



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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**AUGUST 2020**

### BISHOP'S CORNER

#### **"The New Normal"**



As we slowly head towards the end of Summer, it will soon be September when we observe the Fall Equinox. At the time of the Autumn Equinox, as with the Spring Equinox, balance and harmony is emphasized and closely associated with harmony is peace. In Hawaii, because of our historical, cultural and geographical circumstances, the months of August and September abound with reflective commemorative remembrances of WW II and Peace Day in Hawaii. This year is no exception and had it not been for the COVID-19 Pandemic we would have been participating in many such remembrances especially in this significant 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the bombing of Hiroshima & Nagasaki and also the end of WW II.

However, regardless of COVID-19, it is still important to remember and honor those who sacrificed their lives and also reflect and aspire for world peace and harmony. Thus, on August 6<sup>th</sup>, the dedication of a Pohaku Stone Monument was co-sponsored by the City and County of Honolulu and the Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjinkai Association. Due to restrictions brought on by the Coronavirus Pandemic, the dedication consisted of only a small number of representatives such as Managing Director Roy Amemiya representing Mayor Kirk Caldwell of the City and County of Honolulu, the Honorable Consul General of Japan in Honolulu Koichi Ito, and other important community leaders including President Wayne Miyao of the Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjinkai Association who was Master of Ceremonies, to name a few. It was my honor to share a dedication-aspiration after acknowledging the presence of Amida Buddha with an opening chant.

We have all become familiar with the expression "The New Normal." My emphasis for the dedication was our need for a new normal to guide and inspire us as we endeavor for world peace and harmony. As part of my dedication-aspiration, I shared,

"Today, similar to COVID-19's bringing a "new normal" to our world, more than ever, we need to be guided and inspired by an All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion which gently transforms our way of thinking and encourages us to act and live differently. Let us realize that we are not as independent and exclusive as we think we are, but are instead deeply interrelated and interconnected by our relationships with each other. Let us recognize and respect those relationships and know how we affect and are being affected by one another other.

As a prominent religious leader (His Eminence Kojun Ohtani from his book “Moving Forward Just As You Are”) shares, “anywhere in the world we may go, we must never forget about the tragedy of war that cost the lives of so many people.” “The weakness of our relationships with each other is the result of us thinking about ourselves more than others.”

Also, let us remember the wisdom of the words “Human beings tend to move in the direction of their thoughts.” (from “The Teaching of Buddha” by BDK).

In this 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the bombing of Hiroshima and also the end of WW II, let us recall and be inspired by the compassionate gesture of Sri Lanka/Ceylon at the San Francisco Peace Talks at which Ceylon renounced all war reparations “based on the noble and ancient saying “*hatred ceases not by hatred, but by love.*””

As we get closer to the Equinox, it will soon be Peace Day in Hawaii. It was 14 years ago that with the cooperation of many including certain political representatives, but especially the youth of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Hawaii Federation of Jr. Young Buddhist Associations and students of Pacific Buddhist Academy that Peace Day become a reality in Hawaii.

This year, the HHMH Peace Day Committee chaired by Rene Mansho is planning several endeavors throughout the State and even reaching out to the world to increase the awareness of the importance of Peace Day. One project that we can all participate in will be the Minute of Silence in honor of all those who have endeavored for peace around the world at 12N and a bell ringing at 12:01PM on Monday, September 21, 2020. Everyone is invited to participate by ringing a bell even from home. The plan is to reach out to the Hawaii Buddhist Council and the Interfaith Community in Hawaii for a state-wide bell ringing and also invite the world to join us.

In this 75th anniversary year, let us take a moment to deeply consider an alternative, a new normal, to bring about peace and harmony. Not the external forces of laws and sanctions imposed, but rather an internally motivated force or power which comes from deep within each of us guided and inspired by the virtues of Great Wisdom and Compassion. Thank you and Namu Amida Butsu.



**Bishop Eric Matsumoto shared a dedication-aspiration at the dedication of a Pohaku Stone Monument on August 6, 2020.**  
Photo Credit (Photo on the left): Brandon Saigusa (Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjinkai)

**Bishop Matsumoto’s video messages are also available on the HHMH YouTube Channel:**

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN4Up41QotZr6OsqcntoYVYe>

## MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENT

**Reverend Masanari Yamagishi** was assigned to the Headquarters as of August 16, 2020 after completion of the Hawaii Kyodan Onboarding Program at the Headquarters and Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.

## COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES ON COVID-19

The Office of the Bishop has issued a series of memos (1-10) to provide directives and recommendations regarding temple activities and procedures during the COVID-19 outbreak. These are available in the following page of our Hawaii Kyodan Website. The latest memo was issued on August 20, 2020.

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2020/03/13/covid19/>

This page includes additional important resources which would be helpful to your temples, affiliates and individual members. Please check it periodically to see if there are resources that can help you.

## MINISTER'S LAY ASSISTANT RETREAT CANCELED

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii holds Minister's Lay Assistant Retreat every year. However, this year's Retreat, which was scheduled for October 9-11, has been canceled because of health and safety concerns amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

## PEACE DAY BELL RINGING

**In the spirit of promoting Peace Day in Hawaii and throughout the world, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii invites the world to join in ringing bells for Peace Day on September 21, 2020!**

At 12:00 noon on Monday, September 21, Bishop Eric Matsumoto will lead a minute of silence, honoring all those who have sacrificed for the achievement of peace. At 12:01 p.m., young people will ring bells from their local temples, churches, schools, and community organizations. Plans include streaming the event live on the Internet as well as a post-event video that may be enjoyed on-demand.



The International Day of Peace was established by the United Nations in 1981 and, since 2001, has been celebrated on September 21. That date is also recognized as Peace Day in Hawaii, thanks in large part to members of the Hawai'i Federation of Junior Young Buddhist Associations who successfully advocated for the legislature to officially recognize Peace Day.

Please mark your calendars for this special observation of Peace Day 2020! Participation forms and additional information will be posted soon [on the HHMH website](#). Questions may be directed to Rene Mansho, chair of the HHMH Peace Day Committee, at [renemansho@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:renemansho@hawaii.rr.com).

## HHMH YOUTUBE CHANNEL PROGRAM

HHMH continues to provide online programs as listed below. Videos will premiere on HHMH YouTube channel and become available on-demand. Please share this information with your family and friends and subscribe to it to continue receiving updates.

<https://www.youtube.com/honpahongwanjimissionofhawaii/>

### ■ ONLINE DHARMA MESSAGE

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN4DTm65ALR0loYZc2\\_OHwwi](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN4DTm65ALR0loYZc2_OHwwi)

8/02	11:00am	<a href="#">Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki (BSC)</a>
8/09	11:00am	<a href="#">Rev. Ai Hironaka (Lahaina Hongwanji Mission)</a>
8/16	11:00am	<a href="#">Rev. Tomo Hojo (West Kauai Hongwanji Mission)</a>
8/23	11:00am	<a href="#">Rev. Sol Kalu (Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin)</a>
8/30	11:00am	Rev. Shinji Kawagoe (Papaikou Hongwanji Mission)
9/06	11:00am	Rev. Shindo Nishiyama (Jikoen Hongwanji Mission & Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin)
9/13	11:00am	Rev. Bruce Nakamura (Honokaa Hongwanji Mission)
9/20	11:00am	Rev. Mieko Majima (Kapaa Hongwanji Mission)
9/27	11:00am	Rev. Shingo Furusawa (Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin)

### ■ HEALTH CARE HEROES MAHALO VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jE4m3v1KMF8&list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN5sjQAQfelHck0UAxLmO2Vb>

Wednesdays 12:00pm “Health Care Treasures” and Essential Workers

*The following series of online programs are available on-demand on the YouTube Channel. Please enjoy listening to the Dharma Messages repeatedly.*

### ■ HHMH 130TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE VIDEO

[Jodo Shinshu Buddhism: A Celebration of Joy and Gratitude](#)

### ■ BON VIDEOS

[Bon Service for Hawaii](#)

[Bon Japanese Service](#)

[Bon Dance Experience](#)

### ■ STATE MINISTERS ASSOCIATION ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICES

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN54tvFJtMYBz8\\_AnnpQpi\\_i](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN54tvFJtMYBz8_AnnpQpi_i)

### ■ SENSEIS SAY “HELLO!” SHORT MESSAGES FROM HONPA HONGWANJI MINISTERS

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN6JBTd8tfR3iJlpbKTGa7-K>

*If you would like to make an offertory donation to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and/or its temples, please visit the following page to donate online.*

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/donate/>