



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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DECEMBER 2019

### BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



As I mentioned last month, as Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, we will for the next five years focus on the Sangha. A Sangha that is nurtured by the Buddha-Dharma.

Today, let me share wise and insightful guidance that we receive from our Teachings which explains to us how the Sangha can grow. In the book, "The Teaching of Buddha," it emphasizes the importance of sincerity of thoughts, words and actions and harmony in/of the Sangha.

Further it shares *"There are two sets of seven rules to be followed if the Sangha is to be a success. The first is, as a group: (1) they should gather together frequently to listen to the teachings and to discuss them; (2) they should mingle freely and respect one another; (3) they should revere the teachings and respect the rules and not change them; (4) elder and younger members are to treat each other with courtesy; (5) they should let sincerity and reverence mark their bearing; (6) they should purify their minds in a quiet place which they should, nevertheless, offer to others before taking it for themselves; (7) they should love all people, treat visitors cordially, and console the sick with kindness. A Sangha that follows these rules will never decline.*

*The second is, individually each should: (1) maintain a pure spirit and not ask for too many things; (2) maintain integrity and remove all greed; (3) be patient and not argue; (4) keep silent and not talk idly; (5) submit to the regulations and not be overbearing; (6) maintain an even mind and not follow different teachings; and (7) be thrifty and frugal in daily living. If its members follow these rules, the Sangha will endure and never decline."*

Another important Teaching is, in the words of His Eminence Koshin Ohtani, Monshu (Spiritual Leader) Emeritus found in his book "The Buddha's Wish for the World," what is referred to as *"the seven gifts that require no possessions."* *The seven gifts are: 1-The gift of gentle eyes, looking at others kindly. 2-The gift of a smile and kind expressions. 3-The gift of words, speaking kindly to others. 4-The gift of the physical body. Acting properly yourself, and treating others with respect. 5-The gift of heart, touching others with a heart full of love. 6-The gift of a resting place, offering a place to sit and rest. 7-The gift of shelter and lodging, providing others with a room or a warm place to stay."*

As the Sangha at our temples and in our individual lives as Buddhists, let us see how we might try to do or make manifest some of what is mentioned above in our lives and at temple including programs and projects. As His Eminence continues to say that as a bonbu or “foolish being, *“Of course, we cannot live the way the Buddha did. However, we can emulate the Buddha. When we do so, we can better appreciate what a truly wonderful heart the Buddha must have had in order to accomplish what he did.”*

In Shin Buddhism, we aspire in grateful response to Amida Buddha's Great Unconditional Compassion which embraces this imperfect me just as I am, fully acknowledging my limitations including the fact that I am, many times, directly or indirectly and totally or partially, a cause and/or condition of others' and/or my own suffering. In all of Buddhism, the goal is not to be a cause, condition and/or result of ignorance and suffering and realize true liberation or freedom which is Nirvana or as we would say in Jodo Shinshu attain birth in the Pure Land of Enlightenment.

As the Old Year draws to a close, let us deeply reflect so that we start the New Year with new aspirations. I encourage everyone and ask that you to encourage those closes to you to visit your Hongwanji Temple for New Year's Eve Service and/or New Year's Day Service. Have a peaceful and meaningful New Year!

Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion (Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light).

## CONDOLENCES

**Mr. Clifford Yoshikatsu Takishita**, a member of Pearl City Hongwanji Mission, passed away on October 28, 2019. He served on the Research & Planning Committee and the Music Committee and helped with revised the fourth edition of the gathas in 1990. He was instrumental in starting the Project Dana program at Pearl City Hongwanji, and served as President of the Pearl City Hongwanji Kyodan. The Ingo (Posthumous Title) of SHOU-JOU-IN 清浄院 which means “One who demonstrated the importance of purity” in recognition of his life of nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Eric Matsumoto on December 9, 2019.

**Mr. Richard Itsuo Fujii**, a member of Papaalooa Hongwanji Mission and an Advisor of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, passed away on November 16, 2019. He served as Papaalooa Hongwanji President totaling 30 years, District Advisor of Hawaii Hongwanji Council and Lay Association for many years. He served at the state level as Director for 8 years, Advisor for 12 years and as a member of the nomination committee for many years. The Papaalooa Hongwanji Kyodan Funeral Service was held at Dodo Mortuary on Thursday, December 5, 2019 under the officiation of Bishop Eric Matsumoto. The Ingo (Posthumous Title) of JI-NEN-IN 自然院 which means “One who naturally lived a life of Nembutsu” in recognition of his life of nembutsu was conferred.

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

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will honor the following individuals as the 2020 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.

- **Robert Uluwehi Cazimero**
- **Larry L. Kimura, Ph. D**
- **Carolee Mei-Jen Kapuamae'ole Nishi**
- **Sachie Saigusa**

Date: Saturday, February 8, 2020  
Place: Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom  
Time: 11:00 AM Registration, 12:00 PM Lunch and Program  
Attire: Aloha

Cost: Early registration - \$85.00 for payments received by January 24, 2020  
Late registration - \$100.00 for payments between January 25 – January 31, 2020

(Reservations will NOT be accepted after January 31, 2020 or if maximum capacity is reached)  
Additional fee for payments by credit card

***Sponsor Tables are available: Gold - \$5,000; Silver - \$3,000; Bronze - \$1,500***  
***Deadline to purchase a Sponsor Table – January 17, 2020***

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

Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Reverend Kazunori Takahashi, as part of the Hawaii Buddhist Council, attended a Memorial Ceremony “Lives Remembered: A Tribute to the Fallen of Pearl Harbor” which was held on Monday, December 9, 2019 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. Michael Carr (President & CEO, USS Missouri Memorial Association).



## HAWAII BETSUIN HOSTS MARY FOSTER REMEMBRANCE AND APPRECIATION SERVICE

On Sunday, December 15, Hawaii Betsuin and Maha Bodhi Hawaii presented a service at Hawaii Betsuin to remember and appreciate the contributions of Mary Elizabeth Mikahala Robinson Foster to Buddhism in Hawaii, Sri Lanka and India.

The service opened with a welcome and introductory remarks by emcee Dexter Mar, president of the Hawaii Betsuin Board of Directors. Following an oli offered by kumu hula Lehua Matsuoka, a Bodhi tree sapling was unveiled on the temple altar. The tree was a gift of the Venerable Dhammamuni Mahathero of Wat Dhammavihara of Waianae, who offered a chant in Pali. Pacific Buddhist Academy Head of School, Josh Hernandez Morse, and two PBA students led the sangha in the Vandana and Ti-Sarana.



*Speakers and Rimban at Mary Foster Appreciation Service 2019: Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Venerable Dhammamuni Mahathero, Venerable Ayya M. Vimala, Rimban Toyokazu Hagio, and temple president Dexter Mar.*

Bishop Eric Matsumoto and the Venerable Ayya M. Vimala each offered remarks from the podium. The Bishop's message emphasized the many ways Mary Foster provided support and assistance to Buddhists and Honpa Hongwanji in Hawaii, beginning as early as 1899. Ayya M. Vimala, founder of Maha Bodhi Hawaii, spoke about Mary Foster's friendship with Anagarika Dharmapala and support for his projects. Ayya Vimala also described her own efforts to make known Mary Foster's contributions to Buddhism.

The service closed with the singing of "The Bodhi Tree" gatha and the Nembutsu.

Mary Foster died in 1930. Bishop Matsumoto noted that sources indicate Mary Foster requested a Buddhist funeral before she died, which, had it occurred, would likely have been conducted by the Rev. Ernest Hunt at Hawaii Betsuin. Such a funeral did not occur as Mary Foster did not put her request into writing. Bishop said,

*It is, now, today, 90 memorial years later, that... Mary Elizabeth Mikahala Robinson Foster's wish has come true as we hold this Remembrance Service to honor and express our gratitude to her. Today is long overdue, but it is finally here! Thank you to all of you, for being here today.*

Bishop Matsumoto's message is available on the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii website: <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/message/mary-foster-remembrance-service-121519/>

(David Atcheson)

## **BWA NEWS**

### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade**

The BWA Federation would like to invite all temple members, Dharma School students, family and friends to join us in our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. parade on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

- Meet at Magic Island between 8:00 am and 8:30 am (near the restrooms at the Ewa end of the Magic Island parking lot).
- Wear your BWA shirt, PBA shirt, organization shirt or anything purple.
- Bring some origami cranes to hand out if you have some
- Remember Green Hongwanji and bring your own water bottle.
- Wear sunscreen

The route is down Waikiki to Kapiolani Park, about 2 miles. Once again, PBA will join us in force and will provide a bus for those who would like to participate but can't walk the entire route.

Contact Lois Toyama for more information.

(Lois Toyama)

## **HONOLULU DISTRICT NEWS**

### **Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin**

- Hosted participants (national and international) of the Interprofessional Spiritual Care Education Curriculum (ISPEC – July 9-11, 2019) and the local community of health care providers, spiritual care professionals, faith leaders, ministers, volunteers and many others from Hawai'i at a special service.
- Mary Foster Maha Bodhi Society Commemoration Service and Bo tree dedication – Dec 15
- Kokua Mau (compassionate care non-profit) holds monthly meetings at Betsuin for a very nominal charge. Ministers are members.
- Peace Day Events
  - Peace Day at VegFest Oahu (Peace tent/lounge at Honolulu Hale event)
- Speakers, seminars, workshops
  - Talk Story with Rev. Daido Baba "The Nembutsu Way of Life"
  - Rev. Hagio study class "Teachings of the Buddha"
  - Talk Story with Rev. Jeffery Soga "What is Buddhism, Nembutsu?"
  - Rev. Kalu study class: "Buddhism and Science"
  - Chef Paul Onishi talk on vegan eating/cooking
- Host site for Veterans for Peace, Golden Rule Peace Boat event
- Peace Walk (10<sup>th</sup> annual Quaker-Catholic-Congregational-Buddhist walk on Nagasaki bombing day from Betsuin to Honolulu Hale)
- 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Futaba-Bloom Memorial Lectures featuring Prof. George Tanabe
- Nuuanu Valley Interfaith Thanksgiving Service (choir)

- Chaminade University and Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai, Reverend Yoshiaki Lecture Series for Christian-Buddhist Dialogue – Soul Shop, Suicide Prevention Workshop (Samaritan Counseling Center of Hawaii) – attended by Sangha and Jr. YBA members.
- Host Site for The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii Annual Awards Event with keynote speaker, Lt. Gov. Josh Green.
- Honolulu District level events: 1. Halloween Fun Day 2. Dharma School Pool Party.

### **Jikoen Hongwanji Mission**

- Jikoen celebrated the H.H.M.H. 130th anniversary in October with a commemorative service that also celebrated the partnership between Jikoen and the Okinawan Community. From 1964 to 1990, Jikoen served both as a Hongwanji temple and as the Okinawan center of activities for Oahu. To celebrate this historical relationship, the temple service featured Okinawan music. For the first time ever, the Vandana and Tisarana and the Nembutsu were accompanied by the Okinawan sanshin. There was standing room only in the temple.

### **Moiliili Hongwanji Mission**

- Special Services and Guest Speakers included:
  - Obon (7/14 with Rev. Ai Hironaka), Temple Fun Day (8/4), Autumn Higan (9/22 with Rev. Shigenori Makino), Halloween Costume Parade (10/27), BWA Hoonko (11/3), Veterans Day (11/10 with presentation of flags by the Scouts BSA and Veterans Recognition), Eitaikyo (11/17 with Rev. Murakami), Bodhi Day (12/1 with Duane Kurisu)
- Tuesday Guided Meditation Sessions include walking meditation, followed by Sutra Chanting of “Shoshinge” and Dharma message by participants. Potluck dinner follows. Between 8-15 attend per week.
- Japanese Dharma Class – 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 10:00am
  - A series of lectures on “Tannisho” instructed by Rev. Shigenori Makino.
- Monthly Chanting of Shoshinge in honor of Shinran Shonin – every month 16th day
  - Every month on day 16, Jodo Shinshu Buddhists chant the Shoshinge (Gyofu style) in honor of Shinran Shonin. Service Contents: Chanting of Shoshinge in Gyofu Style, Chanting of Wasan Hymns, Reading of Gobunsho (letter from Rennyo Shonin) in Japanese and English.
- Culture Classes
  - Quilting, Zumba, Karate, AA, Japanese Ikebana
- Conversational Japanese Class
  - Most Fridays at 1-2pm. Anyone interested can attend as we are all at various levels of the Japanese language. The fee is \$3 per class.
- Moiliili Hongwanji Bon Dance and Moiliili Summer Fest - July 5-6, 2019
  - The annual event is a street festival that highlights Honolulu’s largest Bon Dance as well as the cultural diversity, history, and businesses of Mō’ili’ili. Kamehameha Schools in partnership with the Mō’ili’ili Hongwanji Mission and other community organizations have come together to deliver this lively event for their community.
- Moiliili Japanese Cemetery Obon Service – July 14, 2019

- Volunteers of the Cemetery Beautification Project and Moiliili Hongwanji co-sponsor the annual Obon service at the cemetery followed by the Bon Dance with a Mini-Yagura.
- Romano Grill fundraiser
  - We made 20% from meals when ordered with our flyer. We arranged for a table of 20 for our members so this was also a great social event while we raised money for the temple. We also saw other members and temples who supported us throughout the day.
- Project Dana 30th Anniversary Celebration and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon – September
  - The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Project Dana honored our Founding Administrator, Rose Nakamura, and the many Project Dana Volunteers for their selfless giving. The keynote speaker Dr. William Thomas (Founder of the Eden Alternative and Eden At Home).
- Fall Seminar – October 26, 2019
  - “Dedication and Contribution of Buddhist Minister’s Wives (Bomori) in Hawaii” featuring panelists (Mrs. Michiko Okano, Mrs. Sumie Makino, Mrs. Tamayo Matsumoto, and Mrs. Yoshiko Umitani) and a special lecture by Ethel Aiko Oda on “History of Moiliili Hongwanji and its Community”.
- “Go For Broke” movie screening – November 10, 2019
  - Over 50 people attended this special screening of the “Go For Broke: a 442<sup>nd</sup> Origin Story”
- Ramen Night – December 13, 2019
  - A night of fellowship featuring ono ramen with various toppings with some side dishes and dessert. Fun games for young and old & holiday karaoke.

### **Windward Buddhist Temple**

- Monthly Dharma School continues with 5 students. The students had an early morning service at Kailua Beach prior to the regular Earth Day Sunday service. After their service they collected trash from the beach and made a “Dharma School” sign with the trash. The sign is hung in the temple office where they have their lessons. In November, the Mililani Hongwanji Dharma School children and parents visited. The WBT and Mililani children made stone soup and did crafts together.
- Two adult Dharma Classes were conducted by Rev. Sumikawa. Several non-members have attended these classes and some now regularly attend Sunday service. Few students were from the Kaneohe Marine Corp.
- Members were finally allowed to visit the Waimanalo Japanese Cemetery located on the Marine Corps property in Bellows Field. Rev. Sumikawa performed an Obon service for more than 30 gravesites. The publicity following the visit has generated interest from Waimanalo residents who want to visit the cemetery. WBT will be doing annual visits during Obon and including interested residents.
- Monthly intergenerational activities included folding large paper cranes, which were hung on dowels for the International Peace Day walk around Kailua town, crafting toilet paper pumpkins in October, and Thanksgiving cards in November.
- After the Peace Day service Rev. Sumikawa, dressed in his robes and carrying a staff, walked with about 12 members around Kailua town. They visited several businesses, offered large paper cranes and talked to people to make them aware of International Peace Day.
- Community Partnerships

- WBT partners with Kailua Elementary School by providing volunteers and supplies. A member sewed the costumes the students wore in their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary program in May. In turn, we are allowed to use their parking lot for our Bon Dance in July.
- WBT partners with the Kaneohe Kiwanis by allowing them to have their meetings at the temple. In turn, they provide manpower during our Bon Dance and fund raising events.
- In October WBT was invited by Windward Mall to participate in their first Bon Dance at the Mall. The Mall borrowed the WBT yagura and provided publicity for WBT in the Kaneohe Community. The event was also a fundraising opportunity at which we sold andagi, takuan, bon towels, etc.
- WBT has loaned its yagura to Windward Community College and to Nichiren Mission of Hawaii for their bon dances.
- The first Windward Interfaith Service will be held at WBT on January 7, 2020.
- The first annual Dr. Al Bloom Memorial lecture was held in November with speaker
- Rev. Tennes of Kahului Hongwanji Temple. There were over 40 Hongwanji members and others in attendance.
- Sunday Services
  - WBT has 8 lay speakers who take turns providing the Sunday Dharma talk since Rev. Sumikawa is a part-time minister.
  - WBT members volunteer to serve as greeters and MCs. Individuals who attend Sunday service on a regular basis are provided name tags. Visitors are given temporary name tags. First time visitors are given a packet of information about Shin Buddhism and WBT.

## OAHU DISTRICT NEWS

### Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

- New Year's Japanese cooking class attracted over 50 people as part of a healthy living partnership with Blue Zone. Carolyn Uchiyama and Elaine Kawamoto coordinated the event.
- Our annual Eitaikyo Service featured the BSC Shakuhachi Club playing all while people went up to "oshoko." Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki was the guest speaker, Rev. Thomas Okano came with 4 members of the Club.
- Masako Nishimura's 100th Birthday celebration.
- Participation in Veterans Day Parade



*Celebrating the Peace. Ho'ala School student and Rev. Hashimoto ring the bonsho.*

## KAUAI DISTRICT NEWS

### Kapaa Hongwanji Mission

- Kapaa Temple and eight other participating churches held its annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at the All Saints Episcopal Church. Rev. Mieko Majima of Kapaa Hongwanji and Rev. Arthur Kaufmann of Lihue Hongwanji shared their reflections at the service.
  - Following the service, a luncheon was held at the gym for about 500 guests. There were about 380 home deliveries made to the elderly and disabled who were not able to attend.
  - Pilgrim Jim Jung greeted the guests, while the Jr. YBA members and Rev. Majima served lunches. Other members assisted with the home delivery.
  - Many thanks to the Honpa Hongwanji's Committee on Social Concerns for their generous contribution to support this annual event.



*Participating ministers at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.*



### Lihue Hongwanji Mission

- On September 21st, we held our Peace Day Candellight Ceremony with a showing of **Peace On Your Wings**.
- We decorated the Kauai Veterans Cemetery graves just before Veterans Day.



*We have a weekly pickleball game (something new) with 10-12 people participating.*

## West Kauai Hongwanji Mission

- Shamisen Workshop: Shamisen group "Madoka no Kai" from Japan came to our Bon Dance and did Shamisen workshops for our members and community on June 16.
- HHMH 130th Commemorative Events – Kauai District combined its Nembutsu seminar and the H.H.M.H. 130th commemorative service. We had a peace panel discussion titled “Manifestation of Peace: Various Perspectives” with the following three panelists on Sunday, October 6 at West Kauai Hongwanji Mission.
  - Bishop Eric Matsumoto (Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii)
  - Bishop Kosen Ishikawa (Jodo Mission of Hawaii)
  - Kūikawā Kahu Sherman Thompson (Kamehameha School)
- Japanese Conversation Class: Rev. Tomo Hojo and Rev. Kohtoku Hirao of Waimea Shingon Mission co-teach a Japanese Conversation Class for temple members and the community in Spring and Autumn at West Kauai Hongwanji Mission.
- Lonesome Grave Project: The United of Kauai BWA decorated the Veterans Memorial Cemetery on November 10, one day prior to the public service on Nov 11.
- Music Sunday Service: We observe "Music Sunday Service" on fifth Sundays at which we practice new Gathas.
- WKHM Seminar "Buddhism in Daily Life": We inviting neighbor temple members and the community to a 3-session seminar with Hongwanji ministers in 2020.

## MAUI DISTRICT NEWS

### Lānaʻi Hongwanji Mission

- Bon 2019 (Approximate Attendance 300 participants)
  - Outside help is important to Lānaʻi Temple’s Obon Dance. The Lānaʻi Lions Club is a big help, as well as an unofficial Bon Dance group from Maui. Nearly two dozen individuals from various Japanese temples demonstrate the dances for our local community to join in. The dancers spend the night in the temple residence and really give life to the festival. This year, we had new volunteers to handle all the food preparations.
- Sushi Class (Approximate Attendance 20 participants)
  - With help of friends from Lahaina Hongwanji, we hosted a sushi-rolling class open to the Lānaʻi Community. Participation was exceptional.
- Annual Fall Bazaar (Approximate Attendance 75 participants)
  - This key fundraising event involves a large part of the local community. Many people that normally would not visit the temple were welcomed inside and interacted with members.
- Meditation Retreat (Approximate Attendance 15 participants)
  - This is the third time that Lānaʻi Hongwanji hosted a Vipassana Retreat. Vipassana Hawaii has been the main partner in presenting mediation practice and dharma talks.
- There is further community interest in Taiko Drumming, Bon Dancing, and Japanese Cooking. We only need the motivated volunteers to promote these events to develop them further.

### **Wailuku Hongwanji Mission**

- A “Buddha Reads” book club was established to allow discussion of Dharma principles in the context of message-relevant books. The Book Club is open to community members and serves as a means to broadening engagement in our Jodo Shinshu teachings. There is already one non-member participating in the book club. **Contact Danny Topp for more information.**
- Through the efforts of our Wailuku Hongwanji Dharma School, the publication “Expressions of Dharma” was released. The book represents a collection of thoughts, poems, aspirations, and art by numerous dharma school students and the general Sanghas of the Maui District Temples. All temples received copies.
- To engage a larger portion of the community, we are going to add English titles to our temple holidays. Examples are “Celebration of our Founder Shinran Shonin” to be added to announcements for Fujimatsuri and “Celebration of Buddha’s Birth” added for Hanamatsuri.

### **Makawao Hongwanji Mission**

- Makawao was the host temple for Maui Districts Peace Day Celebration. Makawao’s sangha made over 2,000 extra-large water-proof cranes which were put on display around the Bodhi tree.
  - On September 21, over a hundred people attended a service with Buddhists from all over Maui including two nuns from the Vietnamese Buddhist Center Chua Tu Hanh in Kahului and thirteen Vietnamese Buddhist monks from the Blue Cliff Monastery in upstate New York. Rev. Kerry led a walking meditation in the manner of the Blue Cliff Monastery which was followed by a simple vegetarian meal and activities in the social hall. An added plus is that the displayed cranes will be recycled for Peace Day 2020.
- The Temple Welcome/Greeting Program held an orientation for new greeters. Twelve people will be on rotational duty with two greeters assigned for a month two times a year. This ensures that Sunday Service visitors will feel welcome when they enter Makawao Buddhist Temple.
- A second large screen TV was mounted for maximum visibility during services. Junior YBA members have utilized the technology by preparing computer presentations. The advantages of a TV include: 1) colored visuals 2) songs, chants and other words can be read on the screen and books are optional 3) less paper waste 4) visually oriented people have the advantage of listening to the dharma plus seeing the words and visuals which is also great for the hearing impaired.
- Makawao Hongwanji’s Facebook page increased its follower count from 68 people in 2018 to more than 500 in 2019. The most popular post, Peace Day, reached 4,443 people, was shared 53 times, and generated 1,070 engagements at zero cost. More than 10 non-Hongwanji members attended the Peace Day event and at least 3 people visiting Maui specifically mentioned that they found the event on social media. Makawao Hongwanji’s Google listing is viewed about 6,800 times a month, showing up in 3,930 Google searches and being clicked on by 545 people.

## HAWAII DISTRICT NEWS

### Honokaa Hongwanji Mission

- PEACE DAY EVENTS
  - “Read for Peace,” co-hosted by the local state library, featuring a novel written about World War II in Honokaa.
  - “Wine at Five” in partnership with Blue Zones (health initiative), co-sponsored and hosted by a local restaurant.
  - 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace Day Parade started at the high school and ended at the local county park.
  - “The Peace Festival” was held at the local county park. A new event this year was the “Community Meal,” where 500 free meals were distributed to the public, including vegetarian Indian fare, as well as local dishes prepared by the Peace Committee and the BWA. The final event was the annual “Day of Mindfulness,” featuring a guest teacher from Oahu, Dr. Gregory Pai. The events received television news coverage on several network affiliate stations as well as on the internet.

### Kamuela Hongwanji Mission

- Kamuela Grandparent’s Day
  - Our Annual Grandparent’s Day Service is our most joyful service event of the year in which we encourage grandparents to come out and enjoy fellowship with members, friends and family. Fun filled activities include bingo and “somen nagashi.”



### Kohala Hongwanji Mission

- Kohala held two cooking classes this year as fundraisers. We are so small that having large scale food fundraisers or any large fundraiser is out of the question. So we tried something different that still included food as a cultural unifier.
  - We invited people to temple for a cooking class with a fee. Our first class was futomaki sushi making attended by 20 people. Our second, attended by 14 people, was a nishime class. Non-members were able to visit our temple; cooking teachers shared a little about Buddhist/local traditions, such as Obon, and how our teachings can help us in today's world. Class attendees shared a meal with the prepared food and received a booklet with the recipes and temple information. Both classes were well received and attendees have asked for more.

### **Papaaloo Hongwanji Mission**

- We hosted the annual Tsunami Memorial to honor those lost in the devastating 1946 Tsunami. This memorial which began in the mid 1970's is held at the Laupahoehoe Beach Park. We have a short service officiated by Reverend Kawagoe and followed by offering of incense.
  - Throughout the years we have had a variety of guest speakers, including tsunami survivors or family members, Hawaii County Civil Defense Officials, Hawaiian Cultural Advisors.
  - Our Temple provides a soup and sandwich lunch and fellowship after the memorial service.

### **Papaikou Hongwanji Mission**

- Our temple is open for services for members and visitors almost every Sunday throughout the year, even on days when Rev. Kawagoe is not present. Buddhist Education/Project Dana Leaders lead the sutra chants and share a Dharma message taken from various temple literature and articles.
- We participate in the Adopt-A-Highway 4-Temple Hongwanji Council highway cleanup program involving Honomu, Honohina, Papaaloo, Papaikiou Temples. We cover 2-miles of highway once each quarter.
- We are known for our Mochi Project, selling Kasane and Komochi. This is one of our major fundraising project.
  - We annually pound 750# of mochi rice and this past year prepared 6,600 Komochi orders, not including our 2",4" & 6" Kasane orders. We raised \$6,000 from this project alone. This year between 55-60 temple and family members plus supportive Sangha friends from other temples helped with this project.
- We attended our first Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council Board meeting to learn about Senior Programs availability and accessibility towards help for our Kupuna's. We plan to attend the next meeting in January 2020.