



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 522-9200 Fax: (808) 522-9209

Web: [www.hongwanjihawaii.com](http://www.hongwanjihawaii.com) Email: [hqs@honpahi.org](mailto:hqs@honpahi.org)



FEBRUARY 2020

### BISHOP'S CORNER



#### Four Great Significant Occasions in the Life of a Buddhist

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

As we observe Nirvana Day in February and Buddha Day (or Hanamatsuri) approaches reflecting on the life of Sakyamuni Buddha, we find 4 momentous occasions in his life. First, there is his birth as Prince Siddhartha Gautama on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Secondly, there is the attaining of Enlightenment by the former Prince Siddhartha Gautama on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Third, there is the Parinirvana of the Historic Buddha on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Traditionally, these occasions are highlighted by what is known as the 3 Great Services which commemorate very significant occasions in the life of the Historic Buddha.

However, I would like to suggest that there is a fourth very significant occasion which is Sakyamuni Buddha's sharing of the Dharma (which traditionally does not have a date in Mahayana Buddhism). For simplicity's sake, I would like to select January 25<sup>th</sup> as that date based on the information that the enlightened Sakyamuni Buddha is said to have stood up from meditation 49 days after attaining enlightenment. After 49 days of further reflection, the Historic Buddha moved by Great Compassion stood up from meditation with the aspiration to share the Dharma with others.

Examining the life of Shinran Shonin, I see a pattern too. He was born as Matsuwakamaro Hino. Though it is not enlightenment, he takes refuge in the Pure Land Teachings. Then, at the age of 90, he attains birth in Amida Buddha's Pure Land and thus attains Enlightenment or Nirvana. Although selecting a precise date might be hard the date traditionally used for the establishment of Jodo Shinshu could be interpreted as Shinran Shonin's sharing of the Great Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha with others.

As you may have surmised, I am emphasizing the sharing of the Dharma and/or one's Joy of the Dharma as an important part of the life of all Buddhists. For Jodo Shin Buddhists by virtue of Shinjin or the Mind of True Entrusting that we received from Amida Buddha, the wish or aspiration to attain Buddhahood and also wishing for others to also attain enlightenment arises within us.

My conclusion is that these 4 occurrences are common to life of all Buddhists. We are all born. We all encounter the Dharma or Teachings. We all wish to share the Dharma and/or the happiness, joy or tranquility which we are experiencing with others wishing to enter into a life of enlightenment together. Then, finally, we all attain the Great Nirvana which in Jodo Shinshu expressed as birth in the Pure Land of Enlightenment at the end of this finite life. For all Buddhists, I would think the thought is that these

Teachings are too precious and valuable to keep for only oneself. It should be shared with others so others can experience great peace, happiness and tranquility too. In the case of Shinran Shonin too, his joyous experience of gratefully finding himself embraced and never forsaken by Amida Buddha is something so precious and rare that he wants to share it with others. For we, Jodo Shin Buddhists, we don't become enlightened like Sakyamuni Buddha in this life, but rather at the very end of this life we enter into enlightenment with our birth into the Pure Land and all of it is made possible not by my own effort, but by the Great Unconditional Compassion of Amida Buddha based on the 18<sup>th</sup> Vow.

The sharing of the Nembutsu Teachings is a natural process or outcome of encountering Great Wisdom and Compassion or attaining Shinjin or Mind of True Entrusting. It is not contrived, but a natural sharing of the Joy and Peace of the Buddha-Dharma. To me, a Jodo Shin Buddhist inspired by the Great Compassion of Amida Buddha and out of gratitude humbly reaches out to others as did Shinran Shonin, fully knowing or realizing how incapable I am of exhibiting anything close to Sakyamuni Buddha's achievements and accomplishments, but there is a sincere aspiration which aspires/hopes/wishes that others too can experience these wonderful Nembutsu Teachings. Again, I would express or explain that Shinran Shonin was "Responding in Gratitude" to Amida Buddha's immense compassion. He wanted to share his awareness, his joy, his gratitude of Namo Amida Butsu with others and we should too!

As a closing reflection, I would like to share a quote of Shinran Shonin. "I praise Amida's wisdom and virtue, So that beings with mature conditions throughout the ten quarters (of the Universe) may hear. Let those who have already realized shinjin, Constantly respond in gratitude to the Buddha's benevolence."

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

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

On the occasion of the 108th *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.

Upon completion of Monshu Ohtani Kojun's trip to the BCA temples last year, the first round of his official visit to the overseas districts was duly finished. Having Canada as the first destination, his trip began 5 years ago, prior to the conducting of the accession ceremonies. Thank you for welcoming the entourage at every stop. This successful accomplishment would have never been possible without your cooperation, and for that, we are truly grateful.

Another significant incident of the last year is the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu International Office in San Francisco, which is expected to enhance the efforts in sharing the Buddha Dharma on the global scale. Its opening ceremony was conducted last September with the attendance of Gomonsu, as well as the bishops and presidents of the four overseas districts. In his address delivered during the ceremony, Monshu Ohtani expressed his keen anticipation for the office to become the foundation to share the Jodo Shinshu teaching with people across the world. In order to allow the office to expand as the propagational base beyond the framework of each overseas district, your guidance and cooperation is crucial.

At Hongwanji, the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin’s Birth and the 800th Anniversary of Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching will be conducted in 2023. Having this Joint Celebration before us, the special organizational structure that consists of several divisions was launched on November 1st last year. Since then, every conventional department of the Hongwanji institute has been allocated to one of those divisions. This celebratory service should be observed with our gratitude to the founder Shinran Shonin and our joy of encountering the Jodo Shinshu teaching because we would not be who we are today without either of them.

In today’s world where a self-centered way of thinking prevails, ranging widely from small communities to the national level, we, the sangha of Nembutsu followers must endeavor to realize a society in which everyone can live a life of spiritual fulfillment, and as an activity in that effort, we must move forward aiming at the successful observance of the Joint Celebration.

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 7, 2020

Governor General Iwagami Chiko  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

### **HMMH 108<sup>TH</sup> GISEIKAI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The 108<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii was held on February 7-8, 2020 at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. Delegates from the Hongwanji temples throughout Hawaii discussed and passed the following resolutions:

1. HMMH 2020 Budget
2. Proposed Rules and Regulations of the Legislative Assembly
3. Orientation of Hawaii Kyodan Bishop
4. Resolution of Condolence and Appreciation – Barry Taniguchi, Richard Fujii, Tatsuo Yoshida, Stanley Mitsuo Kunitomo, Roseline Yano, Yoshikatsu “Clifford” Takishita, Norman Hirohata Goto and Richard S. Sasaki

### **LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAII RECOGNITION**

The 45th Annual Living Treasures of Hawaii Recognition Luncheon was held on February 8, 2020 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village and the following individuals were recognized as the Living Treasures of Hawaii for the year 2020.

**Robert Uluwehi Cazimero**  
**Carolee Mei-Jen Kapuamae’ole Nishi**

**Larry L. Kimura, Ph. D**  
**Sachie Saigusa**

More information about the honorees are in the following page:

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2020/01/20/2020-living-treasures/>

**OFFICERS, ADVISORS, AND DIRECTORS OF HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII FOR YEAR 2020**



|                           |                      |                      |                         |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| President:                | Warren Tamamoto (H)  |                      |                         |
| Immediate Past President: | Pieper Toyama (H)    |                      |                         |
| Vice Presidents:          | Dennis Tashiro (H)   | Carolyn Uchiyama (O) | Lynne Matsumura (K)     |
|                           | Michael Munekiyo (M) | Earl Tanaka (H)      |                         |
| Secretary:                | Russell Nonaka (O)   |                      |                         |
| Assistant Secretary:      | Sharon Nohara (M)    |                      |                         |
| Treasurer:                | Wayne Yoshioka (H)   |                      |                         |
| Assistant Treasurer:      | Wayne Toma (H)       |                      |                         |
| Advisors:                 | Alan Goto (H)        | Dexter Mar (H)       | Keiji Kukino (H)        |
|                           | Stanley Sasaki (O)   | Rodney Moriyama (O)  | Wayne Fujioka (K)       |
|                           | Floyd Nagoshi (M)    | Ivan Nakano (H)      | Frederick S. Nonaka (H) |
|                           | Harold Uyeno (H)     |                      |                         |
| Honorary Advisors:        | Roy Miyamoto (H)     | Rose Nakamura (H)    |                         |
| Directors:                |                      |                      |                         |
| Honolulu (6)              | Joel Determan        | Wendy Harman         | Wayne Yoshioka          |
|                           | Wayne Toma           | Raymond Takiue, Jr.  | Dennis Tashiro          |
| Oahu (5)                  | Russell Nonaka       | Dean Sakamoto        | David Matsumoto         |
|                           | Miles Tamura         | Carolyn Uchiyama     |                         |
| Kauai (2)                 | Lynne Matsumura      | Fay Tateishi         |                         |
| Maui (4)                  | George Borg          | Sharon Nohara        | Sharon Higuchi          |
|                           | Michael Munekiyo     |                      |                         |
| Hawaii (7)                | Arthur Taniguchi     | Burt Tsuchiya        | Earl Tanaka             |
|                           | David Oshiro         | Joseph Gusman        | Helen Shirota-Benevides |
|                           | Jason Hashimoto      |                      |                         |

## MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii welcomed its newest minister **Reverend Masanari Yamagishi** on February 1, 2020. He transferred from Buddhist Churches of America to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Rev. Yamagishi is currently undergoing the Hawaii Kyodan Onboarding Program at Headquarters from February 1 to March 31 and at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin from April 1 to June 30.



## OBITUARY NOTICE

**Reverend Shoin Hoashi**, a retired minister of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, passed away peacefully at the Kuakini Medical Center in Honolulu and returned to the Pure Land on January 1, 2020 at the age of 96. The Hawaii Kyodan Funeral Service, which is currently being coordinated by the Office of the Bishop, will be held at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin on Saturday, February 29, 2020 under the officiation of Bishop Eric Matsumoto. The visitation will start at 2:00pm and the Funeral Service to follow at 3:00pm.

Rev. Shoin Hoashi became a Kaikyoshi Minister in December 1960 and served the following temples;

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| April 1960 – July 1975        | Puna Hongwanji Mission                   |
| August 1975 – May 1980        | Moilili Hongwanji Mission                |
| June 1980 – February 1994     | Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin           |
| February 28, 1994             | Retired                                  |
| March 1994 – December 1994    | Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (Interim) |
| December 1994 – February 1999 | Kailua Hongwanji Mission (Interim)       |

## CONDOLENCE

**Mr. Takeshi Yamamoto**, a member of Kapaa Hongwanji Mission, passed away on December 16, 2019. Mr. Yamamoto served as the President of Kapaa Hongwanji Mission in 1975 and from 1980 to 1987. The Kapaa Hongwanji Kyodan Funeral Service was held at Kapaa Hongwanji Mission on January 25, 2020 under the officiation of Bishop Eric Matsumoto. The Ingo (Posthumous Title) of SHOU-GO-IN 照護院 which means “One whose illuminating presence enduringly protects” in recognition of his life of nembutsu was conferred.

**Mr. Norman Itsuki Hirohata Goto**, a member of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, passed away on December 16, 2019. Mr. Hirohata Goto was very dedicated and a staunch member of Hawaii Betsuin and active in YBA, Honolulu Hongwanji Council President and Dharma School Teacher (over 30 years). The Ingo of JO-WA-IN 常和院 which means “One who always embodied peace and harmony” in recognition of his life of nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Eric Matsumoto on January 26, 2020.

**Mr. Yasunori Deguchi**, a member of Kona Hongwanji Mission, passed away on December 28, 2019. Mr. Deguchi served as the President of Kona Hongwanji Mission from 1990 to 1998. The Ingo of CHU-SEN-IN 忠宣院 which means “One who with great clarity exhibited faithfulness and loyalty” in recognition of his life of nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Eric Matsumoto on January 26, 2020.

**Mr. Richard Shoichi Sasaki**, a member of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, passed away on December 22, 2019. Mr. Sasaki served as the President of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin for 22 years and the HHMH Board of Directors. The Ingo of ZEN-GAKU-IN 善学院 which means “One who possessed deep knowledge and insight” in recognition of his life of nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Eric Matsumoto on February 1, 2020.

**Mr. Satoshi Stanley Okamoto**, the former President of Wailuku Hongwanji Mission and an Honorary Advisor of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, passed away on January 31, 2020. He served on numerous committees at Wailuku Hongwanji Mission, Maui Hongwanji Council and Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for many years. The Hawaii Kyodan Funeral Service was held at Wailuku Hongwanji Mission on February 22, 2020 under the officiation of Bishop Eric Matsumoto. The Ingo of ZEN-TOKU-IN 善徳院 which means “One whose manifested the virtue of good deeds” in recognition of his life of nembutsu was conferred.

## WEDDING

**Reverend Kazunori Takahashi**, the Executive Assistant to the Bishop, got married to Noriko Matsuzuki on February 2, 2020. The wedding ceremony was held at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin officiated by Bishop Eric Matsumoto.

## YESS CAMP 37

The Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers Camp (YESS Camp) is a camp held in the spring, for young people interested in learning about Shin Buddhism. In the process of learning about Shin Buddhism, they also learn a little about themselves and develop bonds of friendships to carry on for many years.

This year’s theme: ARIGATAI was selected to correspond with the overarching theme of our Hawaii temples—Embracing Generosity in Others.

**Ari** means “to have, to exist”

**Gatai** (as a suffix) means “difficult”

**Arigatai** means “so rare & precious to have, be, or exist”

What is our goal?: To strengthen teamwork, leadership, and communication, embrace the teachings of the Dharma in relevant and engaging ways, to create an open environment which nurtures lifelong friendships, to encourage self-reflection and self-expression, and lastly (and most importantly) to have fun!

When: April 10-12, 2020  
Where: Camp Palehua (formerly Camp Timberline)  
Who: Campers age 13-23  
How much: Early registration ends Feb 28th (\$45), and late registration ends Mar 14th (\$55)

For more information and registration, please visit the YESS Camp website: <https://www.yesscamp.com/>

### COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

On Thursday, January 9, Dean Sakamoto, Committee on Social Concerns, presented a donation check from the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii to Magi Dabis, Donor Services Coordinator from the Hawaii Foodbank, Inc.

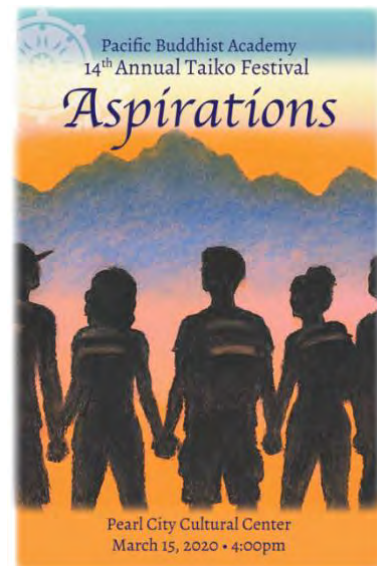


### PBA TAIKO FESTIVAL

The nation's premier high school taiko program will take the stage with a showcase of student, faculty and guest talent on **Sunday, March 15, 2020**, at **4 p.m.** at the **Pearl City Cultural Center**. The theme of Pacific Buddhist Academy's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Taiko Festival is *Aspirations*.

"When people come together and aspire to be the best they can be, they will be able to connect to each other in ways that inspire others to reach greater heights," said Festival Director and Taiko Sensei Jay Toyofuku who has taught at PBA since the school first opened its doors in 2003.

Taiko is an integral part of the course offerings at PBA, the only high school in the United States with a peace-centered curriculum based on Buddhist teachings. Considered a reflective art, taiko offers students a foundation to enrich their mental and physical capacities.



Tickets for the festival are **\$30** for general admission and **\$25** for senior citizens and students. They may be purchased **online** (<https://www.pacificbuddhistacademy.org/pbas-14th-annual-taiko-festival>) using a **credit card** or **PayPal**, by phone at **808-532-2649**, in person at PBA's Weinberg Building at 1754 Lusitana Street, or by mail using one of the attached printable forms below. For sponsorship opportunities, please call Rüdiger (Rudy) Rückmann at **532-2649, ext. 412** or at **321-0372**.

## HAWAII FEDERATION OF BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

The Federation Board and General Membership meeting of the BWA will be held on March 7, 2020 at Jikoen Hongwanji beginning at 9:15 am. Because this is a General Membership meeting, all BWA members are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Lois Toyama, HFBWA president.

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, after the Federation and General Membership meeting, we will be hosting a Student Exchange Alumnae Reunion tea, also at Jikoen. We are gathering together women who have participated in the BWA Student Exchange program to Japan for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and food. If you know of anyone who was not contacted, please notify Lois Toyama. Mahalo to Irene Nakamoto, Barbara Brennan, and Caroline Otani who are serving on the planning committee.

Much gratitude to all who participated in BWA's marching units in the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade in Honolulu and on Maui. Maui United had a large contingent of BWA members, Dharma School students, and families in their community's observance of Martin Luther King Day. On Oahu, BWA members partnered with the Pacific Buddhist Academy for the eighth year to march for peace and equality. Hawaii Betsuin BWA folded cranes and strung them on bamboo poles to carry in honor of Mr. Norman Hirohata Goto who passed away in December. Norman was an outstanding advocate for peace who marched with us in every parade carrying his bamboo pole with cranes. The beautiful rainbow that arched over us as we walked was a beautiful sign of peace.

