



# HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

STATE HEADQUARTERS

1727 PALI HIGHWAY ■ HONOLULU, HI 96813 ■ PH: (808) 522-9200 ■ FAX: (808) 522-9209

[www.hongwanjihawaii.com](http://www.hongwanjihawaii.com)

## **Directives & Recommendations from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters**

The Centers for Disease Control on March 15, 2020 has revised their guidelines for community and faith-based organizations. <https://www.cdc.gov>

### **If there is minimal or moderate spread in your community:**

- **Alert! Starting 3/15 and for 8 weeks, CDC recommends all events of 50+ people be cancelled or held virtually.**
- **For organizations that serve people who are at higher risk of serious COVID-19 illness, cancel events for groups of 10 people or more.**

Based on these recommendations Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, Headquarters has decided on the following matters effective immediately:

- Cancel or postpone the following until after May 15, 2020:
  - Sunday Services
  - Memorial Services
  - Cultural activities
  - Community organizational gatherings/meetings
  - Religious education classes (except online classes)
  - Nursing home group visits, including monthly services
  - HHMH affiliated organizations such as JYBA, BWA, etc., meetings/gatherings (on-line meetings are permissible)
- Continue the following:
  - Bedside / Makuragyo services
  - Small (less than 10) end of life services
- Funeral services
  - Contact family if they can postpone until after May 15, 2020
  - If the funeral service can't be postponed, Headquarters recommends to minimize social contact and maintain social distance to prevent the spread of COVID-19



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- Japanese Language Schools, Preschools, Hongwanji Mission School, Pacific Buddhist Academy and other schools which may be renting or borrowing temple facilities should follow DOE guidelines.
- Elder Adult Care Programs at Temples will have to decide their course of action at the temple level.
- All Hawaii Kyodan Committees and Task Forces are to have online meetings using GoTo Meetings for the remainder of the year. Primary is the safety of committee members, but there are also other factors influencing this decision. If there is an important need for a face-to-face meeting by your group, please contact HQ and especially Derrick Inouye, way in advance, to discuss the matter.
- Except for emergency or urgent situations, HQ will suspend all air travel. All affiliated organizations of HHMH, state committees and task forces are requested to do the same. For example, please find speakers and human resources in your own respective districts so individuals including ministers do not have to travel interisland. Please consider using audio-visual technology or pre-recorded messages.
- After the March 20<sup>th</sup> Webinar on Employment Law regarding COVID-19, we will summarize procedures and policies and inform all Active Ministers and Temple Presidents on what happens if a minister or lay employee becomes ill or needs to be quarantined and thus cannot work. For temples which also have lay employees it is recommended that someone participate, first hand, in the webinar to get information. Information has been sent out regarding the webinar.
- Ministers especially, but to all Dharma Educators, please provide guidance to temple members and possibly even your larger community by sharing Dharma insights during this time of heightened crisis and fear being experienced. To aid in this effort, starting Sunday, March 22, 2020, as a State Ministers Association endeavor, with the assistance of Hawaii Betsuin, each Sunday there will be a live stream of a Sunday Service with a Dharma



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Message which will later be posted on a YouTube Video too. We will inform all Temples and State-wide affiliates of HHMH, how members and friends can gain access to the live stream and YouTube Video.

- Best practices for everyone, including clergy:
  - Stay home if you're sick
  - Clean your hands often
  - Avoid close contact
  - Cover coughs and sneezes
  - Wear facemask if you are sick
  - Clean and disinfect
  - Social Distancing and good air circulation

**The situation with COVID-19 is so fluid that matters could change anytime and very rapidly. Ministers and temple leaders, please use your best judgement.**

**Let us be safe, but not full of fear. Let us go to the Buddha-Dharma for guidance.**

Thank you very much.  
Respectfully,

Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop and Dr. Warren Tamamoto, President

March 16, 2020