been one of Japan's favorite comfort foods and a staple snack for centuries.

During and after World War II, the U.S. military introduced Spam to Hawai'i, where locals creatively adapted it into the musubi form. The result was Spam musubi! Its salty, savory flavor, paired with simple rice and crisp nori, made it an instant island favorite.

Today, Spam musubi can be found everywhere, from convenience stores and supermarkets to family kitchens and community gatherings. Making Spam musubi has also become a popular activity at Gakuen, bringing students, teachers, and families together. We had a Spam musubi-making day in October where we cooked 25 pounds of rice, and our keiki made an amazing 144 Spam musubi!

After our Spam musubi day in October, we continued with another tasty hands-on experience, a sushi-making activity! Our next taste of culture workshop was going to be mochi-making in December, but some students said, "Sensei, we want to make something soon!" So, we added another ono food-making day in November, this time featuring kappa-maki (cucumber rolls), shinko-maki (takuan rolls), and inarizushi (cone sushi)!

Mahalo to Murakami-sensei, Keiko-sensei, and Minae-sensei for sharing their guidance, enthusiasm, and for teaching our keiki. Their lessons turn a simple cooking activity into something both educational and fun for everyone, reminding us that food carries stories across time and place, transforming humble ingredients into something meaningful and delicious.



## ANNOUNCEMENT

## WHM 2026 Calendar Ready for Pickup

Make your way to the temple office during business hours and pick up your copy of the exclusive 2026 Wailuku Hongwanji calendar. It will keep you informed of upcoming activities! This year's calendar will be filled with wonderful artwork done by the children of our temple.

Please note that we have decided not to mail the calendar due to high postage cost, but that's good news for you. By picking 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! Swing by the temple office or come to Sunday Service to secure your 2026 calendar. Let us kick off the new year together!



## EDUCATION

## Virtual State Dharma School Gathering Highlights!

Joan Tamori

The 7th Virtual State Dharma School Gathering held in October focused on the theme of “Nurturing Nembutsu: Cultivating Awareness”. Students, educators, ministers, and friends gathered online for the event featuring Rev. Tomo Hojo of West Kauai Hongwanji Mission as guest speaker for the service; student breakout rooms concentrating on listening awareness and self-awareness; and Ms. Edythe Vassall, former managing editor of Ka Leo Kahea, Hilo Betsuin and BWA member, and board of spiritual affairs member as the adult breakout room guest speaker.

### Grades 4-6 Positive Affirmations

*I can do anything I set my mind to.*

*I am loved just the way I am.*

*I can handle challenges with courage and determination.*

*I can learn anything I want to learn.*

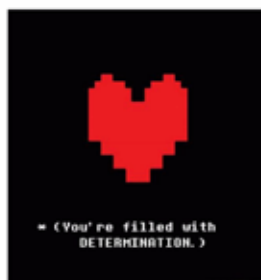
*I am an important part of my community.*

**I can do anything I set my mind to.**

I set my mind to Judo, and won my FIRST tournament :).  
(I won second place) -nahe :)



**I can handle challenges with courage and determination.**



If you try hard enough, you will succeed.

-Ryan

You can do what your goals are if you try hard enough. I play a really hard game, and when I persist, even when I am stuck, I can finish it.

-Ryan

I push through difficulties at school, homework, and sports, and i push through, and find a way to figure it out :D - nahe



### Special Acknowledgments:

WHM's dharma school student, Ryan Petro, served as an eloquent Maui district emcee during the service. Many thanks to Ryan for his efforts and willingness to participate in this online statewide event.

Kamauoha Tomita who is presently the State Jr. YBA President, served as an assistant to the moderator in the Grades K – 3 Breakout room. Sincere appreciation goes out to him for willingly accepting to assist.

Heleonahe Tomita and Ryan Petro were participants in the Grade 4-6 breakout room moderated by Joan Tamori and assisted by Chihito Okawa focusing on “Positive Affirmations”.

They were asked to respond to all five affirmation statements (which were on separate slides) through thoughts and pictures/photos. Finished products of two of the five affirmations are shared with this article. We can indeed learn from these bright students!

## ADULT ORGANIZATIONS

## Buddhist Women's Association News

Gwen Hiraga

November was a meaningful and productive month for the Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association as members gathered for fellowship, planning, and celebration.

On November 8, BWA members attended the Maui United BWA (MUBWA) Fall Assembly at Kahului Hongwanji Mission. Delegates from across Maui came together to share updates and affirm the direction of the island-wide organization. During the Assembly, the incoming 2026 officers and Board were formally approved and installed, marking the start of another year of dedicated service and leadership.

Later in the month, the Wailuku Hongwanji BWA held its General Membership Meeting on November 30, where



**MUBWA Fall Assembly at Kahului Hongwanji.**

members reviewed financial reports and received updates on current projects, activities, and upcoming events. The spirit of working together and supporting the temple remains strong as we move into the busy year-end season.

The BWA will host its

annual Memorial Service on December 14 at 8:00 a.m., a time to honor and remember BWA members who have passed. A welcoming brunch will follow the service, prepared and provided by the BWA.

We also extend warm December birthday greetings to Laurie Fukushima, Janet Kubota, Sandra Matsuda, Lori Munekiyo, Hifumi Taguchi, and Aileen Unemori. May the coming year bring each of you health and happiness.

The BWA is pleased to announce the publication of its 120th Anniversary Cookbook (2025–2026). Priced at \$15.00, the cookbook will be available in early December. To purchase a copy, please contact Sandy Matsuda, Phyllis Sato, or Gwen Hiraga. The BWA extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who submitted recipes, helping create a collection that reflects the warmth and heritage of our temple community.



**BWA Craft Fair**







**WAILUKU  
HONGWANJI  
BUDDHIST  
WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION**

**120<sup>TH</sup>**  
*Anniversary*  
*Cookbook*

*2025 - 2026*



# 15th BWA State Membership Conference Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations



## “NURTURING NEMBUTSU: SHARING GRATITUDE”

March 28 - 29, 2026 • Ala Moana Hotel by Mantra

**Keynote speaker Ms. Michiko Miyaji Inanaga**

**Director of the Endowment Foundation (BCA)**

### Conference Schedule

March 28, 2026

8:00 - 9:00 am Registration  
9:00 - 9:20 am Opening Service  
9:30 - 10:15 am Keynote Speaker - Michiko Inanaga  
10:15 - 10:30 am Break  
10:30 - 11:45 am General Membership Business Mtg 1  
11:45 - 12:30 pm Lunch Break  
1:00 - 4:30 pm Workshops- Attend three assigned sessions  
(See attached)  
4:45 - 5:00 pm Closing Announcements  
6:00 - 8:00 pm Dinner and Entertainment

March 29, 2026

7:30 - 8:15 am Continental Breakfast  
8:15 - 8:35 am Closing Service  
8:35 - 9:20 am General Membership Business Mtg 2  
9:30 - 11:45 am Panel Presentation  
11:45 - 12:00 pm Closing Announcements  
Gratitude Tree  
World Convention Update

**Unique & Inspiring Workshops:**  
**You will be assigned three Workshops**  
**Rank top four selections**

### Panel Presentation “The Role of Women in Society 2026”

**Featuring:**

**Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke**

**Supreme Court Justice Sabrina McKenna**

**Ms. Kehaulani Lum**

**Ms. Lori Teranishi**

**Moderated by Ms. Caroline Otani**



**Ala Moana Hotel:**

**Waikiki Tower: \$219.00 (1 King or 2 Double) or Kona Tower \$189.00 (1 Queen)**

**Room rates are good for 3 days prior to and 3 days post conference.**

**Book your room by registering below!**

**REGISTER HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/15thbwa>**

**Registration Deadline: December 1, 2025**

**Fee: \$200 (Does not include Hotel Fee)**



## YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

## Sakura 4-H Clubs' Clover Report

Sammy Takamura

In September, the Aloha Girls visited Kula Botanical Garden, an 8-acre garden founded in 1971 on the slopes of Haleakalā. President Keely and Aunty Kacie created a bingo scavenger hunt with familiar plants like red ti leaf and bird of paradise, along with trickier finds such as cup-of-gold vine and bromeliad. The outing ended with a refreshing, healthy treat from cloverbud Kora and her family. We look forward to our next outdoor adventure!

The Friends Forever 4-H Club also learned about stormwater from the State of Hawai'i Stormwater Division. The girls discovered how runoff carries debris directly into Maui's oceans and rivers, and how everyday items, like grass clippings, car oil, and animal waste, can harm the system. To give back to the community, the 4-Hers painted fifteen stormwater reminder signs around the Wailuku industrial area to encourage keeping drains clear.

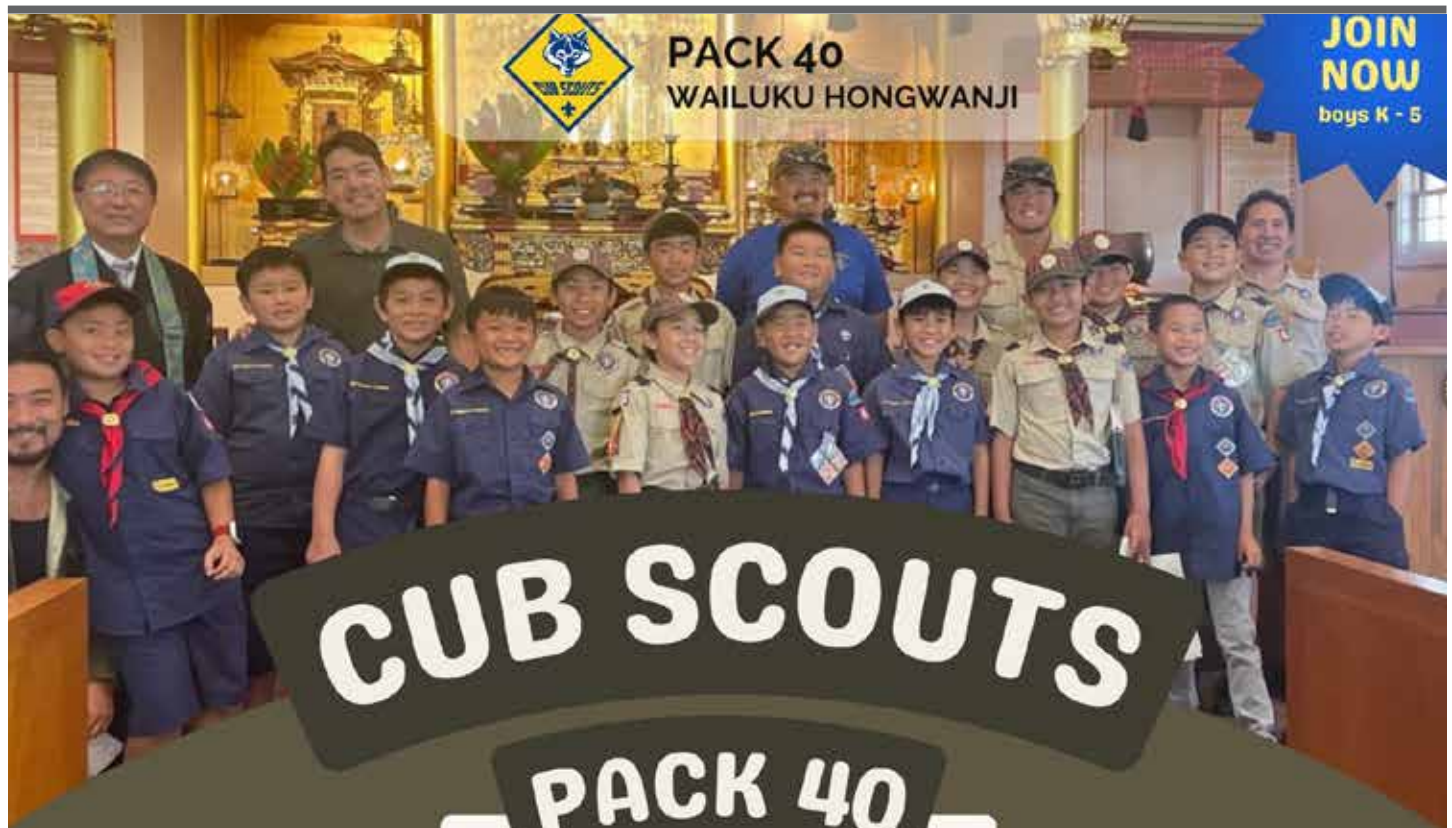
This month, we were grateful to host our second 4-H Sunday Service on the 9th. Lokahi Girls emceed the service, while newly appointed Aloha Girl officers shared aspirations and flower offerings. UH Maui County 4-H Coordinator Nancy Ooki joined us again to speak on the program's history and future. Guest speakers Layla Ikeda shared about her recent trip to congress in Atlanta, and Kylie Ginoza reflected on how 4-H has shaped her growth into adulthood. We are thankful for our 4-H support community and hope to honor their legacy.



After service, we held Sakura Club's officer inductions in the Social Hall, where new officers pledged their duties in a candle-lighting ceremony. The 2025–2026 year welcomes four new junior officers from the Aloha Girls.

We wish the mission and all members a safe and joyful holiday season!





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

### WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

- Building Character
- Living Honorably
- Acting Courageously
- Expressing Loyalty
- Practicing Reverence
- Learning Values

### CONNECT WITH US



808.757.0476



petro.paul@gmail.com



Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i



## YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

# Boy Scouts Pack in the Fun this October

*Celeste Rabang*

October was a busy, and exciting, month for our Boy Scouts! The troop took part in a variety of activities, including helping at the Autumn Craft Fair, joining the fun at Trunk or Treat, enjoying a weekend of camping, and learning valuable outdoor and cooking skills. Highlights included Scoutmaster Celeste turning into a “tattoo artist,” a mummy-wrapping contest, river adventures, shave ice, cooking lessons from Chef Carl, and Scouts helping with drink sales at the Craft Fair. It was a month filled with teamwork, learning, and plenty of laughter!



**Scoutmaster Celeste as a tattoo artist.**



**Toilet paper wrapping mummy contest.**



**Scouts enjoying shave ice provided by Mr Chumbley.**



**The scouts providing drinks for sale at the craft fair.**



**Tate and Dominic using the swing by the river at camp Chumbley.**



**Erik and Kaden playing in the river.**



**Caden learning the Turks head knot.**



**Drew learning some cooking skills from Chef Carl.**





## SPORTS

# Wailuku Hongwanji Judo at the 63rd State Champs

*Ronald Hiyakumoto*

On November 8, 2025, the Wailuku Hongwanji Judo Club participated in the 63rd Annual Honpa Hongwanji State Judo Championships (HHJF) hosted by the Pearl City Hongwanji Judo Club at the Salt Lake Recreation Center in Honolulu on Oahu. The Wailuku Hongwanji Judo Club has been a member of the HHJF since its inception in 1958 and Sensei Masato Kawashima of the Wailuku Hongwanji Judo Club and Sensei Richard Uno of the Kahului Hongwanji Judo Club were founding members of the HHJF. This annual event, which is rich in tradition, is rotated every year amongst the clubs of the HHJF on the islands of Hawaii, Oahu, and Maui. In addition to the judo tournament there are souvenir shirts, a program booklet, and an awards dinner banquet at the conclusion of the event.



**Ceydee with her medals.**



**Aaron on awards podium (2nd place).**



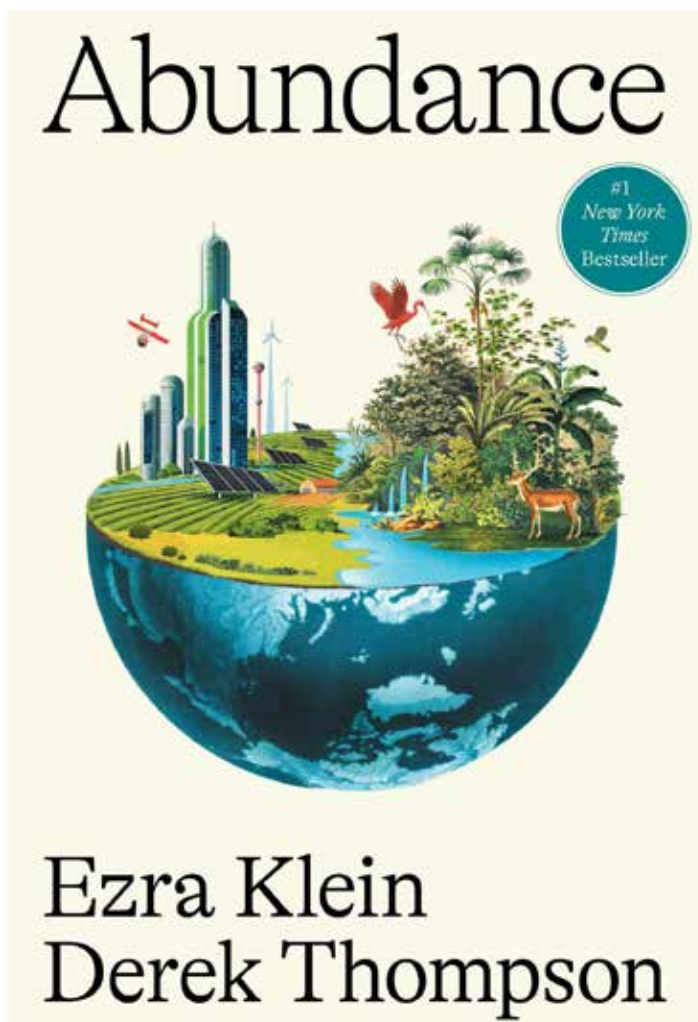
**Wailuku Hongwanji Judo Club members.**



**Opening ceremonies.**



## RECREATIONAL GROUPS

**Buddha Reads: Abundance by Klein & Thompson***Danny Topp*

book's first chapter was engaging despite its political tone. Gary and Bob felt the book was largely nonpartisan, though Gary observed that the authors lean slightly libertarian.

The group agreed that the issues raised were important, but many felt the proposed solutions were overly optimistic. Laurie expressed concern about the risks of unregulated "building our way out," pointing to the Elizabeth Holmes scandal as a reminder that ambition without oversight can be dangerous. Even so, she appreciated that the book prompted thoughtful reflection.

Bob, who recommended the book, praised its balanced perspective and highlighted Maryland's swift response to the I-95 bridge collapse as an example of decisive, problem-solving governance. While he felt the book lacked concrete policy answers, he valued its honest examination of systemic obstacles and hoped such discussions might inspire more collaborative politics, "even if not in my lifetime," he added with a smile.

The conversation eventually turned to current events. Laurie noted that the book largely ignores the role of social media in political polarization. Bob voiced frustration with the ongoing government shutdown and the disparity between elected officials and citizens in healthcare and pension benefits, emphasizing informed voting and civic engagement. Danny stressed that acknowledging problems is the first step to solving them. He suggested that Democrats could help by simplifying permitting and reducing excessive regulations to spur affordable housing and faster project approvals. Bob agreed, citing the expedited rebuilding efforts in Lahaina as an example of streamlined processes working well.

The meeting concluded with plans for a holiday break. The group will discuss *Demon Copperhead* on December 7, with the next full meeting scheduled for January 26.

The Buddha Reads Book Club met via Zoom on October 15 to discuss *Abundance: How We Build a Better Future* by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson, our first non-fiction selection focused on public policy.

Klein and Thompson argue that many of America's biggest challenges, housing unaffordability, aging infrastructure, slow clean-energy progress, and stagnant productivity, stem not from a lack of resources or technology but from a "scarcity mindset" and institutional paralysis. They contend that the U.S. has the talent and tools to build a more prosperous future but is held back by regulatory bottlenecks and process-heavy governance. Their central message: to achieve the future we want, we must build more of what we need.

Joan opened the discussion, noting that the

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**We Want to Hear from You!**  
*Please share your thoughts by taking our Sangha Survey.* Luly Unemori

The Wailuku Hongwanji Kyodan Board is conducting an online survey of our Temple community. We humbly ask that you please take a few minutes to complete it.

This survey is open to everyone who has a connection to Wailuku Hongwanji, including kyodan members, families and individuals involved with any of our affiliate organizations, staff and volunteers, donors, neighbors, and others who participate in Temple activities, services and events.

The Kyodan Board is committed to understanding what our Sangha values most about the Temple and where we can improve to better serve our community now and in the years to come. Your honest responses to the survey will help guide our efforts to ensure Wailuku Hongwanji continues to be a welcoming, meaningful place for spiritual growth, community connection, and support.

You can take the survey by visiting <http://bit.ly/487oWPf> (or scan the QR code). If you are unable to access the survey online and prefer to fill out a paper version instead, please call the Temple office at 808-244-0404.

We look forward to your survey responses. Thank you very much!



*Scan me*

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

***New Year's Eve Service,  
 Dec. 31, 2025 at 11:15pm***

Gear up for the soulful transition into the New Year at our annual New Year's Eve Service, happening on Wednesday, December 31, starting at 11:15 p.m. This sacred gathering is more than traditional service, it is a transformative experience to bid farewell to the past and welcome the fresh energy of the upcoming year.

Following our service, join us for a symbolic fireworks display, resonating with the spiritual essence of driving away negative and inviting positive energies for a clean slate. The night does not end there, delight in a special refreshment crafted to bring blessings of prosperity and joy, infusing our celebration with the essence of tradition and new beginnings.

Mark this unique celebration in your calendar and join us as we light up the night with hope, reflection, and the promise of a radiant New Year!

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

***2026 Sokai & Shinnenkai,  
 January 17, 2026 at 5:30pm***

President Michael Munekiyo invites members of Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple to the Annual Sokai (General Membership Meeting) and Shinnenkai (New Year's Party), which will be held at the temple on Saturday, January 17, beginning at 5:30 p.m. At the Sokai, the Finance Committee will present the 2026 Kyodan Budget. In addition, the Tadaichi Fukunaga Dana Award will be presented.

After the meeting, members will adjourn to the Social Hall for the New Year's party. A donation of \$5 for each participating family (two or more individuals) and \$3 for each single participating member will be collected. The donation will help the committee get an accurate dinner count.

Please call the office at 808-244-0406 if you plan to attend. The deadline for your reservation is Sunday, January 4, 2026.



**ANNOUNCEMENT*****Social Concerns  
Fund Drive  
Continues***

Members are reminded to mail in their Social Concerns envelopes (donations) as soon as possible. Even though the fund drive is held during the month of November, funds donation in December will be forwarded to Honpa's Social Concern Committee.

The committee uses half of the funds collected for distribution and saves the rest (balance) for extreme emergencies. The committee splits the collection into two funds: (1) the Social Welfare Fund and (2) the Emergency Relief Fund. The Social Welfare Fund is to support organizations and programs that promote peace and/or reduce suffering. Emergency Relief Fund is to aid individuals or groups in case of major disasters.

**ANNOUNCEMENT*****Temple Osoji (Big Cleaning), December 21 at 7:30am*****Your Support Makes a Difference!**

Join us on Sunday, December 21 at 7:30 a.m. for our semiannual Osoji (General Campus Cleanup), led by Eric Ikeuchi. Osoji is a chance to care for our temple, enjoy fellowship, and support our Sangha. Please bring tools, rags, newspapers, or anything helpful for cleaning. Lunch will follow.

Affiliate assignments include:

- BWA: Temple & Nokotsudo – Gwen Hiraga
- Scouts: Classrooms – Celeste Rabang
- Senior Adults: Kitchen filters & woks – Faith Tengan & Eric Ikeuchi
- Cub Scouts: Social Hall windows/fans – Paul Petro
- 4-H: Social Hall sliding doors – Samantha Takamura & Farron Cabral
- Judo: Social Hall floors – Ron Hiyakumoto
- Karate & Kendo: Karate/Kendo Hall – Ed Tamanaha & Mike Sone
- Dharma School: Lunch – Sandy Hirata & Joan Tamori

Mahalo for helping keep our temple beautiful! We look forward to working together on December 21!

**ANNOUNCEMENT*****2025 Gojikai Membership Dues  
Reminder***

As we approach the year-end, our Finance Committee extends a friendly reminder to settle your 2025 membership dues (gojikai). Your contribution not only reaffirms your commitment to Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple but also supports our community service initiatives.

Considering the upcoming tax season, we encourage you to chat with your accountant about exploring advance payment options for your 2026 dues. Acting before the year concludes would be fantastic, and your prompt response is deeply appreciated. Mahalo!

Now, you might be wondering. "What is Gojikai?" It is your annual/quarterly/monthly financial contribution that fuels the heart of our temple's programs. While suggested amounts range from \$12 to \$30 monthly, remember, membership is not defined by the pledge sum, any amount that suits your capacity is welcomed and valued.

The funds from Gojikai are vital for our temple, covering operational costs, utilities, and much more. Being a member brings you a host of benefits, including voting rights, eligibility for the Board of Directors, event invitations, preschool priority, newsletter access, facility use, and participation in our affiliate organizations.

If you are considering joining or renewing your membership, swing by the office, grab a membership application, and become an integral part of our vibrant community today. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple!



**UPDATES**

## *Keeping Our Temple Thriving*

Mahalo to everyone helping keep our temple safe and running smoothly. Recent projects included plumbing repairs at the Preschool and Kani'ela rental, new light ballasts and safety upgrades across campus, and repairs to the storage shed and Xerox copier. Bids are underway for new air conditioners, a new kitchen exhaust fan is on order, and the temple lift is scheduled for hydraulic repair. Additional work included cleaning the bathroom floor, fixing the girls' bathroom stall, replacing the kitchen clock battery, and regular grounds upkeep. We are grateful for all who support these essential improvements.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

## *Call for Lahaina Hongwanji Historic Photos*

Pre-fire photos of the Lahaina Hongwanji buildings are still needed. Please send copies to the Wailuku Hongwanji office or email WHM@wailukuhongwanji.org. Thank you.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

## *Krispy Kreme Cards Available*

Krispy Kreme cards are available in the temple office for \$25. The card allows you to purchase a dozen donuts at regular price and get one dozen Original Glazed Donuts free. This card is good for 10 free dozens of Original Glazed Donuts, with a limit of 3 free dozen per visit.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

## *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.

- Forever postage stamps
- 33 Gal. Trash Bags
- 18 Gal. Kitchen Trash bag w/ draw string
- Paper Towels
- Wooden Hashi (chopsticks)
- 7" Dessert Plates
- Napkins
- 9" Lunch plates
- Blue Painters tape
- Antibacterial hand soap (refill size)
- Spoons
- Exam gloves (all sizes)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## *Help Wanted: Student Volunteer*

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

If interested, please call the office at (808) 244-0406. Mahalo for giving back!





## Our Deepest Sympathies



Dewey Irvin Rose  
(E GEN – Eyes  
of Wisdom), age  
67, of Honolulu,  
passed on  
September 9,  
2025.

*Namo Amida Butsu*

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

#### Ofuse & Nokotsudo: *Thank You*

Steven & Robyn Deeks - *In memory of Isamu Iwaishi*  
Alvin & Martha Fukunaga - *In memory of Isamu Iwaishi and Tamako Fukunaga*  
Dennis & Myra Hinahara - *In memory of Alan Sueda*  
Bryan Honda- *In memory of Shufflo & Geraldine Honda*  
Hideo & Joyce Kawahara - *In memory of Douglas Sodehani*  
June & Robert Ko - *In memory of Masayoshi Yoshida*  
Jay Nashiwa  
Katsuaki & Helene Ogawa - *In memory of Kesaji Ogawa, and Kesajiro & Haruyo Ogawa*  
Lynn Tadakuma - *In memory of Diane Tadakuma*  
Florence Tanaka - *In memory of Shufflo & Geraldine Honda*  
Nancy Tomimoto - *In memory of Yoshio Tomimoto*  
Lily Trichel - *In memory of Gary Yamashiro*  
Lloyd & Janis Uradomo - *In memory of Naoyuki Uradomo*  
Glenn & Minnie Yoshimori - *In memory of Yutaka & Yoshie Yoshimori, and Gary Yoshimori*

### MEMORIAL SERVICES

## December Hoji Memorial Services



#### 7th YEAR - 2019

##### DAY NAME

05 Alan Lloyd Unemori (CHI EI)  
05 Diane Sachi Hanada (KO SHO)  
11 Kengo Kato (KEN SHO)  
12 Mildred Sumiko Kawaguchi (JUN SHIN)  
20 Mabel Fumiko Araki (ZEN GYO)

#### 13th YEAR - 2013

##### DAY NAME

01 Gwendolyn Miki Higa (BI GEN)

#### 17th YEAR - 2009

##### DAY NAME

01 Mitsuoki Matsui (MYO KI)  
04 Ethelind Kawachi (MYO E)  
24 Edward Katsuaki Tomita (SHO KEN)

#### 25th YEAR - 2001

##### DAY NAME

02 Haruo Tonai (JO JI)

#### 33rd YEAR - 1993

##### DAY NAME

01 Haruyo Ogawa (KOHO)  
23 Hatsuko Fujimoto (JUN SHIN)  
25 Katsuyuki Izumi (SHO ZEN)

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



## MOVING SHIN BUDDHISM INTO THE FUTURE



Jodo Shinshu Buddhism came to Hawaii in the 1880's when Japanese laborers came to work on the sugar plantations. These newcomers struggled to survive because of hard physical labor, poor living conditions, and minimal pay. By turning to the temple for guidance, they found the Buddhist teachings to be comforting. Ministers and lay members supported each other and built a thriving, gathering place of Nembutsu followers. They persevered and dealt with their hardships to succeed in their new home.

The roots of Jodo Shinshu planted by these early immigrants continue to grow and inspire many generations. For over 130 years, our temples have been vibrant, spiritual communities that have shared the Buddhist teachings through Dharma education, spiritual support, and community service. We welcome the inclusion of all people into our Sangha. We seek to share with others the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha.

The Dharma continues to be relevant, and even more necessary, in these turbulent and chaotic times. We believe the Nembutsu teaching has the power to transform lives and create a more humane world. We must continue to preserve and enhance our dharma-centered programs into the future so people may enjoy lives of harmony, peace, and gratitude. Please join us as we build a pathway to the future of Jodo Shinshu in Hawaii.

Living Gratitude Program:  
The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii  
is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization  
EIN 99-0073500





## 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

## December 2025 / January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	2	3	4 BWA Hosha Day BWA ACCW Delv. 7pm Troop Mtg.	5	6 Social Hall Rental
7 8:30am Bodhi Day Service at Kepaniwai Park	8 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	9	10 5:30pm Obon Pract.	11 7pm Troop Mtg.	12	13 Social Hall Rental
14 8am BWA Memorial Service	15 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	16 6pm Cubs Meeting & Holiday Party	17 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom	18 BWA ACCW Delv. 7pm Troop Mtg.	19 6pm Cubs Holiday Party (Social Hall Rental)	20 Social Hall Rental
21 7:30am General Clean-up (No service)	22 8:30am Omigaki 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	23	24 12pm Temple Closes for Holiday	25 Christmas Day (Office Closed)	26	27 Social Hall Rental
Winter Break						
28 8am Family Service	29 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	30 6:30pm Cubs Mtng	31 12pm Temple Closes in preparation for New Years Eve Service 11:15pm New Year's Eve Service	1 New Years Day (Office Closed)	2	3
Winter Break						
4 8:00am Sunday Service Social Hall Rental	5 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	6	7	8 BWA Hosha Day 7pm Troop Mtg.	9	10
11 9:00am Ho'onko Service 11:00am Cubs Mtng.	12 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	13	14 5:30pm Obon Pract.	15 BWA ACCW Delv. 7pm Troop Mtg.	16	17 5:30pm Annual Sokai & Shinnenkai
18 No Service 10:30am 4-H Mtng.	19 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	20 6:30pm Cubs Meeting	21 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom	22 7pm Troop Mtg.	23	24
25 8:00am Sunday Service 10:30am Cubs Mtng.	26 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	27 6pm Cubs Meeting	28	29 7pm Troop Mtg.	30	31