



*Namo Amida Butsu -
With Gratitude and
Kindness Beyond Words*

FRIEND OF THE DHARMA



WAILUKU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
A JODO SHINSHU COMMUNITY TEMPLE



Volume 63

March 2026

<https://wailukuhongwanji.org>



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Graduates History**

**Spring Ohigan Service
March 8th @ 9am**

WAILUKU HONGWANJI MISSION
1828 Vineyard Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

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 (808) 244-0406
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TEACHINGS OF THE NEMBUTSU

Through Listening, We Discover Our True Selves

Reverend Shinkai Murakami

Namu Amida Butsu --

It is said that March is an important month for each of us to devote ourselves to the teachings of the Buddha. We observe a Buddhist service called Ohigan twice a year. Through this service, we as Buddhists take time to reflect on ourselves and consider what kind of Buddhist we aspire to be. Ohigan services are held in March and September, and I believe our pioneers established this tradition to give us an opportunity every six months to use the Buddha's teachings as a mirror—guiding us back to the path when we may drift away amid the busyness of daily life. (These special services are not commonly seen in Chinese or Indian Buddhist traditions, so I believe the Japanese Buddhist community developed Ohigan as a time for self-reflection through the teachings of the Buddha.)

We, including myself, often become overconfident, believing that we know ourselves very well. Yet in reality, what we do not know about ourselves is far greater than what we think we know. Very often, we feel that we understand others better than we understand our own hearts and minds.

During the Edo period, there was a commonly used phrase called "idobata kaigi," or "well-side meeting." It is said that residents of tenement houses would gather near the shared well and engage in conversations about everyday events. Because the walls between the rooms were extremely thin, there was very little privacy. Marital disagreements and private matters could easily be overheard and then become topics of conversation at the idobata kaigi.

However, historical accounts also describe these communities as friendly and close-knit. People were not afraid to hear or share personal matters, and such conversations often led them to reflect on their own behavior and correct themselves. While kind and honest conversation can be helpful, we must also remember that harmful gossip can be painful and destructive.

Here is a metaphor from the Buddha that relates to this idea. One day, the Buddha spoke to a very poor man and taught:

"There is a difference between a good person and an evil person.

An evil person is unaware of their own wrongdoing and continues harmful actions without trying to stop. When questioned, even about small matters, they become angry

and defensive. They expect charity from others as if it were only natural.

A good person understands what is right and what is wrong. When they realize they have acted wrongly, they stop and feel gratitude toward those who point out their mistakes and help them correct their behavior.

A foolish person is unable to appreciate the kindness shown to them. A wise person is always grateful and expresses that gratitude by showing compassion—not only to those who have helped them, but to all beings."

In our daily lives, we are supported by many people. Whether directly or indirectly, others constantly help and sustain us. Ohigan is a precious opportunity to reflect on ourselves through the true teachings of the Dharma—an opportunity to recognize our shortcomings and listen deeply to the voice of the Buddha.

In Jōdo Shinshū, Ohigan encourages us to listen to the teachings with a mind free of doubt and to correct the mistaken image of ourselves reflected in the mirror of the Dharma.

How do we become aware of this truth? Only when we listen with a humble and open heart, and anchor our lives in the Buddha-Dharma, do we begin to see our true selves. Yet, no matter how many times we hear the teachings, we tend to forget them quickly. Perhaps this is why our ancestors ensured that we observe Ohigan twice a year—to gently bring us back, again and again, to the path of gratitude, humility, and awakening.

As we observe Ohigan this March, let us visit the temple, listen deeply to the teachings of the Buddha-Dharma, and look into the mirror of the Dharma in our hearts. May we be guided toward our truest and most sincere selves.

-- Namu Amida Butsu



EXPRESSIONS OF DANA

WITH GRATITUDE**EITAIKYO**

Karen Aguinaldo
 Elaine Akashi
 Carl & Janet Anbe
 Charles Araki
 Clifford & Geraldine Beppu
 Lauren Chun
 Elsa Ecsedy
 Calvin & Kayoko Endo
 Lane & June Fujii
 Ronald Hamai & Gail Iwamoto-Hamai
 Franklin & Guy Hamasaki
 Grace & Teri Hamasaki
 Allan Hasegawa
 Jane Hashimoto
 Wayne & Kay Hedani
 Wally Heirakuji
 Sandra Hirata
 Raymond Hirayama
 Margaret Honda
 Dennis & Grace Ishii
 Lori Jio
 Joyce Kang
 Hideo & Joyce Kawahara
 Melvyn & Sylvia Kawashima
 Arthur & Rene Kimura
 June & Robert Ko
 Patrice Matsumoto
 Robert & Edith Matsumoto
 Floyd & Norine Miyazano
 Minako Mori
 Glenn & Dawn Mukai
 Munekiyo Holdings, LLC
 Harold & Geraldine Nagato
 Francis & Katherine Nakamoto
 Toni Ogasawara
 Kenneth Ogawa
 Helen Ohigashi
 Howard Oki
 Dennis Ouchi
 Katherine Riyu
 Noreen Saiki
 Jane Sato
 Tom Seki
 Shido Partners
 Ronald & Linda Shimizu
 Linda & Allan Smith, Sr.
 Reyno Sugahara
 Dale Tagami
 Colleen Takamura
 Alan & Pamela Tamashiro
 Colin Tanaka
 Michael & Lisa Tateishi
 Emma Teshima & Doris Yoshitake

Shelby Thompson
 Paul & Robyn Tokunaga
 Ronald & Elise Tshako
 Jonathan Umetsu
 Linda Ann Unemori
 Lloyd & Jani Uradomo
 Alan Yamaguchi
 Edwin & Jacqueline Yamaguchi
 Jan Yamamoto
 Eleanor Yanagi
 Neil & Charlene Yashiro
 Shinyei Yogi
 Millie Yokouchi

GRADUATES BANQUET

Gary & Jacqueline Murai

HO'ONKO SERVICE

Anonymous
 Brian Hashiro
 Sandra Hirata
 Margaret Honda
 Eric & Kathy Ikeuchi
 Janet Kubota
 Carol Mae Kurisu
 Ellen Matsui
 Machiko Moriyasu
 Gary & Jacqueline Murai
 Toshiko Oki
 Richard Ouchi
 Dale Sugiki
 Toshiko Sugiki
 Florence Tanaka
 Carol Yamamura

KYODAN

Troy Hashimoto - *In memory of Janet Inamasu*
 Melvyn & Sylvia Kawashima - *In memory of S. Stanley Okamoto*
 Chiyeko Sadoka - *In memory of Jitsuji & Masako Takamiya*
 George Uyehara - *In memory of Jitsuji & Masako Takamiya*

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Edward & Joan Tamori

NEW YEAR'S DONATION

Anonymous
 Aileen Cockett
 Ethel Fujii - *In memory of the Mochizuki Family*
 Rogers & Karen Ishizu
 Diane Kosaka

With gratitude, we acknowledge the many acts of dana offered by our members and friends. Through generosity of time, care, and resources, our temple continues to thrive as a place of learning, practice, and connection.

--Namo Amida Butsu

Floyd & Sharon Nagoshi
 Helen Ohigashi
 Janet Shimada
 Takashi & Yuki Lei Sugimura
 Douglas Toyama
 Wayde Toyama
 Jody Vinoray

NOKOTSUDO

Clifford & Geraldine Beppu
 Cora Cabral
 Ed Fujinaka
 Franklin & Guy Hamasaki
 Wayne & Lena Kaneyama - *In memory of the Hanada Family*
 Mari Ann Kato
 Arthur & Rene Kimura
 Reiko Kondo - *In memory of Takeyuki & Ochiyo Yoshizu*
 Milton & Lisa Matsuoka
 Noreen Saiki - *In memory of Harumi Kawakami*
 Linda Shibano
 Dale Tagami - *In memory of Haru & Chuhachi Tagami, & Mitsugi & Yoshie Tagami*
 Neil & Charlene Yashiro

OFUSE

Steve & Sandra Cross - *In memory of Stanley & Janet Okamoto*
 Harold Inamasu - *In memory of Janet Midori Inamasu*
 Kevin Inamasu - *In memory of Janet Midori Inamasu*
 Wendell Inamasu - *In memory of Janet Midori Inamasu*
 Kaitlin Kochi - *In memory of Janet Midori Inamasu*
 Katherine Marushige - *In memory of Ralph Marushige*
 Alvin Naito - *In memory of Sally Naito*
 Amy & Daniel Saito - *In memory of Sadako Nakao*
 Carl & Tammy Yeh - *In memory of Ronald Okuda*
 Kevin Yoshino - *In memory of Harriet Yoshino*

Continued on Page 7

History of Wailuku Hongwanji Mission

Feature Article



Recently, Frank Hamasaki shared a document he came across while cleaning his desk. The document contains a detailed record of Wailuku Hongwanji Mission's early development — a reminder of how much dedication and effort shaped the temple we know today.

According to the record, Wailuku Hongwanji Mission began in 1898, when Reverend Hojun Kunisaki arrived on Maui to share the teachings of Jōdo Shinshū Buddhism and serve the growing immigrant community. By 1900, Reverend Tessen Funakura was serving as minister, and organized temple life was taking root.

Education became a priority early on. In 1906, the Gakuen (Japanese Language School) was established so children could learn to read and write in Japanese. Sunday School programs followed, helping young members deepen their understanding of the Dharma. The Wailuku Hongwanji Bukkyō Fujinkai was organized in 1905, and the Junior Y.B.A. was established in 1931, reflecting strong participation from women and youth in temple life.

The campus itself expanded

steadily. Land was secured on Market and Wells Streets, and in 1952 a new temple and columbarium were constructed through the leadership of Chikashi Nagamatsu and the support of many members. In 1955, a new minister's residence and Judo Hall were completed. Renovations and improvements continued in later decades, including rebuilding and expanding the Social Hall in the early 1980s.

The document also lists the ministers who served across generations and notes significant observances, including memorial services for Shinran Shonin and major anniversary celebrations. These records show that the temple's growth required vision, financial sacrifice, and steady volunteer commitment.

This rediscovered history offers more than dates and names. It shows how ministers and members worked together to establish schools, organize youth groups, construct buildings, and sustain daily temple life. Preserving these records ensures that the efforts of earlier generations remain part of our shared story.

Historic Hongwanji Records Found Online

The HMMH Archives Committee recently learned that the Nippu Jiji / Hawaii Times archives are available online through the Hoover Institution Library and Archives. The Nippu Jiji began in Hawai'i in 1906, later becoming the Hawaii Times (1942–1985), and may contain valuable information about Hongwanji temples and history in Hawai'i.

Explore the collections:

- Photo archive search: <https://digitalcollections.hoover.org/objects?query=hongwanji>
- Digital collections: <https://digitalcollections.hoover.org/>

CALLS TO CARE

Invitations to Practice Compassion in Action



Dana * Compassion * Service

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)
- Napkins
- 9” Lunch plates
- Blue Painters tape
- Antibacterial hand soap (refill size)
- Exam gloves (all sizes)

Help Wanted: Student Volunteer

Help keep the temple clean by taking out 5–10 bags of trash each week (10–35 lbs). It takes about one hour and is perfect for Fridays after school. Great for middle & high school students earning community service hours while giving back to the temple. Interested? Call the office at (808) 244-0406. Mahalo!

Green Hongwanji Videos for Earth Day & Commission on Buddhist Education

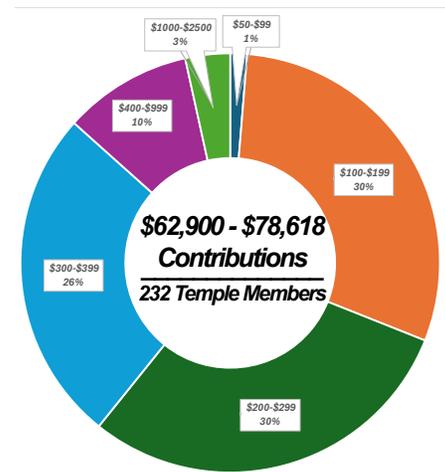
As a fun way to engage and celebrate Earth Day 2026, the Green Hongwanji Committee (GHC) invites you to share your video clips and

images of Green activities from your temple, Sangha members, or organization. We can help turn what you share into finished videos of up to 3 minutes to share within our Sanghas, post to HHMH social media and the HHMH website, and/or screen at Earth Day Services. Vertical (portrait-orientation) video clips are preferred and may be emailed to green.committee@honpahi.org. See the attached memo for more complete information!

This project dovetails nicely with the Short Video Project initiative of the Commission on Buddhist Education. Green Hongwanji can be one source of videos for this effort. #UniqueHongwanji videos are another category. For an example, visit honpahi.link/exreel.

Sustaining Our Sangha: 2026 Gojkai Reminder

Wailuku Hongwanji Mission warmly welcomes both returning and new members. Membership is a meaningful way to stay connected, support temple programs and facilities, and help sustain our community for future generations. You do not need to attend services regularly or be Buddhist to join. Gojkai is the voluntary monthly support that helps keep the temple active and thriving. Suggested guidelines are \$20–\$30 per month for households, \$12–\$15 for individuals, and \$50–\$75 for businesses or organizations. Any amount offered according to one’s ability is sincerely appreciated. Membership includes voting at Sokai, participation in affiliate organizations, temple communications, and member discounts on Social Hall rentals, Preschool, and Gakuen. For applications or information, please contact the temple office at (808) 244-0406. We sincerely appreciate our members and warmly welcome those considering joining. We look forward to growing together as a temple community.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Keeping Our Community Informed

*Mindfulness * Responsibility * Gratitude*

Sandy Hirata, A Deserving Dana Award Recipient The Fukunaga Dana Award is presented each year to Wailuku Hongwanji and other Maui District Temple members who have selflessly served their temples and communities with passion and humility. Wailuku Hongwanji's Dana Award recipient, Mrs. Sandy Hirata embodies selflessness and humility. A long-time member of Wailuku Hongwanji, Mrs. Hirata's kindness and compassion was recognized with her receiving the Dana Award at the Temple's Sokai on January 17, 2026.

In presenting the award to her, Reverend Murakami cited her considerable energy dedicated to the temple and community. Her nomination essay further explained her contributions that include her continuing engagement with Wailuku Hongwanji Dharma School students, her leadership in Temple events and in the Temple's BWA and Maui United BWA. Additionally, following her retirement as a Department of Education teacher, she continues her work with children as a member of the Wailuku Hongwanji Preschool staff.

Indeed, Wailuku Hongwanji is fortunate to have Mrs. Hirata a part of our Sangha. She exemplifies Dana in daily living.

Welcome to Our Temple Community

Wailuku Hongwanji Mission extends a warm welcome to our newest members, Ms. Jeanelyn Onnagan, a longtime supporter of the Gakuen program, and Mr. Scott Hirata, and their families. We are grateful for their connection to our temple community and look forward to sharing many activities together in the years ahead.

Our Deepest Sympathies

Janet Midori Inamasu (HO-RAKU – Rejoice in the Dharma) age 97, of Kahului, passed on December 18, 2025.

Namo Amida Butsu

March Hoji Memorial Services

1st Year - 2025

- 18th - Elaine Shizuko Mori (JAKU JO)
- 25th - Micah Koa Nobuo Saito (JO SHO)

3rd Year - 2024

- 24th - Sharon Takie Kawachi (E KO)

7th Year - 2020

- 13th - Margaret Yoshie Fujita (RYO JUN)
- 16th - Grace Murakami (KO SHO)
- 30th - Evelyn Kamasaki (SHO SHIN)

13th Year - 2014

- 2nd - Wallace Endo (MYO DO)
- 5th - William Shigetani (SHO SHIN)
- 16th - Harue Elsie Fukumoto (SHUN DO)
- 18th - Mamoru Wada (SHIN DO)
- 29th - Asae Jane Morimoto (JI GAN)

17th Year - 2010

- 15th - Gilbert Masuo Tokunaga (RYO SHU)
- 22nd - Yuiki Fukumoto (KEI SHU)

25th Year - 2002

- 4th - Shuichi Nishimura (JYO SHU)
- 15th - Shizuka Tamura (HO MYO)
- Yukie Tamayose (MYO KOU)

33rd Year - 1994

- 1st - Ichiyo Kadoyama (MYO KO)
- 3rd - Kosaku Ouchi (SHIN GEN)
- 24th - Susumu Paul Goto (KEN TOKU)

50th Year - 1977

- 5th - Nara Itamura (SHO KEN)

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES Cont.

Keeping Our Community Informed

*Mindfulness * Responsibility * Gratitude*

Support the Jr. YBA Convention: Purchase an Ad

Temples, organizations, and businesses are invited to support the 69th Jr. YBA State Convention by purchasing an advertisement in the convention booklet, which will be distributed to attendees. The deadline to submit an ad is April 1. The ad form is included on page 14 of this newsletter. If you have any questions, contact Convention Advisors Michelle Ojiri (808-268-6490, michelleojiri@gmail.com) or Sandy Taniguchi (808-987-8326, sandytaniguchi@gmail.com).

Dana Matching Grant:

The Committee on Social Concerns offers the Dana Matching Grant to help temples and affiliated organizations expand their charitable impact in the community. Donations to nonprofit organizations may be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$1,500 per grant, encouraging the practice of Dana through community service and support. Information: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ShOjYLZYUyD64LAKDY4mGvDAIpgITnA/view>

Propagation Program Grant

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i Propagation Program Grant supports new and creative efforts to share the Nembutsu and Buddhist teachings in our communities. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available, with priority given to innovative Dharma education or outreach projects that demonstrate statewide impact. Projects may be funded once within a five-year period. Contact your resident minister or Honpa Hongwanji Headquarters for details.

Phishing Email Alert

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii received reports of emails appearing to come from Headquarters requesting recipients to click a DocuSign link. These messages were phishing scams related to brief unauthorized access to one HQ email account, which has since been secured. Do not click links or buttons if you receive similar messages. Please delete the email immediately. As a precaution, members are encouraged to use strong passwords and enable two-factor authentication.

Golden Chain Grant

The Golden Chain Grant is a micro-grant program for compassionate action projects inspired by the Dharma. Individuals or groups within the Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 'ohana may apply for up to \$1,000 for innovative projects that address community needs. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/15Pc-wDTWBRfzb9zDebVboOnH3PcWwML6/view>

Expressions of Dana Continued from Page 3

DONATIONS & VOLUNTEER SUPPORT *Sharon Higa*

Campus Maintenance: Richard & Amy Blue, Cub Scouts, FT, Eric Ikeuchi, Mike Nishimoto, Ed & Joan Tamori, Fred Toyama

Office Help: Margaret Honda, Machiko Moriyasu, Celeste Rabang, Nancy Shimoda, Toshiko Sugiki, Mary Tokumaru, Linda Ann Unemori

Office Supplies Donation: Lahaina Hongwanji, Lloyd & Linda Yonemura

Sunday Service Music: Dharma Strummers, Minae Murakami, Dale Sugiki

Tech Support: Brian Garner, Donna Ikeuchi, Julie Petro, Danny Topp

Temple Maintenance: Jeral & Karlynn Fukuda, Margaret Honda, HOSHA Gang, Calvin & Teri Kaneda, Carol Mae Kurisu, Machiko Moriyasu, Nancy Shimoda, Ed & Joan Tamori, Fred Toyama

Temple Wish List Items: Ron Hiyakumoto, Eric Ikeuchi, John & Rusty Oura, Lydia Yamaguchi

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join Us for These
Special Events

*Sangha * Dharma * Connection*

**Central Maui
Hanamatsuri
Festival on
Sunday, April 05
@ 9am**

The Central Maui Hanamatsuri Festival will be held on Sunday, April 5, at Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple beginning at 9 a.m. Temple members, families, and friends are warmly invited to join this joyful celebration of Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday. The program begins

with a service at 9 a.m., followed by games and entertainment, and concludes with lunch and fellowship.

Hanamatsuri commemorates the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha more than 2,500 years ago and remains one of the most cherished observances in the Buddhist tradition. This year's festival is sponsored by Kahului Hongwanji, Kahului Jodo Mission, Makawao Hongwanji, Wailuku Hongwanji, and Wailuku Jodo Mission, with participation from Lahaina Hongwanji and Lahaina Jodo Mission.

There is no cost to attend. Please contact the temple office at (808) 244-0406 with your lunch count by Monday, March 23.

**Wailuku Hongwanji
Hanamatsuri Festival
& Infant Presentation
Ceremony on Sunday,
April 12 @ 8am**

Wailuku Hongwanji will celebrate its annual Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day Service and Infant Presentation Ceremony, also known as Hatsumairi or Shosan Shiki) on Sunday, April 12, beginning at 8am.

Resident Minister Rev.

Shinkai Murakami warmly invites temple members and friends to join in commemorating Buddha Day, which honors the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, who later attained Enlightenment as Shakyamuni Buddha.

Families are also encouraged to participate in the Infant Presentation Ceremony, a cherished tradition in which a child is presented to Amida Buddha and the Sangha for the first time. During the ceremony, families express their aspiration to raise their child with Buddhist values, the infant receives his or her first onenju (nenju beads), and loved ones acknowledge the gift of the Dharma as one of the most meaningful offerings they can share.

Those wishing to participate are kindly asked to notify Rev. Murakami in advance so that preparations may be arranged.

**BSC Spring Festival:
April 18, 2026.**

The Buddhist Study Center will be having a Spring Festival on April 18, 2026, from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. The theme is "Appreciating Our Ohana," with intergenerational workshops, local favorite snacks, appreciation activities, "old school" games, and much more. Please save the date and bring your whole family!

**Spring Ohigan Service -
Sunday, March 8th @ 9am**

Temple members, families, and friends are warmly invited to our annual Spring Ohigan Service on Sunday, March 15, at 9:00 a.m. Our resident minister, Reverend Shinkai Murakami, will share the Dharma message. We welcome everyone, longtime members and first-time visitors alike.

"Ohigan" means "the other shore," symbolizing the journey from this world of impermanence toward awakening and peace. It is observed during the spring and autumn equinoxes, when day and night are equal in length, a natural reminder to pause and reflect on how we are living our lives. In Pure Land Buddhism, the west represents the realm of peace and enlightenment, recalling the compassionate guidance of Amida Buddha.

In the Jōdo Shinshū tradition, Ohigan is a time to listen deeply to the Dharma and to express gratitude for the boundless compassion and wisdom that embraces all beings. As we receive this teaching, we are encouraged to let that compassion guide our thoughts, words, and actions each day.

We hope you will join us as we gather in reflection, gratitude, and community this Ohigan season.

UPCOMING EVENTS Cont.

Join Us for These
Special Events

Sangha * Dharma * Connection

Calling All Graduates!

Shelley Quipotla

The Wailuku Hongwanji Mission 2026 70th Graduate's Banquet will be held at Maui Lemongrass Asian Cuisine in Kahului on April 29, 2026 beginning at 5:30pm. The

banquet will commence with a brief baccalaureate service conducted by Reverend Shinkai Murakami. The keynote speaker will be Yuki Lei Sugimura. Ms. Sugimura is a veteran Maui County Council member representing the Upcountry area.

As of this publication, the following graduating seniors with ties to our church have been identified. Class of 2026 Graduates are:

Namaka Andaya	Noa Fong	Jaelynn Fukuda
Tate Fukunaga	Aeva Gomes	Naia Kaulukukui
Aileen Kava	Madelein Milliet	Aaron Omuro
Rylee Ota	Dominic Rabang	

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 \$34 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 or Shelley Quipotla at shellquips@gmail.com or call (808)-250-0726 and text or leave a message.

YESS Camp 42: April 3-5, 2026

The 42nd Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers (YESS) Camp, themed "The Dharma Awakens," will be held April 3–5, 2026, at Kona Hongwanji on the Big Island. This three-day, two-night camp is open to youth ages 13–23, welcoming anyone interested in Jōdo Shinshū Buddhism — no prior experience needed. Registration is open at tinyurl.com/yesscamp42 (\$60 Early Bird by Feb. 1; \$90 Regular by March 10; \$120 Last Call by March 25). Fundraising supports neighbor island campers' airfare. For information, contact yesscamp@honpahi.org.

Temple Office Closed for Buddha Day, Wednesday, April 8th

The temple office will be closed on Wednesday, April 8, in observance of Buddha Day.

BuddhaDay commemorates the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, who later became known as the Buddha. Born into a life of comfort, Siddhartha left his home after witnessing the suffering of the world—poverty, illness, and injustice. Seeking a deeper understanding of life's truths, he undertook a spiritual quest and ultimately attained Enlightenment while meditating beneath a Bodhi tree.

Having realized the path to liberation, Siddhartha Gautama dedicated his life to teaching, serving others, and embodying compassion. Upon his passing, he became known as Buddha, meaning "The Awakened One."

Buddha's birthday, also known as Hanamatsuri, is observed at Buddhist temples throughout Maui. It is a time for reflection, gratitude, and celebrating the birth and teachings of the Buddha.

Jr. YBA State Convention, June 2026

The United Jr. YBA of Hawaii will host the 69th Jr. YBA State Convention on June 19–21, 2026, in Hilo. This year's theme, "Sangha Means Family," inspired by Lilo and Stitch, will bring together youth from across the state for fellowship, learning, and activities grounded in Buddhist values. More information will be shared as the event approaches.

TEMPLE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Paths of Learning

*January Highlights from
Dharma School, Gakuen, and Preschool*

Dharma School Fun and Fellowship

Joan Tamori



Julie Petro, Ryan, and Paul Petro flash "smiles" while busily decorating tables!

Dharma school teacher, Shelley Quipotla, and dharma school parent, Emi Orikasa, took time and ingenuity to dress up the podium with ti-leaves, ferns, and red ginger for the New Year's party.



Krystle Beauchamp, Dharma School students Tate and June, Faith Tengan, and Shari Osajima, used their creativity to craft fresh floral arrangements in small vases, adding a festive and welcoming atmosphere to WHM's New Year's Party in January.

On Minister's Appreciation Day in February, dharma school students showed their gratitude to Rev. Murakami for teaching and guiding them to live a life of nembutsu. They presented leis, gifts, cards, and "thank you" hugs! (Left to Right: Aaron, Erik, Daryl, Risa, Cooper, Eva, Rev. Murakami, Kamaouha, and Heleonahe.)



A Busy & Bright Start to the New Year

Jody Vinoray

Wailuku Hongwanji was buzzing with activity this past February! We celebrated Groundhog Day on Feb. 2nd, followed by our Book Pack program and World Read-Aloud Day, encouraging a love for reading among our little ones. Our upcoming Valentine's Day festivities and Picture Day, where children will have a chance to capture memories with their classmates, was also an exciting time!

Summer and 2026-2027 School Year forms are being returned, and as we focus on staying healthy, we are asking families to keep an eye out for flu-like symptoms and communicate any absences promptly. Thank you for being an integral part of our preschool community!



YOUTH PROGRAMS SPOTLIGHT

Growing Together

February Activities from 4-H



Mālama ‘Āina in Action

Sammy Takamura

The Friends Forever 4-H Club hosted a county 4-H land restoration and beach cleanup volunteer workday at the Waihe‘e Refuge on Monday, January 19, 2026. The 4-Hers transplanted Akulikuli from the fishpond and planted it on the beach near the shore to prevent coastal erosion. They learned that the Akulikuli plant is edible, but very salty. It grows well in sand and looks like long intertwined vines. Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (HILT) manages the refuge and taught the 4-Hers the history of the sand

dunes and wetlands along with the history of the rock walls that ancient Hawaiian built and how they engineered a fish trap to help them catch fish to eat. The 4-Hers also picked up debris along the beach that included old fishing lines, plastic pieces, rusted metal bits, and disposable paper products and utensils. The trash they collected filled 2 gallon buckets. After volunteering, they hiked to the Waihe‘e Stream and swam. They also helped at Feed My Sheep that distributed food boxes to roughly 200 individuals.

The Lokahi Girls spent Valentine’s morning with Megin John, learning about scuba diving certifications, equipment and dive safety. They also helped collect 37 pounds of trash at Papawai lookout. Megin shared her scuba experiences here on Maui and even where she has found the ever cute sea slug known as the leaf sheep or sheep of the sea which can really only be enjoyed by taking a picture as its size ranges from 5-10 mm. Though Megin scuba dives as a hobby, she continues to help the Ocean Defenders Alliance Hawaii on Maui which collected 2000 pounds of debris in 2025. Thank you Megin for your efforts to help keep our oceans clean.



Wailuku Hongwanji Scouting Leaders & Eagles Honored

Wailuku Hongwanji Mission is proud to share recent recognition from the Maui Nui District Scouting Awards program. Our own Paul Petro (Pack 40) was honored as Cubmaster of the Year for the 2025–2026 program year. Congratulations, Paul, and mahalo for your dedication and leadership in supporting the youth of our community.

The Maui Nui District Awards ceremony was held on February 22 at Camp Maluhia, where scouting leaders and youth from across Maui were recognized for their service and achievements. The event also honored the Maui Nui District Eagle Scout Class of 2025, including five Eagle Scouts from Wailuku’s Troop 40:

- William George
- Galen Okamoto
- Zach Kuraoka
- Chase Nozaki
- Aaron Omuro

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to these Scouts and their families for their commitment, perseverance, and service. Their accomplishments reflect the strong tradition of scouting at Wailuku Hongwanji Mission and the continued support of our temple community.

YOUTH PROGRAMS SPOTLIGHT

Growing Together

February Activities from Troop 40



Troop 40 Celebrates Scout Sunday

Celeste Rabang

Troop 40 celebrated Scout Sunday on February 1. Scout Sunday honors the founding of Scouting by William D. Boyce in 1910 and recognizes the values of character, service, and community that Scouting promotes. Wailuku Hongwanji Mission has supported Scouting since 1944 and has helped guide many young men to the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Scouts BSA program and one achieved by only ~4% of Scouts nationwide. Troop 40 has earned an impressive 303 Eagle Scouts to date. Continuing that proud tradition, Tate Fukunaga recently completed his Eagle Scout project by removing rust and sanding and repainting the railings around the temple and social hall. His hard work has helped beautify and preserve our church grounds for the entire sangha and community.



Cub Scouts: Pinewood Derby

Paul Petro

In January Pack 40 held our annual pinewood derby. The Cubscouts built their cars with creativity and excellence. It was an exciting race filled with friendly competition and awards.

Congratulations to:

- First place winner: Colton
- Second place winner: Ryan
- Third place winner: Aaron
- Best Kid made: Mason
- Best in Show: Masa



Troop 40 also welcomed students from HOSA Future Health Professionals, who presented to the community about health service data and the goals of their program. We were especially proud that our own Scout, Erik Tsai, helped lead the presentation.



ADULT ORGANIZATIONS SPOTLIGHT

Walking the Path

Reflections and Activities from the BWA and Temple Affiliate Groups



Moments Shared as a Sangha

Gwen Hiraga

BWA members gathered to attend the Eitaikyo Service on February 14. Then on February 15, the BWA held its Annual Meeting and Sōkai, bringing members together in fellowship and shared purpose as plans for the coming year were discussed.

The BWA is also pleased to share that the 120th Anniversary Cookbook (2025–2026) is now sold out. Once again, the BWA extends sincere appreciation

for the strong support and many kind remarks received. A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who contributed recipes and helped make this commemorative project such a success.

Membership dues for 2026 are now being collected. BWA welcomes women of all ages to participate in its activities, service projects, and gatherings throughout the year. Those interested in joining or renewing membership are encouraged to submit dues to the temple office or to Sandy Matsuda.

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



HFBWA State Membership Conference

The Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women’s Associations (HFBWA) State Membership Conference will be held March 28–29, 2026. This gathering brings together members from across the state for fellowship, learning, and shared inspiration in Buddhist Women’s Association activities. Please contact the temple office or BWA leadership for registration information.



BWA Welcomes Volunteers

The BWA continues its ongoing service to the temple through monthly Hoshi offerings, altar floral arrangements, and support for special events throughout the year. Members warmly welcome additional volunteers who may be interested in helping with these meaningful activities. Those who would like to participate or learn more are encouraged to contact the temple office at (808) 244-0406.



69th Jr. YBA State Convention Ad/Donation Form

Name of Temple or Business: _____

Contact Person: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone No.: _____

Check One:

- Business card size = \$50.00
- Quarter (1/4) page = \$75.00
- Half page = \$150.00
- Whole page = \$250.00
- Donation Only (acknowledgement only, no ad)

Check one (for ads):

- We will be designing our own ad in one of the following formats: .jpg, .doc, .docx, .pdf, .psd
- We would like the committee to design our ad. The committee will send your ad for approval to the contact person above.

****Please send this Ad Purchase Form and payment to the following address:**

69th Jr. YBA State Convention
 c/o Michelle Ojiri
 1548 Kilikina St. Hilo, HI 96720

Please make checks payable to: Jr. YBA State Convention
Deadline for Ads/Donations is April 1, 2026.

If you have any questions, contact Convention Advisors Michelle Ojiri (808-268-6490, michelleojiri@gmail.com) or Sandy Taniguchi (808-987-8326, sandytaniguchi@gmail.com). Thank you for supporting the Hawaii Federation of Jr. YBAs and the United of Hawaii!

Find Your Place in the Sangha

Ways to Learn, Serve, and Practice Together

Interested in joining an affiliate organization, club, or 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, along with contact information. We look forward to welcoming you and your family, and thank you in advance for any monetary donations made to support our efforts.

DHARMA & LEARNING

Buddha Reads Book Club

Danny Topp | (719) 200-7300
Buddha.reads@gmail.com

Maui Hongwanji Choir

Looking for New Members

Joan Tamori | (808) 244-0406
whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

Dharma School

Joan Tamori | (808) 244-0406
whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

Dharma Strummers

Danny Topp | (808) 244-0406
whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

Gakuen

Rev. Murakami | (808) 244-0406
whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

Preschool

Jody Vinoray | (808) 244-9545
whpreschool808@gmail.com

Sunday Announcements

Main Office | (808) 244-0406
whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

SANGHA & COMMUNITY

4-H

SammyTakamura|(808)244-0406
WHMSakura4H@gmail.com

Boy Scouts

Carl Yeh | (808) 466-2310
yippie_yeh@hotmail.com

BWA

Gwen Hiraga | (808) 244-0406
whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

Cub Scouts

Paul Petro | (808) 757-0476
cubpack40@gmail.com

Judo Club

RonaldHiyakumoto|(808)244-9094
rhiyakumoto@hawaii.rr.com

Jr. YBA

Donna Ikeuchi | (808) 244-0406
whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

Karate

Main Office | (808) 244-0406
whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

Kendo

Ryan Nagata | (808) 283-6565
wassup96720@yahoo.com

DANA & SERVICE

Acknowledgments / Donations

Farron Cabral | (808) 244-0406
whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

Facility Rentals

Main Office | (808) 244-0406
whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

Hosha Day Clean-up (1st Thur)

Main Office | (808) 244-0406
whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

Office Support & Publishers

Main Office | (808) 244-0406
whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Main Office | (808) 244-0406
whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

Website & Facebook

Help Wanted | (808) 244-0406
whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

Yard & Facility Maintenance

Main Office | (808) 244-0406
whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

Each temple program is supported by dedicated volunteers who share updates, photos, and stories for the newsletter. *The Friend of the Dharma* is published monthly. Opinions expressed by individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. We are deeply grateful to all contributors for helping tell the story of our Sangha.

Editorial Team: Robyn Garner, Frank Hamasaki, Sharon Higa, Michael Munekiyo, Gary Murai, Rev. Murakami, Celeste Rabang, Joan Tamori, Eri Nomura, Jody Vinoray

Submission deadline: the 15th of each month (prior to publication).

Submit to: robynmgarner@gmail.com

March / April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8am Sunday Serv.	2 Hongwanji Day 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	3 6:00pm Cubs - Social Hall	4 Gakuen Cultural Day - Origami (Ohinasama)	5 BWA Hosha Day 7pm Troop Mtg. Ryukoku Uni. BSC Spring Sem.	6 Waiver Day (No Gakuen)	7
8 9am Spring Ohigan Service 9:30am BWA mtng.	9 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	10	11 5:30pm Obon Pract.	12 7pm Troop Mtg.	13	14 Buddhist Study Center Spring Festival
15 8am Sunday Service Youth Choir	16 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	17	18 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom	19 BWA ACCW Delv. 7pm Troop Mtg.	20	21
Spring Break						
Spring Ohigan						
22 8am Family Serv. 11am Cubs Conf. Room 1pm-3pm 4-H Conf. Room	23 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	24 6:30pm Cubs Meeting	25	26 Prince Kuhio Day (Office Open) 7pm Troop Mtg.	27	28 15th BWA State Conf; Rep. Mtng; Minister's Spouses' Assn Seminar
Spring Ohigan						
29 8am Family Serv. Youth Choir 10:30am 4-H Social Hall 15th BWA State Conf; Rep. Mtng; Minister's Spouses' Assn Seminar	30 9:00am Hanamatsuri Mayor's Proclamation WHM Temple 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	31 BWA Scholarship Due 6:30pm Cubs Meeting	1	2 BWA Hosha Day 7pm Troop Mtg.	3 Good Friday (Office Open) No Gakuen	4 3pm Hanamatsuri Setup (Social Hall Rental)
YESS Camp 42						
5 9am Central Maui Hanamatsuri @ WHM	6 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	7 6:00pm Cubs - Social Hall	8 Buddha Day (Office Closed) 5:30pm Obon Pract Conf. Rm. Rental	9 7pm Troop Mtg	10	11 Gakuen Cultural Day (Undo Kai - Filed Day)
YESS Camp						
12 8:00am WHM Hanamatsuri & Infant Pres. Service 9:30am BWA mtng.	13 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	14	15 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom	16 7pm Troop Mtg.	17	18 9am MUBWA Spring Assembly at KHM BSC Spring Festival
19 8:00am BWA Eshinni & Kakushinni Sunday Service 11am Cubs Conf. Rm 1-3pm 4-H Conf. Rm	20 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm MHC Mtng @ WHM	21 6:30pm Cubs Meeting	22 Earth Day	23 7pm Troop Mtg.	24	25 BWA Eshinni Day / Peace Day 1pm Cubs Blue & Gold Award
26 8am Family Serv. Youth Choir Social Hall Rental	27 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	28 6:30pm Cubs Meeting	29	30 7pm Troop Mtg.		