



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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JUNE 2018

### UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

**From: Dean Sakamoto, Chair of the Committee on Social Concerns**

#### Emergency Donations for Kauai – Flood

The Committee on Social Concerns of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii gave generously to the island of Kauai in response to the significant damages caused by the devastating rain and subsequent flooding experienced in April. Monies were presented to both Malama Kauai and the Kauai Independent Food Bank to help those organizations in their rebuilding efforts on Kauai. Monies were also presented to the Hanalei Nihonjin Kai Cemetery for damages which occurred at the cemetery from the rain/flood. Three individual members also received small donations to help with the rebuilding of their damaged structures. At the May 23, 2018 meeting of the Kauai Hongwanji Council, checks were presented to the three organizations.



Front row: L-R: Rev. Miekko Majima (Kapa'a), Kelvin Moniz (Executive Director of Kauai Independent Food Bank), Carol Valentine (Lihue, Kauai Social Concerns representative), Megan Fox (Executive Director of Malama Kauai), Roy Nishida (Kapa'a, President of Kauai Hongwanji Council), Irwin Haraguchi (representative of Hanalei Nihonjin Kai Cemetery), Elaine Saiki (West Kauai)

Back row: L-R: Rev. Kazunori Takahashi (Lihue), Gail Shibuya (Lihue), Rev. Tomo Hojo (West Kauai), Gladys Fujiuchi (Lihue), Lynne Matsumura (Lihue), Morton Yamasaki (Lihue), Wayne Fujioka (Lihue)

On June 7, 2018 two "Omimai" presentations were made to Kapa'a Hongwanji members living in Hanalei who suffered significant flood damage to their homes during the recent rain/flooding disaster on Kauai's north shore. Presentations were made by Rev. Majima, resident minister of Kapa'a Hongwanji, Roberta Yanagawa, president of Kapa'a Hongwanji and Carol Valentine, Kauai representative on the Social Concerns committee. As we talked with the families, we had a greater understanding of the devastation caused by the flooding, even in the town of Hanalei along the main road. One resident said that he had lived in Hanalei all of his life (80+ years) and had never seen it flood like this. Their home and property on the main highway in Hanalei were flooded with approximately 3 feet of water. Luckily, their main living area was upstairs and unaffected. Unfortunately, 2 vehicles, a freezer, washer/dryer and multiple tools and power tools were all flooded and ruined. The other resident in Hanalei, living along with his mother, were also fortunate that their living quarters were upstairs, but unfortunately, they lost a freezer and its contents, a small bathroom and multiples tools, toys and supplies.

In talking with both families, Carol said “I realized that they not only know the Dharma but are living the Dharma. They were grateful for the donation received and were hopeful and optimistic about moving on with their lives, in spite of the difficulties they are facing. Both families were gracious and welcoming, even in the midst of their rebuilding work. It was an honor to be able to meet these wonderful people and help them in a small way.”

A third “Omimai” presentation was made to a West Kauai Hongwanji Member who also suffered some flood damage.

### **Emergency Donations for Hawaii Island – Earthquakes and Lava Flows**

The Committee on Social Concerns approved an “Omimai” donation to Papaikou Hongwanji for damage which resulted from an earthquake. Fortunately, no injury from the earthquake was reported.

A donation to the Hawaii Island Food Basket was approved and a presentation with the organization will be coordinated through Ken Okimoto, Hawaii Island committee member, and the Hawaii Hongwanji Council. The Food Basket continues to support emergency shelters and families with providing food.

### **Emergency Donations to Hawaii State VOAD – Oahu and Kauai Floods, Hawaii Island Lava Flows**



On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Dean Sakamoto, Committee on Social Concerns Chair, presented a donation to Emily Kukulies, President of Hawaii State VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster). The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is a member of VOAD which meets monthly.

Ken Okimoto is our HHMH representative with the East Hawaii VOAD.

### **Donation Presentation to Mana O’lana Shelter (Kauai Economic Opportunity)**

On June 13, 2018 a check was presented to Jason Honjiyo, of the Mana ‘Olana Homeless Shelter with Kauai Economic Opportunity (KEO) from the Committee on Social Concerns with Honpa Hongwanji. Mana ‘Olana serves the needs of the homeless on Kauai with meals, temporary housing and transitional housing. Kauai is fortunate that Mana ‘Olana and KEO are available to Kauai.



(L-R) Gail Shibuya (Lihue Hongwanji), Shirley Kakuda (West Kauai Hongwanji), Stephanie Fernandes (former Director of Mana ‘Olana, Homeless & Housing), Roberta Yanagawa (Kapa’a Hongwanji), Carol Valentine (Kauai representative for the Committee on Social Concerns), Jason Honjiyo (Mana ‘Olana Emergency Shelter Director), Marian Ogata (Lihue Hongwanji)

**Donation Presentation to Family Promise of Hawaii**

A donation was presented to the Family Promise of Hawaii on May 31, 2018. Dave Atcheson (Right), Committee on Social Concerns member representing the Honolulu District, and Dean Sakamoto, presented the donation to Samantha Church, Family Promise Hawaii Director. The mission of Family Promise of Hawaii is to mobilize existing community resources to aid families with children experiencing homelessness and help them transition to sustainable independence. During the visit, Ms. Church gave a tour of the Family Promise facility in Honolulu.



## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP ISSUES STATEMENT AGAINST THE SEPARATION OF FAMILIES

### ***Statement Against the Separation of Families***

*(from the Office of the Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii)*

**"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."** In just a few words, the above, which is found on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, summarizes for many around the world, past, present and future, what America represents, promises, is and should be. As human beings, as people, we all need hope. As a Nation, are we going back on our promise to the world? I hope not.

From a Buddhist perspective, both the process and end result are important. The procedure of how matters are handled is as important as the outcome. While the current policies of our Nation does not outright deny individuals and families entry into the United States, the procedure must be more compassionate and should not be tearing families apart. The bond between parent(s) and child(ren) is one of the most, if not the most precious relationship a person can have especially when young. The policy of Zero Tolerance is too extreme. As Americans, I believe, we have pride in that we are a just and fair Nation. We may not be perfect, but in our interactions around the globe, we have tried to uphold this standard which is becoming of a world leader.

Our Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Tradition has a long history of valuing human life, seeing the importance of relationships including the natural environment and emphasizing inclusiveness as evidenced by the Great Vows of Amida (Amitabha-Amitayus) Buddha and writings of Shinran Shonin and Rennyo Shonin, our foremost Spiritual Leaders.

Although the circumstances may have been a little different, I also draw from the past experiences of a segment of our Buddhist Membership who because of their (Japanese) ethnic and national origins had to unfairly experience separation from family during the last great world war. There was, and for some still remain, so much pain and trauma from the separation. It is a circumstance that should not be repeated for anyone. Is it not one of our basic understandings in America that the family is the backbone of our Nation? We need strong individuals and families being guided by universal values to be a better Nation and World.

A quote from the Metta Sutra reads, "May all life be happy. May they be joyous and live in safety. All life, whether weak or strong, in high or middle or low realms of existence, small or great, visible or invisible, near or far, born or to be born. May all life be happy. Let none deceive another nor despise any life in any state; Let none by anger or hatred wish harm to another. Even as a mother at the risk of her life watches over and protects her only child, so with a boundless mind should one cherish all life, suffusing love over the entire world, above, below, and all around without limit; so let us cultivate an infinite goodwill toward the whole world."

As such, with this statement, I express my lament and express my ardent wish that we rescind the Zero Tolerance Policy and its ramifications which result in separating families to become a more just, fair and compassionate Nation.

*\*The Statement by Bishop Eric Matsumoto is posted on the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Website.*

## HQ BOOKSTORE UPDATE

### New Book!

**“青い鳥がなくとき When the Blue Bird Sings”**

**Written by Noryco**

**\$15.00**

This beautiful picture book was first published in October 2017. The story is about a blue bird who became known as “Bupposo” and a Japanese Scops Owl which is the “Voice of Bupposo.”



This book is written in both Japanese and English. The writer of this book, Noryco is a spouse of a Honpa Hongwanji Overseas Minister in Brazil. The English translation was done by Tabitha Kobata who is a daughter of a BCA minister.

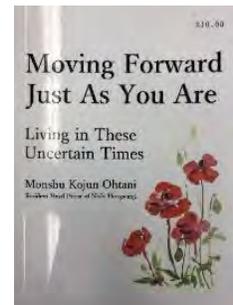
A moving story that accepts your goodness “just as you are”! (Dr. Kenneth Tanaka, author of “Ocean”)

**“Moving Forward Just As You Are – Living in These Uncertain times-”**

**Written by Monshu Kojun Ohtani**

**\$10.00**

Monshu Kojun Ohtani wrote, *“In this book I will talk about my thoughts on how to live “moving forward just as we are,” so that we are not led astray by our wavering hearts or the chaotic world we live in. We do not have to feel like we always need to be in control of our lives. In fact, our worries and concerns in life are the stepping stones to finding the true source of strength. I sincerely hope that this easy to understand reading can in some way lead to great joy for anyone who may be bearing on one’s shoulders the many fears and anxieties of life.”*



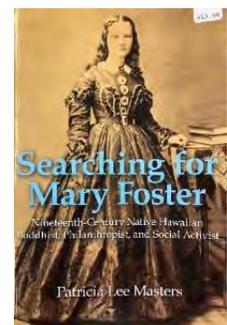
**“Searching for Mary Foster”**

**Written by Dr. Patricia Masters**

**\$15.00**

We are saddened to hear that fellow Buddhist Dr. Patricia Masters recently passed away. We offer our condolences to her Family, Relatives and Friends.

As noted previously, Chapter 7 of the book is devoted to the Pure Land and Mary Foster’s connections to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and Bishop Yemyo Imamura. Honpa Hongwanji members, please rediscover an important and interesting part of your history in Hawaii.



**Please stop by HHMH Bookstore at HQ office to buy new books or contact with Yoshiko at (808)522-9202 or [hqbooks@honpahi.org](mailto:hqbooks@honpahi.org) to order. HHMH Bookstore offer 10% off price for the orders from HHMH temples and ministers.**

**HONGWANJI JOINT CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 1-3, 2018**  
**Embrace Change: Harmony (Accepting Differences)**



Two Headed Bird (Gumyocho) represents Interdependence and Harmony

**Have you registered? Registration deadline is July 20<sup>th</sup>!**

Don't miss the most unique conference in Hawaii Kyodan's history in which multiple affiliated organizations of our Sangha will come together for a weekend of Dharma Learning and Inspiration, fellowship and bonding with harmony and accepting differences as the theme and central focus from September 1-3, 2018 at the Ala Moana Hotel and 1727 Pali Highway Campus. Our guest Keynote Speaker is the current Lieutenant Governor Doug Chin, the former Attorney General of Hawaii who, as the Attorney General at time, spoke out against the Executive Order on Travel and Immigration. Registration is open until July 20<sup>th</sup>. Forms are available on the Hongwanji website or from your temple president. Also, please do not forgot to make your reservations at the Ala Moana Hotel under the Joint Conference. We hope you'll take advantage of these opportunities to deepen your awareness as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist and the sense of interconnectedness with not only members of our Hongwanji Sangha, but also others who will joining us from other religious traditions and countries like the Manoa Mosque and Japan. The Saturday night is a free night, and the Okinawan Festival is just down the block at the Hawaii Convention Center. Sunday night is our banquet with great food and good entertainment. The Closing Service should be most memorable and unique as we incorporate elements of what is learned at the Conference. It's a weekend not to be missed! See you there!

**BSC SUMMER SESSION**

*44th Annual Buddhist Study Center Summer Session*

*"Everyday Buddhism" with Dr. Kenneth Tanaka*

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Kenshin Tanaka attended Dharma School in California. While being an active member of the Young Buddhist Association (YBA), he aspired to study Buddhism, which he did at Stanford Univ. (B.A.), a temple in Thailand, Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS)(M.A.), Tokyo University (M.A.), and Univ. of California at Berkeley (Ph.D.).



Topics include: Everyday Buddhism: How We Look at Life and Dealing with Difficult People and Situations, Everyday Buddhism: Confronting One's Own Death and that of Our Loved Ones, Everyday Buddhism: Turning Difficulties into Renewed Life and Actions to Bring Centeredness in our Lives, Everyday Buddhism: You're Fine Just as You Are and Life is a Beautiful Bumpy Road, and Everyday Buddhism: You Can Always Let Go When You get Tired and Working to Benefit Others.

The Summer Session held at the Buddhist Study Center, 1436 University Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96822, Phone: (808) 973-6555, will be held from July 23-27, 2018 beginning each evening with registration at 6pm. Please visit the BSC Website at [www.BSCHawaii.org](http://www.BSCHawaii.org) for more information.