



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

FRIEND OF THE DHARMA



WAILUKU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
A JODO SHINSHU COMMUNITY TEMPLE



Volume 63

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<https://wailukuhongwanji.org>



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WAILUKU HONGWANJI MISSION
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TEACHINGS OF THE NEMBUTSU

The Important Thing

Reverend Shinkai Murakami

Namu Amida Butsu --

Our lives are changing rapidly every day. As science advances, new things are created one after another and quickly become part of our daily lives. Without things such as telephones, televisions, radios, computers, and DVDs, life would feel somewhat inconvenient. At the same time, it sometimes seems that we rely on these things too much. This leads us to ask a simple but important question: What do we truly want in life?

A long time ago, I heard a story that made me think deeply about this question. One day, a man went out into the street and asked several people the same question: "What do you want most right now?"

First, he asked elementary school students. One student answered, "I want a baseball glove and a bat."

Next, he asked high school students. A student replied, "What I want most is an education. If I have a good education, I can join a proper company and get a good job."

Then he asked a young office worker, who answered, "Money. If I had money, I could buy a house and live on my own."

Next, he asked a young woman. She replied, "What I want most is to be beautiful."

He then asked a sick person, who answered, "What I want most is a healthy body."

When he asked a deaf person, the answer was, "I want ears that can hear."

Finally, he asked elderly people. They answered, "What we want most right now is to live longer."

Each answer was simple and ordinary, yet we can see that everyone's response was different. What we want most in life depends on our circumstances and on the conditions we are facing at that moment.

The other day, I was reminded of this while taking an early-morning walk with my wife at War Memorial Stadium in Wailuku. Many people were already there, each walking at their own pace. Among them, a friendly elderly couple caught my attention. They were probably over 80 years old and were walking slowly together along the innermost lane of the track. As I watched them, I could feel the warmth of their long life together.

What I saw between them was a bond of trust and a peaceful feeling of tranquility. They were not extraordinary people, but to me they were very precious. I sincerely felt that their relationship and deep



trust were truly admirable. I said to my wife, "They look so nice. I hope we can be like that someday."

My wife smiled and replied, "I hope so, as long as you are nice and kind to me!" Then we both laughed.

In the same way, Amida Buddha has given each of us an absolute bond through the Nembutsu, "Namo Amida Butsu." This bond is Amida's promise that we will be born in the Land of the Buddha and that we will become Buddhas ourselves. When we say the Nembutsu and praise "Namo Amida Butsu," we walk the path of truth given by Amida Buddha without worry. Although it is not something we can see or hold, it is no exaggeration to say that it is the most important thing in our lives.

However, we are often unaware that the light of the Nembutsu is reaching us. Even though the voice of Amida Buddha calls to us at every moment, we sometimes fail to listen. The most important thing for us is to listen to the Dharma as our true guide and to awaken to the awareness that Amida's infinite wisdom and compassion are working within our hearts, guiding us along the great path of truth in our everyday lives.

This spiritual voice of "Namo Amida Butsu" is truly the most important thing in our lives. When we become aware of it, we realize that we are all embraced by Amida Buddha's great compassion and salvation.

Shinran Shonin expressed this truth in his Hymns of the Pure Land Masters:

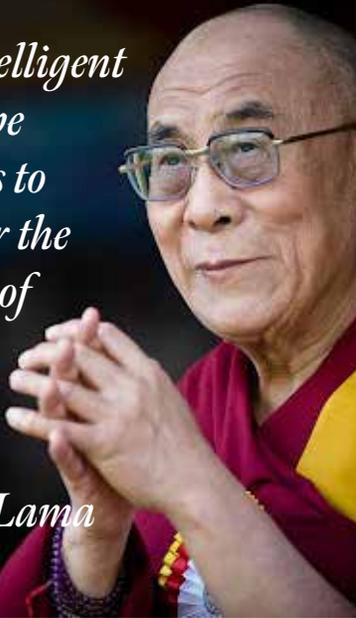
*"The ocean of birth-and-death, of painful
existence, has no bound;
Only by the ship of Amida's universal Vow
Can we, who have long been drowning,
Unfailingly be brought across it."*

— The Collected Works of Shinran, p. 363.

-- Namu Amida Butsu

The intelligent way to be selfish is to work for the welfare of others.

- The Dalai Lama



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

DONATIONS & VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Sharon Higa

Campus Maintenance:

Richard & Amy Blue, Cub Scouts, FT, Eric Ikeuchi, Mike Nishimoto, Ed & Joan Tamori

Office Help:

Margaret Honda, Machiko Moriyasu, Celeste Rabang, Nancy Shimoda, Toshiko Sugiki, Grace Taguchi, Mary Tokumaru, Linda Ann Unemori

Sunday Service Music:

Dharma Strummers, Minae Murakami, Dale Sugiki

Tech Support:

Julie Petro, Danny Topp, Donna Ikeuchi

Temple Maintenance:

Jeral & Karlynn Fukuda, Margaret Honda, HOSHA Gang, Calvin & Terri Kaneda, Carol Mae Kurisu, Machiko Moriyasu, Nancy Shimoda, Ed & Joan Tamori

Temple Wish List Items:

Cora Cabral, Frank Hamasaki, Burt Hayase, Leonard & Pat Tomita, Hawaii Kyoikukai

EXPRESSIONS OF DANA

WITH GRATITUDE

EITAIKYO

Miyoko Arakaki
Randy & Patti Endo
Ethel Fujii
Lydia Furomoto
Brian & Robyn Garner
Paul & Susan Gushiken
Karen Higa
Dennis & Myra Hinahara
Roy & Gwen Hiraga
Shelley Ann Honda
Nolan & Merle Ideoka
Eric & Cathy Ikeuchi
Molly Imoto
Gail Kushiya
Alan Miyazaki
Morris Morihoro
Machiko Moriyasu
Ryan Nagoshi
Ruth Nakasone
Eleanor Nishida
Linda Nishida
Richard Ouchi
Janet Saito
Alan Sato
Linda Shibano
Toshiko Sugiki
Lynn Tadakuma
Lois Tambalo
Mary Tamiko Tokumaru
Sarajeon Tokunaga
Leonard & Patricia Tomita
Frederick & Arlene Toyama
Patricia Toyama
Gregg Wada
Lydia Yamaguchi
Lance & Lynn Yamauchi

GRADUATES' BANQUET

Franklin & Guy Hamasaki-
Sponsoring:
Dominic Rabang
Eric & Cathy Ikeuchi -
Sponsoring:
Aeva Gomes
Roy & Gwen Hiraga
Hideo & Joyce Kawahara
Ed & Joan Tamori -
Sponsoring:
Jaelyn Fukuda

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Eric & Cathy Ikeuchi

KYODAN

Hideo & Joyce Kawahara - *In memory of Yukie Kawahara*
Cory & Eri Nomura
Richard Ouchi - *In memory of Kosaku Ouchi*
Erwin Sodetani & Aimee Sodetani-Shibata - *In memory of Jonathan Sodetani*
Raymond & Betty Toyama - *In memory of Kristi Shintaku*
Wailuku Hongwanji BWA

NOKOTSUDO

Robert & Karen Griffon - *In memory of Ogawa Family*
Stan Higashi - *In memory of Thomas Higashi & Family, and Jack Hiraoka & Family*
Roy & Gwen Hiraga
Mark & Judith Madden - *In memory of Carol Fukagawa Madden*
Kenneth Oishi - *In memory of Seichi & Yukino Oishi*
Lee Seki - *In memory of Seki Family*

SPRING OHIGAN

Ethel Fujii
Ed Fujinaka
Lydia Furomoto
Paul & Susan Gushiken
Ronald Hamai & Gail Iwamoto-Hamai
Roy & Gwen Hiraga
Sandra Hirata
Margaret Honda
Eric & Cathy Ikeuchi
Ritsuko Lana Kato
Hideo & Joyce Kawahara
Janet Kubota
Tamara Manley
Machiko Moriyasu
Gary & Jacqueline Murai
Dennis Ouchi
Richard Ouchi
Linda Shibano
Dale Sugiki
Toshiko Sugiki
Florence Tanaka
Mary Tamiko Tokumaru
Linda Ann Unemori
Leslie & Ryoko Ushiro
Shinyei Yogi
Elaine Yokoyama

CALLS TO CARE

Invitations to Practice Compassion in Action

*Dana * Compassion * Service*



Requesting Sponsors and Donations for 2026 Graduate's Banquet

The Wailuku Hongwanji Mission 2026 Banquet will be held at Maui Lemongrass Asian Cuisine,

in Kahului on April 29, 2026. We have 11 known graduates. 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.

Schedule Your Obon Mairi Home Visit

Rev. Shinkai Murakami will begin Obon Mairi (Obon home visitation) for Wailuku Hongwanji members starting Monday, June 1. Members wishing to receive a home Obon service are encouraged to contact Rev. Murakami at (808) 244-0406 to arrange a convenient date and time. Obon Mairi is part of the Buddhist Obon tradition of remembering and honoring our ancestors. During this time, Rev. Murakami visits members' homes to conduct a service at the family altar and offer gratitude for those who came before us. Members are kindly asked to clean their butsudan (family altar) and prepare fresh flowers in advance of the service.

Join the Fun and Support WHM Chow Fun at Maui Matsuri

Wailuku Hongwanji will be selling its popular chow fun at the Maui Matsuri Festival on Saturday, May 23, from 3:00 p.m.

to 9:00 p.m. at the University of Hawai'i—Maui College courtyard.

Tickets are \$15.00 per quart and may be purchased from members of the temple's affiliate organizations or at the Temple Office. Affiliate organizations include Troop 40, Pack 40, 4-H Club, and the Judo, Kendo, and Karate groups. Please note that tickets purchased through the Temple Office must be paid for at the time of purchase and cannot be held by phone. Chow fun may be picked up at the UH—Maui College courtyard anytime during the festival.

Volunteers are also needed to help prepare ingredients and cook chow fun. If you are able to assist on May 23, please contact the Temple Office at (808) 244-0406.

Krispy Kreme Fundraiser

Support Wailuku Hongwanji while enjoying a sweet treat! Krispy Kreme fundraising cards are available at the temple office for \$25.

Each card allows you to buy one dozen donuts and receive one dozen Original Glazed free, up to 10 free dozens total (limit 3 free dozens per visit).

Pick up a card for yourself, share with friends, or give one as a gift. Every purchase helps support our temple programs and activities.

April Hoji Memorial Services

1st Year - 2025

- 8th - Kazuo Koyanagi (WA GEN)
- 23rd - Itsue Hanada (E GAN)

3rd Year - 2024

- 8th - Yukie Ng (KO SEN)

7th Year - 2020

- 1st - Patrick Makoto Murakami (JO SHO)

13th Year - 2014

- 7th - Penny Lou Kyoko Endo (KYO DO)
- 24th - Arai Harue Kono (SHUN DO)

17th Year - 2010

- 24th - Fusae Shibano (SHO JO)

25th Year - 2002

- 9th - Yoshime Tanouye (KYO DOU)
- 14th - Yoshie Yoshimori (E JITSU)

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

CALLS TO CARE Cont.

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 Needed: KHM Preschool Flood Damage Recovery

We have received word that Kahului Hongwanji Mission Preschool experienced flooding and sustained damage to their facility. They are currently in need of replacement items, including bookshelves, gym mats, a sign-in desk, a 10x10 carpet, and other classroom essentials. If you have any of these items in good condition and are willing to donate, please contact KHM Preschool directly at (808) 877-7998.

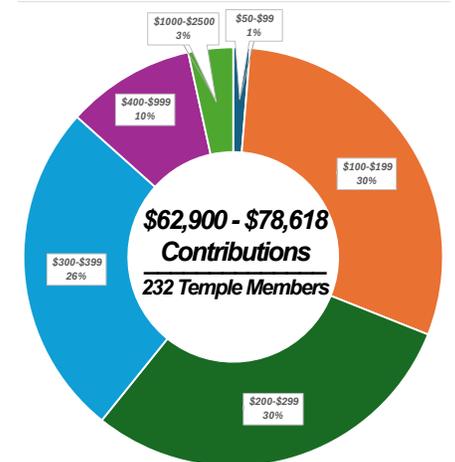
Purchase an Ad to Support the Jr. YBA Convention by April 1st

Everyone is invited to support the 69th Jr. YBA State Convention by purchasing an advertisement in the convention booklet, which will be distributed to convention attendees. Advertisements are also a great opportunity to share information about temple programs and activities. Temple groups may use this space to invite new members, highlight their activities, or promote opportunities for involvement. For example, ads could introduce groups such as BWA, Choir, Dharma School, or youth programs, or invite volunteers to assist with website support, Facebook outreach, media production, or other temple initiatives that can even be done remotely.

The deadline to submit an advertisement is April 1. Please see the ad form on page 14 of this newsletter. Please contact Convention Advisors Michelle Ojiri (808-268-6490, michellojiri@gmail.com) or Sandy Taniguchi (808-987-8326, sandytaniguchi@gmail.com) with any questions.

Sustaining Our Sangha: 2026 Gojikai 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. Gojikai 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

Scholarship

Opportunities for WHM's Graduating Seniors

Graduating high school seniors and college students whose parents are dues-paying members of

Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple are invited to apply for the Reverend Kunisaki Memorial Scholarship. Scholarship awards range from \$500 to \$1,000. Application forms are available at the temple office, and the **deadline to submit applications is Friday, May 1, 2026.**

The Kunisaki Scholarship provides financial assistance to qualified students and encourages them to pursue their educational goals beyond high school. The scholarship honors Reverend Hōjun Kunisaki, the first resident minister of Wailuku Hongwanji Mission, who served from 1898 to 1900.

The BWA Scholarship application form is also available at the temple office. The **deadline for submitting applications has been extended to April 15.** For more information, please contact Gwen Hiraga.

Troop 40 Meeting Time Change

Beginning May 2026, Troop 40 meetings will move from Thursday evenings to Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Temple Office Closed Wednesday, April 8th for Buddha Day

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

birth of Siddhartha Gautama, who later became known as the Buddha. After witnessing the suffering of the world, Siddhartha left his life of comfort to seek a deeper understanding of life's truth. Through meditation beneath the Bodhi tree, he attained Enlightenment and became known as the 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 appreciation for the Buddha's teachings of wisdom and compassion.

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/1ShOjYLZYUyD64LAKDY4mGvDAIpgITInA/view>

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>

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join Us for These
Special Events



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. For information, contact yesscamp@honpahi.org.

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!

5th Annual Maui Nui District Golf Tournament: April 25th

April 25th will be the 5th Annual Maui Nui District Golf Tournament. If anyone is interested in going or donating to the event, let Troop 40 know. It will be at the Maui Dunes and **registration must be completed by April 10** at www.scoutinghawaii.org/mauigolf. Proceeds support local Scout programs and Camp Maluhia on Maui!

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. There is no cost to attend.

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.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS Cont.

Join Us for These
Special Events



Maui United BWA Spring Assembly, April 18th

The Maui United Buddhist Women’s Association (MUBWA) Spring Assembly will be held on Saturday, April 18th, at 9:00am at Kahului Hongwanji Mission. BWA members from temples across Maui will gather for fellowship, discussion, and activities supporting the work of the BWA. Anyone interested in becoming part of the BWA are encouraged to contact the temple office to learn more about membership and the many ways BWA supports temple life, service, and fellowship throughout our

Celebrate Gotan-e Service on Sunday, May 10th

Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple will observe its annual Gotan-e Service, celebrating the birth of Shinran Shonin, on Sunday, May 10, at 9:00 a.m. Our resident minister, Rev. Shinkai Murakami, will share the Dharma message.

Gotan-e, meaning “birthday gathering,” commemorates Shinran Shonin, founder of Jōdo Shinshū, the Pure Land Buddhist tradition that emphasizes the path of the Dharma for ordinary people. The observance is also known as Fujimatsuri, or the Wisteria Festival.

The double-wisteria crest, the emblem of Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, symbolizes humility and reverence toward Amida Buddha. Like the cascading wisteria blossoms, it reminds us of Shinran Shonin’s spirit of gratitude and his wish to make the Dharma accessible to all.

Temple members and friends are warmly invited to attend this meaningful service.

Sangha * Dharma * Connection

2026 Graduate’s Banquet at Maui Lemongrass Asian Cuisine on April 29, 2026

The Wailuku Hongwanji Mission 2026 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 and have been extended invitations to the banquet:

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

If you know of other high school seniors with ties to our church, please email Joyce Chun at jchun.maui@gmail.com or call at (808) 250-0726 and text or leave a message; you may also contact Shelley Quipotla at shellquips@gmail.com.

Mother’s Day Brunch on Sunday, May 10th

Troop 40 Scouts will host a Mother’s Day Brunch on Sunday, May

10, immediately following the Gotan-e Service, which begins at 9:00 a.m. Scoutmaster Carl Yeh warmly invites temple members and friends to join in this special gathering honoring our mothers and grandmothers. The Kyodan Board of Directors extends its sincere appreciation to the Scouts for preparing this annual brunch for the temple membership and for their continued service to our Wailuku Hongwanji community.

UPCOMING EVENTS Cont.

Join Us for These
Special Events



Minister's Lay Assistant Retreat: October 17, 2026

Plans are underway for the Minister Lay Assistant Retreat on Maui, scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2026. The retreat will be held at the Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, with the temple reserved for the full day. (Final venue details to be confirmed.)

Reverend Kerry Kiyohara is coordinating the retreat. The day will include structured training, shared responsibilities, and opportunities for connection and learning.

In preparation for the district event, temple minister assistant training sessions will be offered twice a month at Makawao Hongwanji.

Further details are forthcoming. Please contact Reverend Kiyohara if you have questions or to express interest.

Other Community Events on Maui

April 3 | 6-9pm

Wailuku First Friday
Market Street

April 26 | 12am - 11:59pm

Maui Marathon
Westin Maui Resort & Spa

May 09 | 10am-1pm

Maui Matsuri Children's Festival
University of Hawaii
Maui College

May 23 | 3-9pm

Maui Matsuri
University of Hawaii
Maui College

September 11-12 | 4:30am - 9pm

Lights for Lahaina 2026
Maria Lanakila Catholic Church

Sangha * Dharma * Connection

**Fujimatsuri Festival at WHM
on Sunday, May 17th from
9am-1pm**

The Maui Hongwanji Council will host its annual Fujimatsuri (Wisteria Festival) on Sunday, May 17, at Kahului Hongwanji Buddhist Temple from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The day will begin with a service at 9:00 a.m., followed by games, entertainment, lunch, and fellowship in the social hall.

Sangha members and ministers from Kahului, Lahaina, Makawao, and Wailuku Hongwanji will gather for this island-wide celebration honoring Shinran Shonin, founder of Jōdo Shinshū Buddhism.

The wisteria flower, which represents our tradition and appears in the temple's crest, symbolizes humility and gratitude. We warmly invite our temple members and the Maui community to join us for this joyful celebration of Dharma, fellowship, and appreciation.

The Maui Hongwanji Council will host its annual Fujimatsuri (Wisteria Festival) on Sunday, May

Jr. YBA State Convention: June 19-21, 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.

**YBICSE From
June 30 - July 09, 2026 in
Japan**

The Young Buddhist International Cultural Exchange (YBICSE) will be held from June 30 to July 9, 2026, in Osaka, Kyoto, and Hiroshima, Japan. The program is open to high school graduates under the age of 24. Five participants will be selected to attend along with Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata as the minister advisor. The program includes a visit to our main temple Honzan, historical founder sites around Kyoto, Peace Tour in Hiroshima, and fellowship opportunities with other youth from the US mainland, Canada, South America, and Japan. The estimated cost is \$2000, and the application deadline is April 25.

The Young Buddhist International Cultural Exchange (YBICSE) will be held from June 30

TEMPLE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Paths of Learning

March Highlights from Gakuen & Preschool

Gakuen Gakugeikai 2026

Eri Nomura

Gakuen Gakugeikai was held on February 27 and was a wonderful evening, highlighted by our students' creative superhero-themed presentations. The evening was filled with laughter, applause, and the warmth of a shared potluck dinner. Mahalo nui to our parents for their generous donations of ono food, desserts, and drinks. We are deeply grateful for the dedication and care our teachers show to our students. Mahalo to Gakuen Director Murakami-sensei, Minae-sensei, and Keiko-sensei for their patience and commitment. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new teacher, Niko-sensei. Thank you for the love, guidance, and support you give our students every day and for helping make this event a success. Last but not least, mahalo to the students of Gakuen. The Gakugeikai performances were the culmination of many days of practice and hard work, and we are very proud of each of them.

During the opening remarks, we also shared a brief piece of history highlighted in the most recent issue of Friend of the Dharma. The article notes that Mr. Hamasaki discovered a document describing the early development of the temple, an important part of the story of Wailuku Hongwanji Gakuen. According to the record, the Gakuen was established in 1906 so that keiki could learn to read and write in Japanese. This history reflects the dedication of ministers, temple members, parents, teachers, and community members who came together to build the Gakuen and create programs for youth. Their commitment ensured that keiki would have a welcoming place to learn and stay connected to their language and culture. Because of their dedication, we are able to continue gathering and celebrating events like Gakugeikai today. What began more than 100 years ago continues through our students, who carry this story forward. Mahalo to the parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, teachers, and ministers who continue to nurture and carry this legacy forward for future generations.

Mochi, Gardens, and Stories

Jody Fuentes

Children enjoyed a lively Girl's Day mochi tasting, where they learned about Hinamatsuri, practiced table manners and explored textures and tastes; they also spent time working in our garden- preparing soil, planting seeds and observing early sprouts - to build responsibility and curiosity about nature. During visits with Sensei, students practiced listening skills, engaged in storytelling. A visit from MAPA featuring the Birds of a Feather performance brought movement and interactive participation that encouraged cooperation and confidence. As spring break approaches, families are encouraged to enjoy outdoor exploration, and our Nihongo lessons will continue afterward with songs, games and themed vocabulary to reinforce conversational basics and cultural understanding.



YOUTH PROGRAMS SPOTLIGHT

Growing Together

March Activities from 4-H



Hands to Help, Hearts to Share

Sammy Takamura

Our Shining Stars visited the Maui Alpaca Farm in January. They learned how the Alpaca's fur is made into yarn and even fed the female and baby

Alpacas at the farm. In February, the Shining Stars learned how their hands are used for service and how they can spread love, peace and harmony in our Maui community. They learned the Love, Peace and Harmony song. They even learned the hand motions for the words and how to write love peace and harmony in Japanese calligraphy.

In February, the Aloha Girl's had fun painting flower pots and planting flower plants in them. Their individual designs best represented their unique personalities! After the flower pots were completed, Auntie Farron provided a sample Teach-in presentation on "No Bake Energy Bites." The girls practiced reading the script, organizing and reviewing each ingredient and required amounts, mixing the ingredients together, forming the final product, and best of all, eating them!



Green Hongwanji Committee

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.

P.S. 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.

YOUTH PROGRAMS SPOTLIGHT

Growing Together

March Activities from the Scouts



Pack 40 Activities

Paul Petro

This month many Pack 40 members attended an Aloha Council Brunch honoring Pack Master of the year - Paul Petro.

We held our knots, rockets and flags activities. Pack 40 learned to tie essential knots, learned about flag care and etiquette, and experimented with sodium bicarbonate fueled rockets.



Upcoming Events for Troop 40

Celeste Rabang

We have started our Cooking Merit badge where the scouts will learn about nutrition, prep work and how to cook meals. Scouts will also start the Personal Fitness merit badge. These badges are both required to earn the rank of Eagle.

Scouts will be hiking and camping in Poli Poli to prepare for their 20 mile hike and camp in Haleakala in July.

Troop 40 will man the first aid tent for the Hanamatsuri as well as assist the cubscouts Blue and Gold program.



ADULT ORGANIZATIONS SPOTLIGHT

Walking the Path

Reflections and Activities from the BWA and Temple Affiliate Groups



Moments Shared as a Sangha *Gwen Hiraga*

The BWA held its General Membership meeting on March 8th. Prior to the meeting, and at the church service, the BWA made its presentation of appreciation and gratitude to our church organists Minae Murakami and Dale Sugiki. During the BWA meeting, presentations were made to the Kyodan (President Gary Murai and Vice President Luly Unemori), office staff (Franklin Hamasaki and Sharon Higa) and BWA chefs (Paul

Gushiken, Richard Ouchi and Fred Toyama). We are truly grateful for the dedicated efforts and support received throughout the year. The BWA will continue its recognition and presentations in April and May.

Upcoming events and activities are the BWA State Conference on March 28-29, 2026, as well as the Central Maui Hanamatsuri on April 5th, WHM Hanamatsuri on April 12th, the Maui United BWA Spring Assembly on April 18th, and the BWA Eshinni & Kakushinni Service on April 19th. The next BWA General Membership meeting is scheduled for April 12th.

Happy Birthday to our members born in April: Gail Kushiya and Cheryl Takamiya.



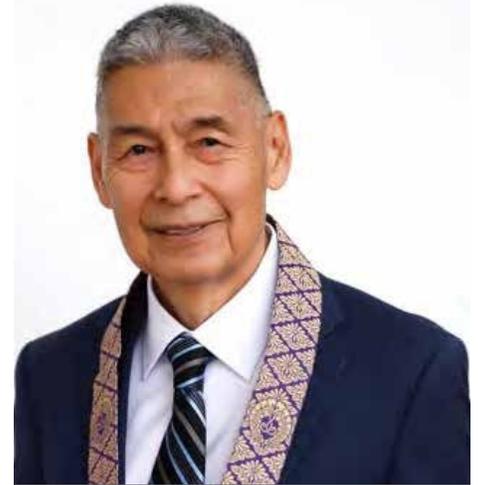
Easy Pickled Cucumbers Courtesy of Elaine Akashi



Cut three (3) Japanese Cucumbers into bite size pieces and place in a gallon size Ziploc bag.

Toss ¾ tbsp salt, 1 tbsp Japanese vinegar and a little less than ½ cup sugar into the bag with cucumbers. Optional: slice twenty (20) or more Shiso leaves and add to bag.

Close bag completely and shake all ingredients until cucumbers are coated completely. Let cucumbers rest then shake many times until sugar and salt are dissolved. Let sit in refrigerator overnight.



HMMH Welcomes New Kyodan President

During the 114th Giseikai, the slate of officers, Advisors, and Directors for 2026 was approved by unanimous consent, and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i welcomed Mr. Michael Munekiyo as the new statewide Kyodan President.

Mr. Munekiyo has been active at Wailuku Hongwanji since returning to Maui in the late 1980s. He served as Temple President from 1992–1993, 1999–2000, and 2013–2025.

At the statewide level, he has served as a Director and Advisor on the HMMH Board, chaired the Research and Planning Central Committee, and currently serves on the Bylaws Committee. He also leads the Ad Hoc Lahaina Hongwanji Recovery and Rebuilding Committee, guiding the planning process to rebuild Lahaina Hongwanji.

The HMMH and its members extend a warm welcome to Mr. Munekiyo as he assumes this leadership role and express sincere appreciation to Dr. Warren Tamamoto, who completed six years of dedicated service as President.



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

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

Maui Hongwanji Choir

Looking for New Members

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

Preschool

Jody Fuentes | (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

Troop 40

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

BWA (Accepting New Members)

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

Pack 40

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

April / May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 BWA Hoshia Day BWA ACCW Delv. 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 YESS Camp	6 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	7 6:00pm Cubs - Social Hall	8 Buddha Day (Office Closed) 5:30pm Obon Pract 7pm Conf. Rm. Rent.	9 7pm Troop Mtg	10	11 Gakuen Cultural Day (Undo Kai - Filed Day)
12 8am WHM Hanamatsuri & Infant Pres. Service 9:30am BWA mtng.	13 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	14	15 BWA Scholarship Applications Due 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom	16 BWA ACCW Delv. 7pm Troop Mtg.	17	18 9am MUBWA Spring Assm at KHM 1pm Cubs Blue & Gold Award BSC Spring Festival Conf. Rm Rental
19 8am BWA Eshinni & Kakushinni Sunday Service 11am Cubs Conf. Rm 1-3pm 4-H Conf. Rm	20 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm MHC Mtg @ WHM	21 6:30pm Cubs Meeting	22 Earth Day	23 7pm Troop Mtg.	24	25 BWA Eshinni Day / Peace Day
26 8am Family Serv. Youth Choir Social Hall Rental	27 5:15pm Dharma Strummers	28 6:30pm Cubs Meeting	29 5:30pm Graduate Banquet at Maui Lemongrass	30 7pm Troop Mtg.	1 Rev. Kunisaki Mem. Scholarship Applications Due	2 Dharma School Teachers Retreat
3 8am Sunday Serv.	4 Central Maui Hanamatsuri Assn Eval Mtng. 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	5	6 Social Hall Rental	7 BWA Hoshia Day BWA ACCW Delv.	8	9 10am-1pm Maui Matsuri Children's Festival at UHMC
10 8am Gotan-e & Mother's Day Serv. 9:30am BWA mtng.	11 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	12	13 Gakuen Cultural Day 5:30pm Obon Pract	14	15 PBA Baccalaureate Ceremony	16 8:30am Preschool Graduation
17 9am Fujimatsuri 10:30am-12pm 4-H Conf. Rm 11am Cubs Conf. Rm	18 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	19	20	21 Shinran Shonin's Birthday (Gotan-e) BWA ACCW Delv.	22	23 9am Troop 40 Flag Placing 3-9pm Maui Matsuri & Chow Fun Sale at UHMC
24 8am Memorial Day Service & DS Recognition Day	25 8:30am Memorial Day Service at Makawao Vet. Cm. Office Closed 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	26 6:30pm Cubs Meeting	27 Gakuen Awards Night	28 Last Day for DOE	29 Sanmu Mtg and Sanmu-Kanji Mtg.	30 Board of Directors Mtg
31 8am Family Service						