



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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JANUARY 2016

### New Year's Greeting

At the beginning of the new year, I would like to extend my greeting to you.

On June 6, 2014, receiving the Jodo Shinshu tradition from Monshu Emeritus, I was inaugurated as the Hongwanji Resident Head Priest and Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha 25th Monshu. To commemorate the occasion together with all of you in front of Amida Buddha and the Founder Shinran Shonin, *Dento Hokoku Hoyo*, or the Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition will be observed at Hongwanji, Kyoto, Japan from this coming October 1. With this observance as an opportunity, it is my hope that the Jodo Shinshu teaching will spread to as many as possible.

The Jodo Shinshu teaching was set forth by Shinran Shonin nearly eight hundred years ago and it has been carefully transmitted to us today. Be it Shinran Shonin's time or the present day, the Jodo Shinshu teaching remains unchanged and continues to serve as our spiritual foundation. This is because in this world of impermanence we live our lives never knowing when it may end. No one can guarantee that tomorrow I will not be involved in an incident or accident that will bring about the end of my life.

In closing, let us continue our journey along the Nembutsu path by going to the temple to hear more of Amida Buddha's constant working for our benefit. In doing so, throughout this year, let us reflect on our true selves, come to appreciate all the encounters of our everyday lives, and in gratitude, recite the Nembutsu.

Namo Amida Butsu.

January 1, 2016

OHTANI Kojun  
Monshu  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha



### 年頭の辞

新しい年のはじめにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

私は、2014年6月6日に、前門主の跡を承けて法統を継承し、本願寺住職ならびに浄土真宗本願寺派第二十五代門主に就任いたしました。この法統継承を仏祖の御前に奉告する「伝灯奉告法要」を本年10月1日より、京都の本願寺にてお勤めいたします。この法要を機縁として、多くの人々に浄土真宗のみ教えが伝わることを期待しています。

浄土真宗のみ教えは、今から約 800 年前に親鸞聖人によって説かれました。そして、今日の私たちにまで受け継がれてきています。親鸞聖人の時代においても現代においても浄土真宗のみ教えは、変わることなく、私たちの生きる依りどころとなります。なぜなら、私たちは、いつ終わるか誰にも分からない命を生きているからです。明日、私が事件や事故にあわないという保証は誰も出来ません。

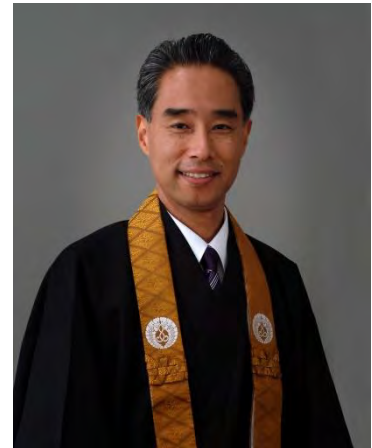
本年もお寺へお参りし、阿弥陀さまのおはたらきを聞かせていただきましょう。そして、そのことによって、自分自身の姿を省みて、日々のご縁を大切にしながら、南無阿弥陀仏とお念仏申す一年を過ごさせていただきましょう。

2016 年 1 月 1 日

浄土真宗本願寺派  
門主 大谷光淳

## Namo Amida Butsu & Happy New Year!

As we begin the New Year, let me express my warmest Aloha and Best Wishes to you for a meaningful and peaceful New Year. The new year 2016 is significant in that it is the beginning of “The Commemoration of the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition” by our 25<sup>th</sup> Spiritual Leader His Eminence Kojun Ohtani whose vision is outlined in the Proclamation/Letter he issued in June 2014 with the words “The nembutsu teaching that is based on Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow remains unchanged, regardless of the changing times and society. However, the methods for transmitting and sharing it needs to evolve and adapt according to social changes. Now is the time for our Hongwanji institution to utilize our collective wisdom and knowledge for considering approaches to convey the Buddha Dharma to our contemporaries today.”



In Hawaii, our theme and slogan for 2016 reads “...we create a new vision which will plan for the future, and create engagement with our members and the community.” As I reflected, I thought of the Bodhisattva Dharmakara. The Bodhisattva Dharmakara had an aspiration. A new vision, if you will. According to Shinran Shonin, it was a shift from Self Power to Other Power or the attainment of Supreme Enlightenment through the (Buddha’s) Other Power of Great Compassion. This new vision was expressed by the 48 Vows, in particular the 18<sup>th</sup> Vow, and the Pure Land of Enlightenment to which one and all are welcome. Now that the vision was clear, it had to be made real and known to others. Thus, as we know, the Bodhisattva Dharmakara endeavored to become Amida Buddha or Namo Amida Butsu, an All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion, to share the message of the Nembutsu Teachings. Amida Buddha created engagement with all sentient beings by sending forth the various Buddhas, like Shakyamuni Buddha, to share the message of Great Unconditional Compassion. As we become aware of this Great Compassion, finding ourselves embraced by it, with great joy we join the countless Buddhas of the Universe in praise of the wondrous vision of Bodhisattva Dharmakara/Amida Buddha. His Eminence encourages “jishin kyo ninshin” or to “secure our own entrusting heart to the Dharma, guiding others to the same path.”

In a similar fashion, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii must embrace the vision to transform into a 21<sup>st</sup> Century internationally minded spiritual organization. A Kyodan which is more in sync with today’s world and times so that it can better meet the needs of all members and the society-at-large, and interactively with innovation, offer the message of Amida Buddha’s All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion to all people, all life, and all existence. For this purpose, various Hawaii Kyodan Committees have been challenged with various tasks to bring about a transformation, but the greatest shift or change which must take place, first and foremost, is the one that occurs in each of our minds.

As Jodo Shin Buddhists, let us respond to Amida Buddha's Unconditional Compassion by reciting the Nembutsu of Awareness, Joy, and Gratitude, and also endeavor in gratitude to foster a more peaceful and harmonious world beginning with my own self and our own Kyodan/Sangha. Our limitations as bonbu are evident, but may we aspire to be that Kyodan/Sangha that the Dharma describes, and makes the Buddha smile in acknowledgement of our efforts to try to be better. Again, in response to Buddha's benevolence, I, together with our State President Mr. Pieper Toyama, humbly ask for your support and cooperation. May we all go to the Buddha Dharma for guidance! Entrusting in the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light.

In Gassho/Anjali,

**Bishop Eric Matsumoto**  
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **Change, Vision, and Engagement in 2016**

We enter 2016 shaped by the theme: EMBRACE CHANGE: NEW VISION, and this vision for the future is to be borne out of our engagement with each other and our communities. Let me share two thoughts on this theme. First, let us be guided by the Jodo Shinshu concept of Ondobo Ondogyo. This perspective of life is based on the idea that we are all fellow travelers. That lay members and ministers are on the same journey. We make our way by supporting each other, by sharing the joys and burdens of our travels. We engage with each other to set the direction of our journey and how we will travel together. To live the meaning of Ondobo Ondogyo, lay members and ministers must work with each other to set and share a vision of the future. This will mean engagements that are happy and productive as well as engagements that are unhappy and frustrating. Our egos will make sure that our journey together is not perfect. But this is the natural process of engagement that must not deter us from traveling as one Sangha.



Second, as you travel through 2016, find opportunities to engage in the life of your temple that make sense to you in your life right now. Your engagement may be as simple as attending Sunday services or it may extend to participating in a few temple events. It may even include joining a committee to plan an activity or even serving as a chairperson. Better yet, it may grow to becoming an officer of your temple. Set a vision for yourself for 2016 and embrace the changes that you create.

Namo Amida Butsu  
In Gassho

Pieper J. Toyama

## **THE ACCESSION CEREMONY (DENTO HOKOKU HOYO)**

The Accession Ceremony (The Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition; Dento Hokoku Hoyo 伝灯奉告法要) will be held from October 2016 through May 2017 at Honzan in Kyoto, Japan.

The Accession Ceremony is conducted before Amida Tathagata and Shinran Shonin to formally announce that the newly-inducted Head Priest shall take on the responsibilities as Monshu, following in the footsteps of his predecessors to spread the Dharma to new generations and embracing the opportunity to spread the Nembutsu teaching to a greater number of people. It is also a festive occasion welcoming everyone to celebrate the inauguration of the new Monshu.

Please see the website for more information; <http://hqs963.wix.com/hmhdhhtour>

|                         | HMMH Spiritual Enrichment and Fellowship Tour   | Accession Ceremony portion only   | Travel Agency                 |
|-------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>October 2016</b>     | October 14-23, 2016<br>(10 days)<br>Visit Rennyō Shōnin related sites<br>(Limited to 50 people)       | October 20-22, 2016<br>(Only when there is a vacancy in the HMMH tour registration.)      | Kintetsu International Hawaii |
| <b>March-April 2017</b> | March 29 – April 7, 2017<br>(10 days)<br>Visit Shinran Shōnin related sites<br>(Limited to 60 people) | March 30 – April 1, 2017<br>(Only when there is a vacancy in the HMMH tour registration.) | JTB USA                       |

### Legislative Assembly Aloha Luncheon and Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ Recognition

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will honor the following individuals as the 2016 Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ in recognition of their personal and professional achievements and their contributions to the community. We welcome you to celebrate this honor with them.

Paul Leland Breese

Sooriya Kumar

Dr. Puakea M. Nogelmeier

Dennis Masaaki Ogawa, Ph.D

Lillian Noda Yajima

Date: Saturday, February 13, 2016

Place: Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom

Time: 11:00 AM - Registration, 12:00 PM - Lunch and Program

Cost: Early registration - \$70.00 for payments received by January 31, 2016

Late registration - \$85.00 for payments between February 1 – February 7, 2016

### 12 Million Pounds of Food Distributed

Did you know that 1 out of 5 people, annually, need help in getting food? Yes, according to the Fact Book of the Hawaii Food Bank 287,000 people, of all ages, receive help in getting food each year in Hawaii. Recently, on December 28, 2015, Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Committee on Social Concerns and Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Bishop of the Jodo Shin Buddhist Mission, visited Polly Kauahi, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Hawaii Food Bank to present this year's donation. Photo courtesy of Hawaii Food Bank. The Committee also made donations to Neighbor Island agencies such as Maui Food Bank, The Food Basket (Hawaii Island) and Kauai Independent Food Bank & Hawaii Food Bank Kauai Branch as part of a State-wide effort to eliminate hunger. In total, \$6,000.00 was donated for the year, 2015. According to Hawaii Food Bank, a \$10 donation distributes food for 25 meals. This contribution is in addition to other efforts, directly or indirectly, connected with the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii such as the Oahu United Jr. YBA and Hawaii Buddhist Council Food Drives. The HMMH would like to express their gratitude to the Members and Friends of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for your generosity which allows the Mission to help those in need in our communities. It is anticipated that with the impact of the related concern of Homelessness/Houselessness across our State the need for food will also increase in the coming years. Once again, thank you for your dana!

