



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 522-9200 Fax: (808) 522-9209

Web: www.hongwanjihawaii.com Email: hqs@honpahi.org



SEPTEMBER 2020

BISHOP'S CORNER

"Pausing a moment to express gratitude"



At this time, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of you. If you are reading this message, your life and my life are somehow directly connected. More than likely, your support is enabling me to not only live, but carry out my life's work and responsibilities as the Bishop.

Needless to say, especially since late February and March, we are living in challenging times. The Coronavirus continues to spread and the death toll keeps rising all over the world including our own Hawaii. My deepest condolences to family and friends of those who have succumbed to COVID-19 and my well wishes to those who are struggling with the Virus right now. So many people are unemployed with much uncertainty of their livelihood, businesses are struggling, our healthcare professionals are pushed to the brink of sheer exhaustion, essential workers continue their important work filled (I am sure) with much anxiety, and even our Kupuna are doing their best to stay home and practice safety measures including good hygiene to help curb the spread of the virus so we can all be safer. Thank you, one and all, for your efforts!

To the Members and Friends of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii especially ministers, lay leaders, staff and volunteers, and those who are affiliated with the Hawaii Kyodan through our affiliated organizations including schools and adult care, I want to thank you for your continuing leadership, dedication, and perseverance. Your endeavors and support enables the Hawaii Kyodan to continue being active and a contributing member of society during this Pandemic. From the mask-making to the food and meal distributions, and monetary donations to those in need and online spiritual presentations of the Dharma by temples including special projects like the OBon Videos, Mahalo Videos, and promotion of Peace Day which provide much needed comfort, support, guidance and assurance in this, almost, unparalleled time filled with natural disasters of hurricanes and wildfires and also racial discrimination and tensions which too often are filled with violence and even death, your actions make a difference and are appreciated. Your support of the temples and HQs with your time, energy, commitment including financial contributions and leadership is truly appreciated. I would also like to thank everyone for following the safety recommendations and guidelines that have been issued. I know it has not been easy and, unfortunately, we are not out of the woods yet. Let us persevere! May we be inspired by the example of the Bodhisattva Dharmakara (to become Amida Buddha) and persevere for the benefit of one and all. We will get through this! Our Hongwanji Sangha has survived previous epidemics and famines, religious persecutions, world wars and internal hurdles to carry out our purpose *"The organization*

transmits the wisdom and compassion of Amida Tathagata to all people, and in doing so, contributes 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.”

As I think about our purpose, I am reminded of the recent passing of some of our most outstanding members like Mrs. Rose Nakamura, co-founder and Founding Administrator of Project Dana and Dr. Fujio Matsuda, Former Trustee and Co-Chair of Pacific Buddhist Academy’s Capital Campaign to name just two to whom we have not been able to honor and express our gratitude to, due to the Pandemic. Today, I am recalling the words of the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg who recently passed away too, who said *“One lives not just for oneself but for one’s community.”*

Last and by no means least, I would like to express gratitude to Amida Buddha who has changed my life as I find myself embraced by Unconditional Compassion and given the promise of Supreme Enlightenment. Who could have imagined, who could have guessed, who could have known that such a Wisdom and Compassion existed! Not I, but as someone (Shinran Shonin) very dear to us said, *“How joyous I am...I have been able to encounter...already I have been able to hear...I am especially aware of the profundity of the Tathagata’s benevolence. Here I rejoice in what I have heard and extol what I have attained.”*

To one and all, please take care and, once again, from the bottom of my heart, thank you!

Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN4Up41QotZr6OsqcctoYVvE>

SPECIAL SESSION OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Special Session of the Legislative Assembly will be held on November 21, 2020 from 9:00am to 11:00am via Zoom. The Registration that needs to be submitted to HQ were already sent to the districts and temples. Please submit the registration form to HQ by October 10, 2020. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES ON COVID-19

The Office of the Bishop has issued a series of memos (1-12) 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 September 10, 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.

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/>

■ RING YOUR BELL FOR PEACE DAY

https://youtu.be/wa79LP_3p-k

■ ONLINE DHARMA MESSAGE

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN4DTm65ALR0loYZc2_OHwwi

9/06	11:00am	Rev. Shindo Nishiyama (Jikoen Hongwanji Mission & Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin)
9/13	11:00am	Rev. Mieko Majima (Kapaa Hongwanji Mission)
9/20	11:00am	Rev. Shingo Furusawa (Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin)
9/27	11:00am	Rev. Daido Baba (Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin)
10/04	11:00am	Rev. Satoshi Tomioka (Puna Hongwanji Mission)
10/11	11:00am	Rev. Arthur Kaufmann (Lihue Hongwanji Mission)
10/18	11:00am	Rev. Yuika Hasebe (Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin)
10/25	11:00am	Rev. Joshin Kamuro (Honpa Hongwanji Hilo 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

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/>

HAWAII VOTES BY MAIL INFORMATION

Starting this year, all of Hawaii conveniently votes by mail. Now registered voters simply receive their packets in the mail, complete the ballot in the privacy of their own home and safely mail it before the election day. This is entirely non-partisan and not telling anyone who to vote for. We would like to make sure that the voting process is safe and that important and experienced members of the community (our Sangha) are heard to help shape our future.

This matter was brought up at the recent HHMH Board of Directors Meeting. The feedback was that HHMH should share the information from the State of Hawaii Office of Elections with our members. Please share the information below with your temple members via email and/or temple newsletter.

■ 2020 ELECTION DATES (From State of Hawaii Office of Elections Website)

October 5, 2020: Last day to register to vote and receive your ballot packet in the mail. If you have not registered by October 5, you must go to your local Voter Service Centers.

October 20, 2020: Voter Service Centers are open through Election Day. Services include same day registration and in-person voting.

Map of Voter Service Centers & Places of Deposits:

<https://histategis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=40a88743b85b4fbfb8cf6128bacfedcf>

Ballots Received By: October 16, 2020

Contact your [County Elections Division](#) if you have not received your ballot by this date.

County of Hawaii: (808) 961-8277

County of Maui: (808) 270-7749

County of Kauai: (808) 241-4800

City and County of Honolulu: (808) 768-3800

Ballots Returned: October 27, 2020

Last day to return your voted ballot by mail. After this date, voters must return their ballot to a place of deposit (ballot drop box).

General Election: November 3, 2020

All voted ballots must be received by your Clerk's Office no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election day.

■ ELECTION RESOURCES

Hawai'i Voter Registration - Register to vote or update your voter registration

<https://olvr.hawaii.gov/>

State of Hawai'i Office of Elections - Info on voting and elections in Hawai'i

<https://elections.hawaii.gov/>

Elections by Mail - State of Hawaii, Office of Elections (YouTube Video)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azYEEybXTUY&feature=emb_title