



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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DECEMBER 2018

### BENEDICTION FOR THE 2018 INAUGURATION OF THE GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion/Buddha of Infinite Light and Immeasurable Life, at the conclusion of this Inauguration of our Governor, the Honorable David Yutaka Ige, and Lieutenant Governor Josh Green, illumine our hearts and minds with your Light of Wisdom and Compassion.



So, we may realize the interdependent nature of all life, all existence as shared by the metaphor of Indra's Net. The awareness of our interconnectedness and interrelatedness may be the single most important realization needed to bring about peaceful, harmonious and collaborative progress and change. When we are not aware of our shared interdependence, "we tend to think...that our own perspective is the only one that is right and justified. This is what causes conflicts to arise."<sup>1</sup> It is said, from the awareness of interdependence arises a heightened respect and deep appreciation of others with a sense of responsibility for our actions because of the effect it has on others including the 'aina, our natural environment. "The weakness of our relationships with each other is...(our) thinking about ourselves more than others."<sup>2</sup> More than ever, let us treasure the relationships we have with each other.

Wise words always encourage us to "not be egoistic or self-willed, but...cherish feelings of good-will toward all alike; ...respect those worthy of respect; ...serve those who are worthy of service and treat everyone with uniform kindness."<sup>3</sup>

Let us keep in mind that "Thousands of people may live in a community, but it is not a true community until all people know each other, trust each other and there is harmony."<sup>4</sup> In such organizations and such a community, we will find unity and various virtues will abound.

Perhaps more than anywhere, though we may have our variances, the people of Hawai'i, with the Spirit of Aloha, sense of Ohana, and attitude of Okagesama de and gratitude (arigatai), exhibit the qualities of a fine community. Under the leadership of the 8th Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Honorable David

Ige and his administration, with all of us respectfully working together, may our Hawai'i Nei become a shining example of a more harmonious and peaceful world by "Moving Forward Together."

Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion/Namo Amida Butsu.

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Footnotes

- 1 From *Moving Forward Just As You Are* by Monshu Kojun Ohtani, Resident Head Priest of Nishi Hongwanji, 2017, page 48
- 2 *Ibid*, page 42
- 3 Adapted from *The Teaching of Buddha* by Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (Society for the Promotion of Buddhism), 2008, page 402
- 4 *Ibid*, page 448

## 44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAII RECOGNITION

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will honor the following individuals as the 2019 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. Registration form is attached.

- **John M. Hara, FAIA**
- **Earl Kawa'a**
- **Gertrude Yukie Tsutsumi**
- **James T. Yagi**

Date: Saturday, February 9, 2019  
Place: Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom  
Time: 11:00 AM Registration, 12:00 PM Lunch and Program  
Attire: Aloha

Cost: Early registration - \$75.00 for payments received by January 27, 2019  
Late registration - \$90.00 for payments between January 28 – February 2, 2019  
(Reservations will NOT be accepted after February 3, 2019)

***Sponsor Tables are available: Gold - \$5,000; Silver - \$3,000; Bronze - \$1,500  
Deadline to purchase a Sponsor Table – January 23, 2019***

## HMH INSTAGRAM

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Social Media Team recently created the Instagram Account. Please follow it!

- Instagram: @honpahongwanjihawaii\_official
- URL: [www.instagram.com/honpahongwanjihawaii\\_official](http://www.instagram.com/honpahongwanjihawaii_official)

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

Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Reverend Kazunori Takahashi attended a Memorial Ceremony “Lives Remembered: A Tribute to the Fallen of Pearl Harbor” which was held on Thursday, December 6, 2018 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 Ms. Jacqueline Ashwell (Superintendent, World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument).



## HONOLULU OAHU DISTRICTS JOINT 2018 NEMBUTSU GATHERING

The Honolulu and Oahu Districts presented a joint 2018 Nembutsu Gathering, *Walking the Path of Change...Together* on Saturday, November 10 at Jikoen Hongwanji . A total of 71 participants attended this event. A delicious Blue Zones lunch was provided by the Jikoen BWA.

Bishop Eric Matsumoto shared his thoughts about the seminar theme, Dharma-Centered organization and relevancy. Pieper Toyama talked about organization/reorganization, “Montoship”, social media, social concerns, and community involvement. Alan Goto provided information on the budget and alternative income with current examples. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng, consultant to the Obama Foundation and co-founder of Ceeds of Peace, which creates peace building action plan workshops for educators, families and community leaders. She provided inspiration to work together on these initiatives by focusing on such topics as Embracing Change, Moving Outside Your Comfort Zone, Working with Those Who Resist Change and Living a Life of Harmony.



Small group discussions were held throughout the day with topics including being a Dharma-Centered organization, social concerns, alternative income, community involvement and social media.

Plans are being made for another joint Honolulu and Oahu District Nembutsu seminar in the Fall of 2019.

## HAWAII FEDERATION OF BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

You see the Buddhist Women's Association members in action in your temples and in your community. What you might not see is the impact and involvement of the BWA on a national and international level.

This year, the BWA Federation has supported two significant initiatives to share the Dharma. BWA members took the lead in fundraising for Hawaii's contribution to the establishment of an Eshin-ni – Kakushin-ni Endowed Chair at the Institute for Buddhist Studies in Berkeley. Interest from the endowment will support a faculty position which will be used to train new ministers and to offer continuing education.

We're happy to announce that Hawaii will meet their fundraising goal of \$11,000 towards the endowment by our deadline of December 31st! Mahalo to all of the temples, individuals and organizations for your generous support of this exciting effort. If you haven't had a chance to contribute but would like to, please send a check made out to HHMHFBWA to Karen Kikukawa, FBWA Treasurer at HQ.

Our second initiative was to contribute, at the Asoka level, to the publication of the book, Leaves of My Heart. The book is a translation of Lady Takeko Kujo's works which is being published by the American Buddhist Study Center in New York City. Lady Kujo was a devout Buddhist who helped found the Buddhist Women's Association and was an activist to help the poor, providing soup kitchens and free medical aid.

Leaves of My Heart is a collection of Lady Kujo's essays which were published in a Tokyo newspaper as well as a selection of her poems.

A quote from one of her poems:

"Why the sad tears? Look up! There's a wonderful world of love awaiting you in the twinkling of a star!"

To learn more about the book or Lady Kujo, see the American Buddhist Study Center's webpage: <https://www.ambuddhist.org/leaves-of-my-heart>

We are looking forward to seeing the book which is in the final stages of publication and should be available at the first of next year.

## PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE

Pacific Buddhist Academy will be holding the Open House **on Wednesday, January 30, 2019**. It is an opportunity to learn more about PBA, its academic rigorous program, its inclusive and safe learning environment and get a personal tour of the new building.

For more information, please visit the website at [www.pacificbuddhistacademy.org](http://www.pacificbuddhistacademy.org) or call (808) 532-2649.



The advertisement for Pacific Buddhist Academy's Open House features a smiling male student in the center. To the left is the school's logo, and to the right is a list of key statistics. At the bottom, there is a purple banner with the event date and contact information.

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