



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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**DECEMBER 2017**

### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ALOHA LUNCHEON & LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAII RECOGNITION

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will honor the following individuals as the 2018 Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ in recognition of their personal and professional achievements and their contributions to the community. We welcome you to celebrate this honor with them.

**Dr. Mitchell Eli**

**Takejiro Higa**

**Hailama Farden**

**Gordon "Umi" Kai**

**Mary Jo Freshley**

Date: Saturday, February 10, 2018

Place: Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom

Time: 11:00AM Registration, 12:00PM Lunch and Program

Attire: Aloha

Cost:

- Early registration - \$75.00 for payments received by January 27, 2018
- Late registration - \$90.00 for payments between January 28 – February 3, 2018 (Reservations will NOT be accepted after February 3, 2018)
- Sponsor Tables are available: Gold - \$5,000; Silver - \$3,000; Bronze - \$1,500

Registration form is attached.

HMH is also recognizing **Reverend David Nakamoto** for his retirement and **Reverend Eric Matsumoto** for his 25 years of service to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

### YESS CAMP 35

The 2018 YESS Camp will be held at Camp Palehua on February 17-19, 2018. This year's theme is "We're all in YESS together". The camp is open to ages 13-23. Application form can be found on the YESS Camp website at [yesscamp.wixsite.com/yesscamp](http://yesscamp.wixsite.com/yesscamp). The first deadline is January 12. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie at the BSC at [bscassistent@honpahi.org](mailto:bscassistent@honpahi.org) or (808) 973-6555.

### KOHALA HONGWANJI 110<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On December 3, Kohala Hongwanji's 110th Anniversary Service was held. This service was also combined with the Bodhi Day Service of the North Hawaii 4 Temples (Kohala, Honokaa, Kamuela, and Paauilo Hongwanji Missions). At the service, Honokaa, Kamuela, Paauilo Hongwanji members, the other Hongwanji temples' representatives on the Big Island, Bishop Eric Matsumoto as a guest speaker, Rev. Ryoso Toshima, Rev. Kosho Yagi (the three



Reverends used to be the ministers of Kohala temple) celebrated the anniversary. Also, the Kohala High School Girls Basketball team helped by setting up and serving lunch. (Rev. Shingo Furusawa, Overseer Minister of Kohala Hongwanji Mission)

## COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

### Donation presentation to Mr. Andrew Bates, President, Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii

On Thursday, December 21st, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii presented a donation to Mr. Andrew Bates, President of the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii. The Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii (a non-profit organization) provides affordable, professional counseling sensitive to the spiritual orientation of individuals, families, and communities in Hawaii. The Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii have sponsored numerous workshops for/with Oahu's Buddhist Community. A satellite office is at Hawaii Betsuin for clients to receive counseling services.



### Volunteers from Mililani Hongwanji and Community Partners

On Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, Mililani Hongwanji participated in the Wahiawa Christmas Wonderland community event and hosted a booth for children to play games and win prizes. The event included free meal vouchers for pre-registered homeless and economically challenged families. The event meal vouchers were co-sponsored by Bank of Hawaii and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Mililani Hongwanji obtained funding for the meal vouchers and game prizes through a Golden Chain Grant project application that was submitted by the temple via the Committee on Social Concerns. Alea Bridge (a non-profit organization) organized the event. Alea Bridge's mission is to empower people in need to achieve self-sufficiency through genuine compassion and innovative, community-based solutions.



## LIVES REMEMBERED: A TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN OF PEARL HARBOR

Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Reverend Toshiyuki Umitani attended a Memorial Ceremony "Lives Remembered: A Tribute to the Fallen of Pearl Harbor" which was held on Friday, December 8, 2017 at the Banyan Tree on Ford Island. This ceremony was co-hosted by the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu and Navy Region Hawaii to recognize both the American and Japanese lives lost during the Pearl Harbor attack of 1941, and as a symbol of reconciliation and friendship between Japan and the United States. The Ceremony began with the National Anthems of both countries, remarks by Mr. Koichi Ito (The Consul General of Japan in Honolulu) and Rear Admiral Matthew Carter (Deputy Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet), and a keynote speaker Mr. Edwin P. Hawkins, Jr. (Executive Director, Office of Economic Development, City and County of Honolulu).



## 2018 HONGWANJI SLOGAN

### Embrace Change: Harmony (Accept Differences)

This year's slogan: **Embrace Change: Harmony (Accept Differences)** is part of a set of five slogans:

- 2015-Embrace Change: Awareness (Seek Opportunities)
- 2016-Embrace Change: New Vision (Create Engagement)
- 2017-Embrace Change: Action (Open Communications)
- **2018-Embrace Change: Harmony (Accept Differences)**
- 2019-Embrace Change: Transformation (Walk in peace)

These slogans are meant as guides to help us and our temple communities move forward to EMBRACE CHANGE in a continuous cycle beginning with AWARENESS, that brings to us an understanding of ourselves and the world around us, which allows us to create a NEW VISION that provides the framework for ACTION in a mindful and empathetic manner that maintains HARMONY with people and the environment, which then culminates in a TRANSFORMATION. This TRANSFORMATION is a basis for lives that are continuously full of growth and meaningful experiences that are supported by a dynamic and vibrant temple community.

Harmony with our families, temple communities, neighborhoods, and the wider world is very much needed during this time. But harmony can only arise if we can accept ourselves as we are and other people as they are. In other words, Accept Differences realizing that everyone, including ourselves, have different ways of seeing things and different ways of doing things. Amida Buddha, in Great Compassion, fully understands this reality and therefore, accepts all without discrimination and sets the example for us to aspire to. As ordinary human beings, it is very difficult to live a life of perfect non-discrimination. However, with awareness of self and helping each other through the journey of life we can live together harmoniously guided by the light of Wisdom and Compassion.

In Gassho,

Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki

Director, Office of Buddhist Education and the HHMH Commission on Buddhist Education

#### **HEADQUARTERS OFFICE STAFF PERSONNEL CHANGES- BUSINESS MANAGER**

Mahalo to Mr. Arthur Nakagawa who will be departing Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as Business Manager as of December 31, 2017. We express our sincere appreciation to him for being our Business Manager since 2009. He will remain on Staff, temporarily, to primarily help with orientation and training of our new Business Manager. Once again, thank you, Art!

Aloha to Mr. Derrick Inouye who will begin as our new Business Manager as of January 3, 2018. We look forward to working with him and welcoming him to the Headquarters Office Staff. Please drop to say "hello" to our new Business Manager. In the next HQ Update, we will have more to share about Derrick. For now, Welcome, Derrick!