



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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OCTOBER 2020

BISHOP'S CORNER



Encouragement as Election Day Nears

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

Are you confused? In doubt? Feeling uncertain? If you are, do not despair. You are not alone. Have you heard of the Kalama Sutta (translation from Pali by the Venerable Soma Thera)?

In Ancient India, during the time of Sakyamuni Buddha, there was a people known as the Kalamas. One day, they approached Sakyamuni Buddha and confessed they did not know what to do. They explained that they had listened to many teachers and sages, but confessed that they were uncertain about how to determine what is true and what they should embrace.

The Buddha responded "It is proper for you, Kalamas, to doubt, to be uncertain; uncertainty has arisen in you about what is doubtful. Come, Kalamas. Do not go upon what has been acquired by repeated hearing; nor upon tradition; nor upon rumor; nor upon what is in a scripture; nor upon surmise; nor upon an axiom; nor upon specious reasoning; nor upon a bias towards a notion that has been pondered over; nor upon another's seeming ability; nor upon the consideration, 'The monk is our teacher.' Kalamas, when you yourselves know: 'These things are bad; these things are blamable; these things are censured by the wise; undertaken and observed, these things lead to harm and ill,' abandon them."

The Buddha is saying we should not simply decide on matters based on: what you are told by others, has been said from the past, hearsay, on something just because it is cited in a text, mere logic, mere inference, it is "common sense," preconceived notions, because a speaker seems trustworthy, and "This is what our teacher says." The depth and profundity of the Enlightened One's advice is that he includes himself and the Buddhist teachings to this scrutiny or inquiry too! The Buddha saw the potential in people that people skillfully guided could understand higher truths and make positive wholesome decisions which benefit self and others. He encourages everyone to become critical thinkers or think for yourself. It is important to base matters on fact and that which can be confirmed by our experience(s). Buddha noted that anything that is based on greed, anger and ignorance will not be positive and will not lead to wholesome outcomes. The Buddha says if whatever you are contemplating leads "to harm and ill, abandon them."

On the other hand, matters which are not connected to greed, anger and ignorance will lead to positive and wholesome outcomes should be embraced, but the Buddha emphasizes it should be based on sound

reasoning and confirmed by experience and that “these things (should) lead to benefit and happiness” as he says "Come, Kalamas. Do not go upon what has been acquired by repeated hearing; nor upon tradition; nor upon rumor; nor upon what is in a scripture; nor upon surmise; nor upon an axiom; nor upon specious reasoning; nor upon a bias towards a notion that has been pondered over; nor upon another's seeming ability; nor upon the consideration, 'The monk is our teacher.' Kalamas, when you yourselves know: 'These things are good; these things are not blamable; these things are praised by the wise; undertaken and observed, these things lead to benefit and happiness,' enter on and abide in them.”

Also, mentioned in this Sutta is the importance of loving-kindness, compassion, empathetic joy and equanimity known as the “Four Immeasurables.” Loving-Kindness aspires for the happiness of others, Compassion aspires for all others to be free from suffering, Empathetic Joy rejoices at others’ happiness and successes, and Equanimity emphasizes equality for one and all!

Here in America, we, average citizens, have the privilege to elect our government leaders. In many parts of the world, people still do not have the option or opportunity. We should not take voting for granted. Thus, I would encourage everyone to vote! Some of you may have already voted, thank you. If you have not registered, there is still time to register and vote with same day registration and in-person voting at Voter Service Centers until November 3rd. As you decide on who to vote for, please keep in mind, the wise words of Sakyamuni Buddha to the Kalamas. “Kalamas, when you yourselves know: 'These things are bad; these things are blamable; these things are censured by the wise; undertaken and observed, these things lead to harm and ill,' abandon them.” and Kalamas, when you yourselves know: 'These things are good; these things are not blamable; these things are praised by the wise; undertaken and observed, these things lead to benefit and happiness,' enter on and abide in them.” May the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha guidance us. Thank you.

VIRTUAL APPRECIATION EVENT FOR MR. PIEPER TOYAMA, HAWAII KYODAN OUTGOING PRESIDENT & DR. WARREN TAMAMOTO, HAWAII KYODAN INCOMING PRESIDENT

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will be holding the Virtual Appreciation Event to honor and extend our deep appreciation to Mr. Pieper Toyama who provided wonderful leadership as the President of HHMH during the past 6 years, and to welcome Dr. Warren Tamamoto as our newly installed President of HHMH.

Traditionally, the Aloha Luncheon was held soon after a presidential transition occurred. However, we will be holding the Virtual Appreciation Event instead of the luncheon due to the current pandemic situation.

Date: Saturday, November 21, 2020

Time: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Hosted Online by Zoom

No Registration Fee

The registration form was sent to the temples. Each temple is requested to disseminate the information and submit a participant list to HQ **by Saturday, November 14, 2020**. This event will be held after the Special Session of Legislative Assembly, but everyone is welcome.

WEDDING

Reverend Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka, the resident minister of Puna Hongwanji Mission and the oversee minister of Pahala and Naalehu Hongwanji Missions, got married to Haruka Kuratate on July 18, 2020. The wedding ceremony was held at Windward Buddhist Temple officiated by Bishop Eric Matsumoto. Congratulations!

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

The 2020-2021 Social Concerns Fund Drive will begin in November. Please see the letter from the Committee on Social Concerns to temples for information. Thank you for your generous donations each year which have allowed the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii to continue to make donations to various worthy organizations. This year, several donations were also made to temples with projects in response to COVID-19 which have helped the community and the state of Hawaii.



Donation to A Cup of Cold Water (Maui)



Donation to MA'O Farms



Donation to Project Dana



Donation to American Red Cross, Pacific Islands Region



Donation to Hawaii Food Bank, Kauai Branch



HMMH is a member agency of VOAD Hawaii

2020-2021 SOCIAL CONCERNS FUND DRIVE

We celebrate gratitude in the month of November. The Thanksgiving holiday and the Eitaikyo observance are reminders of the countless blessings in our lives and how we live deeply connected to the world around us. It is in this spirit of gratitude that we begin our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive. The fund drive will be from November 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021 and we request temples to submit their collected donations in September 2021.

Through the generous contributions of Sangha members, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is able to support worthy organizations and programs with funding to continue their work in our community. Your support also allows us to provide compassionate action during times of disaster and the ability to respond to social issues affecting our community. Because of your commitment to promoting the Buddhist values of compassion and loving kindness, we are able to lend our support to organizations such as Project Dana, MA'O Farms, The American Red Cross Pacific Region, Ohana Arts, A Cup of Cold Water, and various food banks on each island.

The Golden Chain of Love Grant program was established to promote compassionate action through innovative community service projects. Your generosity directly helps those in need and promotes a more humane world. Many of the grants awarded this year were COVID-19 related, including temple projects to prepare and distribute meals and to make and donate masks (to schools).

Envelopes have been provided to temples wishing to use them. If your temple did not request envelopes but would like to use them, please feel free to ask as there are extra envelopes available in limited supply. Please make all checks payable to **YOUR TEMPLE**. Your temple treasurer will then make one combined check to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

Your kokua is greatly appreciated. Please encourage your members to continue supporting the Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive. Mahalo!

Committee on Social Concerns
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER HAWAII HO'OMENEMENE AWARDS

Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i held the annual Ho'omenemene Awards online on October 3, 2020. Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin was one of the recipients this year at this annual event. The following is the excerpt from their website.

Honpa Hongwanji Hawai'i Betsuin in Honolulu is the main temple of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i (Hawaii Kyodan). The Betsuin offers Sunday services and Buddhism classes, education for children and teens, and hosts numerous organizations and cultural activities. The Betsuin is a strong advocate for mental health and a positive presence in the community. Since 2000, as part of their community outreach efforts, Honpa Hongwanji Hawai'i Betsuin has provided a safe, dedicated counseling room for Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i to serve clients. The Betsuin grounds are

a place of healing in the urban landscape, with graceful architecture and a peaceful atmosphere that contributes to one's overall health and well-being.

Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii provides individual, family, and couples counseling, both in-person on Oahu and through telehealth, regardless of ability to pay. Whether individuals are coping with anxiety about COVID-19, stress over life's transitions, or relationship conflicts, they provide help. For more information, please visit their website: <https://www.samaritancounselingcenterhawaii.org/>

COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES ON COVID-19

The Office of the Bishop has issued a series of memos (1-13) 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 26, 2020.

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.

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

HMH YOUTUBE CHANNEL PROGRAM

HMH 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

10/04	11:00am	Rev. Satoshi Ka'imipono 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)
11/01	11:00am	Rev. Kerry Kiyohara (Makawao Hongwanji Mission)
11/08	11:00am	Rev. Jeffrey Soga (Waipahu Hongwanji Mission)
11/15	11:00am	Rev. Shawn Yagi (Aiea Hongwanji Mission)
11/22	11:00am	Rev. Toyokazu Hagio (Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin)
11/29	11:00am	Rev. Blayne Higa (Kona Hongwanji Mission)

■ HEALTH CARE HEROES MAHALO VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN5sjQAQfeIHck0UAxLmO2Vb>

Wednesdays 12:00pm "Health Care Treasures" and Essential Workers

2021 HAWAII KYODAN CALENDAR

January 1 (Fri)	New Year's Day (HQ closed for Holiday)
January 16 (Sat)	Shinran Shonin's Memorial Day
January 18 (Mon)	M. L. King Jr. Day (HQ closed for holiday)
February 11 (Thu)	Board of Directors Meeting & State Ministers Association Meeting
February 12-13 (Fri-Sat)	109th HHMH Legislative Assembly
February 14 (Sun)	BWA (Fujinkai) Dana Day
February 15 (Mon)	Nirvana Day
February 15 (Mon)	Presidents' Day (HQ closed for holiday)
March 2 (Tue)	Hongwanji Day
March 4-5 (Thu-Fri)	Ryukoku University-BSC Spring Seminar (Prof. Mitsuya Dake)
March 18-24	Spring Higan
March 26 (Fri)	Kuhio Day
April 2-3 (Fri-Sat)	Ministers' Spouses Association Seminar (Honolulu)
April 8 (Thu)	Buddha Day (HQ closed for holiday)
April 17-18 (Sat-Sun)	YESS Camp 38 (Online)
April 25 (Sun)	BWA (Fujinkai) Eshinni Day/Peace Day
May 6 (Thu)	PBA Baccalaureate Ceremony
May 7 (Fri)	PBA Commencement Exercise
May 7 (Fri)	Sanmu Meeting & Sanmu-Kanji Meeting
May 8 (Sat)	Board of Directors Meeting
May 9 (Sun)	Mother's Day
May 21 (Fri)	Shinran Shonin's Birthday (Gotan-E)
May 31 (Mon)	Memorial Day (HQ closed for holiday)
June 1-3 (Tue-Thu)	63rd State Ministers Association Seminar (Kauai)
June 11 (Fri)	King Kamehameha Day
June 18-20 (Fri-Sun)	64th State Jr. YBA Convention (Honolulu)
June 19 (Sat)	Juneteenth Day
June 20 (Sun)	Father's Day
July 4 (Sun)	Independence Day
July 5 (Mon)	Independence Day Observed (HQ Closed for Holiday)
July 12-16 (Mon-Fri)	BSC Summer Session
August 20 (Fri)	Statehood Day (HQ closed for holiday)
August 23-27 (Mon-Fri)	BSC Summer Dharmathon
September 6 (Mon)	Labor Day (HQ closed for holiday)
September 11-12 (Sat-Sun)	58th Honpa Hongwanji Lay Association Convention (Maui)
September 17 (Fri)	Sanmu Meeting & Sanmu-Kanji Meeting
September 18 (Sat)	Board of Directors Meeting
September 20-26	Autumn Higan
September 21 (Tue)	Peace Day Hawaii/United Nations International Day of Peace
October 15-17 (Fri-Sun)	Minister's Lay Assistant Retreat (BSC)
October 22-24 (Fri-Sun)	Young Adult Retreat
November 3 (Wed)	Appreciation Luncheon for Retired Ministers and Spouses
November 4-5 (Thu-Fri)	State Ministers Continuing Education Seminar
November 11 (Thu)	Veterans Day (HQ closed for holiday)
November 25 (Thu)	Thanksgiving Day (HQ closed for holiday)
November 26 (Fri)	Family Day (HQ closed for holiday)
December 3 (Fri)	Sanmu Meeting & Sanmu-Kanji Meeting
December 4 (Sat)	Board of Directors Meeting
December 8 (Wed)	Bodhi Day
December 24 (Fri)	Christmas Day Observed (HQ closed for holiday)
December 25 (Sat)	Christmas Day
December 31 (Fri)	New Year's Eve / New Year's Day Observed (HQ closed for holiday)

Revised as of October 10, 2020