

Hongwanji Buddhist Temples of Hawaii: Priorities

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Ten Year Strategic Guide

Purpose:

...transmit the wisdom and compassion of Amida Tathagata to all people, and in doing so, contribute to the realization of a society in which everyone, both within and outside of the organization, is able to live a life of spiritual fulfillment.

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Constitution

Ten Year Strategic Guide

Purpose:

Share the living teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism so that all beings may enjoy lives of harmony, peace, and gratitude.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Objective One

- **Respond to social concerns based on Buddhist principles**
 - Enrich ties within the Buddhist community.
 - Establish a network for Hongwanji affiliates that actively contribute to society.
 - Recognize individuals who have contributed to society and help them connect with other contributors.
 - Respond to social and environmental issues in our community, the nation, and the world.

Objective Two

- **Live a life of compassion with others**
 - Fulfill their ministerial duties as ordained ministers.
 - Live as a Nembutsu follower.
 - Develop welcoming temples where both members and newcomers can gather.

Objective Three

- **Solidify the foundation of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha and Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**
 - Review the role of each organization within temples.
 - Maintain financial stability.
 - Consider making facilities available to other organizations to respond to the needs of the community.

Change through Strategic Action

- **Two Action Waterways**
 - **The River**
 - Existing organizational channels
 - **Streams**
 - New channels for change



The River

- **Committees**
 - 23
- **Ad-Hoc Committees**
 - 3
- **Advisory Committees**
 - 4
- **Units within the Office of the Bishop**
 - 5

The River: Using Existing Channels

- **Representative and Inclusive**
- **Follows Protocol, Chain of Command and Policy**
- **Conservative**
- **Slow**
- **Risk-Aversive**
- **Long Life**

Navigating the River

- The Bishop and President **direct and support** those pivotal committees and units that deal with “tipping point” issues with an **emphasis on timely action.**
- The Bishop, President, Board, and Giseikai use their authority to implement recommendations and plans in a timely manner.

The River

- **Examples of Pivotal Committees and Units**
 - Membership and Proration
 - Research and Planning
 - Committee on Social Concerns
 - Temple Leadership Effectiveness
 - Organizational Restructuring
 - New Expressions
 - Office of Buddhist Education/Buddhist Study Center

Streams

- **Interest groups**
 - **No regard to existing organizational boundaries**
- **Informal**
- **Innovative, creative, cutting edge**
- **Fast**
- **Risk taking; experimental; not bound by policy**
- **The Stream Bed of the Dharma**
- **Short-lived**

Starting Streams

- The Bishop and President identify key individuals among members and ministers who are “stream” people with expertise and interest in reforming critical aspects of the Hongwanji.
- “Stream” people are asked to gather, plan and implement relevant, critical, and innovative changes in their areas of expertise and interest among supportive individuals, temples, and districts.

Starting Streams

- **Ministers and lay members spontaneously form groups to work on issues that concern them.**
- **These spontaneous groups meet with the the Bishop and President to inform them of their purpose.**

Streams Flowing into the River

- The Bishop will fund promising practices.
- The Bishop and President along with a special advisory group will perform regular “stream-monitoring” and work to integrate promising practices into the “River.”
- Actions of “Streams” remain experimental until they are integrated into the “River.”

Rivers and Streams

- It is the responsibility of the Bishop and the President to keep all units of “Rivers” and “Streams” on a Dharma-Centered course.
- Units assist through routine self-awareness checks.

Examples of “Stream” Activities

- Develop various visions of Hongwanji’s future in Hawaii and the critical actions that might make those visions reality and present them to the Bishop and President.
- Conduct an assessment of the needs of target groups we should be serving and help temples implement actions that connect Buddhist teachings with those target groups.

Examples of “Stream” Activities

- Establish a Young Adult Program based on PBA’s experiences with the purpose of fostering and maintaining connections with young adults.
- Develop and implement plans for the integration of two temples based on combined manpower, program, ministerial responsibilities, and facilities.

