



HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

STATE HEADQUARTERS

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

COVID-19 Memo #9 **Directives, Recommendations and Guidelines from** **Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters** **(August 8, 2020)**

As there is a resurgence in the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths rise in the State of Hawaii, new measures and restrictions are or will soon be in place. Currently, as of 12N August 6, 2020, the breakdown is as follows: Honolulu (Oahu) with 2,541 cases, Hawaii Island with 123 cases, Maui Island with 178 cases, Molokai with 2 cases and Lanai with 0 cases and Hawaii Residents outside of Hawaii with 23 cases for a total of 2,914 cases and 29 deaths. As we heed the advice and recommendations of medical experts and the scientific data, let us also go to the Buddha-Dharma for guidance.

In “The Teaching of Buddha,” it states “*Endurance (perseverance) is one of the most difficult disciplines, but it is to him (her) who endures that the final victory comes.*” (parenthesis are mine). On so many fronts, COVID-19 is having a devastating effect on our society and it will continue to, directly or indirectly, affect us all. There is cautious optimism that a vaccine could become available soon and there are remarkable stories circulating about people helping people which are inspiring. Of course, we cannot forget the extraordinary dedication and commitment of our especially our health care professionals. However, we cannot expect them to continue at the rate and pace they are forever. It behooves each and every one of us with kindness and thoughtfulness to do our part in curbing the spread of this devastating virus. Let us also think of our health care professionals and Essential Workers who are under tremendous strain and pressure to care for us.

May we contemplate how we might be able to contribute to overcoming COVID-19 by, at minimum, following safety measures of wearing facial masks, do physical distancing, practice good hygiene, not attend large gatherings, and especially if you are high risk refrain from leaving the safer “bubble” of your home except to receive, render and execute essential activities, needs and/or services.

To all temple ministers and lay leaders, temple staff, volunteers, employees and also visitors including members to the temples:

- 1) Please regularly check not only the Federal CDC Guidelines, but State of Hawaii Governor’s including Department of Health and Department of Education, and also your local County and/or Mayor’s websites for federal, state and local ordinances. As the situation varies from County to County it is important that you check your local County and/or Mayor’s Websites as different Counties have different guidelines and measures.

■ **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

■ **Governor’s Proclamation**
<https://governor.hawaii.gov/emergency-proclamations/>

www.hongwanjihawaii.com

- **State of Hawaii - Department of Health**
<https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/>
- **Hawaii State Department of Education**
<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ConnectWithUs/MediaRoom/PressReleases/Pages/COVID-19-Information-Updates.aspx>
- **City and County of Honolulu**
<https://www.honolulu.gov/mayor/proclamations-orders-and-rules.html>
- **County of Kauai**
<http://www.kauai.gov/COVID-19>
- **County of Maui**
<https://www.mauicounty.gov/2370/COVID-19-Coronavirus-Information>
- **County of Hawaii**
<https://coronavirus-response-county-of-hawaii-hawaiicountygis.hub.arcgis.com/>

- 2) If you have reopened, do not feel obligated to remain open. If the situation and circumstances are such, please reconsider holding in-person services. For the City and County of Honolulu, it is recommended that in-person Sunday services be put on hold for the duration of the Mayor’s “Act with Care-Do Not Gather” Order. Regardless of the situation, all temples and affiliates are strongly encouraged to conduct and offer virtual online services, meetings and seminars, etc.
- 3) Please be advised that for the Island of Oahu (only), new restrictions such as:
 - a) whether indoors or outdoors, social gatherings are limited to 10 people or less,
 - b) Funerals too, are limited to 10 people or less which includes the clergy,
 are in place under the under the “Act with Care–Do Not Gather” Order as of August 8, 2020, 12 Midnight until September 4, 2020.
- 4) The State of Hawaii has a new travel quarantine which requires all individuals except those who are exempt who travel to or return back to Kauai, Maui and the Big Island to quarantine for 14 days. Hence, interisland traveling is not recommended.
- 5) Mindful of parameters, in making our temples vibrant and sound, and to connect with one another and help each other, let us think outside of the box as we try to adjust to this new normal and adjust to ever changing situation with COVID-19 by using modern technology and age-tested methods of safe communication.

Thank you again to one and all. Please remain vigilant. Please remember, interdependence, we are in this together!

In gassho,

Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop and Dr. Warren Tamamoto, State President
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii