



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

FRIEND OF THE DHARMA



WAILUKU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
A JODO SHINSHU COMMUNITY TEMPLE



Volume 63

July 2026

<https://wailukuhongwanji.org>



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**Preschool Closure
Due to Storm Damage**

WAILUKU HONGWANJI MISSION
1828 Vineyard Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

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



Contact Info

 1828 Vineyard Street, Wailuku, HI 96793
 (808) 244-0406
 whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

TEACHINGS OF THE NEMBUTSU

Rejoicing in the Spiritual Joy of the Obon Service

Reverend Shinkai Murakami

Namo Amida Butsu --

Since the beginning of June 2026, the Obon season has already begun here on our beautiful island of Maui. People of all ages—young and old, men and women, visitors and locals—are enjoying this meaningful summer tradition. From the perspective of a Hongwanji minister, there are several ways to understand the meaning of Obon, depending on the various Buddhist traditions.

The origin of Obon comes from the Sanskrit word Ullambana, which means “to hang upside down.” Let me share the well-known story associated with this teaching.

One of Shakyamuni Buddha’s great disciples, Maudgalyayana (Moggalana), lost his kind and devoted mother. After her passing, he wondered where she had been reborn. He deeply believed that his mother had always been loving and selfless, caring for him and providing everything he needed.

One evening, using his spiritual powers, Moggalana searched for his mother. To his sorrow, he discovered that she had been reborn in the realm of hungry spirits. He tried with all his strength to rescue her, but despite his efforts, he could not save her. Feeling helpless and filled with sorrow, he went to seek guidance from the Buddha.

The Buddha said, “On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, make offerings to the Sangha who have just completed their summer practice. Through this act, your mother will be saved.”

Following the Buddha’s guidance, Moggalana made sincere offerings with a heart of gratitude and respect. Through this act of filial devotion and the merits it generated, his mother was liberated and reborn into a better realm.

From this story, the Obon tradition began as a time to remember and express gratitude to our ancestors and loved ones.

During the summer, many Buddhist temples observe special memorial services, including Hatsubon, the first Obon for those who have recently passed away. Outside of the Hongwanji tradition, some temples write the names of the deceased on wooden tablets, float lanterns or boats on the ocean, or conduct special rituals for various objects, such as needles or vegetables. These practices arise from the

deep wish of family members to honor and remember their loved ones. They are expressions of filial piety and gratitude.

However, as I mentioned, within the Honpa Hongwanji tradition, we do not place emphasis on such rituals. Why is this so?

In our tradition, Obon and Hatsubon services are not performed solely for the sake of the deceased. Rather, they are precious opportunities for us, the living, to encounter the Nembutsu teaching—the great wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha, also known as Other Power. Through these services, we come to deeply realize the truth of impermanence while, at the same time, awakening to the compassionate embrace of Amida Buddha.

Amida Buddha’s guidance teaches us to see life as it truly is. During Obon services, we listen to the Dharma and reflect on the lives of those who have passed before us. Although they are no longer physically present, their love, memories, and influence continue to live within us, guiding us along the path of truth. In this way, Obon becomes a meaningful time for families to gather, express gratitude, and deepen their connection to the Buddha’s teaching.

Flowers eventually fade, yet they leave behind seeds that give rise to new life. In the same way, our loved ones may pass on, but the precious gifts they have given us—their love, care, and memories—continue to live in our hearts. Someday, we too will pass on, and our children and grandchildren will carry forward what they have received from us.

The Hongwanji understanding of Obon reminds us that this is a wonderful opportunity to encounter the compassionate guidance of Amida Buddha. It is a time not only of remembrance, but also of spiritual joy and awakening.

Let us warmly welcome the Obon service with gratitude and joy.

-- 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.

--Namoda Amida Butsu

GENEROSITY & SERVICE

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, Mary Tokumaru, Linda Ann Unemori

Sunday Service Music:

Dharma Strummers, Dale Sugiki, Minae Murakami

Tech Support:

Julie Petro, Danny Topp, Donna Ikeuchi

Temple Maintenance:

Clifford & Geraldine Beppu, Jeral & Karlynn Fukuda, Margaret Honda HOSHA Gang, Terri Kaneda, Jeanette Kozuki, Carol Mae Kurisu, Machiko Moriyasu, Nancy Shimoda, Ed & Joan Tamori

Temple Wishlist Items:

Terri Kaneda, Leonard & Pat Tomita, Gail Tagashira, Anonymous, Linda Unemori, Hamasaki Family - *In memory of Grace Hamasaki*

EXPRESSIONS OF DANA

WITH GRATITUDE

GOTAN-E

Kawika & Krystle Beauchamp
Betsy N. Cardoza
Ethel Fujii
Lane & June Fujii
Ed Fujinaka
Lydia Furomoto
Paul & Susan Gushiken
Grace & Teri Hamasaki
Troy Hashimoto
Sandra K. Hirata
Margaret T. Honda
Eric & Cathy Ikeuchi

Ritsuko Lana Kato
Janet Kubota
Gary & Jacqueline Murai
Dennis Ouchi
Richard E. Ouchi
Linda T. Shibano
Dale Sugiki
Toshiko Sugiki
Edward & Joan Tamori
Leonard & Patricia Tomita
Linda Ann Unemori
Shinyei Yogi

GRADUATES' BANQUET

Michael Munekiyo -
Sponsored Naia Kaulukukui
Grant & Joyce Chun
Alvin & Martha Fukunaga
Hideo & Joyce Kawahara -
Sponsored Aaron Omuro
Takashi Omuro
WHM Troop 40

KYODAN

Hideo & Joyce Kawahara - *In memory of Wesley Wong Jr.*
Michael Tanoue - *In memory of Harry Norio Tanoue, and Koichi & Umeno Tanoue*
Irene Walter - *In memory of Fred Topp, Father of Danny Topp*
Unknown Donor

HANAMATSURI

Jeremy & Farron Cabral

OFFERTORY

Roy & Gwen Hiraga
Leonard & Patricia Tomita

SOCIAL HALL REPAIRS

Glenn Tamura - Tamura Charitable Foundation

SOCIAL CONCERN

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii - Omimai Preschool
Yukimi Shoda
Unknown Donor

OFUSE

Calvin & Kayoko Endo - *In memory of John Okamura*
Ryan Nagoshi & Patti Ann Level - *In memory of Yvonne Nagoshi*
Nelson & Jennifer Okamura - *In memory of John Okamura*
Leslie & JoAnn Kono - *In memory of Jiro & Harue Kono*
Thomas & Winona Lau Hee - *In memory of Eddie Ansai*
Dennis Pitkin - *In memory of Mary Tomokiyo Pitkin, and Joan Tomokiyo*
Linda Shibano - *In memory of Tom Shibano*
Rene Shimoda - *In memory of Stella Lum*
Allan Smith Sr. & Linda Smith - *In memory of Yoshime Tanouye*
Teri Wong - *In memory of Kesajiro Ogawa*
Jodi & James Yamagata - *In memory of Elaine Yamagata*

EXPRESSIONS OF DANA***WITH GRATITUDE (continued)*****Maui Matsuri: A Celebration Made Possible by Many Hands**

The Maui Matsuri Chow Fun Committee extends its heartfelt appreciation to all temple members and affiliate organizations who contributed to this year's event at the UH Maui Campus on May 23rd. From selling tickets and preparing ingredients to cooking, packing, and serving, every act of service helped make the day a success.

Special mahalo goes to the members of the BWA for preparing chow fun ingredients, including green onions and pork hash, and to the cooking and packing crews who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. The committee also extends sincere appreciation to volunteers from Troop 40, Pack 40, Preschool, Judo Club, Sakura 4-H, and the Wailuku Hongwanji Sangha who generously donated their time and energy.

An exceptional mahalo goes to the volunteers who staffed the chow fun booth throughout the event, greeting customers with warm smiles and the spirit of hospitality. Maui Matsuri reminds us that a strong community is built not by a few people doing everything, but by many people each contributing in their own way. The committee cherishes the generosity and commitment shown by everyone who helped make this another successful fundraiser and joyful expression of our temple community. Mahalo for your continued support and kokua.

A Message of Gratitude from Our Board Chair

Board Chair, Gary Murai, extends his heartfelt gratitude to the Sangha and our affiliate organizations for the many years of dedication, hard work, and generosity that have made Obon such a cherished event. He also invites all members, longtime supporters, families, and first-time volunteers, to help make Obon 2026 another joyful success. The many activities that take place before and after Obon require helping hands, while offering an opportunity to build friendships. Together, we continue the traditions entrusted to us and create memories for future generations. Mahalo for your continued support and kokua.

Making Every Gift Count

Every gift to Wailuku Hongwanji, large or small, is an expression of dana and an investment in our temple community. Your generosity helps sustain our programs, maintain our facilities, and ensure that future generations can continue to learn, gather, and grow together. The temple office would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued financial support. Whether your donation is given personally or through an employer-sponsored giving program, we deeply appreciate your commitment to our Sangha.

Occasionally, however, we receive donations that arrive without enough information to identify the donor or the intended purpose of the gift. Some checks include only a code number or a general description, while others are issued through banks, investment companies, or employer giving programs that do not provide the donor's name. Because of privacy policies, these institutions are often unable to share donor information with us unless arrangements have been made in advance.

When we are unable to identify the donor or the purpose of a gift, we must record the contribution as anonymous and deposit it into the temple's general Kyodan account. These funds are used to support essential expenses such as utilities, payroll, repairs, and office operations. While we are grateful for every donation, we regret that we may be unable to honor your intended designation or provide proper acknowledgment. You can help us ensure that your generosity is recorded accurately by notifying the temple office if you plan to make a donation through a bank, investment company, or employer-sponsored giving program.

Please share:

- The name of the institution issuing the donation
- The approximate amount and date of the contribution
- The intended purpose of the gift, such as Membership Dues (Gojikai), Building Fund, Nokotsudo, Eitaikyo, or another designation

This information allows us to properly record your donation, direct it to the programs and services you wish to support, and provide a receipt for your records. Thank you for helping us care for our temple community and for your continued generosity.

For questions or to notify the office of an upcoming donation, please contact us at (808) 244-0406.

CALLS TO CARE

Invitations to Practice Compassion in Action

*Dana * Compassion * Service*



Preparing for Obon Together

Every lantern hung, every floor swept, and every flower arranged is an offering of gratitude to the generations who built our temple and to those who will follow us. Temple members, friends, and affiliate organizations are warmly invited to participate in our annual Yagura Setup and Temple Cleanup on **Sunday, July 19, beginning at 8:00 a.m.**

This annual tradition is an opportunity to care for our temple together and prepare a welcoming space for everyone who gathers during Obon. Whether you have been helping for decades or are joining for the first time, there is a place for you. Families, young adults, and longtime members are all encouraged to participate.

Participants are encouraged to bring tools, rags, newspapers, and any other supplies that may be helpful. Work assignments have been coordinated with our affiliate organizations, but volunteers are always welcome wherever help is needed. General Cleanup Chair Eric Ikeuchi and Board Chair Gary Murai extend their sincere gratitude to everyone who contributes their time, energy, and spirit of service.

Together, we can make Obon a joyful celebration for our entire community. For more information, please contact the temple office at (808) 244-0406.

Organizations	Assigned Areas of Work	Chairperson
BWA	Temple and Nokotsudo (Columbarium)	Gwen Hiraga
Boy Scouts	Social Hall – Classrooms	Carl Yeh
Cub Scouts	Social Hall – Windows (Kaniela Street side) Ceiling Fans and Spot Cleaning Floors	Craig Senter
4-H Club	Social Hall – Windows (Courtyard side)	Samantha Takamura
Judo	Judo Hall	Ronald Hiyakumoto
Karate & Kendo	Karate/Kendo Hall	Ed Tamanaha and Ryan Nagata
Lunch	Dharma School	Joan Tamori and Sandy Hirata
Young Adults (need someone to climb the ladder to remove & replace filters)	Kitchen Filter Vents and Wok Area Remove, wash, dry, and replace filters. Wash and dry oily film from stainless steel walls by the oven and woks area.	Eric Ikeuchi

Help Light Up Obon

One of the most magical moments of Obon is watching the temple grounds come alive with glowing chochins and strings of lights as families and friends gather together. You can help make that happen!

The Decoration Committee invites volunteers to join us on **Thursday, July 30, beginning at 4:30 p.m.**, to help hang lights and chochin lanterns, move benches, and arrange tables and chairs in the Social Hall.

These tasks are expected to take about an hour and a half, and no special experience is necessary. It is a wonderful opportunity to work alongside fellow Sangha members, meet new friends, and help create the warm atmosphere that has made Obon such a beloved tradition.

Whether you can stay for the entire evening or lend a hand for a short time, your help is greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact the temple office at (808) 244-0406.

Help Beautify the Temple

Donations of flowers and volunteers to assist with arrangements are always welcome. Please contact the temple office at (808) 244-0406.

Sharing Hospitality During Obon

The Obon Committee is seeking donations to help provide refreshments for dancers, volunteers, and guests during this year's Obon festivities. Your generosity helps create the spirit of hospitality that helps ensure that everyone feels cared for. If you would like to make a donation or learn more about how you can help, please contact the temple office at (808) 244-0406. Mahalo for your continued support.

CALLS TO CARE *(continued)*

Invitations to Practice Compassion in Action

*Dana * Compassion * Service*

Bringing Obon Home

Rev. Shinkai Murakami will continue offering Obon Mairi services for Wailuku Hongwanji members through the end of August. Obon Mairi is a home service held before the family altar, or butsudān. Members are encouraged to prepare their butsudān with fresh flowers and gather together as a family. To schedule an Obon Mairi service, please contact the Temple Office at (808) 244-0406.

Closing the Circle of Obon

Obon is a joyful gathering made possible by many hands. Immediately following the last Obon dance on **Saturday, August 1**, volunteers are invited to help dismantle lights and chochins and return the yagura to its storage location. Cleanup will begin at approximately **10:15 p.m.**

Additional volunteers are also needed on **Sunday, August 2, beginning at 7:30 a.m.**, to help clean the temple grounds and return supplies to their storage areas.

These moments of service are an important part of the Obon tradition. By caring for our temple together, we honor the generosity of those who came before us and help ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy this special celebration. Everyone is welcome, and every helping hand makes a difference. For more information, please contact the temple office at (808) 244-0406.

Preschool Closed for Summer Session

Jody Fuentes

We regret to report that the preschool sustained critical damage during the Kona Low storm. A leaking roof and moisture have affected the classroom, office, bathrooms, and kitchen walls. Because of these unsafe conditions, we cannot open for the Summer 2026 session, affecting 28 preschool families.

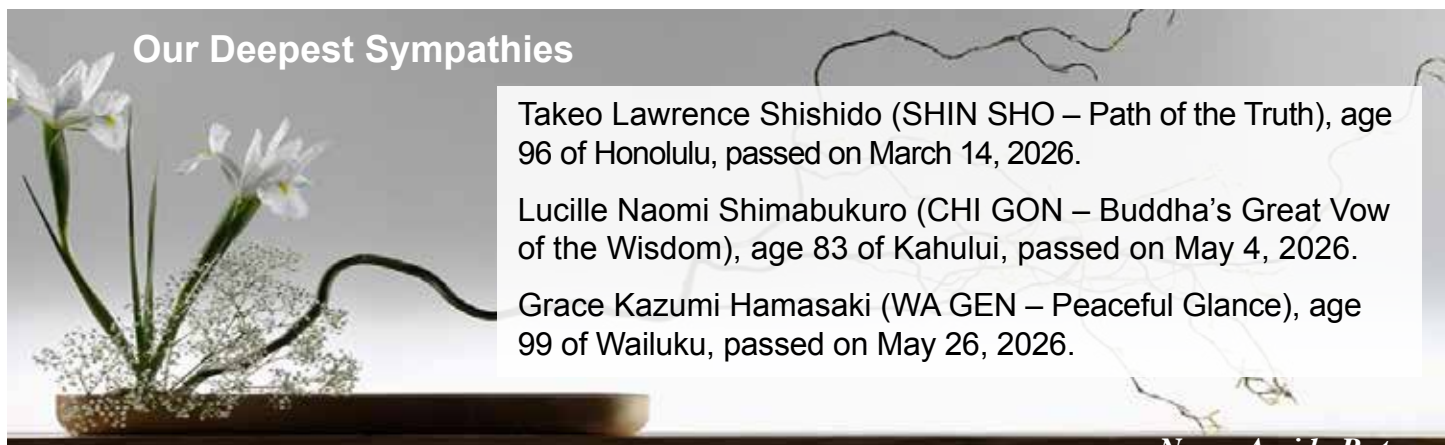
Although this has been a difficult and disappointing time, we are encouraged by the kindness and support we have received. We are working with the Wailuku community to secure a temporary site and plan to reopen in the fall with an expanded program serving 44 families. We are also arranging to relocate classrooms to St. Anthony School while repairs are completed.

We are deeply grateful to our temple members, preschool families, and community partners whose encouragement and support remind us that we are not facing this challenge alone.

In the months ahead, there will be many opportunities to help—from moving furniture and supplies to assisting with our transition back home. We appreciate your prayers, patience, practical support, and donations as we finalize relocation details and work toward reopening.

Together, we can create an even stronger preschool community for our keiki and families. For questions or to offer help, please contact: Jody L. Fuentes, Director at (808) 244-9545 or whpreschool808@gmail.com

Our Deepest Sympathies



Takeo Lawrence Shishido (SHIN SHO – Path of the Truth), age 96 of Honolulu, passed on March 14, 2026.

Lucille Naomi Shimabukuro (CHI GON – Buddha’s Great Vow of the Wisdom), age 83 of Kahului, passed on May 4, 2026.

Grace Kazumi Hamasaki (WA GEN – Peaceful Glance), age 99 of Wailuku, passed on May 26, 2026.

Namo Amida Butsu

CALLS TO CARE *(continued)*

Invitations to Practice Compassion in Action

*Dana * Compassion * Service*

Accessible Parking Available During Obon Handicap parking will be available in the back parking lot, accessible from the Mill Street entrance, during the Obon service and dance. Guests using handicap parking are asked to display their handicap placard or permit. Troop 40 will assist with parking and help ensure a smooth and safe experience for all. Please remove valuable items from your vehicle before arriving.

Temple Improvements & Ways to Help

Wailuku Hongwanji has always been cared for by members willing to share their time, talents, and ideas. You may see Fred Toyama tending to the minister's yard, taking out the trash, or helping wherever he is needed. Mike Nishimoto faithfully maintains several areas of the temple grounds, making sure our shared spaces remain safe and welcoming. Grace Taguchi has taken on the Nokotsudo project, helping preserve an important part of our temple's history for future generations. Others contribute in different ways. A few years ago, Sammy Takamura helped revive the Sakura 4-H Club. Today, the program is growing once again and giving young people opportunities to learn, serve, and build friendships through the temple community.

Throughout the year, there are many projects, large and small, that help keep our temple beautiful and welcoming. Some are already underway, while others are waiting for someone with the interest and energy to help make them happen.

Current Projects and Ways to Help

- Replace the light fixtures by the back door facing Vineyard St.
- Gardening and landscaping
- Painting and touch-up projects
- Sweeping walkways and outdoor cleanup
- Window washing
- Organizing storage areas
- Moving furniture and supplies
- Cleaning classrooms and meeting spaces
- Donating plants, tools, or supplies

Sometimes the best ideas come from members who see a need or imagine a new opportunity. If you have an idea, a skill, or simply a willingness to help, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the Board of Directors through the Temple Office at (808) 244-0406 to volunteer, donate, or learn more about current projects. Mahalo for helping make Wailuku Hongwanji a place we are all proud to call our temple home.

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. Please contact the temple office at (808) 244-0406 to drop off donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

- Forever postage stamps
- 33 Gal. Trash Bags
- 33 Gal. trash bags with draw string
- 18 Gal. Kitchen Trash bag with draw string
- Paper Towels
- Wooden Hashi (chopsticks)
- Napkins
- 9" Lunch plates
- Exam gloves (Med & XL)
- Quart size zip bags
- Drinking hot cups

Krispy Kreme Fundraiser

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). Every purchase helps support our temple programs and activities.

Final Commemorative Coin Available

The final coin in Wailuku Hongwanji Mission's five-coin commemorative series, Buddha Embraces All, has arrived. Only a few remain. To purchase a coin, please contact Danny Topp at (719) 200-7300 or wailukuhongwanjission@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Keeping Our Community Informed

Mindfulness * Responsibility * Gratitude

Hatsubon: A Joyful Gathering of Remembrance

Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple will hold Hatsubon (First Obon) Service on **Friday, July 31, and Saturday, August 1, beginning at 6:30 p.m.** Hatsubon is the first Obon observed after the passing of a loved one. It is a special opportunity for family and friends to come together in remembrance and gratitude. In the Jodo Shinshu tradition, Hatsubon is not only a time to mourn those who have passed, but also a time to recognize how their lives continue to embrace and guide us through their love, words, and deeds. Although the pain of loss remains, so do the precious memories and enduring influence of those we cherish. Through the Dharma, we are reminded to treasure each day and to live fully, appreciating the countless causes and conditions that make our lives possible. For this reason, Obon is also known as Kangi-e, or “Joyful Gathering.” It is a time to express gratitude, celebrate the bonds that continue beyond physical separation, and listen deeply to the Nembutsu teaching. The Obon dance will begin at **7:45 p.m.** All members and friends are warmly invited to attend.

Friday, July 31, 2026	
ICHIYAMA, Cary	June 1, 2025
TADAKUMA, Diane Aiko	August 28, 2025
ICHIKAWA, Ine	September 4, 2025
ROSE, Dewey Irvin	September 9, 2025
ICHIYAMA, Ralph	October 23, 2025
KANEDA, Calvin	November 18, 2025
INAMASU, Janet Midori	December 18, 2025
INAMASU, Harold Hachiro “Archie”	March 1, 2026
Saturday, August 1, 2026	
HIRATA, Edward Shoichi	June 7, 2025
OKUDA, Ronald	January 17, 2026
TONAI, Claire	February 4, 2026
TONAI, Harold	February 24, 2026
WONG, Wesley Hong Ching	March 8, 2026
SHISHIDO, Lawrence Takeo	March 14, 2026
SHIMABUKURO, Lucille Naomi	May 4, 2026
HAMASAKI, Grace Kazumi	May 26, 2026

Phishing Scam Alert

Our temple is again being targeted by phishing emails impersonating Rev. Shinkai Murakami. Emails are currently being sent from **senseirvdr@icloud.com**, which is not Rev. Murakami’s email. Rev. Murakami’s correct email is **shinkai528@gmail.com**. Do not reply or send money, gift cards, or personal information. Please report scam emails to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov and notify the temple office.

July Hoji Memorial Services

- 3rd Year - 2024**
- 28th - Joseph Fujio Yoda (AN RAKU)
- 7th Year - 2020**
- 2nd - Michie T. Sera (SEI GAN)
 - 8th - Geraldine Iwako Matsui
- 13th Year - 2014**
- 10th - Mamoru Fred Ogasawara (DAI SHO)
 - 30th - George Hiroshi Okuyama (KO GAN)
- 17th Year - 2010**
- 2nd - Maurice Satoshi Jo (Kyo Gaku)
 - 2nd - Rokuro Toba (CHI GEN)
- 25th Year - 2002**
- 3rd - Randy Taketa (JYO SHO)
 - 5th - Masayuki Taguchi (JYO KOU)
- 33rd Year - 1994**
- 22nd - Katsuyo Uno (TEI NIN)
 - 29th - Francis Fukunaga (SHO SHIN)
- 50th Year - 1977**
- 9th - Kameno Sugiki (MYO TAI)
 - 21st - Miyukichi Sawamoto (KAKU RYO)
- To schedule a memorial service, please contact the main office at (808) 244-0406, M-F 8am - 12pm.

SANGHA STEWARDSHIP

Shaping Our Temple's Future Together



Care * Planning * Growth

Memorial to Our Pioneers

If you visit Mililani Memorial Park, you will find a plaque titled "Memorial to Pioneers." It bears these words:

"In 1897, about 900 immigrants came from Japan to establish new lives in Hawaii on the sugar plantations. They overcame harsh living conditions to make better lives for their families and brought with them the Great Spiritual Treasure of Buddhism. Because of the Spiritual Treasure, they were able to live with endurance, and a caring attitude of helping others with compassion and love. It is their wish that we carry on - to live our lives with this guiding light, this Great Spiritual Treasure of Buddhism - and to spread that spirit of endurance and caring attitude of helping others with compassion and love, to all the people of the world."

The early Japanese pioneers who came to Hawai'i, including many who worked at the Wailuku Sugar Company plantation, faced long hours, difficult living conditions, and an uncertain future. Yet they persevered, sustained not only by hard work and determination, but also by the teachings of Buddhism. The Great Spiritual Treasure of Buddhism was not something they could hold in their hands, but something they carried in their hearts. It taught them endurance in difficult times, compassion for others, and gratitude for the preciousness of life. These values helped them support one another and build strong communities throughout Hawai'i.

Their message is not only about the past, it is also about us today. The pioneers hoped that future generations would continue to live by these values. They hoped we would carry forward their strength, kindness, and compassion, and share these gifts with others. As we gather during Obon and remember those who came before us, may we honor their struggles, celebrate their contributions, and strive to live with the same spirit of endurance, gratitude, and care for others.

Help Shape the Future of Our Sangha

Wailuku Hongwanji is seeking five delegates to represent our temple at the 63rd Annual Hawai'i State Lay Association Convention, to be held **September 18–19, 2026**, at Honolulu Betsuin and via Zoom. This year's theme is: "Embracing Change, Developing Strategies for a Stronger Sangha."

The Lay Association serves as the representative body of lay members throughout the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i. Delegates help support the principles of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, strengthen temple communities, and share ideas that help our Sangha grow and thrive.

If you have ever wondered how temples work together across Hawai'i, or if you would like to become more involved in the future of Wailuku Hongwanji, this is a wonderful opportunity to participate.

Fees, transportation, and lodging will be provided for delegates. Non-voting observer positions are also available. The registration deadline is Friday, **August 14, 2026**. All dues-paying members are encouraged to apply. Younger members and first-time attendees are especially welcome.

For more information or to register, please contact Gary Murai at (808) 344-7611, email garymurai@yahoo.com, or call the temple office at (808) 244-0406.

Growing Our Sangha

Wailuku Hongwanji Mission extends its warmest aloha and sincere welcome to Ian Fukuda and his son, Jaxon, as well as Dustin Kitagawa, as the newest members of our Sangha. Their decision to join reminds us that Wailuku Hongwanji is a place where friendships are formed, traditions are shared, and the Dharma guides us through life's joys and challenges. Members support temple programs and activities through annual gojikai dues and enjoy voting privileges, special rates for temple programs and facility rentals, and opportunities for service and fellowship. For information about membership, please contact the Temple Office at (808) 244-0406. Welcome to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join Us for These
Special Events



Sangha * Dharma * Connection

Kahuku Hongwanji Scholarship

The Kahuku Hongwanji Mission Scholarship continues the temple's legacy of supporting future generations of Hongwanji members. Two \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to full-time students enrolled in an accredited post-high school program in Hawai'i. Applicants must demonstrate interest in Buddhism and Hongwanji activities, maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA, and submit an essay titled "Dharma and My Life." Applications are available at honpahi.link/kahuku2k. Deadline: July 31, 2026.

Young Adults Retreat (YAR) 2026

YAR is a weekend retreat on September 6-7, 2026, for young adults ages 18–32 interested in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. This year's theme, Wabi-sabi, explores embracing life's imperfections. Rev. David Fujimoto of Moiliili Hongwanji will be the guest speaker. Registration is open now at tinyurl.com/HHMHYAR2026. Early registration through August 1 is \$40.

Zenshinza Performance in Hawai'i

ZENSHINZA, a professional theater group from Japan, will present Hana Kobushi—Shinran Shonin and Lady Eshinni at the Palikū Theatre at Windward Community College on September 3-4, 2026. The production tells the story of Shinran Shonin and Lady Eshinni and highlights the compassion and humanity of the Nembutsu teachings. Ticket information will be announced soon.

Hawai'i Island Nembutsu Seminar

The Big Island branch of the Commission on Buddhist Education will host the 2026 Hawai'i Island Nembutsu Seminar featuring Rev. Dr. Carmela Javellana-Hirano of Salt Lake Buddhist Temple from October 2-4, 2026. The weekend will include Dharma talks, talk story sessions, and family activities in Waimea and Hilo. Both in-person and Zoom options will be available.

Remembering Loved Ones During Obon

In observance of Obon, Rev. Shinkai Murakami will conduct memorial services at Makawao Veteran's Cemetery and Maui Memorial Park on **Wednesday, July 1**. The service at Makawao Veteran's Cemetery will begin at 3:00 p.m., followed by a service at Maui Memorial Park at 5:00 p.m.

Obon is a time to remember and express gratitude to those who came before us: our parents, grandparents, relatives, and all the countless people whose lives have touched our own. In the Jodo Shinshu tradition, memorial services are not only an opportunity to honor the deceased, but also a time for us, the living, to reflect on the many causes and conditions that support our lives. Through remembrance, we deepen our appreciation for the preciousness of life and the wisdom of the Dharma.

Members and friends with loved ones interred at either cemetery are warmly invited to attend. For more information, please contact the temple office at (808) 244-0406.

2027 Hongwanji Calendar Photo Submissions

The HHMH Calendar Committee invites members, Dharma friends, and affiliates to submit photos for the 2027 Hongwanji Calendar featuring the theme: Nurturing Nembutsu: Living Aloha. Submission deadline: September 14, 2026.

2026 Obon Schedule



Friday	Saturday	Temple	Service	Dance	Phone
	June 6	Puunene Nichiren Mission 9 Ani Street, Kahului	6:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	871-4831
June 19		Wailuku Jodo Mission 67 Central Avenue, Wailuku	6:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	244-0066
	June 20	Wailuku Shingon Mission 1939 North Street, Wailuku	6:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	244-3800
	June 27	Kahului Jodo Mission 325 Laau St., Kahului	6:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	871-4911
July 3	July 4	Open			
July 10	July 11	Mantokuji Mission of Paia Taiko Performance & Dance 253 Hana Highway, Paia	6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	No Dance 7:00 p.m.	579-8051
July 17	July 18	Kahului Hongwanji Mission 291 S. Puunene Ave., Kahului	6:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	871-4732
July 24	July 25	Makawao Hongwanji Mission 1074 Makawao Ave., Makawao	5:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	572-7229
July 31	August 1	Wailuku Hongwanji Mission 1828 Vineyard St., Wailuku	6:30 p.m.	7:45 p.m.	244-0406
August 7		Hale Makua, Kahului 472 Kaulana Street, Kahului,		6:30 p.m.	
Thursday, August 13		Hale Makua, Wailuku 1540 Lower Main Street, Wailuku		5:00 p.m.	
	August 8	Maui County Lahaina Community Event (TBC)			
August 14		Lahaina Shingon Mission 682 Luakini Street, :Lahaina	(No Service) {Dance Time 5:00 p.m. At Lahaina Jodo Mission, 12 Ala Moana Street, Lahaina		661-0466
		Lahaina Jodo Mission 12 Ala Moana St., Lahaina			661-4304
		Lahaina Hongwanji Mission 551 Wainee Street, Lahaina			661-0640
	August 15	Kula Shofukuji Mission 113 Puanani Place, Kula	6:00 p.m.		661-0466
	August 22	Paia Rinzai Mission 120 Alawai Rd, Paia, HI 96779	5:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	
August 28		Lanai Hongwanji Mission	6:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	
	August 29	1364 Fraser Place, Lanai City	7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	

Wednesday, July 1

- Obon Cemetery Services:**
- Services at Makawao Veterans' Cemetery at 3:00 p.m.
 - Services at Maui Memorial Park and Lahaina Japanese Cemetery at 5:00 p.m.

TEMPLE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Paths of Learning

Highlights from Dharma School, Preschool & Gakuen



Wailuku Hongwanji Dharma School Teachers. L to R: Laurie Fukushima-Tsai, Samantha Takamura, Shelley Quipotla, Sandra Hirata, Joan Tamori, and Rev. Shinkai Murakami. Also recognized but unable to attend: Julie Petro, Communications Coordinator. Dharma School teachers were also recognized and presented gifts by the BWA.

Good Job to Dharma School Students and Teachers! *Joan Tamori*

A heartfelt congratulations and thank you to our Dharma School students and teachers for their dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work throughout the 2025 – 2026 school year. Your efforts in learning, sharing, and living the Dharma help make our Dharma School a meaningful and vibrant place for everyone.

To our students, thank you for your participation, curiosity, and willingness to learn. Whether through lessons, crafts, service projects, singing, or special events, you have brought joy and

energy to our program. Your commitment to carrying out various temple service duties is admirable and appreciated. We challenge you to accept new experiences each year.

To our teachers, thank you for generously sharing your time, knowledge, patience, and guidance. Your commitment helps nurture the Dharma in the hearts and minds of our young people and inspires them to grow in kindness, gratitude, and compassion.

Together, students and teachers have helped create many wonderful memories and learning experiences. We are grateful for all that you do and look forward to another year of learning and growing together in the Dharma.



Dharma School students stand with their teachers and Rev. Shinkai Murakami. Students each received a certificate of achievement and a gift. L to R: Teacher Shelley Quipotla, Teacher Laurie Fukushima-Tsai, Teacher Sammy Takamura, Kellen, Sophia, Erik, Aaron, Risa, Jaxon, Heleonahe, Emma, Daryl, Rev. Murakami, Tate, Kamauoha, Cooper, Sam Marie, Teacher Sandy Hirata, and Teacher Joan Tamori. Students also recognized but unable to attend service: Caden, Logan, Cara, Kaden, Ryan, Ziva, Kora, Eva, June.

Jr. YBA Update

The Jr. YBA Sunday Service has been rescheduled to July 5. The group is also holding a Ronald McDonald Fundraiser. Coupon booklets are available for \$10. Mahalo for supporting our Jr. YBA members!



Preschool Hosted by Craft & Sewing Group

The Craft and Sewing Group hosted the Preschool teachers for lunch on June 4th.

Reminder: Gakuen Registration Is Open & Mahalo to Zenshin Daiko!

Eri Nomura

Registration for the upcoming school year is still open. Registration packets are available through the Wailuku Hongwanji Office. For more information, please contact Gakuen Director Murakami.

We look forward to welcoming both returning and new students to Gakuen next school year!

Mahalo to all of the Gakuen families who attended Zenshin Daiko's Annual Performance at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center (MACC) on June 27.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Zenshin Daiko for their generous and continued support of our Gakuen families over the past several years. Their kindness and dedication are deeply appreciated, and our Gakuen students and their families truly enjoyed the performance.

YOUTH PROGRAMS SPOTLIGHT

Growing Together

4-H and Scouting Activities in May



4-H Year-End Celebrations Sammy Takamura

In May, the Shining Stars 4-H Club visited Happy Trail Rides in Ha'ikū. They rode ponies, fed the horses hay, held the baby chicks, chickens, and guinea pigs, and brushed the ponies' fur and mane. They also celebrated their club year by having a potluck picnic there. They had so much fun taking turns and riding on the ponies around the forest trail.



The Aloha Girls had their year end celebration at Friends and Faire with Ms. Anastasia in May. They made resin shell wave art with honus. This art project went along with the girls' theme for the year of Flowers and Nature. Next year the Aloha Girls plan to have Art as their project so this was a great year-ending and segue into next year! Mahalo to our Wailuku Hongwanji Mission 'ohana for all your support through the year!



Troop 40 Activities Celeste Rabang

Troop 40 boy scouts held the annual crossover ceremony for Webelo II scouts at Camp Maluhia. Per Troop 40 tradition, they constructed a bridge out of guava sticks and rope, and the graduating Webelos scouts crossed the bridge over to boy scouts. We welcomed 14 new boy scouts: Jax, Ryan, Mason, Ethan, Lukie, Channing, Aaron, Graham, Kingston, Landon, Noah, and Uriah.



ADULT ORGANIZATIONS SPOTLIGHT

Walking the Path

Reflections and Activities from the BWA

BWA Moments *Gwen Hiraga*

The Buddhist Women's Association warmly welcomes its newest members who joined in May and June: Laura Echiverri, Claire Fujii-Krall, Gary Murai, Jan Owens, and Jeanne Smythe. We are grateful to have you as part of our BWA 'ohana.

The BWA also extends its sincere appreciation to the individuals who create the beautiful floral arrangements for our temple services and who faithfully assist with the monthly Hosha cleaning. Your dedication and care help make our temple a welcoming and inspiring place for all.

A limited number of books from the third, and final, printing of the 120th Anniversary Cookbook are still available. If you would like to purchase a copy, please contact Gwen Hiraga. Cookbooks will also be available for purchase at Obon while supplies last.

Please join us for the next BWA General Membership Meeting on July 12, immediately following the temple service. At this meeting, Mr. Danny Topp will present an introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and discuss how this rapidly evolving technology is shaping our world.

The BWA is also planning special food sales during July, including a tentative pre-Obon sale on July 12th & 26th. Selected handmade craft items, including bucket hats, tote bags, children's happi coats, pouches, and greeting cards may also be available.

Happy Birthday to our members celebrating birthdays in July: Joan Akai, Cora Cabral, Margaret Honda, Tamara Manley, Machiko Moriyasu, Jane Nishiguchi, Celeste Rabang, Phyllis Sato, Florence Tanaka, Dan Thompson, Judy Toba Stillwell, and Miki Tomita Okamoto. We wish you a year filled with good health, happiness, and many blessings.



Helping Hands Needed for Hosha Day & Omigaki

The BWA welcomes anyone interested in helping to assist with Hosha Day, held on the first Thursday of every month, and Omigaki, which will be held on **July 20th**. Volunteers of all ages are welcome, and no experience is necessary. Even a few hours of assistance can make a tremendous difference.

Omigaki is the careful cleaning and polishing of temple ornaments and furnishings. It is an important tradition that helps prepare the temple for services and special observances while honoring the generations who have cared for these sacred objects before us. Many of the temple ornaments are large and extremely heavy, and the dedicated members who faithfully perform this work each year would greatly appreciate additional helping hands.

If you are interested in helping, please contact the BWA Director through the Temple Office at (808) 244-0406.



Recognition of members who do the monthly Hosha (Toshiko, Janet and Brian) and weekly floral arrangements (Machiko, Margaret and Nancy).



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

(Accepting 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

BWA (Accepting New Members)

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

Judo Club

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

Jr. YBA (Accepting New Members)

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

Pack 40

Craig Senter | (808) 446-2526
whmpack40cubscouts@gmail.com

Troop 40

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

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 Fuentes

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

Submit to: robynmgarner@gmail.com

July / August 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 3pm Makawao Veterans' Cemetary 5pm Maui Memorial Park Obon Service	2 BWA Hoshu Day BWA ACCW Delv. Craft & Sewing Group	3 Independence Day Holiday - Office Closed	4 Independence Day
Young Buddhist International Cultural Exchange						
5 8am Jr. YBA Sunday Service	6 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	7	8 5:30pm Obon Pract	9 Craft & Sewing Group	10 6pm Paia Mantokuji Obon Service	11 Paia Mantokuji Obon 6pm Service 7pm Dance Social Hall Rental
Young Buddhist International Cultural Exchange						
12 8am Sunday Service 9:30am BWA Mtg	13 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	14 Young Buddhist International Cultural Exchange	15 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom	16 BWA ACCW Delv. Craft & Sewing Group	17 Kahului Hongwanji Obon 6pm Service 7:30pm Dance	18 Kahului Hongwanji Obon 6pm Service 7:30pm Dance 7:30pm Social Hall Rental
19 (No Service) 8am General Clean Up & Yagura Construction	20 8:30am Omigaki Project 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg. 7pm MHC Mtng @ WHM	21	22	23 Craft & Sewing Group	24	25 Kupuna Aloha Luncheon Makawao Hongwanji Obon 5pm Service 7pm Dance Social Hall Rental
26 8am Family Service	27 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	28 6:30pm Cubs Meeting	29	30 Craft & Sewing Group 4:30pm Obon Set-up	31 Wailuku Hongwanji Obon 6:30pm Service 7:45pm Dance	1 Wailuku Hongwanji Obon 6:30pm Service 7:45pm Dance
2 (No Service) 7:30am General Clean Up & Yagura & Decoration Storage	3 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	4 Gakuen Students First Day	5 Social Hall Rental	6 BWA Hoshu Day BWA ACCW Delv. Craft & Sewing Group	7 Hale Makua, Kahului Obon 6:30pm Dance	8
9 8am Sunday Service 9:30am BWA Mtg	10 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	11	12 5:30pm Obon Pract	13 Craft & Sewing Group Hale Makua, Wailuku Obon 5:00pm Service	14 Lahaina 3-Temple Obon at Lahaina Jodo Mission	15 Kula Shofukuji Obon 5pm Service 7pm Dance
16 8am Sunday Service VIDSTA Kickoff 1-3pm 4-H Aloha Girls (Conf Rm)	17 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	18	19 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom	20 BWA ACCW Delv. Craft & Sewing Group	21 Statehood Day (Office Closed)	22 Paia Rinzaizen Obon 6pm Service 7pm Dance
23 8am Sunday Service	24 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	25 6:30pm Cubs Meeting	26	27 Craft & Sewing Group	28	29 Lanai Hongwanji Obon 7pm Dance
30 8am Family Service	31 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.					
Ministers' Spouses Assn Seminar						