



*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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& Food Fair**

WAILUKU HONGWANJI MISSION
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Wailuku, HI 96793

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Wailuku, HI 96793



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TEACHINGS OF THE NEMBUTSU

***Buddha's Vows -
"NEGAI"****Reverend Shinkai Murakami*

Namo Amida Butsu --

Dear wonderful Wailuku Hongwanji members and friends, I sincerely hope that all of you and your families are doing well and receiving Amida Buddha's infinite wisdom and compassion in your daily lives.

As we welcome October, I am reminded of how we used to participate in the Maui Fair and make about 9,000 pounds of Chow Fun. Whenever I meet members of our community, they often ask me, "Reverend, my family is looking for your church's Chow Fun at the fair." It is difficult to tell them, "We are no longer participating with a food booth." They reply, "Why? You make the best Chow Fun! We will miss it."

There are many reasons why we discontinued our participation in the Maui Fair. Still, it is sad to see the end of such a long legacy. At the same time, it reminds me of one of the Buddha's important teachings: impermanence. Everything changes, and nothing remains the same forever. Yet, Wailuku Hongwanji Mission has left a meaningful legacy in the hearts of our ohana.

The Buddha's teaching helps free us from pain and suffering and guides us toward a peaceful mind. When unexpected things happen, we may become worried or anxious. During these difficult times, the Buddha-Dharma helps us see things as they truly are and reminds us that challenges are also part of life. I would like to share one of the Buddha's wonderful teachings.

One evening, a beautiful and well-dressed woman visited a house. She told the master of the house that she was the goddess of wealth, and he welcomed her warmly. Soon afterward, another woman appeared. She was unattractive

and poorly dressed and said that she was the goddess of poverty. The master tried to drive her away, but she told him, "The goddess of wealth is my sister. We are never to live separately. If you chase me out, she must go with me."



Peace Day at Makawao Hongwanji



Sure enough, when the goddess of poverty left, the goddess of wealth also disappeared.

Birth goes together with death. Fortune goes together with misfortune. Difficult times may follow good times. Those who seek Enlightenment learn not simply to escape misfortune and seek good fortune, but to transcend both and become free from worldly attachment.

When we chant the Sutras at memorial services, funerals, and regular temple services, we are listening to the Buddha's spiritual guidance and hearing the Buddha's vows. The guidance of the Buddha is like entering a dark room with a light in your hand. The darkness is cleared away, and the room becomes filled with light.

Amida Buddha's wisdom and compassion, expressed as Infinite Light and Infinite Life, are always reaching into our hearts. When we listen to the Buddha-Dharma, the eyes of our inner hearts begin to open, allowing us to see the truth within our lives.

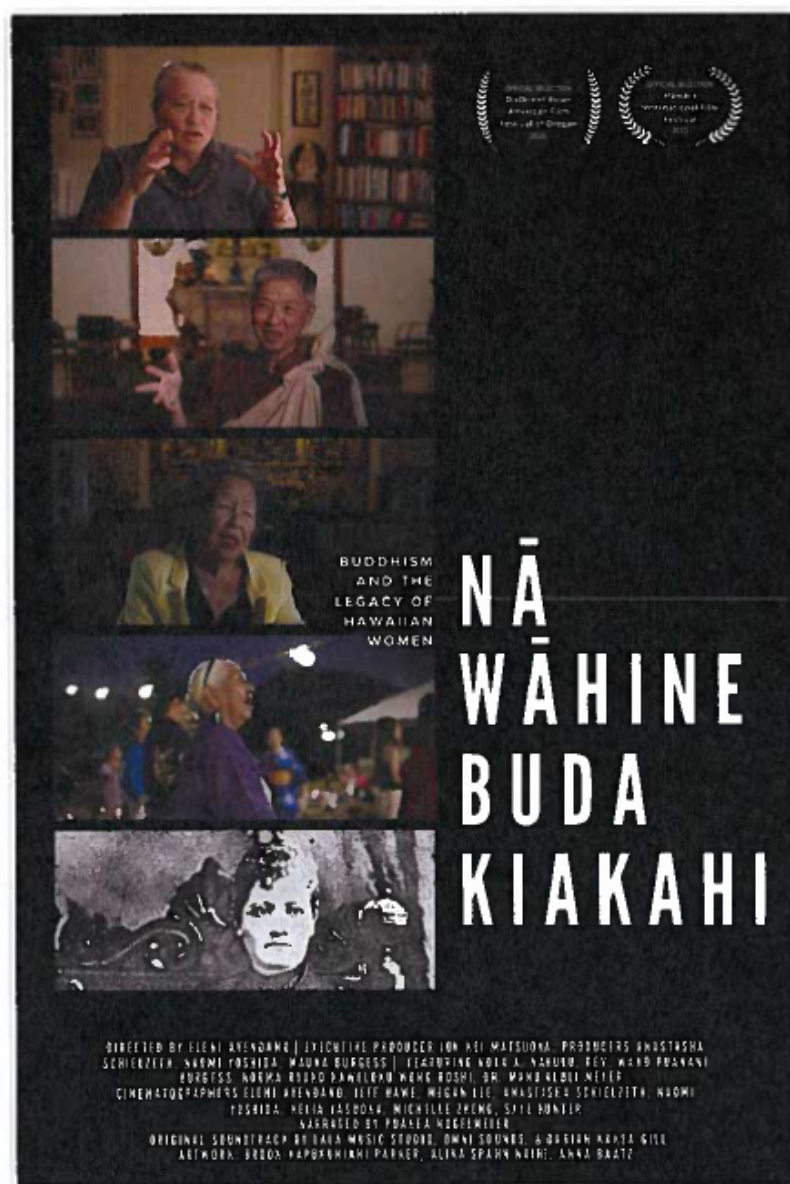
Most importantly, we receive these teachings as our own personal matter. Throughout our lives, we may cry, laugh, think, question, and doubt. Through all these experiences, the Buddha-Dharma becomes a spiritual light, reminding us that Amida Buddha is always guiding us in this precious life.

When we come to understand Amida Buddha's great Vow within our hearts, we are able to walk firmly along the path of truth, and the Nembutsu naturally flows from our mouths as an expression of gratitude.

Shinran Shonin expressed Amida Buddha's great light in the Hymns of the Pure Land:

"Countless Amida Buddhas reside in the light of the Buddha of unhindered light; each one of these transformed Buddhas protects the person of true and real Shinjin."

-- Namo Amida Butsu



Maui Hongwanji Temples NEMBUTSU SEMINAR 2026

November 21, 2026 10 a.m.

Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
1074 Makawao Ave, Upcountry Maui

Free Showing of *Nā Wāhine Buda Kiakahi:* *The Legacy of Hawaiian Women Buddhists*

A Film by Eleni Avendaño

"*Nā Wāhine Buda Kiakahi* is a 42 minute documentary film about the legacy of Hawaiian women Buddhists beginning with the life of Mary Mikahala Robinson Foster, lady in waiting to Queen Lili'uokalani. While many have visited Foster Botanical Gardens in Honolulu, little has been known of her work to perpetuate the practice of Buddhism, even beyond Hawai'i, where she is revered in India and Sri Lanka for her contributions. Narrated by Puakea Nogelmeier and featuring Nola Nāhulu, Puanani Burgess, Norma Wong and Manu Aluli Meyer who bring contemporary practice of Buddhism into Hawaiian leadership."

— View the Trailer here: www.wahinebucafilm.com

The Hongwanji Buddhist Temples of Maui cordially invite everyone to a free showing of the film, "*Nā Wāhine Buda Kiakahi: The Legacy of Hawaiian Women Buddhists*", which explores of the remarkable yet unknown contributions of Hawaiian Women Buddhists to Buddhism in Hawaii and around the world.

The 42-minute documentary will be followed by a Panel Discussion with Director & Co-Writer Eleni Avendaño, Producer and Co-Writer Jon Matsuoka, and Dr. Miki Tomita Okamoto, a life-long Hongwanji Buddhist and Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner, moderated by Rev. Kerry Kiyohara of Makawao Hongwanji.

Following refreshments and talk story about the film, the day continues with Nembutsu Seminar 2026, which will focus on the teachings, practices, and benefits of Nembutsu in everyday life, seeking to answer the questions:

- What is *Nembutsu* Mindfulness of Amida?
- What is *Shinjin*, the Entrusting Heart and Mind of No Doubt?
- What are the benefits of the Path of Nembutsu and Life of Gratitude?

Nembutsu Seminar 2026 is for Hongwanji members and friends, newcomers to the Hongwanji, and anyone interested in Buddhism. Everyone is welcome, come as you are!



Don't miss out, please register today!
<https://forms.gle/TBeHwaepMWih1YEA9>

*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

EXPRESSIONS OF DANA **WITH GRATITUDE**

AIR CONDITIONING FUND

Jeremy & Farron Cabral - *In appreciation to
Troop 40 Eagle Scouts*

Ed Fujinaka - *In appreciation to Troop 40
Eagle Scouts*

Lydia Furomoto - *In honor of
ES Wessen Furomoto, Troop 40 – 1987*
Wessen Furomoto - *ES Wessen Furomoto,
Troop 40 – 1987*

Franklin & Guy Hamasaki - *In honor of
ES Mark Hamasaki, Troop 40 – 1971*

Stanley & Joyce Hashimoto -
ES Stanley Hashimoto, Troop 40 – 1961

Sterling Hedani - *ES Sterling Hedani,
Troop 40 – 1995*

Wayne & Kay Hedani - *In memory of
Harold Yamaguchi (Silver Beaver), and
William "Tets" Yamaguchi (Troop 27-Waikapu)*

Ty Higa - *ES Ty Higa, Troop 40 – 2011*

Roy & Gwen Hiraga - *In honor of
ES Lucas R. McKeon, Troop 40 – 2010*

Terri Kaneda - *In memory of Calvin I. Kaneda*

Hideo & Joyce Kawahara - *In memory of
Douglas Sodehani*

Carol Mae N. Kurisu - *In honor of Troop 40
Eagle Scouts*

Brian Murata - *ES Brian Murata, Troop 40 – 1968*

Dennis Ouchi - *In appreciation to Troop 40
Eagle Scouts*

Linda Shibano - *In honor of
ES Thomas Shibano, Troop 40 – 1965*

Lloyd & Sharon Sodehani - *ES Lloyd Sodehani – 1961*

Sarajeen A. Tokunaga - *In memory of
ES Aaron Tokunaga – 1955*

Linda Ann Unemori - *In memory of
ES Alan Unemori – 1968*

Lloyd & Linda Yonemura -
*ES Lloyd Yonemura – 1965 &
ES Stephen T. Yonemura – 1968*

GENEROSITY & SERVICE

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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:

Danny Topp, Julie Petro, Donna Ikeuchi

Temple & Nokotsudo Care:

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

Temple Wish List:

Dustin Kitagawa, Celeste Rabang

Making Every Gift Count: Every gift to Wailuku Hongwanji is an expression of dana and helps sustain our temple community. Mahalo for your continued support. If you make a donation through a bank, investment company, or employer-sponsored giving program, please notify the temple office and include the issuing institution, the approximate amount and date, and the intended purpose of your gift. If mailing a donation, please make checks payable to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission and send them to 1828 E. Vineyard St., Wailuku, HI 96793. For questions, please call (808) 244-0406. In gassho, we thank you for your spirit of dana and your continued support of our Sangha. Namo Amida Butsu.

EXPRESSIONS OF DANA

WITH GRATITUDE

KYODAN

Jane T. Izuo - *In memory of
Grace K. Hamasaki*
Hideo & Joyce Kawahara –
Craft Group Leis
Donald & Noreen Murata – *In
memory of Tadao Murata*
Lloyd & Janis Uradomo - *In
memory of Yaeko Uradomo*

OFUSE

Bryna Hamasaki – *Re-vow
Ceremony*
Teri Hamasaki – *In memory of
Grace K. Hamasaki and the
Hamasaki and Izuo Families*
Shido Partners - *In memory of
Takeo Lawrence Shishido*
Toshiko Sugiki – *In memory of
the Sugiki & Tamashiro
Families*
Tonai and Akiyama Families –
*In memory of Harold &
Claire Tonai*
Terrence Tonai – *In memory of
Harold & Claire Tonai*
Lance & Lynn Yamauchi - *In
memory of Richard Omuro*
Shinyei Yogi, Alice Yogi, Linda Yogi,
Wendy Kokubun & Family,
and Janes Warren & Family
– *In memory of the Yogi Family*

OHIGAN

Ann Igarashi

NOKOTSUDO

Scott and Shirley Ageno - *In
memory of Midori & Shinayo
Hamasaki and Shizue &
Kikue Ageno*
Franklin and Guy Hamasaki – *In
memory of George Okuyama,
Grace K. Hamasaki and
Elaine Hamasaki*
Irving and Jane Koja - *In memory
of the Tomokiyo Family*
Jean Kuwada - *In memory of
Yoshikazu & Kazuko Yoshimori*
Donald & Noreen Murata – *In
memory of Tadao Murata*

OBON

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George Ainge
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Lindsay Alexander
Irene T. Arakaki
Marilyn Araki
Mae Balmores
Clifford & Geraldine Beppu
Olioli Biola
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Madge Cabudol
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Aileen Cockett
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Dodson
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Lyman & Marilyn Morikawa
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Machiko Moriyasu
Glenn & Dawn Mukai
Michael & Lori Munekiyo

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 Sammy
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 Toshiko Sugiki
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 Edward Tengan
 Karen Tengan
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 Mary Tamiko Tokumaru

Sarajeen A. Tokunaga
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 Leonard & Patricia Tomita
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 Jon K. Okamoto
 Frederick & Arlene Toyama
 Jeffrey Tsai &
 Laurie Fukushima Tsai
 Clarence Uehara
 Darren & Luly Unemori
 Linda Ann Unemori
 Lloyd & Janis Uradomo
 Diane Wakamatsu
 Lyle & Charlotte Wilkinson
 Albert & Liane Wong
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 Lydia Yamaguchi
 Matthew & Sharon Yamamoto
 Carol K. Yamamura
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 Henry & Betty Yamashiro
 Kenji & Mika Yamazaki
 Shinyei Yogi
 Millie M. Yokouchi
 Eric & Rae Yoshida
 Alma Yoshimori
 Cy Yoshizu
 Earl Zaan

Betsy N. Cardoza - *In memory of Yoshio & Kinuyo Sueda and family*

Claire M. Ching - *In memory of Fusayo Koike*

Lauren E. Chun - *In memory of Kyutaro Kitagawa & family*

Melvin & Carole Endo - *In memory of Ronald T. Okuda (from: Melvin & Carole Endo, Mr. & Mrs. Alan Tamiya, Alison Tamiya, Chad & Derek Kutara and Gladys & Faye Okuda)*

Gale Y. & Lewayne Evans - *In memory of Mitsu Yamagata, Minoru Yamagata, Tsukio Yamagata, Tomiko Yamagata, Elaine Yamagata*

Lane & June Fujii - *In memory of Komao & Aiko Mochizuki*

Jeral & Karlynn Fukuda - *In memory of Sodekani & Kawahara families*

Emiko M. Goshi - *In memory of Stan Goshi, Terukichi Matsui, Kogimi Matsui, Yuichi Matsui and Tommy Sato*

Emiko M. Goshi - *In memory of Alvin Nakamura*

Franklin & Guy Hamasaki - *In memory of Elaine Hamasaki and Grace K. Hamasaki*

Rene Hamasaki - *In memory of Grace K. Hamasaki*

Teri A. Hamasaki - *In memory of the Hamasaki & Izuo families*

Tod & Wendy Hamasaki - *In memory of Elaine Hamasaki & Aunt Grace Hamasaki*

James & Takane Hashi - *In memory of Ralph Ichiyama and Cary Ichiyama*

EXPRESSIONS OF DANA

WITH GRATITUDE

Noel & Kathy Hashimoto - *In memory of Harold & Midori Inamasu*
 Russell & Wendy Higa - *In memory of Grace K. Hamasaki*
 Heidi Hiraoka - *In memory of Douglas Sodehani and Yukie Kawahara*
 Sandra K. Hirata - *Obon Refreshment*
 Sandra K. Hirata - *In memory of Tadayoshi & Helen Kimura and Sheila Kimura*
 Nami Ichikawa - *In memory of Ine Ichikawa*
 Sandra Ichiyama - *In memory of Cary Ichiyama and Ralph Ichiyama*
 Sandra Ichiyama - *In memory of Iwaki Tagami, Mililani Tagami and Ellen Tagami*
 Eric & Cathy Ikeuchi - *In memory of Kiyomi Ikeuchi, Ikue Ikeuchi, Haruo Ikeuchi, Melvin Ikeuchi and Phyllis Heirakuji*
 Eric & Cathy Ikeuchi - *In memory of Takeyoshi Ikeuchi, Miyako Ikeuchi and Yukie Emoto*
 Carol Inaba - *In memory of Alvin Nakamura*
 Wendell Inamasu - *In memory of Janet & Harold Inamasu*
 Harley K. & Martha K. Ishii - *In memory of James & Yvonne Nagoshi, Kenji & Miyoko Nakamoto, Kenneth & Diane Nakamoto, Thomas Nakamoto and Lillian Yoshizawa*
 Ronald & Sylvia Ishikawa - *In memory of Grace K. Hamasaki*
 Amy Izutsu - *In memory of Tsukio Yamagata, Tomiko Yamagata, Elaine Yamagata, Minoru Yamagata and Mitsu Yamagata*
 Brent K. Izutsu - *In memory of Elaine Yamagata*
 Brent K. Izutsu - *In memory of Tsukio & Tomiko Yamagata*
 Lori E. Jio - *In memory of Eiju & Molly Tokunaga*
 Donna Jo - *In loving memory of Lawrence T. Shishido*
 Terri Kaneda - *In memory of Calvin Kaneda and Steven & Aileen Kaneda*
 Hideo & Joyce Kawahara - *In memory of Jonathan Shibata*
 Hideo & Joyce Kawahara - *In memory of Reverend Hiromi Kawaji*
 Hideo & Joyce Kawahara - *In memory of Tomosuke & Yukie Kawahara, Douglas & Clara Sodehani and Jonathan Shibata*
 Hideo & Joyce Kawahara - *In memory of Grace K. Hamasaki*
 Dorothy Kawamoto - *In memory of Hachiro Harold & Janet Inamasu*
 Melvyn & Sylvia Kawashima - *In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Masato Kawashima, Mr. Wesley Wong, Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Okamoto, Mr. George Okamoto and Ms. Shirley Miyazaki*
 Arthur I. & Rene M. Kimura - *In memory of Jane Yamada, Douglas Yamada, Janet Yamada Anthony, & Harriet Yamada Yoshino*
 Dustin Kitagawa - *In memory of Walter Fujiwara, Yoshiko Fukagawa, Carol Madden and Wayne & Helen Tanaka*
 Janet Kubota - *In memory of Grace K. Hamasaki*
 Carol Mae N. Kurisu - *In memory of Nobuo & Jane Kurisu*
 Tom & Krystene Lam - *In memory of Yukie Kawahara*
 Kyle Mainaga - *In memory of Yoshio & Pat Mainaga*
 Robert & Edith Matsumoto - *In memory of Hitoshi & Shizuko Matsumoto*
 Alan Miyazaki - *In memory of Masato & Tsugi Miyazaki*
 Lyman & Marilyn Morikawa - *In memory of Grace K. Hamasaki*
 Gary & Jacqueline Murai - *In memory of Alvin T. Nakamura (Hatsubon)*
 Gordon & Corinne Muraoka - *In memory of Makoto & Kay Kikue Muraoka*
 Charlotte Nakamura - *In memory of Alvin Nakamura*
 Eleanor Nishida - *In memory of Torio & Yuriko Nishida*

EXPRESSIONS OF DANA

WITH GRATITUDE

Wayne & Cheryl Nishida - *In memory of Harold (Pete) Tonai & Claire Tonai*
 Patrick & Sue Nomura - *In memory of Harold Hachiro "Archie" & Janet Inamasu*
 Gladys & Faye Okuda - *In memory of Ronald Okuda*
 Douglas K. Otani & Kim F. Mukai-Otani - *In memory of Shiro & Miriam Mukai and Jack & Fumiyo Hamasaki*
 Dennis Ouchi - *In memory of Tomie Hirose*
 Sheri Oura Lew - *In memory of Lori Yuki Oura*
 Alan H. & Joan T. Oura - *In memory of Lori Yuki Oura, Masaru, June & Kenneth Inouye, Kingo & Katsuyo Inouye, Masaru, Fumie (Lani), & Eric Oura, Larry & Julie Sugahara*
 Jon & Rusty Oura - *In memory of Lori Yuki Oura*
 Charlotte Rodrigues - *In memory of Stephen Cabral*
 Jane G. Sato - *In memory of Edward Hirata, Wesley Wong and Grace Hamasaki*
 Mark A. & Lois Y. Sato - *In memory of Harold Hachiro "Archie" & Janet Midori Inamasu*
 Edwin & Thelma Seki - *In memory of Roy & Anna Seki*
 Linda T. Shibano - *In memory of Riichi Shibano family*
 Erwin F. Shibata & Aimee E. Sodetani-Shibata - *In memory of Jonathan F. Shibata (from Aimee Sodetani Shibata, Erwin Shibata and Jenna Shibata & family)*
 Erwin F. Shibata & Aimee E. Sodetani-Shibata - *In memory of Douglas & Clara Sodetani (from Aimee Sodetani Shibata, Erwin Shibata and Jenna Shibata & family)*
 Erwin F. Shibata & Aimee E. Sodetani-Shibata - *In memory of Anyo & Senkichi Sodetani (from Aimee Sodetani Shibata, Erwin Shibata and Jenna Shibata & family)*
 Shido Partners - *In memory of Lawrence T. Shishido*
 Brian Shimabukuro - *In memory of Lucille Shimabukuro*
 Yukimi Shoda - *In memory of Seimu Shoda and George N. Shoda*
 D.G.S. & F.S. Sodetani - *In memory of Douglas & Clara Sodetani*
 F.S. Sodetani - *In memory of Douglas & Clara Sodetani and Senkichi & Ariyo Sodetani*
 Lynn Tadakuma - *In memory of Diane Aiko Tadakuma*
 Colleen Takamura - *In memory of Gilbert Takamura*
 Mr. & Mrs. Alan Tamiya - *In memory of Masao & Hisako Tamiya*
 Florence N. Tanaka - *In memory of Wallace & Kathleen Harada, Hashi family, Geraldine & Shufflo Honda, Jane Ohinata, Manuel & Nancy Oishi, Richard & Mae Omuro, S & P Suzuki, Larry & Katsue Shishido, Tanaka & Takamatsu families, Mr. & Mrs. Tsuchiyama, and Grace K. Hamasaki*
 Raymond & Betty Toyama - *In memory of Kristi Y. Shintaku, Yoshio & Yukie Inaba, Larry & Edith Inaba, Fumiko Inaba, Yoshikatsu Kuwae, Alan Yokoyama, Harold & Janet Inamasu and Yoshihiro & Jean Kuwae*
 Ronald & Elise Tsuhako - *In memory of Shunji & Toshiko Ueki*
 Ronald & Carol Tsunezumi - *In memory of Alvin Nakamura (Hatsubon)*
 Lucille Tsuzaki - *In memory of Stephen Tsuzaki*
 James & Jodi Yamagata - *In memory of Elaine Yamagata*
 Edwin G. & Jacqueline Yamaguchi - *In memory of Yoshito & Kimiko Inamasu*
 Edwin G. & Jacqueline Yamaguchi - *In memory of Diane Tadakuma*
 Henry & Betty Yamashiro - *In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hashi and Chiyo Hashi*
 Henry & Betty Yamashiro - *In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Seiji Kato and family*
 Eleanor K. Yanagi - *In memory Ken & Richard Makino and Larry Shishido*
 Elaine C. Yokoyama - *In memory of Alan Yokoyama, Yoshio & Yukie Inaba, Yoshiharu & Edith Inaba, Fumiko Inaba, Yoshikatsu Kuwae, Yoshihiro & Jean Kuwae, Kristi Shintaku, Harold & Janet Inamasu*
 Karen Yorimoto - *In memory of Iwao & Fujie Yorimoto and Landis Yorimoto*
 Earl Zaan - *In memory of Harold & Janet Inamasu*



Wailuku Hongwanji BWA

Autumn

Craft & Food Fair

.....

October 17, 2026

8 a.m. to Noon

Wailuku Hongwanji Mission

1828 Vineyard Street

.....

Beautiful crafts by the
BWA and vendors from
Maui and O'ahu!



CALLS TO CARE

Invitations to Practice Compassion in Action

*Dana * Compassion * Service*

Continuing Troop 40's Cool Legacy

One of Wailuku Hongwanji's five temple air conditioning units has reached the end of its service after approximately 15 years. With both the circuit board and compressor beyond repair, the Kyodan Board approved replacement of the unit at its August meeting. The cost of the new unit is \$10,202.

Our temple's air conditioning systems have a special connection to Wailuku Hongwanji's Troop 40. The five original units were installed in 2011 through the generosity of our Eagle Scouts, whose contribution has helped keep the temple comfortable for services, activities, and community gatherings for many years.

As we replace this unit, we invite our members and friends, including former Troop 40 Eagle Scouts and their families, to help continue that legacy by contributing to the Air Conditioning Replacement Fund. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and may also be made in honor, memory, or appreciation of an Eagle Scout.

To Make a Donation

Please make checks payable to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission and write "AC Fund" in the memo line.

If you would like to recognize an Eagle Scout with your donation, please indicate:

- In Honor of an Eagle Scout
- In Memory of an Eagle Scout
- In Appreciation of an Eagle Scout

Mahalo for your generosity and continued support of Wailuku Hongwanji. Your contributions will help keep our temple a comfortable and welcoming place for everyone.

Come Be Part of Our Temple Community

Wailuku Hongwanji is a place where people gather to learn, celebrate traditions, support one another, and find comfort through the Buddha Dharma. Whether you've been part of the temple for decades or are simply curious about what we do, you're always welcome. As Maui's Community Temple, we offer opportunities for all ages through services, educational programs, cultural events, volunteer activities, and community organizations. Membership helps sustain these programs while providing benefits such as reduced rates for select temple programs and facility rentals, voting privileges, and opportunities to help shape our temple's future. If membership dues present a financial hardship, please contact the temple office. We believe everyone should have the opportunity to be part of our temple community. Learn more at www.wailukuhongwanji.org.

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 drawstring
- 18 Gal. kitchen trash bag with drawstring
- Paper Towels
- Wooden Hashi (chopsticks)
- Napkins
- 9" Lunch plates
- Drinking hot cups
- Lunch Napkins

A Sweet Way to Support Wailuku Hongwanji

Love Krispy Kreme? Make your next doughnut run count! Krispy Kreme Fundraising Cards are available for \$25 at the Temple Office. Each card lets you buy one dozen doughnuts and receive one dozen Original Glazed FREE—up to 10 free dozens! (Limit 3 free dozens per visit.) Use it throughout the year, share it with family and friends, or give one as a gift. Best of all, your purchase helps support Wailuku Hongwanji's programs and activities. Pick up your card at the Temple Office.

Lost & Found Ukulele



Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple has an ukulele that was found following the Hanamatsuri Festival held in April. It appears that one of the festival performers inadvertently left it behind.

The office staff chose not to publicize the discovery earlier because the instrument appeared to be valuable, and staff wanted to ensure that it was returned to its rightful owner. As several months have now passed, the staff is asking organizations and groups whose members performed at the festival to please check with their performers. If the ukulele belongs to you or someone in your group, please contact the office to claim it.

To verify ownership, the claimant must be able to provide a description of the ukulele, including its make/brand and serial number.

Thank you for helping to reunite this instrument with its owner.

BUDDHISM AND AI

Exploring Wisdom. Embracing Possibility. Serving Humanity.

Sponsored by Buddhist Study Center & BDK Hawaii



Location: Buddhist Study Center

1436 University Avenue

In Person or Online



<https://bschawaii.org/>

Part I — Friday, October 9 • 6:00–8:00pm

The Middle Path in the Age of AI: Navigating Between the Fear and the Hype

An introduction to generative AI for Buddhist communities:

- What AI is — and isn't
- How it affects temples, ministers, Dharma schools, and lay practitioners
- A Buddhist middle path for engaging AI with curiosity, discernment, compassion, and clear boundaries



Featured Speaker

Brant Horio, PhD

Brings systems thinking, computational social science, and complexity studies to his engagement with the Dharma. A member of Ekoji Buddhist Temple in Fairfax Station, VA, he explores how technology and science can support new ways of understanding and sharing Buddhist teachings.

Part II — Saturday, October 10 • 9:00am–Noon

The Middle Path in the Age of AI: From Possibility to Practice

How Buddhist communities can move from understanding AI to using it wisely:

- Dharma study, translation, teaching, music, creative media
- Practical prompting and agentic systems
- Managing risks, preserving human judgment, and building shared tools and guidance

Register:

<https://honpahi.link/ai>



Open to all practitioners



In Person or Online



Technology in service of compassion



Ancient Wisdom • Modern Tools • Mindful Future

Sponsored by Buddhist Study Center & BDK Hawaii

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Keeping Our
Community Informed

Mindfulness * Responsibility * Gratitude

Nomination for Tadaichi Fukunaga Dana Award

Gary Murai

Wailuku Hongwanji Mission (WHM) is pleased to announce that nominations are now being accepted for the Tadaichi

Fukunaga Dana Award.

Established to honor the legacy of Tadaichi Fukunaga, a devoted member and supporter of WHM, the award recognizes individuals whose selfless service, generosity, and dedication have strengthened our temple community and helped perpetuate the Buddha Dharma. Through this award, we celebrate those whose actions embody the spirit of Dana, one of the fundamental Buddhist virtues.

What is Dana?

Dana means generosity, selfless giving, and compassionate sharing. Dana is not measured by the size of a gift, but by the sincerity of one's heart and willingness to serve others without expectation of recognition or reward. Acts of Dana may include the giving of time, talents, resources, encouragement, and compassionate support to benefit the Sangha and the wider community.

Criteria for Selection

Nominees should demonstrate:

- Consistent, selfless contributions to WHM.
- Support of temple programs and events.
- Dedication to the welfare, growth, and harmony of the temple and Sangha.
- Embodiment of Jodo Shinshu values – kindness, humility, and compassion in daily life.

Nominees may be recognized for years of volunteer service, support of temple programs and activities, mentoring of others, or other contributions that have had a lasting positive impact on WHM.

How to Nominate

Nomination Deadline: October 31, 2026

Please submit the nominee's name and a brief description of their contributions to the temple office, using the Tadaichi Fukunaga Dana Award Application Form.

Nomination forms and additional information are available at the WHM office. The award will be presented at the annual membership meeting and Sokai on January 16, 2027. Let us take this opportunity to honor those whose dedication, generosity, and compassionate service continue to enrich our temple community and serve as an inspiration to us all.

Mahalo for helping us recognize and celebrate the spirit of Dana.

October Hoji Memorial Services

3rd Year - 2024

- 18th - Val Ogata (SHO GAN)
- 26th - Bert Tadashi Tagami (SHO MAN)
- 30th - Isamu Iwaishi (KO SHO)

7th Year - 2020

- 3rd - Sumio Nakada (JUN SHI)

13th Year - 2014

- 30th - Wayne "Muts" Tanaka (MUTSU DO)
- 31st - Nancy Michiko Tonai (CHI SHO)

17th Year - 2010

- 2nd - Mitsuyo Michelle Morimoto (MYO JUN)
- 29th - Thelma Kimiko Kamidoi (MYO CHI)

25th Year - 2002

- 26th - Thomas Takao Umetsu (SHINRYU)

33rd Year - 1994

- 26th - Asako Yamamoto (JUN SHIN)

50th Year - 1977

- 9th - Yasutada Nagamine (KYO RYO)

Hoji memorial services offer families an opportunity to express gratitude for loved ones and hear the Buddha Dharma together. If your family has a memorial observance this month, please contact the office at (808) 244-0406 to schedule a memorial service or to learn more about the memorial services.

Our Deepest Sympathies

Patricia Toshiko Miyashiro (SHI-SHIN – Amida's Sincere Heart), age 92 of Wailuku, passed on July 21, 2026, 2026.

Namo Amida Butsu

SANGHA STEWARDSHIP

Shaping Our Temple's Future Together

Care * Planning * Growth



Michael Munekiyo delivers his message as incoming President of the HHMH Kyodan Board of Directors at the Aloha Luncheon held on September 12, 2026.

Aloha Luncheon Honors Outgoing & Incoming Presidents *Gary Murai*

Members and guests gathered at the Pacific Buddhist Academy Founder's Hall on September 12, 2026, for a special Aloha Luncheon honoring the outgoing and incoming Presidents of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

The program recognized the dedicated service of outgoing President Dr. Warren Tamamoto and welcomed incoming President Mr. Michael Munekiyo. The luncheon opened with introductions of the honored guests and their families.

Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani delivered an appreciation message to Dr. Tamamoto, and tributes were offered on behalf of Honzan, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, State Minister's Association, Hawaii State

Lay Association, Hawaii Federation of Jr. YBA, State Buddhist Women's Association and Pacific Buddhist Academy. The presentations reflected on Dr. Tamamoto's service and were followed by messages from both the outgoing and incoming presidents. Bishop Umitani also presented Mr. Munekiyo with his Official Appointment Letter from the Gomonshu.

The afternoon concluded with remarks from Mr. Munekiyo, who expressed his humility and gratitude as he begins his term of service. The gathering provided an opportunity for the HHMH organizations throughout the state to express their appreciation for Dr. Tamamoto's leadership and to extend their best wishes to Mr. Munekiyo as he assumes the presidency.

Share Your Voice

The Maui Hongwanji Choir is welcoming new members! Share the joy of music at temple services, community events, and special gatherings while building confidence, teamwork, and lasting connections. Your voice can brighten a service, comfort our kūpuna, inspire our keiki, and become part of something larger. Ready to add your voice? Contact Joan Tamori through the Temple Office at (808) 244-0406.

Your Turn to Lead

Jr. YBA is looking for new members! Make friends, serve your community, and help shape what your group does next. Along the way, build real-world skills in teamwork, planning, leadership, and turning ideas into action - experience that carries into school, college, and beyond. Contact Donna Ikeuchi through the Temple Office at (808) 244-0406.

Build Something Along the Way in the BWA

The BWA is welcoming new members! Through service, fundraising, temple activities, community outreach, and fellowship, the BWA makes a difference while building friendships and sharing skills. There are opportunities to lead, learn, organize, and help shape what comes next. Bring what you know. Learn what you don't. Contact Gwen Hiraga through the Temple Office at (808) 244-0406.

Fall Fellowship with Maui United BWA

The Maui United BWA Fall General Assembly will be held on Saturday, November 14, at Kahului Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Registration begins at 9 a.m.

The lunch cost will be announced at the next BWA meeting, with Wailuku Hongwanji BWA covering a portion of the cost. Members attending the luncheon should make their payment payable to Wailuku Hongwanji BWA and submit it to Sandy Matsuda. If you plan to attend the assembly but not the luncheon, please let Sandy know.

Please register by Sunday, November 8, at the BWA meeting. Mahalo for responding by the deadline so the committee can finalize arrangements.

HAWAII ISLAND NEMBUTSU SEMINAR OCTOBER 2026 REGISTRATION

BY SEPTEMBER 18

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/AroGHhm9A2vdfQz1A>
or use the QR code



02

OCT 2026

**"TALK STORY: MONKU,
MONKU, MONKU!"**

5-7 PM

KAMUELA HONGWANJI
ALL AGES



03

OCT 2026

**"SHIN BUDDHIST PSYCHOLOGY: THE
WISDOM OF FOOLISHNESS"**

10 AM -
12NOON

HILO BETSUIN YBA HALL
ADULTS

04

OCT 2026

**DHARMA TALK: OYA SAMA:
THE RUNAWAY BUNNY**

DISTRICT SERVICE STARTS AT 9:30 AM,
FAMILY MOVIE TO FOLLOW

HILO BETSUIN
ALL AGES



**FEATURED SPEAKER – REV. DR.
CARMELA JAVELLANA HIRANO**

PRACTICING
PSYCHIATRIST

SALT LAKE BUDDHIST TEMPLE
MINISTER

SPECIAL GUEST: DR. BART AOKI

**REGISTER BY
SEPT. 18**

For more info : wendyfivec@gmail.com
Zoom links will be sent after registering

FEATURED ARTICLE



This story was produced by *Honolulu Civil Beat*, a nonprofit news organization covering Hawai'i that specializes in accountability and in-depth enterprise coverage. For more stories like this, [subscribe to their newsletters](https://www.civilbeat.org/newsletters) at <https://www.civilbeat.org/newsletters>.

This Form of Japanese Buddhism In Hawai'i Could Disappear

Hikari Mae Hida
Honolulu Civil Beat

Hongwanji temples were valued by early immigrants from Japan. But as congregations age, some say ties to Japan must be watered down for the sect to have a future in the islands.

Pieper Toyama grew up on a sugar plantation on the Big Island in a family and faith shaped by Japanese immigration and rooted in the values of warmth, welcome and fellowship. Today he preaches those values as co-president of Jikoen Hongwanji, a Japanese Shin Buddhist temple on O'ahu.

Over the years though, Toyama, 79, and his wife Lois, who serves alongside him, have watched the temple empty. The elders and old friends who once filled it, many of them Japanese immigrants or their children, have died. The temple is now facing an existential question.

"How can we share it with non-Japanese now that they are gone?" Toyama said of the religion. "Nobody likes to talk about that, even though it's the elephant in the room."

"Our original close ties with Japanese culture," he continued, "is making it very difficult for us to look outward."



Regulars talk story before services at Honpa Hongwanji in Honolulu August 23, 2026. From left: Lillian Inatsuka, Li-ane Wong, Janet Honda, Claire Groom and Annette Sekine. (Craig Fujii/Civil Beat/2026)

With an aging congregation, dwindling attendance, and thinning membership dues, some former centers of Hawai'i's Japanese Buddhist communities are closing

or consolidating as its members pass away. While the religious denomination historically bonded Hawai'i-based immigrants and their families to their homeland, some say ties to Japan must be watered down for there to be a future for Buddhism in the islands.

As it's trending now, the decline in Hawai'i Hongwanji's membership could mean the mission "disappears" by 2036, according to the Frederick P. Lenz Foundation for American Buddhism, a nonprofit organization with the mission of developing an "American Buddhism."

"It's not only the closing of the temple but to not have that Buddhist presence in those communities anymore," said David Fujimoto, reverend at Mō'ili'ili and 'Ewa Hongwanji, "It's very unfortunate."

There are efforts by the individual temples and young people to chart a path forward, but not enough are interested in maintaining the sangha, or congregation.

The lack of attendance has resulted in a gradual shrinking of properties. Last year, the Wai'anae branch of Hongwanji closed its doors. The property is currently on the market for \$2.9 million with no telling who the next buyer will be or what the property might become.

The Waialua branch will hold its last service in November, and according to several sources, the 'Ewa Beach location may not be far behind.

The downsizing has been happening for years.

In 2022 on Kaua'i, the Hanapēpē and Waimea temples merged to become one, and on the Big Island, the Pāpa'aloa and Honohina Hongwanji temples did the same. Before that, on O'ahu, the Hongwanji temple in Kahuku shut down in 2013



Wai'anae Hongwanji Mission sits vacated and for sale August 23, 2026. (Craig Fujii/Civil Beat/2026) Wai'anae Hongwanji Mission closed last year and is currently on sale for \$2.9 million. (Craig Fujii/Civil Beat/2026)

and has since found a second life as a dance and tumbling studio.

Making the decision to close means that "they have been struggling for a really long time," Emi Hashi, the children and youth activities specialist at Hongwanji, said. "It was actually more of a burden to those members to keep it open."

In the 1970s, there were 10,000 members. Four years ago, there were 4,300. Today, 3,300 are left.

'Buddhism Is Dying'

Roughly 5% of Hawai'i's population identifies as Buddhist, according to a study by the Pew Research Center, down from 8% in 2014. It is still one of the highest concentrations of Buddhists in the nation.

There are many sects of Japanese Buddhism in Hawai'i, and even more that trace back to other Asian countries and traditions. Shin Buddhism, the largest sect across the Hawaiian Islands, is largely represented by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i. Also the most widely practiced sect of Buddhism in Japan, Shin Buddhism teaches that through the practice of dharma, or

FEATURED ARTICLE (Continued)

moral duty, one can attain salvation.

Brought over by Japanese plantation workers in the late 19th century, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i grew rapidly as the Nishi Hongwanji temple in Kyoto began sending official ministers to serve Japanese immigrant communities.

Hawai'i is home to one of four major Honpa Hongwanji missions worldwide, alongside branches across the mainland, South America, and Canada. Beyond religious services, the mission has long served as a cultural and educational anchor for Hawai'i's Japanese American community, while also absorbing the island's particular mixture of cultures along the way, producing a version of Buddhism that is, in many ways, unique from Japan.



Honpa Hongwanji on Pali Highway, photographed August 17, 2026. (Craig Fujii/Civil Beat/2026) The aesthetic of the Honpa Hongwanji on Pali Highway represents a mix of cultures. (Craig Fujii/Civil Beat/2026)

For instance, in the 1930s, Ernest and Dorothy Hunt, an English Buddhist Reverend and his wife who was an educator, created Buddhist hymns in English, with the heavy influence of Christianity. The songs are still sung in Hawai'i pews today. In Japan, hymns, or gathas, are not typically sung.

The headquarters located off the Pali Highway stands out. It has a bright white exterior with Indian stupas on top, classical Western columns holding up the structure and pews inside that are reminiscent of a Christian church. Only the altar is designed like that of a temple in Japan.

Construction of the temple took place during World War II, and the blend of cultural elements was meant to underscore that Japanese immigrants were loyal Americans.

The architecture was also meant to be "international," as a reminder

that Buddhism is not originally a Japanese religion, said George Tanabe, Professor Emeritus of Religion at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa and President of BDK Hawai'i, a non-sectarian Buddhist organization.

Bishop Yemyo Imamura, the mission's second leader starting in 1900, understood that "you cannot practice Buddhism in Hawai'i like you do in Japan," Tanabe said. "You cannot expect that people are going to take to a very traditional Japanese form of religion, when they're not Japanese, culturally."

Even so, Tanabe, who is sansei, or third-generation Japanese, and grew up going to the Waialua Hongwanji temple that is closing in November later this year, said that some members are still struggling to let go of Japan ties.

"Buddhism is dying because they're still presenting and practicing Buddhism in ways that my first-generation grandfather did."

Nostalgic For Japan

In a way, what is happening at the Hongwanji temples around Hawai'i is a very American story of immigrants adapting to the culture of their new country, while also trying to remain tied to their ancestral homelands.

"When I was younger, the ministers spoke nothing but Japanese," said Fujimoto, the Mō'ili'ili Reverend who was born and raised on O'ahu.

Now, as a minister, he said, "if there are Japanese concepts, I try my best to translate them."



A worshipper in prayerful repose with prayer beads during a service at Honpa Hongwanji in Honolulu August 23, 2026. (Craig Fujii/Civil Beat/2026) A worshipper in prayerful repose with prayer beads during a service at Honpa Hongwanji in Honolulu. (Craig Fujii/Civil Beat/2026)

Hongwanji's mother temple is headquartered in Kyoto, where even Hawai'i-born and raised ministers must go for the first level of ordination, tokudo.

Traditionally, all ministers at Hongwanji temples were sent to Hawai'i from Japan, but in recent years, there have been more homegrown Japanese American ministers. But there is still a shortage overall. Currently, there are 20 active ministers for the 30 temples statewide, meaning some go between temples for services.

Tanabe, the UH scholar, said that some of the Hawai'i-based ministers from Japan "can barely speak English," which can be challenging for an American congregation.

"It's hard to get people to accept something they don't understand," he said.

Although individual temples have moved to having services in English, there is a debate around which language to use.

"Sansei (the third generation), we basically just speak English so you think we would be pushing for Americanization," Tanabe said. But "we became very nostalgic for Japanese culture, and we all want to be Japanese."

The Japanese chants are done by reading Chinese characters pronounced in Japanese, rendering Sanskrit texts that the average Japanese speaker does not understand.

Maslyn Kaneshiro Takeuchi, a senior at Punahou School and the President of Hawai'i's Junior Young Buddhist Association, said that she gave up on learning Japanese, but still enjoys the traditional chants.

"You can use Jinglish for us," she said, referring to the mixing of Japanese and English language, "but a lot of us really struggle with Japanese."

Toyama, co-president of Jikoen Hongwanji, a branch with deep ties to the Okinawan community in Kalihi, said that talking to people in a way that resonates with them, in a language they understand, is essential.

"The spread of any religion is the ability to talk to a group who doesn't know anything about it in a way that they're comfortable with," he said, adding that there should also be more ethnic diversity in their ministerial staff.

In his home attached to the

FEATURED ARTICLE (Continued)

Waipahu temple, Jeffrey Soga, the longest-serving Hongwanji Minister in Hawai'i, originally from Kyoto, said that before its closing last year, the Wai'anae temple was also no longer a Japanese hub.

Native Hawaiians and Filipinos were among the dwindling congregants, he said.



Worshippers during a service Honpa Hongwanji in Honolulu August 23, 2026. (Craig Fujii/Civil Beat/2026)
Worshippers attend a service at Honpa Hongwanji in Honolulu. (Craig Fujii/Civil Beat/2026)

The Future of the Temple

Some in the sangha argue that survival depends on making the temples more welcoming to people who have no Japanese ancestry or familial connections to the temples at all.

"You can't just rely on the same old families being recycled," said Emi Hashi, the children and youth activities specialist at Hongwanji.

Mitch Hannon has been attending the Mililani Hongwanji for roughly a year and a half. As a 31-year-old, 6-foot-1 caucasian man, he towers over the rest of his Sunday choir as they practice singing Buddhist hymns in English.

Hannon grew up Catholic but dabbled in Buddhism while in college on the mainland and started attending service in Mililani after moving to Hawai'i with the Navy. He considered going to the Thai Buddhist temple, a different branch of Buddhism altogether in Pearl City, but settled at Mililani because it was closer to his home. He stayed for the community.

The teachings "weren't very dense" like he had experienced previously, and Hongwanji attracted him because, he said, it felt "closer to the church experience that I had when I was younger."

There is also an effort by individual temples to further widen who



image006.jpg Debbie Kubota made pamphlets about sexual orientation available at the temple. (Hikari Mae Hida/Civil Beat/2026)

feels welcome inside them.

Debbie Kubota, the education chair at Hongwanji, heard about some youth members struggling with their sexual and gender identities. She spearheaded the creation of pamphlets on coming out and had them displayed prominently at a few Hongwanji temples and bon dances around O'ahu.

She also organized a panel discussion where parents of queer children could speak to temple members, including the Toyamas.

"That definitely helped us open up to the public because I know some religions have conservative views," said Chihiro Okawa, who also goes by Chad and identifies as a part of the LGBTQ+ community. Growing up in the 'Aiea temple, Okawa believes these initiatives can help attract more people.

"We say here, 'Buddha accepts you as you are,'" Okawa said. "And I think that's an important message for people to understand."

Ty Wakahiro, a senior at California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, was born in San Francisco but moved to O'ahu in 2016 with his parents who are from Hawai'i.

As a yonsei and gosei, or fourth- and fifth-generation Japanese American, the 21-year-old understands the need for some change.

"It's important to say 'Yes, we are Japanese, we are proud of that,'" he said, "but we also have to adapt so these temples continue."

Wakahiro helps with the Mililani Hongwanji website, where they "use pidgin as much as possible," he said. They emphasize "talk story" time and write that during bon dances, "rubber slippers OK."



"What is unique about Hongwanji today is that classic aloha spirit and plantation-style community and values," Wakahiro said.

At the Windward temple in Kailua one July evening, the bon dance was in full swing.

Traditional songs like Soranbushi, a fisherman's work song and folk dance from Hokkaido, played alongside contemporary pop hits like "Soda Pop" from K-Pop Demon Hunters and "Shivers" an Ed Sheeran song – with the lyrics all in Japanese. Dance moves included making heart signs with fingers and the electric slide.

Obon season, observed every August, is traditionally a time to honor ancestors who have died, a period of remembrance rooted in Japanese Buddhist practice. In Japan, bon dance is seen as a secular community celebration.

Yet the bon dances that fill temple grounds across Hawai'i each summer weekend are a separate tradition altogether. In Hawai'i, religious observance and communal dance have become closely intertwined. And that is okay.

"No one wants to admit it, but the fear is that when you begin to adapt, you're going to change the doctrine," said Pieper Toyama, the Kailihi temple co-president.

"But I know deep in my heart that's not true," he said, adding, "you can evolve in a way that resonates with local people."



Hikari Mae Hida reports for Honolulu Civil Beat. You can reach her at hhida@civilbeat.org

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2026/08/this-form-of-japanese-buddhism-in-hawaii-could-disappear/>

8th Virtual Dharma School Gathering

NURTURING NEMBUTSU: SHARING GRATITUDE

Sunday, October 18, 2026 via Zoom

- 9:00 am Intergenerational Service
- 9:40 am Dharma School & Adult Breakout Room Activities
- 10:30 am Dharma School Group Sharing Session
- 11:00 am End of Dharma School Gathering
- 11:10 am Dharma Educators' Session
- 12:00 pm End

All are welcome to this intergenerational event!!!

**Dharma Message & Adult Breakout Room
Message by:**

Reverend Blayne Higa

Minister - Kona Hongwanji,
Director - Buddhist Study Center



RSVP Deadline: Saturday, October 10

Link to register (or use phone to scan code):

<https://forms.gle/4dFBpe343UwMKdVN7>

Zoom link will be emailed by Friday, 10/16

Any questions?

Contact Debbie Kubota dekub88@gmail.com

TEMPLE EDUCATION & YOUTH PROGRAMS

Paths of Learning

Dharma School, Preschool, & Gakuen

Welcome Back to Dharma School!

Joan Tamori

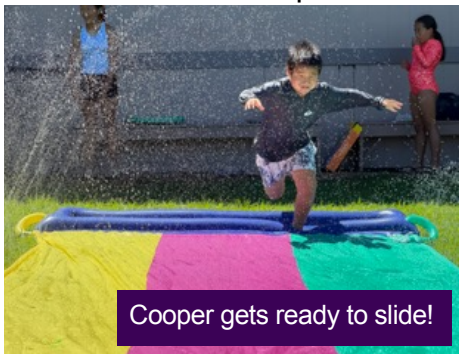


Wailuku Hongwanji Dharma School students were greeted with a fun somen nagashi activity on “Welcome Back to Dharma School Day” on August 23. Students and parents enjoyed the challenge of “trapping and scooping” somen with their chopsticks as bunches of noodles slid down vinyl troughs carried along by running water. What a delight it was to see the students filling their cups with somen and adding somen tsuyu to enjoy this refreshing treat!

Following the activity, a parent/teacher meeting was held to go over plans for the 2026–2027 school year. Topics included the Sunday Service schedule which reflected whole-group lesson and activity dates, and student temple assignments. New this year:

- The students will create media projects led by media teacher and DS parent, Ms. Lori Koyama.
- Parents and other adults will have an opportunity to participate in Buddhist classes led by Rev. Murakami over refreshments. This will run concurrently with student group lesson time.

On August 30, the Petro, Beauchamp, Takamura, Osajima, and Tamori families attended the Maui Hongwanji Dharma School Kick-Off Picnic held at Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. The program began with a service led by Rev. Kerry Kiyohara who shared a “Thank You” story, followed by water relay games, a slip and slide time and a wonderful bento lunch complete with tapioca pudding and rootbeer floats. Students and parents enjoyed the fun and fellowship!



Cooper gets ready to slide!



Mom Krystal Beauchamp calmly carries the water cup full of holes to the bucket.

Somen and Smiles

Eri Nomura

Fall in Japan is known as 食欲の秋 (shokuyoku no aki), the season of good food and good eating! As the weather begins to cool, autumn is celebrated with seasonal foods and delicious meals. At Wailuku Hongwanji Gakuen, we brought a taste of Japan to our first cultural activity of the school year with Sōmen Nagashi on August 26.

Sōmen are thin wheat noodles especially popular during Japan’s hot summer months. They are boiled, chilled in ice water, and served with a dipping sauce called mentsuyu (麺つゆ). Men means “noodles,” and tsuyu refers to the broth. Mentsuyu is often shoyu (しょうゆ, soy sauce) based, with dashi and other seasonings. Students enjoyed their noodles with toppings such as green onions and nori.

Of course, the best part was catching the noodles! In sōmen nagashi, noodles flow through a long channel of water as students wait with chopsticks ready. Some quickly discovered the best place to stand and how to position their chopsticks, while others experienced the tradition for the first time. There was plenty of laughter, excitement, and friendly competition as everyone tried to catch as many noodles as possible!

Beyond enjoying a delicious Japanese tradition, the activity gave students an opportunity to learn from one another and experience Japanese culture together. It was also a fun way to connect Japanese words and expressions with a real-life experience outside the class.

We look forward to more cultural activities and welcome your ideas! If you would like to share a Japanese cultural tradition or host an activity with our students, please reach out and let us know.

2027 HHMH Theme/Slogan POSTER CONTEST

NURTURING NEMBUTSU: LIVING ALOHA

The winning entry will be featured on a statewide poster!

ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED BETWEEN
AUGUST 1 – OCTOBER 31, 2026

POSTER GUIDELINES - [LINK](#) to detailed guidelines

- Visually express the theme/slogan "*Nurturing Nembutsu: Living Aloha.*"
- How do we live with aloha in our daily lives?
- Through your art, reflect on what it means to live with aloha each and every day.
- Poster can be created using any medium (e.g., painting, drawing, digital art, photography) but must be submitted as a high-resolution digital file (JPEG, PNG, or PDF).
- Dimensions: Standard poster size (24" x 36" or equivalent in digital format).
- Be original and do not include any copyrighted images or text.

Click on this [LINK](#)
to enter or use
this QR Code

NOTE – need to login
with a Google Account



Prizes will be
awarded to the
TOP 5 POSTERS

QUESTIONS?

Debbie Kubota | dekub88@gmail.com

• SPONSORED BY THE COMMISSION OF BUDDHIST EDUCATION •

YOUTH PROGRAMS SPOTLIGHT

Growing Together

4-H and Scouting Activities in September

4-H Fresh Starts & Tasty Treats

Sammy Takamura

Aloha Girls: had their kick-off meeting starting the 2026-2027 new 4-H year. We are excited to welcome new members Natalie and Avah into our group! Our theme for the year is Art. We worked on making our own mosaic coasters, which took patience as there were a couple steps and drying time in between. We are excited to start our new 4-H journey this year!



Friends Forever: learned how to make apple turnovers, which they will sell at the upcoming BWA Craft Fair in October, along with li hing gummies and prune mui. This year, their club's project theme is entrepreneurship. They will use the cooking, baking, and kitchen skills they learned as 4-H members to make homemade goods they will sell during this club year. They also hope to make and sell non-food items. This project theme will help them gain confidence when speaking to customers, learn the basics of running a business, and learn about budgeting, expenses, packaging, marketing, setting costs, and selling items that meet the needs of their target audience.



Troop 40 on Their Way to Eagle Scout Status

Celeste Rabang

Troop 40 scouts have been very busy! Our new scouts attended their first merit badge class, experienced camping without their parents, and popcorn sales! They are learning and earning their way to eagle scout status!



Busy Days and Happy Memories

Jody Fuentes

Our preschool enjoyed a busy September! Premier Restoration began interior work on the preschool building. The children continued their colors and shapes unit, and families were invited to participate in Give Aloha with Foodland. Students made special gifts to celebrate Grandparents Day, and we observed International Peace Day by ringing our bells. Fun Run fundraiser envelopes were sent home, and the run was held on September 25. We ended the month with an Open House on September 29, welcoming 37 families.



ADULT ORGANIZATIONS SPOTLIGHT

Walking the Path

Reflections and Activities from the BWA

Buddhist Women's Association Somen Stories *Gwen Hiraga*



BWA member Eric Ikeuchi assists with Sunday services in many ways - temple setup before services, kansho, M.C., etc.

Members enjoyed the Somen Nagashi hosted by the Dharma School on August 23rd, served following the church service. Somen Nagashi is a popular summer tradition enjoyed throughout Japan.

Please join us at the BWA Autumn Craft and Food Fair to be held on October 17th, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Thank you @ SFDHAWAII (Daryl Fujiwara) for preparing our beautiful flyer. Please

visit and support our local Maui vendors and vendors from Oahu, as well as our temple affiliates (Judo Club, Preschool, Friends Forever 4-H Club and Scouts). An assortment of food items and baked items will be available at the BWA tables.

The next BWA General Membership meeting is scheduled for October 11th, following the church service.

Happy Birthday to our members born in October: Ethel Fujii, Emiko Goshi, Eric Ikeuchi, Gail Iwamoto-Hamai, Patrice Matsumoto, Michiko Sato, Toshiko Sugiki and France Teshima.



The Craft & Sewing Group made Somen rolls for lunch.



Somen Nagashi



Recipe of the Month (from Just One Cookbook): Ume Shiso Pasta

Ingredients:

Spaghetti

Shiso leaves – for garnish

Couple cloves garlic

Shimeji mushrooms

Umeboshi (Japanese pickled plums)

Chicken tenders (or chicken breasts or thighs)

Kosher salt

Freshly ground black pepper

All-purpose flour

Extra-virgin olive oil

Soy sauce

Shredded nori seaweed (kizami nori) – for garnish



Preparation:

Cook the spaghetti in a pot of lightly salted boiling water. Reserve 1/2 cup of pasta cooking water, then drain the noodles.

Prep the ingredients while the noodles are cooking. Julienne the shiso leaves for garnish. Slice the garlic cloves and cut off the root end of the shimeji. Remove the pits from the umeboshi and mince the flesh into small pieces.

Slice the chicken tenders into bite size pieces. Season with salt and pepper, then coat with all-purpose flour.

Cook the sauce. In a hot pan, cook the garlic in olive oil until fragrant. Add the chicken and cook until no longer pink. Then, add the mushrooms and cook until coated with oil. Add the umeboshi, soy sauce, and half of the reserved pasta cooking water.

Add the drained spaghetti to the pan once the chicken is coated with the sauce. Toss to coat the pasta well with the sauce. Add more pasta water and soy sauce, if need more sauce. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Garnish with shiso leaves and shredded nori seaweed.

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
rhiyakumoto@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

October/November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 BWA Hosha Day BWA ACCW Delv. Craft & Sewing Grp	2 Hawai'i Island Nembutsu Seminar	3 Social Hall Rental
4 8am Sunday Service Hawai'i Island Nembutsu Seminar	5 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	6	7	8 Craft & Sewing Group	9	10 9:30am Alzheimer's Walk @ Queen Ka'ahumanu Center
Fall Break						
11 8am Sunday Service 9:30am BWA Mtg.	12 Columbus Day (Federal Holiday) 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	13	14 5:30pm Obon Pract	15 BWA ACCW Delv. Craft & Sewing Group	16	17 8am-12pm BWA Craft & Food Fair
18 8am WHM Day Service 9am Virtual State Dharma School Gathering 10:30am-12pm: Cub Scouts Den Mtg (Class Rm)	19 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	20	21 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom	22 Craft & Sewing Group	23 Boy Scouts Truck or Treat in Temple Courtyard	24
25 8am Family Serv. DS Media Proj. Kaua'i Island Nembutsu Seminar	26 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	27 6:30pm Cubs Mtg.	28	29 Craft & Sewing Group	30	31 2027 HHMH Theme/Slogan Poster Contest Due
Minister's Lay Assistant Retreat (BSC)						
1 8am Sunday Service	2 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	3 Election Day (Office Open)	4 Social Hall Rental	5 BWA Hosha Day BWA ACCW Delv. Craft & Sewing Grp State Ministers Cont. Ed. Seminar	6	7
8 8am Eitaikyo Service 9:30am BWA Mtg. 10:30am - 2pm Cub (Conf. Rm)	9 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	10 6:30pm Pack Mtg.	11 Veteran's Day (Office Closed) 5:30pm Obon Pract	12 BWA ACCW Delv. Craft & Sewing Group	13	14 9am MUBWA Fall Assembly at KHM
15 8am Sunday Service DS Gratitude Activity / Buddhist class for Adults 10:30am-12:30pm: Shining Stars 4-H 1pm-3pm: 4-H Aloha Girls (Conf Rm)	16 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	17	18 Retired Ministers & Spouses Appreciation Service & Luncheon 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom	19 BWA ACCW Delv. Craft & Sewing Group	20 6pm Cubs (Social Hall)	21 10am Na Wahine Buda Kiakahi movie @ MHM 1pm Maui Island Nembutsu Seminar @ MHM 5pm Na Wahine Buda Kiakahi movie @ WHM Social Hall
22 8am Sunday Serv. DS Media Proj.	23 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Holiday (Office Closed)	27 Family Day (Office Closed)	28
29 8am Family Serv.	30 5:15pm Dharma Strummers 7pm Troop Mtg.					