



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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NOVEMBER 2020

### BISHOP'S CORNER



#### A suggestion for "Perpetual Chanting of the Sutras (Eitaikyo)"

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

If you had to choose a word that you associate with the month of November, what would it be? Not surprisingly, for many of us, it would probably be "gratitude." Needless to say, Thanksgiving is the biggest holiday in November and expressing "thanks" is the theme. An important observation is that the 1621 first Thanksgiving Observance brought diverse people together in particular the Pilgrims and Native Americans, the Wampanoag.

For many Buddhists of the Japanese denominations and in particular the Jodo Shinshu Tradition, November is the month that we annually observe Eitaikyo, one of our six Major Services of the year. It is an important service dedicated in memory of past generations of deceased loved ones. The general sentiment is one of acknowledgement and appreciation. In many cases, the hard work and sacrifices of previous generations have benefited we of the present generation for which we are grateful and this includes having a temple, a place where we can safely, harmoniously and gratefully gather to hear the Teachings of All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion finding guidance, solace, comfort and inspiration. Traditionally donations received at an Eitaikyo Service were placed in a special fund for a specific purpose to either repair, renovate or replace the temple altar and building and/or for propagation in hopes that the temple and the Dharma will always be available for future generations. People contributed to this special fund in memory and in honor of deceased family members for whom the temple was their second home, a place of "Perpetual (Eitai) Chanting of the Sutra (kyo)" referring to a place where the sutras could be heard and the teachings internalized.

This year, as we observe Eitaikyo, I have a thought for you. "Would you consider sharing with your family members how important and valuable the Buddha's Teachings including the temple are to you?" It saddens me greatly when I hear younger generations say that they did not know how important temple was to their parents, grandparents or great grandparents or did not know just how involved they were at temple. I recently came to know of an interesting custom done by the Jewish. It is called an "Ethical Will." It is not a legal document. In Wikipedia, I found the following "Celebrity physician Andrew Weil promoted the ethical will as a "gift of spiritual health" to leave to family, asserting that the ethical will's "main importance is what it gives the writer in the midst of life." The goal of writing an ethical will is to link a person to both their family and cultural history, clarify their ethical and spiritual values, and communicate

a legacy to future generations; it addresses people's "universal needs". Writing an ethical will clarifies identity and focuses life purpose." Interesting, isn't it? I personally prefer the expression "Legacy Letter."

Thus, at this time of the year, as we observe Eitaikyo, would you consider sharing (either written or orally) your religious life and spiritual values as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist with the other members of your family? Please observe Eitaikyo Family Day in which Eitaikyo is a family affair. You can start with your Family Register or Kakocho which contains some information of your most recently deceased family members. The Kakocho can serve as a genealogy record of your family and from there you can also share about temple and Namu Amida Butsu. The Eitaikyo season can be a time to link or bring together past and present family members in appreciation of each other just as the original Thanksgiving brought diverse peoples together in the spirit of gratitude. For others, please take the Eitaikyo season to discover your temple's origin and history to more fully appreciate it. Of course, the most important story to be shared is the legacy of Namu Amida Butsu. Please have a safe Thanksgiving and meaningful Eitaikyo. Thank you and Namu Amida Butsu.

***Bishop Matsumoto's video messages are also available on the HHMH YouTube Channel:***

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN4Up41QotZr6OsqcctoYVyE>

## CONDOLENCE

**Reverend Arthur Marutani**, a retired minister of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, passed away peacefully in Honolulu and returned to the Pure Land on October 22 at the age of 93. The Private Funeral Service was held at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin on Saturday, November 14, 2020 under the officiation of Bishop Eric Matsumoto. The Ingo (Posthumous Title) of Jo-Sho-in 浄照院 has been conferred upon Rev. Arthur Marutani by the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Denomination in recognition of his exemplary achievements and accomplishments. "Jo-Sho" means "One who spread the pure illumination." Rev. Arthur Marutani became a Kaikyoshi-ho (Minister's Aide) in July 1985 and a Kaikyoshi Minister in 1990, and served the following temples;

August 1985 – March 1986	Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (Interim)
April 1986 – August 1986	Kona Hongwanji Mission (Interim)
September 1986 - March 1987	Buddhist Study Center (Interim)
April 1987 – August 1990	Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin
August 1990 – August 1993	Mililani Hongwanji Mission
August 1993 – September 1995	Buddhist Study Center (Acting Director)
October 1995 – October 1998	Headquarters
October 1998 – January 1999	Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin
January 31, 1999	Retired

## MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

**Reverend Bruce Nakamura**, the Resident Minister of Honokaa Hongwanji Mission and the oversee minister of Kamuela, Kohala and Paauilo Hongwanji Missions, retired from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of November 6, 2020. Rev. Nakamura served Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for 32 years. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii expresses our deepest appreciation and gratitude to Rev. Bruce Nakamura for his dedication and effort of spreading the Nembutsu Dharma to our members and community.

During the absence of the resident minister effective November 7, 2020, the ministers of Hawaii District are tasked with providing spiritual care such as conducting a memorial service, providing services for emergency like bedside service and funeral service, being a speaker for Sunday Services and in general providing guidance for Honokaa, Kamuela, Kohala and Paauilo Hongwanji Missions.

## 2021 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The 2021 HHMH Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) will be held on February 12 & 13, 2021 virtually via Zoom. The Registration form and other documents that need to be submitted for the Legislative Assembly were already sent to the temples and organization leaders. Please submit all the necessary documents to HQ by the deadline described in the letter. The packet containing materials for Legislative Assembly will be distributed to each temple at a later date. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

## PROPAGATION PROGRAM GRANT

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii "Propagation Program Grant Committee" would like to announce that "Propagation Program Grant" is available to all of you for "New and wonderful ideas for propagating Nembutsu teachings into our community." Would you like to share your wonderful and creative Dharma projects with all of our community? If so, take action right away! We all are looking forward to seeing your innovative ideas!

The committee reviews all grants applications, which meet the following criteria:

1. New, innovative, creative ideas or activities focusing on Buddhist Education and the propagation of the Dharma.
2. Each project may be funded only once within 5 years.
3. The maximum amount of the grant must not exceed \$10,000.00
4. The project would have statewide implications/potential.

For more information regarding this program or to apply, please check with your resident minister or HQ.

## 2020 KAUAI HONGWANJI COUNCIL NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

Kauai Hongwanji Council will host a Zoom Nembutsu seminar with Dr. Rev. Kenneth Kenshin Tanaka (Professor Emeritus, Musashino University, Tokyo) on December 12 from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm. The topic is "An Introduction to the Essence and Practice of Shin Buddhism - A Path for Peace and Happiness for Oneself and Others-." Registration is required.

Please go to the link (<https://forms.gle/kKX1sVSeHumPd8KP7>) and fill out the information. Registration deadline is Sunday, December 6. Maximum capacity is 100 people, first come first serve. We will e-mail you a Zoom link a few days prior to the seminar. Registration fee is free but donations can be made to "Kauai Hongwanji Council." If you have any questions, please contact [any of the Kauai temples](#).

## 2021 YBICSE POSTPONEMENT

The Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE) is a program for young Jodo Shinshu Buddhists (from 9th grade to age 25). Its basic purpose is for young Jodo Shinshu Buddhists to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Nembutsu teaching by visiting our Mother Temple or Honzan, the Hongwanji, experiencing a home stay, and traveling to several historical and/or significant sites with fellow young Buddhists. The YBICSE is held biennially and was scheduled for 2021. However, due to the current pandemic situation, this program has been postponed until 2022.

## HMH YOUTUBE CHANNEL PROGRAM

HMH continues to provide online programs as listed below. Videos will premiere on HHMH YouTube channel and become available on-demand. Please share this information with your family and friends and subscribe to it to continue receiving updates.

<https://www.youtube.com/honpahongwanjimissionofhawaii/>

### ■ ONLINE DHARMA MESSAGE

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN4DTm65ALR0loYZc2\\_OHwwi](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN4DTm65ALR0loYZc2_OHwwi)

11/01	11:00am	<a href="#">Rev. Kerry Kiyohara (Makawao Hongwanji Mission)</a>
11/08	11:00am	<a href="#">Rev. Jeffrey Soga (Waipahu Hongwanji Mission)</a>
11/15	11:00am	<a href="#">Rev. Shawn Yagi (Aiea Hongwanji Mission)</a>
11/22	11:00am	<a href="#">Rev. Toyokazu Hagio (Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin)</a>
11/29	11:00am	Rev. Blayne Higa (Kona Hongwanji Mission)
12/06		No Online Dharma Message *Hawaii Buddhist Council will premiere the Virtual Bodhi Day Service at 9:30am on HBC YouTube Channel ( <a href="https://bit.ly/3pHKOsD">https://bit.ly/3pHKOsD</a> ). It will become available on demand. The guest speaker will be Dr. Kenneth Tanaka (Professor Emeritus of Musashino University)
12/13	11:00am	Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani (Moiiliili Hongwanji Mission)
12/20	11:00am	Rev. Richard Tennes (Kahului Hongwanji Mission)
12/27	11:00am	Rev. Shinaki Murakami (Wailuku Hongwanji Mission)
12/31	7:00pm	Rev. David Fujimoto (Mililani Hongwanji Mission)

### ■ HEALTH CARE HEROES MAHALO VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN5sjQAQfeIHck0UAxLmO2Vb>

Wednesdays 12:00pm "Health Care Treasures" and Essential Workers