Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i

42nd Annual

Living Treasures of Hawaii™ 2017

The

LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAI'I™
is a program instituted by the
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
to recognize and honor individuals
for their *sustained contributions*
toward *enriching* our society.

Preserve and
perpetuate the
islands' distinctive
cultural and
artistic heritage.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
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Program

LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAI'I™ 2017
February 11, 2017
Hilton Hawaiian Village
Coral Ballroom · Honolulu, Hawai'i

sponsored by
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

opening remarks
Dennis Sekine, *Master of Ceremonies*

welcoming message
Bishop Eric Matsumoto

words of thanksgiving before the meal
Reverend Bruce Nakamura

lunch

recognition of 25 years of service
Reverend & Mrs. Shindo Nishiyama

history of the living treasures program
Bishop Eric Matsumoto

congratulatory messages

video presentation

introduction of the 2017 living treasures honorees

words of appreciation
Pieper Toyama

closing remarks
Dennis Sekine

42nd Annual Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ 2017

Roy Sakuma

Nobuko Kida

George Yokoyama

Bishop Ryokan Ara

Beatrice "Beadie" Kanahele Dawson

42nd Annual
Living Treasures
of Hawai'i™
2017

Representing Hawai'i's rich cultural heritage, these honorees are devoted to preserving the *spirit, traditions,* and *values* of our island home for future generations.

Reverend
Yoshiaki Fujitani

The History

The Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ has been a part of our cultural landscape since 1976. Drawing inspiration from the Living National Treasures (Ningen Kokuho) of Japan, insurance executive Paul Yamanaka knew there were many people in Hawai'i who deserved similar recognition for their contributions to the preservation and perpetuation of the islands' distinctive cultural and artistic heritage.

Mr. Yamanaka brought his idea to Yoshiaki Fujitani, Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission. Wholeheartedly embracing the idea, Bishop Fujitani worked quickly to establish the program. A committee of experts in Hawaiiana and practicing artists actively involved in the Hawaiian community was formed. It was comprised of John Dominis Holt, publisher; Abraham Pi'ianāi'a, University of Hawai'i professor; Zenetta Ho'ulu Cambra, chanter; Rubellite Johnson, translator of *Kumulipo;* Homer Hayes, historian; and Cecilia Lindo, Hongwanji Mission School teacher. Mr. Yamanaka served as chairman and Bishop Fujitani was an ex officio member.

Charles W. Kenn, noted scholar, historian, author, and practicing kahuna was the first person to be named a Living Treasure of Hawai'i in an informal ceremony held at the Hongwanji Mission in 1976.

The following year, eight other individuals were honored. These Living Treasures included 'Iolani Luahine, dancer; Lokalia Montgomery, chanter; Johanna D. Cluney, feather artisan; Mary Kawena Pūku'i, author of the *Hawaiian Dictionary;* Dr. Samuel H. Elbert, anthropologist; Wright Bowman, woodcrafter; and Jean Charlot, artist.

Since the program's inception, over two hundred of Hawai'i's people, including educators, dancers, artists, clergy, business leaders, and community volunteers, among others, have been named Living Treasures of Hawai'i™.

Aloha! Welcome to the Aloha Luncheon of the 105th Legislative Assembly of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and the 42nd Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ Recognition Program.

Today, on behalf of the entire Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji or Shin Buddhist Sangha/Membership of Hawaii, I offer my heart-felt congratulations and gratitude to Bishop Ryokan Ara, Beatrice "Beadie" Kanahele Dawson, Nobuko Kida, Roy Sakuma and the late George Yokoyama, the 2017 Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ Honorees. Their life truly reflects to a profound degree the truth and significance of Interdependence as emphasized by the Buddhist Teaching. The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, represented by the delegates and observers from our 34 temples and fellowship throughout the State and also the Buddhist Study Center, Pacific Buddhist Academy and our many affiliate organizations like the Buddhist Women's Associations and Jr. Young Buddhist Associations, with the help of many generous sponsors and donors is honored to be able to recognize these outstanding individuals and help perpetuate the high standards of excellence and achievements they have attained together with their commitment to the well-being of society through this Living Treasures Program.

Bishop Eric T. Matsumoto

Since antiquity, it has been said, "...ten pearls each the size of a pigeon's egg do not constitute the treasure of a nation, but only when a person casts his/her light over a part of the nation, can one speak of a treasure of the nation." The Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ Honorees are exemplary examples of remarkable individuals who do just that. In our troubled times filled with anxiety, fostering mutual understanding and respect, caring for others and sharing that which brings people together and brings beauty into life is essential for not only Hawaii's future, but the whole world. I believe, we, the people of Hawaii, have something very valuable that we can share with the rest of the world so that all lives can become more harmonious and peaceful and rich and meaningful. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii hopes, that even in a small way, that this Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ Program contributes towards the fulfillment of individual lives, the enhancement of humankind and the aspiration for world peace and harmony.

We are truly humbled by the response of the Hawaii community statewide for their acknowledgement of and support of the Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ Program as one of the most valued and recognized programs in the State of Hawaii. We thank the many who support the Program including many past Living Treasure Honorees and may we all be guided by All-Inclusive Wisdom and inspired by All-Embracing Compassion, Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light. Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion.

In gassho/Anjali (With hands together in reverence and respect),

Rev. Eric T. Matsumoto, 16th Bishop
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Roy Sakuma

Ukulele virtuoso and cultural artisan

Birthplace: Honolulu, Hawai'i

The name **Roy Sakuma** is synonymous with the ukulele. He breathes life into the prolific Hawaiian instrument that has been featured from cozy venues across the state to mega stage performances all over the world.

Achievements

- Founder of the Annual Ukulele Festival, which draws thousands of spectators to attend free concerts by both amateur and top ukulele musicians. It is the largest ukulele festival in the world. Roy and Kathy Sakuma eventually established Ukulele Festival Hawai'i, a charitable non-profit organization to coordinate and organize the event. The organization also funds scholarships for high school seniors that are planning on attending college and helps sponsor other festivals in Hawai'i.
- Establish the ukulele school that now bears his name, the Roy Sakuma Studio. Now with four locations on O'ahu: Kaimuki, 'Aiea, Kane'ohe, and Mililani. Among his students are, most notably, Jake Shimabukuro and the late Israel Kamakawiwo'ole.
- Founder of Roy Sakuma Productions. Its first album, Ohta-San, received the Na Hoku Hanohano Award for Best Instrumental Album of the year.

Accolades

Roy Sakuma's accolades include the 2014 Hawai'i Peace Day Distinguished Peacemakers Award...2008 SBA Business Award...the 2007 Kahili Award from the Keep It Hawai'i Recognition Awards Program...the 2000 proclamation of Roy Sakuma Day in Hawai'i by Governor Ben Cayetano...and multiple Na Hoku Hanohano Awards.

Roy, Ohta-san
2009

Nobuko Kida continues to learn the virtuosity of ikebana from masters in the field while at the same time demonstrating the highest excellence of blending traditional and modern techniques. She began her studies at the age of 15 and remains eager to share her vast knowledge of the art form.

Nobuko Kida

Master artisan and teacher of Ikenobo Ikebana

Birthplace: Okinawa, Japan

Achievements

- Founding Member of the Honolulu Chapter of Ikenobo, the oldest and largest school of Japanese floral art.
- Member of Ikebana International, whose purpose is to unite people of the world through their mutual love of nature and the enjoyment of ikebana.
- Coordinated a painting and flower arrangement display with Mr. Seikichi Takara, world renowned artist of Okinawan ancestry.
- Commissioned flower display for the Japanese Consulate to celebrate the Emperor's birthday.
- Coordinated an ikebana exhibit at the Japanese Consulate in remembrance of the Tohoku Disaster.
- Created flower arrangements for various organizations including the Jikoen Hongwanji, the Japanese American Association, the Kauai Festival, Kuakini Medical Center, Hawai'i Theatre, the Hawai'i Pacific Press, the Hawai'i Okinawan Center, the City & County of Honolulu City Hall, and the Okinawan Festival.
- Invited to display arrangements for special events such as the 35th Anniversary of the Honolulu Chapter of Ikenobo, a banquet honoring Empress Michiko, the visit of Prince Hitachinomiya and Princess Hanako, and the Honpa Hongwanji Hawai'i Betsuin's 100th Anniversary Celebration.
- Teaches at numerous venues including the Okinawan Center and Ikenobo Ai-Ko-Kai.
- DJ at KNDI radio station for 25 years where she fulfills her desire to connect Okinawa with America and to spread peace and compassion through out the world.
- Has been studying Ryukyu dance since the age of 15 and occasionally performs and parties and temple activities.

Accolades

Nobuko Kida's accolades include the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Certificate from the 45th Headmaster Senei Ikenobo…the 2015 Uchinanchu of the Year by the Hawai'i United Okinawan Association…and the highest rank of Sokatoku in the field of Ikenobo.

George Yokoyama

Grandfather of grantwriting and purveyor of community action programs

Birthplace: Hilo, Hawai'i

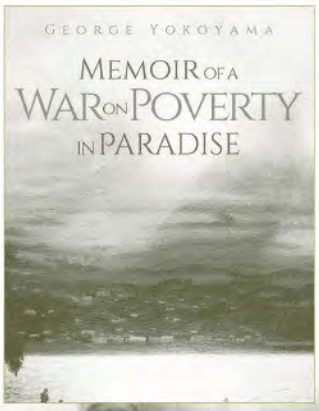
The late **GeorgYokoyama** strived to support the downtrodden by showcasing human dignity. He demonstrated remarkable resiliency and epitomized the Japanese proverb that if you fall down seven times, you get up eight.

Achievements

- Former Executive Director of Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council who dedicated much of his life to helping the economically disadvantaged community of Hawaii Island.
- Exceptional grant writer with a 98% success rate for economic development grants that enhance job training and placement through job creation and business development.
- Acquired $13 million in funding to run eight Welfare-to-Work projects including incubator kitchens to producer confectionary food products, agricultural training, carpentry training, computer learning centers, renewable energy, and confectionary gift products manufacturing.
- Estimated to have brought in between $75 to $100 million to the Big Island.
- Organizer of twenty-one communities on the Big Island with loyal and dedicated grassroots leaders.
- Founder of a cultural center project that will showcase Hawai'i's multicultural and multiethnic people living and working together in harmony.
- Author of *Memoir of a War on Poverty in Paradise.*
- Attended conferences, visited Hawai'i's congressional leaders, and testified before the state and county for economic funding.

Accolades

George Yokoyama accolades include the 2016 Key to Hawai'i County.



GEORGE YOKOYAMA
A Lifetime of Helping People

Bishop Ryokan Ara entered the Buddhist priesthood at the age of 10 and eventually graduated from Taisho University with a doctoral degree in Tendai study. He is a gifted calligrapher and painter who actualizes invisible essentials through words and pictures.

Bishop Ryokan Ara

Propagator of peace, philosophy, and art

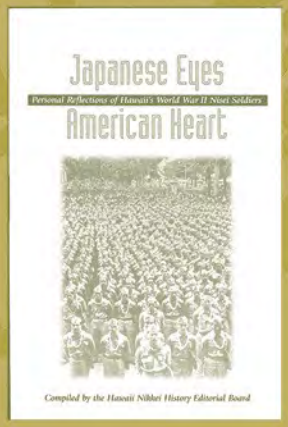
Birthplace: Fukushima, Japan

Achievements

- Bishop of Tendai Betsuin Temple in Honolulu.
- Established the Hawai'i Ichigu Kai, or the Hawai'i chapter of the One Corner Association, a service organization based on Buddhist philosophy and teachings. A major undertaking of the organization was the audio recording of 100 Issei sharing life stories.
- Established the Tendai Mission of Hawai'i, the Art Institute of Hawai'i and the Japanese Language Institute of Hawai'i.
- Initiated the Honolulu Toro Nagashi (floating lantern) Ceremony on the Ala Wai Canal where it was held annually on August 15, the anniversary of the end of World War II in the Pacific.
- Conducts annual memorial service in memory of the 141 former residents of the original Kuakini Home where most were single men with no family members in Hawai'i.
- Filled important posts at Sengakuin in Sendai, Shojokouin in Sendai, and Daifukui in Fukushima.
- Published numerous books including *Say What Should I Say "To Live!", Fullness of Blossoms in Emptiness, Buddhas of Compassion, Japanese Eyes, American Heart (Vol. I): Personal Stories of Hawai'i's World War II Nisei Soldiers, Japanese Eyes, American Heart (Vol. II): Voices from the Home Front in World War II Hawai'i, and Japanese Eyes, American Heart (Vol. III): Learning to Live in Hawai'i.* His latest book is of Zen humor with each proverb accompanied by a sketch of two aging monks telling Koan to each other. He is also working on a fourth volume of *Japanese Eyes, American Heart* that will highlight the work of the Military Intelligence Service in the Pacific Theater of World War II and the humanity they demonstrated in the Occupation of Japan, which greatly contributed to the genuine friendship that now exists between Japan and the United States.
- Hosted exhibitions of his paintings in San Francisco, Boston, New York, and Japan.
- Offered classes in calligraphy, ikebana, traditional Japanese painting and tea ceremony, among other arts.

Accolades

Knighted in 2013 by the Knights of the Orthodox Order of Saint John Russian Grand Priory…Recipient of Hawai'i Forgiveness Project's 2012 Heroes of Forgiveness Award.



Beatrice "Beadie" Kanahele Dawson

Staunch advocate of the Native Hawaiian community

Birthplace: Honolulu, Hawai'i

Beadie Dawson advances Native Hawaiian issues on the social, political, legal, and philanthropic fronts. Although law is her field of expertise, her passion lies in helping others through a deep sense of kuleana.

Achievements

- Of Counsel for the law firm of Settle Meyer Law.
- President and Director of Hawaiian Native Corporation, a nonprofit organization that aims to foster minority ownership of businesses and supports a variety of Native Hawaiian causes.
- President of the Social Science Association, an organization of Hawai'i's most prominent leaders that was established in 1882 when Hawai'i was an independent nation and King Kalakaua was on the throne.
- Former Chief Executive Officer of Dawson Group, Inc., an environmental remediation, construction, and information technology company that recently emerged as a super 8(a) Native Hawaiian Organization-owned firm under the United States Small Business Administration minority-owned busniess program.
- Former Director of the Native Hawaiian Bar Association.
- Former Public Relations Officer at the Hawai'i State Department of Social Services and Housing where she directed media and public communication.
- Chairperson of Friends of Iolani Palace, Friends of Richardson School of Law, Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center Advisory Council, and the YWCA Land Development Committee.
- Serves on the Board of Directors for various organizations including the Friends of the Medical School at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), Department of Education, Hawai'i Public Radio, Mid-Pacific Institute, the Rotary Club of Hawai'i, the Hawaiian Historical Society, and the Historic Hawai'i Foundation.
- Practices ho'oponopono, the ancient Hawaiian form of conflict resolution that is widely used today, even in the family court system. Has also served as a trainer of ho'oponopono for the Native Dispute Resolution Network of the U.S. Institute of Environmental Conflict Resolution.

Accolades

Beadie Dawson's accolades include the 2015 Lehua Award from the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation... the 2001 Lifetime Achievement Award from Hawai'i Women Lawyers...the 2001 Laura N. Dowsett Award from the Junior League of Honolulu...the 1998 Outstanding Lawyer of the Year Award...and the 1997 Annual Salute to Women Leaders.

Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ 1976 ~ 2016

1976

Charles Kenn

1977

Wright Elemakule Bowman, Sr.
Jean Charlot
Johanna Drew Cluney
Samuel Hoyt Elbert
Kenneth Pike Emory
'Iolani Luahine
Rosalie Lokalia Lovell Montgomery
Mary Kawena Pu¯ku'i

1978

Theodore Kelsey

1979

Abraham Kahikina Akaka
Emma Kalani-kau'i-ka'ala neo-kilioulaninui-ama mao-ho'opi'i-wahine-keakaleihilinaka deFries
John Dominis Holt, IV
Edward Leilani Kamae
Edith Kekuhikuhi-i-pu'uone'o-na¯'ali'i-o-kohala Kenao Kanaka'ole
Clorinda Low Lucas
Aldyth Vernon Morris
Alice Ku'ulei-aloha-poina'ole Namakelua
Philip Kunia "Gabby" Pahinui

1980

Gabriel I
Maxine Hong Kingston
Donald Kilolani Mitchell
Pilahi Paki
Alfred Preis

1981

Solomon Kekipi Bright, Sr.
Oswald Bushnell
Leo Ohai
Leon J. Edel
William H. Meinecke
Isamu Noguchi
Juliet Rice Wichman

1982

Juliette May Fraser
Annie Lehua Asam Kanahele
Richard Lyman, Jr.
Silver Kiniohi Piliwali
James Ka'upena Wong, Jr.

1983

Homer Ahu'ula Hayes
Rubellite Kawena Kinney Johnson
Zaneta Ho'ululahui Cambra Richards
Morrnah Nalamaku Simeona
Emily Kau'i Zuttermeister

1984

Satoru Abe
Bumpei Akaji
Irmgard Farden Aluli
Francis Haar
Herb Kawainui Ka¯ne
Tadashi Sato
Emma Kapi'olani Farden Sharpe

1985

Gladys Kamakakuokalani 'Ainoa Brandt
May Moir
Sarah M. Wood Nalua'i
Katashi Nose
Soichi Sakamoto
Allan Frederic Saunders

1986

Claude F. Du Teil
Kahu Edward L. Kealanahele
Milton M. Howell
Margaret Machado

Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ 1976 - 2016

1987

Agnes C. Conrad
Agnes Kalaniho'okaha Cope
Edmund M. K. Enomoto
Joe Harper
Claude Horan
David Kuraoka
John Keolamaka-'aina-nakalāhui-okalani Lake
Kahauanu Lake
Toshiko Takaezu

1988

Kenneth F. Brown
David Kauweloa Kaupu
Murray Turnbull

1989

Reiko Mochinaga Brandon
Healani Onohiaulani Chilton Doane
Yehan Numata
Reuben Tam
Tseng Yuho (Betty Tseng Ecke)

1990

Richard Kekuni Blaisdell
Edmond Lee Browning
Frances Damon Holt
Kyo Kawabata

1991

Daniel G. Chun
Dwight Pauahi Kauahikaua
Moses Kapalekilahao Keale, Sr.
Puanani Kanemura Van Dorpe

1992

Helen Hoakalei Kamau'u
David Kaohelaulii
Marie Emilia Leilehua McDonald
Harry Seisho Nakasone
Matsuno Yasui
David Nu'uhiwa Enoka Kaohelauli'i

1993

Elaine Arita
Yoshiko Matsuda
Stewart Valentine Medeiros, Sr.
Edith Hanae Tanaka
Shige Yamada

1994

Todd Toshiaki Akita
Daniel J. Dever
Reverend Yoshiaki Fujitani
Roy T. Fukumura
Deborah Kepola Kekalia
Yukio Ozaki
Marion Grace Saunders

1995

Donald Tai Loy Ho
Sally Fletcher Murchison
Leone Kamana Okamura

1996

Wallace F. Froiseth
Hiroki Morinoue
Shinichi Suzuki

1997

Robert Aitken
Henry A. Auwae
Martha Kaumakaokalani Aoe Poepoe Hohu
Ralph Chikato Honda
Iwao Mizuta

1998

Hubert Victor Everly
George Sanford Kanahele
Beatrice Kapua'okalani Hilmer Krauss
Jerry Okimoto
Vladimir Ossipoff
Ruth Tabrah

1999

Earl E. Bakken
Samuel S. A. Cooke
Shimeji Ryusaki Kanazawa
Yutaka Kimura
Abraham St. Chad Pi'iana'ī'a
Adam A. "Bud" Smyser

2000

Glenna Fusae Kimura Ewing
James K. Fujikawa
Ah Quon McElrath
Rose Nakamura
Charles Nainoa Thompson

2001

Ronald E. Bright
Sean Kekamakupa'a Lee Loy Browne
Rocky Ka'iouliokahihikolo 'Ehu Jensen
Bob Krauss
Jesse "Takamiyama" Kuhaulua Azumazeki Oyakata
Clarence K. M. Lee

2002

Dr. Alfred Bloom
Takeshi Fujita
Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone
Takashi Nonaka
Dr. Yosihiko Sinoto
Myron Bennett (Pinky) Thompson

2003

Beatrice "Beebe" Freitas
Mary Lou Kekuewa
Dr. Albert H. Miyasato
Dr. Margaret Y. Oda
Ted T. Tsukiyama
Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi

2004

Reverend Mitsuo Aoki
Patience Na'maka Bacon
Genoa Keawe
Dr. Fujio Matsuda
Edith Kawelohea McKinzie
Tau Moe

2005

Momi Cazimero
Gabriel "Gabe" Baltazar, Jr.
Sione Tui'one Pulotu
Dr. Thomas Klobe
Dr. Isabella Aiona Abbott
Dr. Benjamin B.C. Young

2006

Richard K. Paglinawan
James T. Kunichika
Carol Kouchi Yotsuda
Edward T. Ka'anana "Uncle Eddie"
Walter H.K. Paulo "Uncle Walter"
Dr. Terry T. Shintani

2007

Norman Sakata
Dr. Barbara B. Smith
Dr. Terence Rogers
Mary M. Craver "Aunty Malia"
George Lanakilakeikiahiali'i Na'ope "Uncle George"
Dorothy Thompson "Aunty Dottie"
Wally K. Yonamine

Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ 1976 ~ 2016

2008

Edwin Mahiai "Mahi" Copp Beamer
Dr. Charles Burrows
Reverend Samuel Cox
Benjamin Kodama
Elsie Tanaka

2009

Amy Agbayani
Puanani Burgess
Sister Joan Chatfield
Bert Nishimura
Nalani Olds

2010

Elizabeth Kawohiokalani Ellis Jenkins
Patti Lyons
Reverend Toshihide Numata
S. Stanley Okamoto
Paul Weissich

2011

Josephine Kaukali Fergerstrom
Dr. Claire Hughes
Masaru Oshiro
Dr. Jack Scaff
Dr. Livingston Wong

2012

Goro Arakawa
Dr. Ben Finney
Barbara Fusako Kawakami
Lynette Kahekili Paglinawan
Gordon Mark

2013

Dennis Kauahi
Nola Nahulu
Michael Nakasone
Oswald Stender
Gary Washburn

2014

Reverend Ida Keli'iokalani Chun
Dr. Samuel 'Ohukani'o-hi'a Gon III
Robert Hamada
Art & Rene Kimura
Reverend Chikai Yosemori

2015

Puanani Alama
S. Haunani Apoliona
Dr. Bernice Yamagata Hirai
Paulette Nohealani Kahalepuna
Laura Ruby
Barry K. Taniguchi

2016

Paul Leland Breese
Dr. Puakea M. Nogelmeier
Dr. Dennis Masaaki Ogawa
Muthukumaru Sooriyakumar
(Sooriya Kumar)
Lillian Noda Yajima

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2017

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