



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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GREEN HONGWANJI INITIATIVE

65 Shades of Green: How much do we love our planet?

At the 2016 Hongwanji Legislative Assembly, the temples voted to try and become more environmentally responsible and, as an expression of our Buddhist values, take actions to save our planet. At the recent 2017 Hongwanji Legislative Assembly, held in February, the first "Green Hongwanji Survey" was shared for all temples to assess how they are doing and get ideas on how to improve. Twenty-two temples (about 65%) have completed their surveys so far. Hopefully, 100% will join in this effort.

Here are the results for the top 11 temples (plus Pacific Buddhist Academy & Hongwanji Mission School). The total possible points are 65, so even for the top scoring temples there are plenty of new ideas to implement in the coming year. The survey is a self-assessment to help temples determine "their shade of green".

Survey Score	Temple	Island
42	HMS	Oahu
34	PBA	Oahu
31	Kahului	Maui
30	Jikoen	Oahu
30	Mililani	Oahu
29	HI Betsuin	Oahu
24	Kohala	Hawaii
22	Kona	Hawaii
19	Aiea	Oahu
19	Kamuela	Hawaii
19	Papaikou	Hawaii

SHADES OF GREEN				
Army Green	Asparagus	Emerald	Fern	Forest Green
Harlequin	Hunter Green	Jade	Kelly Green	Lime
Mint	Moss	Olive	Pine Green	Shamrock
Sea green	Spring Green	Teal	Turquoise	Viridian

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii presented donations in March and April to the various Food Banks throughout Hawaii. Reverend Kazunori Takahashi (President, Kauai Hongwanji Council) presented donations to Mr. Kevin Moniz of the Kauai Independent Food Bank and to Ms. Michelle Panoke of the Hawaii Food Bank, Kauai Branch. Dean Sakamoto (Committee on Social Concerns) presented a donation to Mr. Gerald Shintaku of the Hawaii Food Bank (Oahu). Donations were also presented to the Maui Food Bank and the Food Basket (Hawaii Island Food Bank).



MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF JODO SHINSHU HONGWANJI-HA BISHOP CHIKO IWAGAMI FOR 2017 PBA GRADUATION

***The following message was read at the PBA Baccalaureate Service which was held on May 4, 2017 at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. Twenty-three seniors graduated PBA this year.*

Congratulations class of 2017! As you are seated here, I am sure that you are reflecting on the many memories you have of the time you have spent here until today.

Graduation marks the end of one of many chapters in one's lifetime, and at the same time, it is also the starting point as you set off toward a new goal. As you take flight from Pacific Buddhist Academy, you will carry the memories of your days here at the PBA together with your hopes and dreams in the next phase of your life.

On this special occasion, I would like to share with you the spiritual legacy of this school, that is, the Buddhist concepts of *kansha* and *shōjin*, each of which refers to "gratitude," and "devotion."

For the first concept of "gratitude," Hongwanji has been encouraging people to recite the "words of gratitude before meal," which go as follows,

We are truly grateful for this opportunity to share this wonderful meal thanks to all living beings who have made this occasion possible. In deep gratitude, *Itadakimasu*.

Our lives are supported by a number of elements, such as the nature including the sun, the earth, the water, as well as other lives that we actually take, including those of vegetables, meats, and fish. In addition, through the uncountable causes and conditions, we are enabled to receive each meal. Being aware of this fact and appreciating everything that allows us to be alive, let us express our gratitude by placing our palms together. This is the feeling of gratitude, or *kansha no kokoro*, that we would like to promote among people.

Let us now reflect on the second concept of "devotion," or *shōjin*. *Shōjin*, is a Buddhist term which encourages people to devote themselves to something as a way leading them to happiness.

According to records, Sakyamuni Buddha's last words were as follows, "Fellow practitioners, this is the message I would like to leave for you. Nothing remains the same. Work ceaselessly and do not stop doing so."

Through these words, Buddha implies the importance of dedicating one's lifetime to learning. Giving it your all, while being cautious. This is what we must always keep in mind. At times, things may go as planned, while other times it may be very challenging. In society, we have a tendency to value only the outcome. Therefore, it is natural to focus only on the results, however, though the results may not turn out as expected, do not let it keep you down for long, or continue dragging this feeling with you. The same could be said for when things go well. Boasting about your achievement and staying in that state will not get you anywhere. It is important to continue aiming for your next goal and being able to continue moving forward. Only then, can one truly become an admirable and beautiful person in the true sense.

As you, the graduating class of 2017, continue to expand your wealth of knowledge, it is my hope that you will continue to say "Thank you" with the spiritual legacy of this school expressing "gratitude" within each of yourselves throughout life, becoming a person of respect and characteristic beauty. Doing so, I am confident that a bright future will await you.

In closing, let me once again congratulate you on your graduation. Thank you.

Buddhist Study Center's new website is available: www.bschawaii.org

KIKYOSHIKI CONFIRMATION CEREMONY BY HIS EMINENCE GOMONSHU KOJUN OHTANI

Confirmation Ceremony, or “*Kikyoshiki*”, is a solemn ceremony performed before Amida Buddha and Shinran Shonin to officially confirm your entry into the Path of the Nembutsu. Participants will affirm their reverence toward the Three Treasures of the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. “Buddha” is not simply in reference to Shakyamuni, but refers more importantly to Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Immeasurable Wisdom and Boundless Compassion. “Dharma” is the teaching of Amida’s Compassionate working to embrace all beings without any discrimination. “Sangha” refers to the community of people who have entrusted themselves to Amida Buddha and its Nembutsu teaching.



By participating in the Confirmation Ceremony, you will receive a Dharma Buddhist Name (*Homyo*). These names are in the form of “*Shaku*” and two Buddhist terms which follow. The word “*Shaku*” means “disciple of Shakyamuni” and signifies that the person has joined the followers of the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha, a community that transcends race or nationality.

His Eminence Gomonsu Kojun Ohtani, the Head Priest and the Spiritual Leader of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Organization, will be officiating the Confirmation Ceremony at the following three locations.

**Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin (398 Kilauea Ave., Hilo)
Tuesday, September 5, 2017, 5:30pm**

**Wailuku Hongwanji Mission (1828 Vineyard Street, Wailuku)
Wednesday, September 6, 2017, 5:30pm**

**Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu)
Sunday, September 10, 2017, 2:00pm**

Please note that the Confirmation Ceremony is open to anyone throughout the State. There is no minimum or maximum age limit however the individual must be able to participate in the ceremony at the temple. We sincerely hope that you will take this wonderful opportunity and participate in the Confirmation Ceremony.

<http://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2017/04/10/confirmation-ceremonies-0917/>. Please contact your resident minister for application instruction. Application deadline is June 30, 2017.

2017 YBICSE PARTICIPANTS

The following individuals are selected as delegates of this year’s YBICSE from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. They will travel to Japan to participate in the Honzan’s program in July where they will get to meet with other participants from US Mainland, Canada, and South America.

Participants (9):

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| 1. Chloe Oshiro (Mililani Hongwanji) | 6. Blayne Nakasone Sakata (Puna, Wahiawa) |
| 2. Alexander Babcock (Mililani Hongwanji) | 7. Dustin Iwasaki (Hawaii Betsuin) |
| 3. Kelli Okayama (West Kauai Hongwanji) | 8. Jared Nonaka (Aiea Hongwanji) |
| 4. Janine Iseri (West Kauai Hongwanji) | 9. Aaron Nonaka (Aiea Hongwanji) |
| 5. Hokulani Iseri (West Kauai Hongwanji) | |

Chaperones (2):

1. Rev. Tomo Hojo (West Kauai Hongwanji Mission)
2. Ms. Elaine Saiki (West Kauai Hongwanji Mission)