



HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

STATE HEADQUARTERS

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COVID-19 Memo #8

Directives, Recommendations and Guidelines from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters (June 2, 2020)

As the people of Hawaii, we have made great strides, though not without sacrifices, in our attempt to curb the spread of COVID-19 in our State. We are not out of the woods yet and need to remain vigilant, but we are headed in a good direction.

Concerning religious services, as previously, funerals and soon after death related memorial services are permitted in the Main Sanctuary and/or other areas, but with the physical distancing restriction and other safety requirements. Currently, the State Proclamation is in effect until June 30, 2020, unless rescinded, extended or superseded by another State Proclamation. As we enter the month of June, the 4 Counties have also made allowances for “Places of Worship” to reopen with restrictions in place and requirements for safety. Please take note of them as you reopen. The Counties have obtained approval from the State for county polices. Thus, temples in all counties are able to reopen and thus conduct in-person memorial services, weddings, study classes, meetings and Sunday Services, etc., in the Main Sanctuary and other areas of the temple, but with restrictions and requirements like physical distancing, hand sanitizers, cleaning and disinfecting procedures, wearing of masks and including minimizing the use of shared worship materials like incense including matches and/or lighters, and nenju to help prevent the spread of the virus, etc. Concerning the number of persons able to gather, size of room/facility and the physical distancing requirement determines the number able to gather in that particular space. Please reopen when safety measures and procedures for your temple are ready and complete. As a final cautionary note, let us reopen with care as many of our members belong to the high risk category. The recommendation is to reopen slowly. Please see the CDC website for Faith Communities for more guidelines. Please consider the value of continuing online presentations. Please decide as a temple when you will reopen.

For all Temples, temple offices may reopen beyond Minimum Basic Operations including ministers returning to their offices. At some temples, a staggered schedule for the office staff, ministers and lay, is something you might want to consider. For all

temples, safety procedures like physical distancing, use of face masks and so forth must be adhered to. Also, the temple columbarium may reopen, but likewise physical distancing and other safety procedures including minimizing the use of shared worship materials like incense, matches and lighters, and nenju to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Further, on June 16, the interisland 14-day Quarantine requirement will be lifted thus allowing people to travel between the Islands without the need to quarantine. However, in an abundance of caution, the recommendation is to postpone inviting individuals for speaking engagements until after August 2020. Travel necessitated by work related roles and responsibilities is at the discretion of the individual(s) and parties involved. For the most part, HHMH State Committees will continue to have online meetings for the remainder of the year.

Please know that careful planning and preparing before, during and after reopening is essential. A good strategy is to begin reopening with smaller size gatherings and low risk gatherings. In Memo #7, information and resources were shared that can help you prepare for reopening, opening and in the event closing or curtailing becomes necessary. For educational entities, please refer to the CDC, Hawaii DOE and other related guidelines for educational entities and consult with your temple leadership about reopening.

Headquarters will reopen with a staggered schedule for Staff starting on June 4, 2020. Please contact us as you normally would and we will address your need as best we can.

Everyone, please keep yourselves abreast of any changes to Federal, State & County guidelines. Thank you and please stay safe!

Respectfully,

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