



# *Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii*

## **HEADQUARTERS UPDATE**

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**OCTOBER 2019**

### **BISHOP'S CORNER**

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



#### **A humble reflection in our 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in Hawaii**

In the last quarter of our 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year in Hawaii, I cannot help but express my gratitude and appreciation to all our predecessors who started and supported (what would eventually become) the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii from its birth in 1889 and its growth and expansion in the ensuing years. The impact of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii especially through its temples in so many local communities across Hawaii including the contributions by its affiliated organizations like the Buddhist Women's Associations (just to name one) and Hongwanji's schools should not be underestimated. As members of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, let us be proud and also gratefully acknowledge the contributions and dedication of so many countless people, within and without of our organization, who have helped us throughout our history. Truly, we, of the present, are indebted to them and there is no way that we can name and thank each person individually, but they should not be forgotten.

For myself, in preparation for our 130<sup>th</sup> year in Hawaii, more specifically for the Calendar Committee's creating the Hawaii Kyodan Calendar for 2019, I became more conscious and aware of the tremendous role played by, for example, Saiji Kimura, a successful businessman in Hawaii. If you read our history, you will come to know that he was a staunch dedicated lay supporter who helped Rev. Soryu Kagahi both in Hilo and Honolulu. He stands out among many of our dedicated leaders and supporters. I recently found out that there is a huge monument built in his honor at the Moiliili Community Cemetery in Honolulu. Saiji Kimura, eventually, returned to Japan (d. 1913), but he left an enduring legacy here in Hawaii which continues to make a difference even today.

Another person who has impacted not only, we who live in Hawaii, but also people almost half way around the world, is Mary Elizabeth Mikahala Robinson Foster (1844-1930). In far off, India and Sri Lanka she is fondly remembered to this day with stone monuments praising her and even a hospital and a street named in her honor. Did you know that the lady who loved India mentioned in the song "Beautiful Kahana" is none other than Mary Foster? Some have referred to her as the second Visakha. Visakha was a wealthy lay woman who sincerely took refuge in the Three Treasures and most generously supported the Sangha during Sakyamuni Buddha's time. Back here in Hawaii, Mary Foster of Foster Botanical Garden fame ardently supported Bishop Yemyo Imamura and generously, financially and morally, contributed to the

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii especially to what would eventually become the 1727 Pali Highway campus. Thus, in appreciation of her support, on December 15, 2019 there will be a special service of remembrance and appreciation in her honor at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin at 10AM. The Remembrance, which is open to the Public and other temples, is being planned by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Office of the Bishop, Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Buddhist Temple, and the recently formed Maha Bodhi Society of Hawaii.

Truly, it is because of the support of the countless members whose names we cannot all mention and those individuals whose efforts have been recorded that we owe our existence. I am sure each temple has people like Saiji Kimura and Mary Foster and so many others to whom we are indebted. Let us respond in gratitude to Amida Buddha and all those who have helped us! In the remaining months of 2019, especially with Eitaikyo upon us, let us take this time to remember everyone with our deepest gratitude and inspired by our predecessors make efforts to leave both a spiritual gift of sharing our joy and appreciation for the Nembutsu Teachings and temple with others in the form of a “Legacy Letter” and a financial legacy by creating an endowment or making a Planned Giving gift, so our temples of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii can continue to share the Dharma with others. In the words of Shinran Shonin, “I praise Amida’s wisdom and virtue so that beings with mature conditions throughout the ten quarters may hear. Let those who have realized shinjin constantly respond in gratitude to the Buddha’s benevolence.” Thank you and Namo Amida Butsu.

## OUR PLEDGE

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii announced and shared the Hawaii Version of His Eminence Gomonsu Kojun Ohtani’s “Watashitachi no Chikai” or “Our Pledge.”

On the first day of the Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition, he delivered a message entitled “A Way of Living as a Nembutsu Follower,” expressing how we should live in the real world as one who encounters the great wisdom and compassion of Amida Tathagata. With the hope of presenting it in a more familiar and understandable way, he has summarized the essence of the message into the following four verses of “Our Pledge.” Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii prepared the Hawaii Version as each overseas district is requested to translate “Our Pledge.”

### 私たちのちかい

- 一. 自分の殻に閉じこもることなく  
穏やかな顔と優しい言葉を大切にします  
微笑み語りかける仏さまのように
- 一. むさぼり、いかり、おろかさに流されず  
しなやかな心と振る舞いを心がけます  
心安らかな仏さまのように
- 一. 自分だけを大事にすることなく  
人と喜びや悲しみを分かち合います  
慈悲に満ちみちた仏さまのように

- 一. 生かされていることに気づき  
日々に精一杯つとめます  
人びとの救いに尽くす仏さまのように

## Our Pledge

Reaching out to others,  
I will share a smile and gentle words.  
Just like the Buddha, who always calls out with Aloha.

Breaking away from my greed, anger and ignorance,  
I will try to live in peace and harmony.  
Just like the Buddha, who shares tranquility and kindness with all.

Moving forward from self-centeredness,  
I will share a life of joy and sorrow with others.  
Just like the Buddha, whose caring heart always embraces us.

Realizing that I live because of others,  
I will strive to live life to the fullest with an attitude of gratitude.  
Just like the Buddha, who promises to embrace us all.

## CONDOLENCES

**Mr. Gordon C. Cockett**, a member of Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, passed away on September 20, 2019. Mr. Cockett served as Temple President and as board director for many years. The Ingo (Posthumous Title) of JO-GO-IN 浄護院 which means “One who unselfishly dedicated his time and effort to protect the temple” in recognition of his life of nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Eric Matsumoto on October 5, 2019.

**Mr. Barry K. Taniguchi**, a member of Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin, passed away on September 20, 2019. He was the former President of Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin and an Advisor of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. He was known throughout the Hawaii Community as a business and community leader and chairman of the board and CEO of KTA Super Stores. He served on numerous business, community and health- and human-services boards and organizations. He was honored as a Living Treasure of Hawaii in 2015. The Hawaii Kyodan Funeral Service was held at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin on Friday, October 18, 2019 under the officiation of Bishop Eric Matsumoto. The Ingo (Posthumous Title) of DAI-RI-IN 大利院 which means “One who made manifest great benefit” in recognition of his life of nembutsu was conferred.

## MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

**Reverend Joshin Kamuro**, an associate minister of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, will be assigned to Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin as its Associate Minister as of November 16, 2019.

**Rev. Shingo Furusawa**, currently serving as the Headquarters as the Office of Buddhist Education Assistant half-time and the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister half-time, will be relieved from the current duties and assigned to Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its full-time Associate Minister as of November 16, 2019.

## TOKUDO ORDINATION

Blayne Nakasone Sakata, who is attending the Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin (Central Buddhist Seminary) as a Hawaii Kyodan Scholarship Student, completed the Tokudo Session on September 6-16, 2019 at Nishiyama Betsuin in Kyoto, Japan. At the end of the session, he attended the Tokudo Ordination Ceremony in Hongwanji in Kyoto and became a Jodo Shinshu minister. The following is his comment:

“Before going to Tokudo, I was very nervous because of all the stories I heard from other ministers commenting how strict and rigorous the training will be for the next ten days without technology. Also I couldn't get the fact that I had to shave my head and detach myself from my phone for a whole ten days. But in the beginning of the program, I was extremely nervous, there were so many things happening and we had to adjust to the strict schedule they had planned. I also couldn't believe that I was finally here thanks to the gracious support of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii. But I was the only foreigner in a pool of Japanese and no one spoke any English and I had no dictionary, I was on the deep end of the pool.



As the first few days slowly went by, I realized that I wasn't as nervous as I had anticipated because the time schedule and overall life style was the same as living in the dorms at my school, Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin. For the services and rituals training, I realized, as did my friends that it was things we already knew and things we have been practicing for months. My friends and I were surprised at how much free/ spare time we had where we sat around in our room practicing for the verbal tests we had but majority of it was us talking and joking around. Since we had so much time, I started to draw to pass time. When it came to the verbal tests, my heart was pounding and my hands were clammy up and you could hear the nervousness in my voice, but I knocked all the tests out within the first two days and after I could really relax. The rest of the days it was a breeze but as the ten days were coming to a slow end, it was hard to believe that all these past years was a culmination to that very movement of me, a local boy from Hawaii with all these Japanese people becoming a Jodo Shinshu minister. For that, I really have to thank my school, Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin as well as Pacific Buddhist Academy and especially to the ministers in Hawaii, the Hongwanji Kyodan, and lay members for creating multitudes of opportunities for me to learn and grow as a Buddhist in preparation for Tokudo.”



## PEACE DAY EVENTS 2019

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Peace Day Committee and Temples throughout Hawaii held various events and celebrated Peace Day 2019.

In 2007, the Hongwanji Jr. YBA first promoted the Peace Day in Hawaii. At the 49th Jr. YBA State Convention held in June of 2006, a resolution to establish Peace Day in the state of Hawaii was passed. The resolution was presented to the State Legislature in the spring of 2007. In April of 2007, Governor Linda Lingle signed a proclamation that designated September 21 as Peace Day in Hawaii. Since then, various events have been held to celebrate the Peace Day on each island. The following events were held this year:

### Honolulu/Oahu:

- Peace Day Lounge and Recognition at VegFest Oahu at Civic Grounds on September 21 at Honolulu Hale hosted by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, Pacific Buddhist Academy & Honolulu Hongwanji Council



### Kauai:

- Peace Day Candle Light Vigil followed by video of “Peace On Your Wings” on September 21 at Lihue Hongwanji Mission hosted by Lihue Hongwanji Buddhist Women’s Association



### Maui:

- Mayor’s Proclamation for Peace Day 2019 on September 19 at Maui County
- Peace Cranes Flock to Makawao on September 21 at Makawao Hongwanji Mission
- Peace Cranes displayed at Maui Hongwanji Temples



### Big Island:

- Peaceful Twilight Gathering on September 20 at Puna Hongwanji Mission
- The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Parade and Festival for the United Nations International Day of Peace on September 21 in Honokaa
- Peace Gathering on September 21 at Naalehu Hongwanji Mission
- Peace Day Sunday Service on September 22 at Puna Hongwanji Mission





## 2019 MINISTER'S LAY ASSISTANT ENRICHMENT RETREAT ON OCTOBER 13-15

The Retreat has two fundamental purposes:

1. Provide knowledge and skills for anyone who is interested in deepening their knowledge of Shin Buddhism and the rituals and traditions of the Nishi Hongwanji.
2. Fulfill the requirements for a person being mentored by their temple's head minister to qualify to be recommended by their mentor to be certified by the Bishop as a Minister's Lay Assistant.

Therefore, the Retreat is for two types of participants: those who would like to learn more about their religion and those being mentored by their temple's ministers to be a Minister's Lay Assistant.

This year the Retreat was held at the Buddhist Study Center and the Moiliili Hongwanji. The Instructor and Mentor for Rituals and Traditions was Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, the General Facilitator and Instructor for Buddhism and Shin Buddhism was Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki, the Instructor for the Minister's Assistant Experience Session was Dr. Dexter Mar. Supporting the Retreat this year was the BSC Assistant to the Director, Kerrie Wong, Office of Buddhist Education Assistant Rev. Shingo Furusawa, and volunteer, Dayle Kuniyuki.

A special feature this year was the use of the Buddhist Educational Resource, *Shoshinge Saga*, in teaching Shin Buddhism. *Shoshinge Saga* was built on the original Japanese manga: *Shoshinge no Hanashi*, published by Hozokan. We are very grateful to Hozokan for their generous permission to produce the resource to be used in the presentation of Shin Buddhism in a more understandable manner for students from high school and through adult education levels. It is presently in the final stages of revision and the Retreat was a good opportunity to test the resource in an instructional setting. It was produced by the Buddhist Study Center with the help of volunteers from the BSC Fellowship Club. The plan is to distribute it either at the ending of this year or the beginning of next year through the Office of Buddhist Education.

This year the participants were:

Hawaii Island District: Earl Tanaka (Honokaa Hongwanji), Linda Nagai (Kona Hongwanji), Warren Tanigawa (Puna Hongwanji)

Honolulu District: Barbara Brennan, Debbie Kubota, Jan Terakawa (Hawaii Betsuin), Jaryd Oshiro (Jikoen Hongwanji), Andy Carson (Moiliili Hongwanji), Jennifer Kane, Prudence Kusano, Cynthia Rodriguez, Dennis Tashiro (Windward Buddhist Temple)

Oahu District: Carolyn Uchiyama (Wahiawa Hongwanji)



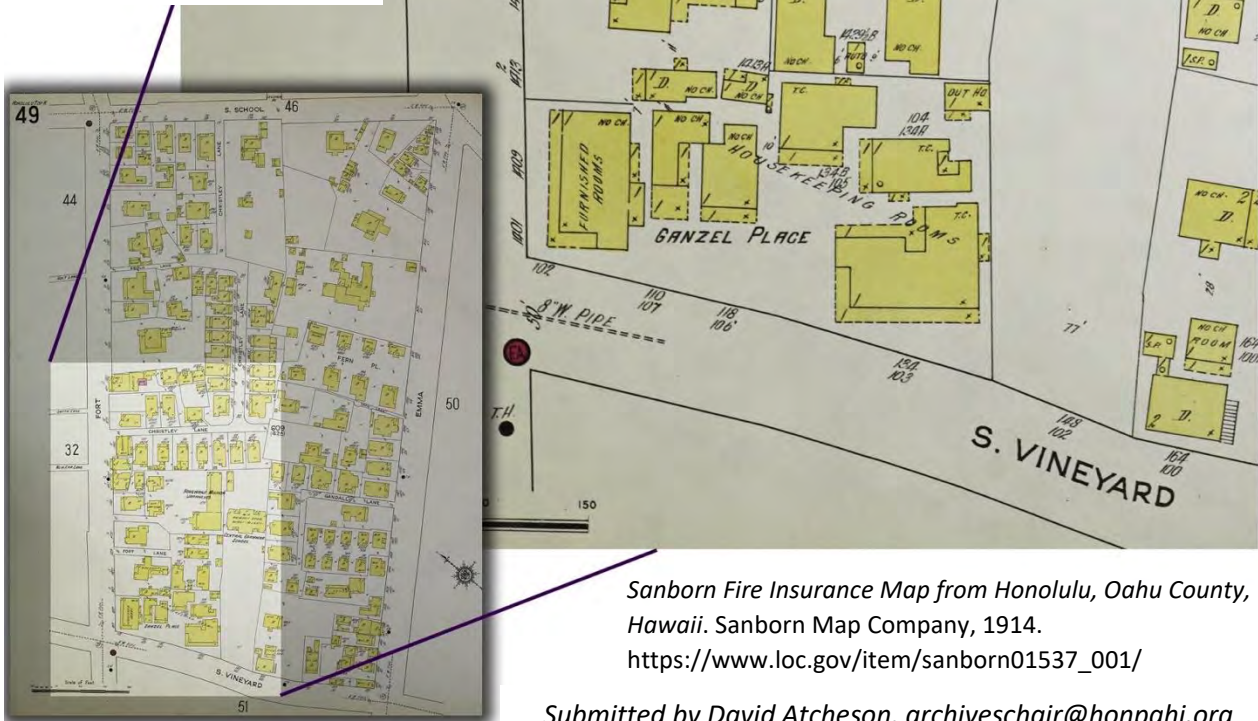
*From left to right, seated: Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani & Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki, first standing row: Jan Terakawa, Carolyn Uchiyama, Barbara Brennan, Linda Nagai, Prudence Kusano, Debbie Kubota, Cynthia Rodriguez, Jaryd Oshiro, second standing row: Dennis Tashiro, Jennifer Kane, Earl Tanaka, Warren Tanigawa, last standing row: Andy Carson.*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

**Where exactly was Hongwanji's Fort Lane temple (dedicated in 1900)?**

This 1914 fire insurance map provides the answer. The thumbnail image below shows the map boundaries of Fort, Vineyard, Emma, and School Streets. The highlighted section is enlarged at right, showing "Hongwanji Mission (Japanese)" near Fort Lane.

According to our review, if you were to stand in the middle of the old temple site today, you'd be in Kamamalu Playground just Diamond Head of the current YMCA swimming pool.



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Honolulu, Oahu County, Hawaii. Sanborn Map Company, 1914.

[https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn01537\\_001/](https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn01537_001/)

Submitted by David Atcheson, [archiveschair@honpahi.org](mailto:archiveschair@honpahi.org)



## PBA LIGHTING OUR WAY BANQUET

Pacific Buddhist Academy's **14th Annual Lighting Our Way Awards Banquet** will be held on **Friday, November 15, 2019**, from **5:30 to 8:30 p.m.** at **Waialae Country Club**.

We have a wonderful group of honorees for 2019, including **Leslie Wilcox**, President and CEO at PBS Hawai'i and longtime board member and advisor for many philanthropic organizations; **Louise K.Y. Ing**, co-founder of the law firm Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing and recipient of many awards for her civic engagement; **Warren and Claire Tamamoto**, volunteer leaders with the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and numerous other community organizations; and the **Hawaiian Airlines Team Kokua Program**, home to the company's philanthropic and community service activities.

You can become a **sponsor**, purchase **individual tickets**, or make a **donation** to support the Banquet by going to PBA's Banquet website, <https://www.pacificbuddhistacademy.org/giving/events/lighting-our-way-banquet/14th-annual-lighting-our-way-banquet-sponsorships-and-tickets>.

or by calling or writing **Rüdiger Rückmann**, Director of Advancement, **(808) 532-2649** or **(808)321-0372**, or email [rudiger.ruckmann@pbahi.org](mailto:rudiger.ruckmann@pbahi.org)

Sponsorship, individual ticket, and donation information is also included in the attached Banquet forms with this notice. Many thanks for supporting our wonderful honorees. We hope you can join us!

## 2020 HAWAII KYODAN CALENDAR

January 1 (Wed)	New Year's Day (HQ closed for holiday)
January 16 (Thu)	Shinran Shonin's Memorial Day (HQ closed for Holiday)
January 20 (Mon)	M. L. King Jr. Day (HQ closed for holiday)
February 6 (Thu)	Board of Directors Meeting & State Ministers Association Meeting
February 7-8 (Fri-Sat)	108th HHMH Legislative Assembly
February 8 (Sat)	108th HHMH Legislative Assembly Aloha Luncheon & Living Treasures of Hawaii Recognition
February 9 (Sun)	BWA (Fujinkai) Dana Day
February 15 (Sat)	Nirvana Day
February 17 (Mon)	Presidents' Day (HQ closed for holiday)
March 2 (Mon)	Hongwanji Day (observed March 1)
March 5-6 (Thu-Fri)	Ryukoku University-BSC Spring Seminar (Prof. Takeshi Hasegawa)
March 18-24	Spring Higan
April 8 (Wed)	Buddha Day (HQ closed for holiday)
April 10-11 (Fri-Sat)	Ministers' Spouses Association Seminar (Maui)
April 10-12 (Fri-Sun)	YESS Camp 37 (Camp Palehua)
April 25 (Sat)	BWA (Fujinkai) Eshinni Day/Peace Day
May 7 (Thu)	PBA Baccalaureate Ceremony
May 8 (Fri)	Sanmu Meeting & Sanmu-Kanji Meeting
May 8 (Fri)	PBA Commencement Exercise
May 9 (Sat)	Board of Directors Meeting
May 10 (Sun)	Mother's Day
May 21 (Thu)	Shinran Shonin's Birthday (Gotan-E)
May 25 (Mon)	Memorial Day (HQ closed for holiday)
May 27-28 (Wed-Thu)	World Jodo Shinshu Coordinating Council Meeting (Hawaii)
June 2-4 (Tue-Thu)	62nd State Ministers Association Seminar (Oahu)
June 21 (Sun)	Father's Day
June 22-26 (Mon-Fri)	BSC Summer Session (Prof. Duncan Williams)
June 26-28 (Fri-Sun)	63rd State Jr. YBA Convention (Maui)
June 27-July 3 (Sat-Fri)	BSC Neighbor Island Summer Session (Prof. Duncan Williams)
July 3-5 (Fri-Sun)	Young Adult Retreat
July 4 (Sat)	Independence Day (HQ closed for holiday)
August 21 (Fri)	Statehood Day (HQ closed for holiday)
September 7 (Mon)	Labor Day (HQ closed for holiday)
September 11-13 (Fri-Sun)	57th Honpa Hongwanji Lay Association Convention (Honolulu)
September 11 (Fri)	Sanmu Meeting & Sanmu-Kanji Meeting
September 12 (Sat)	Board of Directors Meeting
September 20-26	Autumn Higan
September 21 (Mon)	Peace Day Hawaii/United Nations International Day of Peace
September 26-27 (Sat-Sun)	Choralfest 2020 (Hawaii Betsuin)
October 3-10 (Sat-Sat)	BSC Young Adults Dharma Study Tour
October 9-11 (Fri-Sun)	Minister's Lay Assistant Retreat (BSC)
November 4 (Wed)	Appreciation Luncheon for Retired Ministers and Spouses
November 11 (Wed)	Veterans Day (HQ closed for holiday)
November 12-13 (Thu-Fri)	State Ministers Continuing Education Seminar
November 26 (Thu)	Thanksgiving Day (HQ closed for holiday)
November 27 (Fri)	Family Day (HQ closed for holiday)
December 4 (Fri)	Sanmu Meeting & Sanmu-Kanji Meeting
December 5 (Sat)	Board of Directors Meeting
December 8 (Tue)	Bodhi Day
December 25 (Fri)	Christmas Day (HQ closed for holiday)
December 31 (Thu)	New Year's Eve