



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



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MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

The Maui wildfire has brought significant loss of life and property. The town of Lahaina has been devastated, and among the tragic loss of property was the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission. As of today, we have not yet been allowed to enter the property and, therefore, cannot officially provide the temple's status. Many people on Maui, including Rev. Ai Hironaka and his family and Lahaina Hongwanji members, continue living with grief over what they have lost and anxiety about their uncertain future. We have lost so much. What we have lost will never come back. However, despite these challenging times, there is always a lay of hope. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is committed to extending a comprehensive and compassionate response to this unprecedented disaster. Here are some updates on the actions we have taken thus far.

- Since HHMH established the Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund on August 10, we have raised over \$400,000. We thank many individuals and organizations, including ministers, temples, BWAs, Lay Associations, Jr. YBA, PBA, BCA, Canada, Japan, and worldwide.
- The Committee on Social Concerns has donated to various organizations and affected individuals. We have processed \$2,000 Omimai for each member of Lahaina Hongwanji and other members of our Hawaii Kyodan Ohana who have been impacted by the wildfires, totaling \$222,000.
- The Maui Wildfire Emergency Response Ad-Hoc Committee, which includes representatives of the Office of the Bishop, Social Concerns Committee, and ministers and lay leaders of the Maui District Hongwanji Temples, has been meeting frequently. The Ad-Hoc Committee serves as a central coordinating forum for addressing the needs of Lahaina Hongwanji and other Maui Hongwanji temple members affected by the disaster.
- The Office of the Bishop has been closely communicating with Honzan, our mother temple headquarters in Kyoto. They have also launched a fundraising campaign and are actively soliciting donations from those who reside in Japan. The Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha and its affiliated organizations have also generously contributed financially to our relief effort.
- The State Ministers Association and the Maui Ministers Association will host the Maui Wildfires Memorial Service on Sunday, September 24, 2023, at 10 a.m., at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Hondo.

I apologize that I cannot list all of the compassionate actions you extend to HHMH and to those on Maui. If you would like to know more about our relief efforts, please go to <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/tag/maui-fires-2023/>.

Recently, there was news that the Lahaina Banyan Tree's greenery blooms in a sea of dead leaves. After just over a month since the blazing fires, new clusters of green leaves have begun sprouting on its massive branches. It once again reminds us of the teaching of impermanence. Life goes on. The power of life is

so strong that amidst the unimaginable tragedy, we will stand strong. We stand in solidarity with those experiencing suffering and sorrow, and together, we will move forward in rebuilding our community. A new life, a new community, will sprout and thrive once again.

Namo Amida Butsu
Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani

MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENT

Rev. Ai Hironaka, currently serving at Lahaina Hongwanji Mission as its Resident Minister, will be assigned Kahului Hongwanji Mission as its Resident Minister, effective November 1, 2023. He will also continue his duties as the minister of Lahaina Hongwanji Mission.

SUPPORT FROM JAPAN FOR MAUI WILDFIRE RELIEF EFFORT

The Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, the Headquarters in Kyoto, Japan, has sent their initial financial aid to the HHMH for our relief effort.

- 10,000,000 Yen for HHMH
- 1,000,000 Yen for the State of Hawaii

They've also launched a fundraising campaign and are actively soliciting donations from those who reside in Japan. <https://www.hongwanji.or.jp/news/cat5/002152.html>

Monshu Kojun Ohtani, Urakata Lady Ruzumi Ohtani, Monshu Emeritus Koshin Ohtani, and Urakata Emeritus Lady Noriko Ohtani sent their messages of condolences and sympathies to Rev. Ai Hironaka and Lahaina Hongwanji members.

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist Women's Federation of Japan also provided financial aid to HHMH that would be used for Reverend Hironaka to purchase the necessary robes and supplies for his ministerial duties.

HHMH TRIPLE CELEBRATION

We are pleased to inform you that the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will commemorate the Triple Celebration on September 7 & 8, 2024. The year 2023 will mark the 850th anniversary of the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition, and 2024 will be the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching and the 135th anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Accordingly, in 2024, we will observe commemorative services and workshops on those auspicious occasions.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Triple Celebration

Theme: Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together: Our Living Heart of Gratitude
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Rev. Takashi Miyaji (Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church)
Date: September 7 & 8, 2024
Place: Ala Moana Hotel

The details will be shared later.

2023 MINISTER LAY ASSISTANT RETREAT

The purpose of the retreat is to review and enrich the knowledge of the participants in the rituals and traditions of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji -ha, General Buddhism and Shin Buddhism. The knowledge and skills that are associated with functioning as a Minister's Lay Assistant will be covered during the retreat, with the goal of preparing MLAs to offer worship services in the absence of their Resident Minister. The retreat is an opportunity to learn and/or refresh one's skills and knowledge that is associated with the role of a Minister's Lay Assistant, but completion does not result in certification. The conditions of certification are presented in the document Shin Buddhist Ministry in Hawaii. This retreat can be taken many times so long as it remains meaningful and helpful to the participant.

Dates: Saturday, October 7 – Sunday, October 8, 2023

Place: Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813)

Registration: Please see the attached Registration form

(Resident temple minister recommendation and signature required)

Registration fee : \$50

FUTABA LECTURE SERIES

The Futaba Lecture Series is endowed by Dr. Alfred Bloom to honor the memory of his friend and mentor, Professor Kenko Futaba. Dr. Futaba, a noted Shin Buddhist scholar, served as President of Kyoto's Ryukoku University from 1983 to 1995 and then became Chancellor of Kyoto Women's University. Dr. Bloom fervently hopes that this lecture series will be a continuing inspiration for the nurturing of American Buddhism and for the social participation of Buddhists in the quest of social justice and peace.

Date & Time: Friday, October 6, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (HST).

Place: Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Annex Temple & Zoom

Guest Lecturer: Prof. Vanessa Sasson, Marianopolis College, Westmount, Quebec, Canada

Topic: The "Lost" Women of Buddhism featuring her two new books: "Yasodhara and The Buddha" and "The Gathering"

Free Registration: <https://forms.gle/kjSAZ3bCugc29ih97>

PBA LIGHTING OUR WAY BANQUET

Reserve Your Seats for Lighting Our Way Today!

Pacific Buddhist Academy's Lighting Our Way Banquet will be held on Friday, October 13, 2023, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Prince Waikiki.



PBA's Lighting Our Way banquet recognizes inspirational individuals and organizations exemplifying leadership principles and values of the school such as selfless service to others, gratitude, and compassion. We are pleased to announce that our honorees for 2023 are Rev. Eric and Ms. Tamayo Matsumoto, Ms. Alicia Moy, Ms. Suzanne Vares-Lum, and Kupu. All silent auction proceeds will be donated to the Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund.

You can become a sponsor, purchase individual tickets, or make a donation to support the Banquet by going to PBA's Banquet website, <https://pacificbuddhistacademy.org/giving/lighting-our-way>

Many thanks for supporting our wonderful honorees. We hope you can join us!

SAVE THE DATE

5th Virtual State Dharma School Gathering "Just As You Are"

Date : Sunday, October 15, 2023

Guest Speaker: Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (HST)

A service will be held from 10:00 - 10:30 am with Bishop Umitani sharing a Dharma Message.

Adult and Student Breakout Rooms will be held from 10:40 - 11:30 am.

This is an intergenerational activity....ALL are welcome.

A Dharma School Teachers/Educators Session will be held before the gathering - from 8:45 - 9:45 am.

Looking forward to seeing you all then!

Registration: <https://forms.gle/2pEt3azy5qkwSmPb7>

MAUI WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND

In the spirit of compassionate action, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii have established the **MAUI WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND**. You can donate in the following ways:

1. Online at www.hongwanjihawaii.com by clicking on the "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" button under the "Donate" tab.

QR code for PayPal:



2. Through GoFundMe at the following link: <https://gofund.me/ff77a520>
3. Check and cash donations can be sent directly to Hawaii Kyodan Headquarters. Please make check payable to HHMH and in the memo line designate "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" to ensure proper credit.

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All donations collected will go to support Lahaina Hongwanji and relief efforts on Maui. The Office of the Bishop and Committee on Social Concerns will prioritize addressing the immediate and short-term needs of temple families displaced by the fires and supporting the greater community as it rebuilds. The Committee will select reputable relief agencies and organizations to support in order to ensure our donations will directly aid those impacted by this disaster.

Updates will be shared on our website at <http://honpahi.link/fire>

Mahalo for your generosity and support during this time of tragedy.