

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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FEBRUARY 2014

THE 102nd GISEIKAI (LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) OF HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII FEBRUARY 7-8, 2014

Gomonshu Koshin Ohtani's message for the 125th Anniversary

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

The history of the Hawaii Mission is of the lives of the many people who, with the Nembutsu teaching as their place of refuge and spiritual foundation, were able to endure the severe labor and living conditions when they immigrated to Hawaii, persevere the chaos of World War II, and overcome various hardships, thus allowing them to live their lives to the utmost. For their devotion and efforts, I wish to express my deepest respect and appreciation to all the ministers and members of the past and present. In today's global society, the Buddha Dharma has taken on an even greater, more profound role.



Shinran Shonin expounded the Jodo Shinshu teaching for us as the path to the true enlightenment. Due to his guidance, despite our own self-promoting desires, we are enabled to encounter the working of Amida Tathagata's wisdom and compassion that reaches us in the form of the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu. This allows us, together with all living beings and fellow practitioners, to follow the path to true enlightenment.

It is my hope that you will respond to the aspiration of your predecessors by accepting and sharing the Primal Vow and the Nembutsu teaching as Amida Buddha's wish for each one of us. By doing that, I believe that you will be able to gain insight into the issues of the contemporary world and endeavor to contribute toward the realization of a peaceful society in which everyone can live a life of spiritual fulfillment.

このたび、ハワイ本派本願寺教団が教団創立 125 周年を迎えられ、慶讃法要が厳修されますこと、心よりお慶び申し上げます。

ハワイ教団の歴史は、開教当初の過酷な労働や生活環境、また第 2 次世界大戦等の困難を乗り越え、お念仏のみ教えを依りどころに、精一杯の人生を歩まれた方々の歩みです。歴代開教使や門信徒の皆様の熱意とご苦勞に深く敬意を表し、感謝申し上げます。今日、グローバル化する社会の中で、仏法の役割は一層大きくなっています。

親鸞聖人が開かれた浄土真宗の基本は、煩悩を抱えた私が阿弥陀如来の智慧と慈悲のはたらきである南無阿弥陀仏をわが身にいただき、御同朋、御同行としてともに手を携え、真実のさとりの道、すなわち仏と成る道を歩むことです。

皆様方には、先人の方々の願いを受け止め、わが身に引き当てて本願念仏のみ教えを聞き弘められますとともに、現代の課題を見抜き、心豊かに生きられる平和な社会の実現に貢献されますことをお願いいたします。

HHMH 125th Anniversary Inaugural Service

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii observed its 125th Anniversary Inaugural Service on February 7, 2014 at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Hondo in conjunction with the Giseikai Opening Service. Bishop Eric Matsumoto officiated the service together with the ministers representing each districts' Ministers Association and the 125th Planning Committee. In the beautifully-arranged altar, ministers chanted the sutras and scattered the petals of adoration. Gomonsu Koshin Ohtani's message was read by Rev. Tatsuo Muneto.

Bishop Matsumoto delivered a message on this auspicious occasion by offering his congratulations and appreciation to the members and supporters of the Hawaii Kyodan for without them we would not be here today, and encouraged everyone to continue to share our joy of Namo Amida Butsu in the 125th Anniversary theme "Live Peace, harmony, and gratitude: Share Aloha!".

The featured speakers were two youth, Brandi Yamamoto (Kapaa, Kauai) and Emi Hashi (Makawao, Maui). Brandi Yamamoto shared her experience with her grandparents and the temple members and mentioned that the teaching is conveyed in almost every situation. She said, "The teaching have given me a more positive outlook on life and I am proud to call myself a member of the Shin Buddhist community." Emi Hashi emphasized the importance of the "Sangha" and said, "Even though our own bonbu humanness limits us, we join together to mutually support each other as a community to create Sangha. Our core beliefs make us the same and bring us together."



Governor General Bishop Giko Sonoki's message for Giseikai

On the occasion of the 102nd *Giseikai* of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, I humbly extend my appreciation to you, the ministers and sangha representatives from throughout the state of Hawaii, for gathering to discuss various important matters. In gratitude, I also humbly commend you for your continuing efforts in propagating Jodo Shinshu within your respective districts.

The commemorative Shinran Shonin memorial that is observed conducted but once every 50 years duly concluded the year before last. Since the following April, the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha organization has followed the new path that leads to the 850th celebration of Shinran Shonin's birth that is scheduled for 2023.

On April 15, the last day of the annual commemoration of the Establishment of Jodo Shinshu (also known as Spring Service), Monshu Ohtani Koshin announced his decision on retiring from the posts of Hongwanji *jushoku* and Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha *monshu* as of June 5, 2014. Proceeding on June 6, a ceremony will be conducted and the Jodo Shinshu tradition that has been conveyed from the founder Shinran Shonin will be transmitted to Shimmon Ohtani Kojun who will become the 25th Monshu.

We appreciate Monshu Ohtani Koshin's longtime dedication to various activities, such as visitations to the domestic and overseas districts and sub-districts, and attendance and officiating at special observances including the 750th Memorial for Shinran Shonin. Monshu Ohtani Koshin has also assumed a major role in the momentous structural reform at Hongwanji for the past several years. As the end of his term approaches, both the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha organization and Hongwanji temple are determined to cooperatively promote various campaigns so that not only he but every one of us will be satisfied with the results.

However, today's society is facing a number of serious problems, such as disputes between various parties, environmental crises, and racial discrimination. Rapid transition of the social environment has also burdened many more individuals with unfathomable suffering.

Amidst these difficult situations, we are eager to give great significance to the June 6 ceremony, *Hoto Keisho Shiki* (lit., "Ceremony of Transmitting the Jodo Shinshu Tradition") in order to establish our influence within the sangha and in the general public. Let us initiate everything we can in order to realize a society that resonates with the Nembutsu, in which all of us can live a life of spiritual fulfillment by spreading the Nembutsu teaching of Shinran Shonin to as many as people possible.

In closing, it is my hope that the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will continue to prosper through the newly implemented structural adjustments and that many fruitful results will arise from this annual meeting.

Resolutions ... The following resolutions were discussed during this year's Giseikai.

- #1 2014 Budget (adopted)
- #2 Amendment to Giseikai Regulations (deferred)
- #3 Phaseout of pension plan (adopted)
- #4 Member definition (adopted with amendment)
- #5 Deposit unexpended budget into capital fund (adopted)
- #6 Line of credit for construction costs to the Pacific Buddhist Academy (adopted)
- #7 Condolence and appreciation to Flora Michie Fujii (adopted)
- #8 Condolence and appreciation to Setsu Sakata Takashige (adopted)
- #9 Appreciation to Mitsuyo Saito (adopted with amendment)
- #10 General guidelines for creating/posting information on social media, websites, and similar internet applications (adopted with amendment)
- #11 Appreciation to Gomonsu Koshin Ohtani (adopted pending further editing)
- #12 Appreciation to President Alton Miyamoto (adopted)

Officers, Advisors, and Directors of Honpa Hongwanji for year 2014

President:	Pieper Toyama (H)		
Immediate Past President:	Alton Miyamoto (K)		
Vice Presidents:	Jerry Tamamoto (H)	Glenn Hamamura (O)	Carol Valentine (K)
	Guy Hironaka (M)	Gordon Heit (HI)	
Secretary:	Carol Yamamura (M)		
Assistant Secretary:	Miles Okumura (HI)		
Treasurer:	Keiji Kukino (H)		
Assistant Treasurer:	Wayne Yoshioka (H)		
Advisors:	Roy Miyamoto (H)	Rose Nakamura (H)	Rev. Chikai Yosemori (H)
	Masami Nishimoto (O)	George Otani (O)	Wayne Fujioka (K)
	Stanley Okamoto (M)	Gordon Cockett (M)	Barry Taniguchi (HI)
	Barry Mizuno (HI)	Richard Fujii (HI)	
Honorary Advisors:	Edward Fujimori (H)	Richard Zukemura (H)	Yoshio Iwai (O)
Directors:			
Honolulu (7)	Joel Determan	Dexter Mar	Jerry Tamamoto
	Wayne Yoshioka	June Sutterfield	Keiji Kukino
	Blayne Higa		
Oahu (5)	Glenn Hamamura	Robert Asato	Alan Ishimitsu
	Carolyn Uchiyama	Francis Uyeno	
Kauai (2)	Carol Valentine	Roy Nishida	

Maui (4)

Sherman Thompson

Guy Hironaka

Carol Yamamura

Charles Hirata

Hawaii (6)

Richard Onishi

Kelvin Sewake

Helen Shirota-Benevides

Miles Okumura

Frederick Nonaka

Gordon Heit



MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENT (JINJI)

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, the Executive Assistant to the Bishop, has been appointed as the Chaplain at the Pacific Buddhist Academy as of February 16, 2014.

HONGWANJI MINISTERS PARTICIPATE IN THE RAINBOW EKIDEN

Five ministers from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will be participating in the Rainbow Ekiden which will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2014 to raise awareness of Hongwanji in the community. Ekiden is a long distance relay race which is commonly seen in Japan. Each runner will run 5km (approximately 3.1 miles) from the Kapiolani Park up to the Diamond Head lookout point and turn back to the starting point. Rev. Kojun Hashimoto, minister of Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission, appealed to the State Ministers Association for participation and the following five ministers were selected. (In the order of participation.)

1. Rev. Kazunori Takahashi (Kapaa Hongwanji)
2. Rev. Tomo Hojo (Hawaii Betsuin)
3. Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani (HQ)
4. Rev. Kojun Hashimoto (Wahiawa Hongwanji)
5. Rev. Ai Hironaka (Lahaina Hongwanji)

Those ministers' participation to the Ekiden race is sponsored by the State Ministers Association. The race will start at 9:00am and your support is greatly welcomed and appreciated.



T-shirts were designed by Rev. Ai Hironaka.

PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY **8th ANNUAL TAIKO FESTIVAL** *Secrets of the Golden Dragon*

Saturday, March 8, 2014 at 4:00pm
Leeward Community College Theatre

Call Office at 532-2649 to purchase your ticket

Numata Conference in Buddhist Studies **"Violence, Nonviolence, and Japanese Religions:** **Past, Present and Future"**

March 20 & 21, 2014

East-West Center, UH

Please see the attached flyer for detail.

Lecture by Dr. David Loy “Why Buddhism and the West Need Each Other”

In this era of almost instantaneous communication and interchange of ideas and beliefs, the interactions and resulting transformations happen at a much faster pace. Therefore *Why Buddhism and the West Need Each Other* is an important topic in this era. By understanding the potential of the ideas and their influence on each other we can contribute more immediately to positive and productive transformations in the world.

In Dr. Loy’s view the highest ideal of the Western tradition is to restructure society so that it is more just. While the most important goal of Buddhism is to awaken spiritually, which ends *dukkha*, loosely translated as “suffering.” He puts forth a fruitful idea that the world needs both of these ideals. Not only because they complement each other but also because they in fact need each other.

District	Date	Time	Place
Hawaii	Saturday, March 22, 2014	1:00pm	Hilo Betsuin Sangha Hall
Kauai	Monday, March 24, 2014	2pm-4pm, 6pm-8pm	Lihue Hongwanji Mission
Maui	Tuesday, March 25, 2014	7:00pm	Wailuku Hongwanji Mission
Honolulu	Friday, March 28, 2014	6:30pm	Buddhist Study Center
Oahu	Sunday, March 30, 2014	1:00pm	Mililani Hongwanji Mission

For more detail, please contact BSC at 973-6555

PBA - A Worker’s Chant for Today

February 19, 2014

On Tuesday, the entire PBA student body and faculty opened that day’s Legislative session with the singing of the “Kiyari,” or a “A Workers Chant” as it is known in English.

Assistant Head of School Flynn Corson introduced the song, which was led by instructors Van Velasco and Loren Otake, as the school’s anthem, calling it an “honor” to kick off the day with such a historically significant song.

“The ‘Kiyari’ was a rally cry for Japanese lumberjacks in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries,” he said. “They would sing the song before a day of work to help ready their minds, bodies, and spirits.

“Our anthem honors the spirit of the moment that exists directly before a period of hard and important work,” he continued. “In that respect it seeks to illuminate the fragile impermanence of a particular instant, and the perfection of every interconnected, unrepeatable moment. This morning the ‘Kiyari’ honors this moment. This morning we honor you.”

Senior Nelson Bopp, who last sang the “Kiyari” in front of an audience at the Taiko Festival two years ago, called the performance “pretty good.” “I thought that it was great that we could display to the House of Representatives the spirit and talent of the school,” he said. He also noted that it gave his fellow students, especially those who haven’t sang the “Kiyari” in front of an audience yet, the chance to “handle their nerves” and “remain focused” in a “high stakes” atmosphere. That’s particularly important because the song will play a prominent role in this year’s annual Taiko Festival, which will be held on March 8 at Leeward Community College. “It was sort of a dress rehearsal for the Taiko Festival,” Bopp said. “It gave us a chance to do it as an actual performance where we couldn’t afford to screw it up. It gave it a sense of seriousness.”

The translation for the “Kiyari” is as follows:

*Onward to a good day, This is what makes us alive
We will sharpen our spirits, This is what makes us alive
Here, we are devoted, This is what makes us alive.*