



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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**FEBRUARY 2019**

### **BISHOP ERIC MATSUMOTO**

**Eric Matsumoto, 16th Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**, was confirmed a third term. The Bishop Selection Committee, after requesting for a waiver to the two term (8 year) limit, submitted its selection of Bishop Eric Matsumoto for the position of Bishop for his third term. Whereupon, the delegates of the 107th Legislative Assembly unanimously confirmed Bishop Eric Matsumoto as the Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for another 4 years.

Bishop Eric Matsumoto took office as the Bishop in March 2011 and served two terms (March 2011 – February 2015 and March 2015 – February 2019). His third term will be from March 2019 to February 2023.

### **HMMH 107<sup>TH</sup> GISEIKAI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The 107<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii was held on February 8-9, 2019 at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. Delegates from the Hongwanji temples throughout Hawaii discussed and passed the following resolutions;

1. HMMH 2019 Budget
2. Social Welfare Fund – Criteria On Usage
3. Bylaws Amendment – Article Vii: Board Of Directors
4. Bylaws Amendment – Article Xiii, Section 4: Bishop Selection
5. Resolution of Appreciation – Mr. Arthur Nakagawa
6. Resolution of Congratulations and Appreciation – Ms. Lily (Miyasato) Horio
7. Resolution of Condolence and Appreciation – Reverend Kenjyo Ohara
8. Resolution of Condolence and Appreciation – Mr. Bertram Nishimura

### **GISEIKAI MESSAGE FROM THE JODO SHINSHU HONGWANJI-HA GOVERNOR GENERAL BISHOP CHIKO IWAGAMI**

On the occasion of the 107th *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 here. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all for your continuing efforts in propagating Jodo Shinshu and maintaining the temples within your respective districts.

With Hawaii Kyodan marking its 130th anniversary this year, I wish you even more prosperous years ahead and would also like to extend my respect to our forebears for their efforts and endurance of handing down the Dharma to us until today.

At Hongwanji, on the first day of the annual Goshoki Hoonko this year, the “Message on the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin’s Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching” *goshosoku* proclamation was presented, announcing the series of joint commemorative services set to be observed in 2023. Since last year, the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha General Promotion Plan has been proceeding into its second term, and as an item of business, we have been working to carry out the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha International Office which will be the basis of international propagation. Thus, we are moving forward promoting various projects to contribute toward realizing a society in which everyone can live a life of spiritual fulfillment.

At the closing of the autumn service last year, Monshu Ohtani Kojun introduced Our Pledge in his dharma message. The pledge is a four-clause motto, which is a summary of his dharma message given on October 1, 2016, “A Way of Living as a Nembutsu Follower.” It would be nice if the pledge could be introduced at various temple gatherings.

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

February 8, 2019

Bishop Chiko Iwagami  
Governor General  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

## MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

**Reverend Blayne Higa**, Hawaii Kyodan Scholarship Student, completed his studies at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, completed the Kyoshi Session in Kyoto in November, 2018, returned to Hawaii and started orientation at the Headquarters and the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin from February 1, 2019. Upon completion of his orientation, Rev. Higa will be assigned to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters as of March 1, 2019. As of May 1, 2019, he will be assigned to Kona Hongwanji Mission as its resident minister.

**Reverend David Fujimoto**, the resident minister of Mililani Hongwanji Mission, is relieved from his responsibilities with the Kapolei Buddhist Sangha as of January 15, 2019. He started with the Kapolei Buddhist Sangha on April 1, 2016.

**Reverend Bert Sumikawa**, a Retired Minister of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, was appointed to in-charge of the Kapolei Buddhist Sangha as of January 16, 2019.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Reverend Joshin Kamuro and family**, an Associate Minister of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, has received an approval from the USCIS of his application to become a lawful permanent resident of the United States.



*The Legislative Assembly Opening Service was held as the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 130th Anniversary Service.*



*Reverend Toshiyuki Umitani of Moiliili Hongwanji Mission delivered the memorial sermon at the Opening Service / the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service.*



*The newly installed Officers, Advisors, Directors, Sanmu and Kanji Ministers of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii*



*The Resolution of Congratulation and Appreciation was presented to Ms. Lily (Miyasato) Horio.*



*The Resolution of Appreciation was presented to Mr. Arthur Nakagawa.*



*2019 Living Treasures of Hawaii Honorees (From Left) Earl Kawa'a, Gertrude Yukie Tsutsumi, John M. Hara and James T. Yagi*



*Reverend Bert Sumikawa was recognized for his retirement from active ministry.*

*(Photo Credit: Lenses Photography)*

## CONDOLENCE

**Mr. Bertram Kokichi Nishimura**, a member of Waianae Hongwanji Mission, passed away on November 17, 2018. Mr. Nishimura served as the President of Waianae Hongwanji Mission from 2008 to 2016. The Ingo (Posthumous Title) of I-TOKU-IN 威徳院 which means “Majestic Virtue” in recognition of his life of nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Eric Matsumoto on December 23, 2018.

## JIKOEN HONGWANJI MISSION NEW WEBSITE

Jikoen Hongwanji Mission recently created a new website. Please visit at <https://jikoehongwanji.org/>

## COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

### The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii (TIAH)

A donation of \$2,000 was made to The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii on January 10, 2019.

The HHMH is an active participant of TIAH. “The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii (TIAH) is a progressive voice promoting the healing role of religion in public life. We encourage dialogue, challenge extremism, and facilitate nonviolent community activism.” (TIAH Website)



Donation presentation by Bishop Eric Matsumoto to Cecilia Fordham, TIAH President, along with Reverend Irene Matsumoto representing TIAH. Representing the HHMH is Dean Sakamoto (CSC) and Reverend Kazunori Takahashi, (Executive Assistant to the Bishop).

### The Hawaii Technical Institute

A donation of \$5,000 was made to The Hawaii Technical Institute on January 18, 2019.

HTI is a non-profit vocational training institution licensed by the State of Hawaii, Department of Education. The donation supports HTI programs with students from minority disadvantage sector of the community as well as from Corrections with various training to become productive citizens in Hawaii.



Donation presentation by Bishop Eric Matsumoto to Naomi Digitaki, HTI President. Also in the photo is Rodney Moriyama, Chairman of HTI Board of Directors, who is also a member of the HHMH.

## Catholic Charities Hawaii

A donation of \$4,000 was made to Catholic Charities Hawaii on January 21, 2019.

The donation is designated for Hawaii Island Kilauea Disaster Relief.

Donation presentation by Dean Sakamoto to Mary Saunders, Catholic Charities Hawaii, Vice President-Philanthropy, Tina Andrade, VP Mission Integration (L), and Rebecca Yonamine, Neighbor Island Community Administrator (R).



## PROPAGATION PROGRAM GRANT

Dear family of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii,

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii “Propagation Program Grant Committee” would like announce to all of you that “Propagation Program Grant” is available to all of you for “New and wonderful ideas for propagating Nembutsu teachings into our community.”

Application form is available at your temple office or at Hongwanji HQs. Project must be completed within a year once your endeavor is selected by the committee.

Would you like to share your wonderful and creative Dharma projects with all our community? If so, take action right away! We all are looking forward to seeing your innovative ideas!

Committee reviews all grants applications, which meet the following criteria:

1. Emphasis on new, innovative, creative ideas or activities focusing on Buddhist Education and the propagation of the Dharma.
2. Each project may be founded only once within a 5 year period.
3. The maximum amount of the grant must be not exceed \$10,000.00
4. The project has statewide implications/potential.

For more information or application regarding this program, please check with your resident minister or HQs.

In Gassho,  
Rev. Shinkai Murakami  
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Propagation Program Grant Committee

## BWA NEWS

Last year, BWA members across the state spearheaded fundraising efforts for the establishment of an endowment for an Eshin-ni – Kakushin-ni Endowed Chair at the Institute for Buddhist Studies in Berkeley. Due to their efforts and the generosity of temple members and organizations, we exceeded our fundraising goal of \$11,000 with an amazing total of \$14,631! Mahalo to everyone for their hard work and generosity in this worthwhile effort.

On behalf of the Hawaii Federation of BWA, I'd like to express our deep gratitude to Ruth Tokumi for her outstanding work as Federation historian over the past two years. In recent comments, Ruth shared some of her experiences as a historian for various Hongwanji organizations and the impact that it has had on her life.

“Being a historian for BWA has been a growing journey as I learned more about the organization (federation, districts, units), my temple, and myself. The friendship, fellowship, and fun I have enjoyed with my BWA ohana and temple sangha has enriched my life.

The journey started in 1998 when I was approached to be historian for Upasika Society before their 50th anniversary. In 2002 when Hawaii Betsuin Fujinkai merged with Upasika Society and renamed Hawaii Betsuin BWA, I became their first historian in 2003. It has continued to be a growing and gratifying experience for me. It became more exciting in 2010 when Paul Nitta of Moiliili Hongwanji posted Hawaii Betsuin BWA's photos, collages, and videos on the HFBWA website which Tamayo Matsumoto started a few years earlier.”

Mahalo for your years of creativity and dedication, Ruth!

This year we are excited to welcome our first male members! At their January meeting, Hawaii Betsuin BWA introduced new members Rudiger Ruckmann and Dr. Benjamin Bruch, both staff members of PBA. In Maui, longtime BWA supporter Brian Hashiro joined the Kahului Unit.