



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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**AUGUST 2021**

### BISHOP'S CORNER



#### 15th Anniversary of "Peace Day" in Hawaii

#### Ring your Bell for Peace Day 2021

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

*"Congratulations, Hawaii Federation of Jr. YBAs!" This year marks the 15th Anniversary of "Peace Day" in Hawaii. In 2007, through your insight and endeavor Hawaii became the first state to officially recognize the significance of having a day dedicated for world peace. As your Resolution stated "...there is a need to encourage peace throughout the world and mankind has struggled with conflict through the ages;...there is escalating terrorism and a disregard for human life and a need to understand cultural differences with compassion and tolerance;...it is the responsibility of every nation and every individual to be an active link in promoting wisdom and compassion;...world religions have no one significant date that allows all people to come together to honor what they believe in;...promoting a "Peace Day" designates a day that all world religions and cultures can join together in mutual respect;...the United Nations has already chosen September 21st as the World Peace Day;...Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that a "Peace Day" in Hawai'i coincide with the United Nations and be observed to promote worldwide peace for all people..."*

In one month, September 21st will be upon us. I would like to encourage especially the Members of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii which is primarily the temples, to participate in this year's "Ring your Bell for Peace Day" 2021. Of course, we also cordially invite others associated with the temples like schools, preschools, Japanese language schools, adult day care, martial and cultural art groups, and other programs and projects to also join us. Further, we would be greatly appreciative of other community entities like the Interfaith Community such the Catholic Church and other Buddhist Denominations to join us once again. Unfortunately, due to the recent surge in cases, we will not be able to gather in large numbers again, but like last year, we want to reach out and be connected to each other including the global world audience, virtually. Please go to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii webpage at <https://hongwanjihawaii.com> for more information on how to view and/or register to participate for the bell ringing. Last year, we had over 200 participants with people ringing bells from their homes, temples and churches, schools, outdoor spaces and other places, but this year is kind of special in that it is the 15th Anniversary of Peace Day in Hawaii. How wonderful it would be if we could have 500 participants this year!

As it is a commemorative year, let us further reflect, more deeply. As humankind, generally speaking, we have been quick to resort to violence, weapons, and war to solve our problems and differences and it is long overdue that we need a new perspective and new alternatives to address the ailments which often lead to war and unnecessary violence. We need to change our way of thinking from the old “Divide and Conquer” and “Us versus Them” mentality which often involved force to find new ways in which we can peacefully with mutual respect co-exist with each other. However, there is an internal battle which must be overcome before we can truly address the external battles. The internal battle which must happen is that I need to confront with my own ego as expressed by the Buddhist saying “To conquer oneself is a greater victory than to conquer thousands in battle.” This ego could be my individual ego as a person, my ethnic ego as part of a certain race, my cultural ego as a member of a certain society or cultural sphere, my national ego as identified by my citizenship to a particular country, my religious ego as a member of a specific religion and even my human ego as a member of the human race (and in the future maybe even beyond as space exploration and ventures become more a part of our lives). The beginnings of peace start with myself becoming aware of my own, often, selfish, self-centered and judgmental ego being guided and inspired by a nurturing All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion. We need to be guided by a Great Wisdom and touched by a Great Compassion that does not exclude anyone or anything. A Great Wisdom which dispels ignorance and enables us to understand the equality and preciousness of one and all thereby dismantling or at minimum weakening the barriers of discrimination which divide us. A Great Compassion which aspires for the peace, happiness and well-being of all life, all existence. (To be continued in the 2021 September issue of Bishop’s Corner)

## NEW STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER

We anticipate publishing a statewide newsletter for the Hawaii Kyodan with the first issue in late October 2021. The name for our newsletter will be ***Ka Leo Kāhea*** (The Calling Voice), a reference to our Shin Buddhist teaching that reminds us of “Namo Amida Butsu” which is the voice/sound of Amida calling to us and at the same time, it is our voice calling to Amida in response to Amida’s calling voice. The use of the Hawaiian term is intentional-it recognizes our connection to our Hawaiian host culture while providing a thoughtful reminder of our connection with the Buddha.

This newsletter will inform us and connect us with every member of our statewide Sangha. Through this connection, temples and districts will learn from and help each other, thus strengthening our organization. Portions of this newsletter will contain content that becomes a “calling voice” that connects readers to the Buddha’s “Calling Voice”.

Bishop Eric Matsumoto, President Tamamoto and the newsletter team invite submissions to the ***Ka Leo Kāhea***. Our “readership” will be our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Sangha (approximately 4,200 members). Articles should be 500-1000 words in length. A photo or photos to accompany the article will enhance the presentation. Articles should be submitted via email to [newsletter@honpahi.org](mailto:newsletter@honpahi.org) and the deadline for submission to the October issue is Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, please send an email to [newsletter@honpahi.org](mailto:newsletter@honpahi.org) or to Dr. Warren Tamamoto at [wtamamoto1951@gmail.com](mailto:wtamamoto1951@gmail.com).

The type of articles we are looking for include:

- Past temple/district/BWA news events
- Upcoming temple/district/BWA events
- Temples' Involvement with the Community
- Community Service Efforts
- Youth Activities/Dharma School Activities/Profiles of Outstanding Temple Youth
- Memories of Hongwanji Events of Historical Interest
- Profiles of Special/Interesting Members
- Members' Personal Encounters with the Dharma/Nembutsu Moments
- Opinions, Suggestions, Ideas for the Improving Hawaii Kyodan
- Dharma Poems
- New Temple Projects/Initiatives
- Dharma Messages from Ministers

### **Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching**

The year 2023 will mark the 850th anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth and 2024 will be the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching. To commemorate these occasions, we will be having the joint celebratory observance in 2023.

The slogan and the logo for the Joint Celebration were announced from Honzan.

**Slogan: Life of Nembutsu enables us to appreciate every encounter**

**Logo:**



#### **Explanation of the slogan**

Shinran Shonin, the Jodo Shinshu founder, expresses his joy of encountering Amida Buddha's wish of saving every living being as, "rejoice at the conditions from the distant past that have brought it about." Amida Buddha pledges in the Primal Vow that "I accept every one of you just as you are, and never abandon you," and the Buddha's salvific working reaches each one of us in the form of the Buddha's Name, Namo Amida Butsu. Our appreciative recitation of the Name that constantly calls out to us is described as nembutsu. Therefore, the 'Life of Nembutsu' signifies the way of living that enables us to always be consciously aware of Amida Buddha's compassion in our daily lives. Shinran Shonin is the one who clarified that every one of us is the object of the Buddha's Vow and recipient of its benevolence.

Without Shinran Shonin, we would not be able to understand the Buddha's true intent. Therefore, it is only natural that we celebrate his birth, as well as his clarification of the teaching through writings, and 2023 is considered as the year that marks the 850th anniversary of his birth and 800th anniversary of his establishment of the teaching.

In that significant year, we would like to renew our appreciation for being already included in the tradition that has been cherished by our forebears for many years. Furthermore, considering Amida Buddha's compassion that always embraces us and manifests itself as our own nembutsu, we are overwhelmed by joy and gratitude for encountering the teaching that does not exclude anyone and naturally wish to share it with others.

### **Significance of the logo**

The logo represents the light of lamp that symbolizes Shinran Shonin's life. The light reaches many people, saving them, and in turn the teaching is then shared by many others. The logo is also a stylized lotus flower as well as people sitting around Shinran Shonin who all place their palms together.

***[\\*You may find the logo and use it from the Hongwanji International Center website:  
<https://international.hongwanji.or.jp/html/850800\\_Joint\\_Celebration.html>](https://international.hongwanji.or.jp/html/850800_Joint_Celebration.html)***

As announced by the Office of the Bishop at the May 8, 2021, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Board of Directors meeting, "...in 2 years, 2023 our Denomination will be commemorating the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching, and it is also the year of the BWA's World Convention in Kyoto. Thus, the Office of the Bishop has asked the ministers to spearhead the planning of the Observance and will be discussing with SMA Chair Rev. Hasebe the formation of a committee and possible plans." The Office of the Bishop would like to announce that Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani has been appointed as General Chair for the Commemoration in Hawaii for this Joint Celebration.

***\*\*Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will form a State Committee to plan a special tour to attend the service in Honzan and announce you soon.***

### **CONDOLENCE**

**Mr. Richard Hanano**, a member of Kamuela Hongwanji Mission, passed away at the age of 95 on July 23, 2021. Mr. Hanano was instrumental in building Kamuela Hongwanji and served many years as a board of director for Kamuela Hongwanji Mission. The Ingo (Posthumous Title) of CHOU-SEI-IN 長生院 which means "One who attained a long and fulfilling life" was conferred by Bishop Eric Matsumoto on August 5, 2021.

## MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

**Reverend Kevin Kuniyuki**, the director of the Buddhist Study Center and Director of the Office of Buddhist Education, will retire from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of September 30, 2021. Prior to becoming a minister, Rev. Kuniyuki as a lay person served as Papaikou Hongwanji temple president. Rev. Kuniyuki became a minister in May, 1996 and has served at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, Four Temple Council (Honomu, Honohina, Papaaloa and Papaikou Hongwanji temples), Wahiawa Hongwanji, Waialua Hongwanji and the former Kahuku Hongwanji before assuming the Directorships for BSC and OBE. He has also served in the role of Bishop's Chief Advisor since 2011. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki for his dedication and effort of spreading the Buddha-Dharma to our members and community. Due to the current situation brought on by the Pandemic, effective October 1, 2021, under the direction of the Office of the Bishop serving as Interim Director, the HQ Staff will assume the responsibilities and tasks of the OBE and BSC Director until further notice. However, Rev. Kuniyuki will be assisting in certain specific areas as a volunteer. Thank you Rev. Kuniyuki and congratulations on your retirement.

### **Pacific Buddhist Academy Chaplain News**

As of August 1, 2021, Rev. Daido Baba has been appointed as the new PBA Chaplain. He succeeds Rev. Sol Kalu who was appointed as Interim Chaplain from March 16, 2021, to July 31, 2021. The primary role of the Chaplain is to oversee the weekly Friday Services at PBA by working together with permanent Faculty member of the school, assisting with international communications with Japan, help with the planning of certain portions of the international summer exchange program, the execution of the annual Baccalaureate Service and participating in the Commencement Exercises for Graduates each year. PBA is the only overseas school belonging to the Ryukoku Sogo Gakuen, the largest private educational system in Japan, which is affiliated with the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji Denomination. Thank you, Rev. Kalu and Welcome Rev. Baba.

## 2021 MINISTER'S LAY ASSISTANT RETREAT

The purpose of the retreat is to review and enrich the knowledge of the participants in the rituals and traditions of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, General Buddhism and Shin Buddhism. All of the knowledge and skills that are associated with functioning as a Minister's Lay Assistant will be covered during the retreat. The retreat is an opportunity to learn and/or refresh one's skills and knowledge that is associated with the role of a Minister's Lay Assistant, but completion does not result in certification. The conditions of certification are presented in the document Shin Buddhist Ministry in Hawaii. This retreat can be taken many times so long as it remains meaningful and helpful to the participant. Completion does not imply an obligation to become a minister's assistant.

Dates: Friday, October 15 – Sunday, October 17, 2021

Place: Buddhist Study Center (1436 University Ave. Honolulu, HI 96822)

Registration: Registration form available on the BSC website: [www.bschawaii.org](http://www.bschawaii.org) under "Programs"  
(Resident temple minister recommendation and signature required)

Registration fee - \$50

If you have any questions, please call the BSC Office: (808) 973-6555

## 2<sup>ND</sup> STATE DHARMA SCHOOL GATHERING

We will be having a 2<sup>nd</sup> State Dharma School gathering on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Please encourage everyone to register for this event by SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2<sup>nd</sup> using the following link : Registration: <https://forms.gle/Koy9KtWq868UzbLo7>  
The Zoom Link for this gathering will be emailed to participants by Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>  
Here's the detailed info:

Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021

Time: 9:30 a.m. Dharma School Service

Dharma Talk: Rev. Satoshi Tomioka (Puna Hongwanji Mission)

10:00 a.m. Breakout Room Sessions

Adult Breakout Room Speaker: Rev. Kerry Kiyohara (Makawao Hongwanji Mission)

Dharma School Breakout Rooms by age/grade

10:50 a.m. Dharma School Students and Families are excused.

11:00 a.m. Dharma School Teachers/ Educators Gathering Session (Open to all)

Guest Speaker: Mr. Pieper Toyama

12:00 p.m. Done

Platform: Zoom

Memo: Open Invitation to All

## YESS CAMP 39

Dear Hongwanji 'Ohana,

We're very excited to announce "YESS Camp 39¾"!

You must be wondering what's up with 39¾? Well, it's because we're using YESS Camp 39 as the platform to transport you (or your kids/nieces/nephews/grandkids) to a magical world of self-discovery and interdependence, just like Platform 9 ¾ in Harry Potter! When students arrive at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft & Wizardry they put on the mystical sorting hat, which reveals their most important character traits and sorts them into different houses. Through experienced speakers and fun activities, we hope to morph into the sorting hat, helping campers discover their important character traits too. We will then take it a step further and discover how knowing oneself can help improve teamwork abilities and interdependence; important skills when taking on daunting tasks like defeating Lord Voldemort or finishing a group science project.

When and where is this magical journey taking place? Camp will be held virtually on October 23-24, 2021! Registration is online at [yesscamp.com](http://yesscamp.com). Early registration ends 8/22/21, and late registration ends 9/12/21, so sign up early!

Early registration price is \$10 for one day or \$15 for both days. We also have a special for early registration: If campers refer 3 friends, and all 3 friends sign up before the early registration deadline, their registration is FREE! Yes, we said FREE! So please help us spread the word! We look forward to a magical, fun, enlightening camp!

(Continued from YESS CAMP 39)

For questions/more information, please contact [yesscamp@honpahi.org](mailto:yesscamp@honpahi.org)

Gratefully,  
Dwight Matsuo & Cristina Gervais, YESS Camp 39 Co-chairs

P.S. If you're on Instagram, please check out the YESS Camp Instagram account for exciting updates and important information leading up to camp!

### **2021 MAUI HONGWANJI COUNCIL NEMBUTSU SEMINAR**

Maui Hongwanji Council will host a Nembutsu seminar in November 2021 .

Date & Time: Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. and  
Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Place: Wailuku Hongwanji Mission

Guest Lecturer: Rev. Ken Fujimoto, Minister Emeritus, Buddhist Churches of America

Topic: "SHIKARASHIMU," Shinran's World of Nembutsu (A Perspective of Other Power)

Fee: \$15 – Two Days or \$10 – One Day (include lunches)

### **HAWAII DISTRICT NEMBUTSU SEMINAR 2021**

Hawaii District Ministers Association will host an online Nembutsu seminar in October 2021.

Date & Time: Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> , from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (HST)

Place: Zoom

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Carmela Javellana Hirano, Integrative Psychiatrist and Minister's Assistant of Salt Lake Buddhist Temple.

Topic: Path of Resilience, Path of Nembutsu

Fee: Free

### **MONTHLY ONLINE SEMINARS BY HAWAII DISTRICT MINISTERS ASSOCIATION**

Since July 2021, the Hawaii District Ministers Association created a monthly online seminar. The September online seminar will be given by Rev. Shinji Kawagoe of Papaikou Hongwanji Mission on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> , at 10 – 11:30 a.m. The topic is "How should Buddhist temple exist as a part of community."

Registration is required. Please go to the registration link (<https://forms.gle/bQToK62Pi6J2UoD78>). If you already have registered before, no registration is required. If you have any questions, please contact [<hawaii.kyogakkai@gmail.com>](mailto:hawaii.kyogakkai@gmail.com)

## SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Summer Dharmathon**

Dates: Monday, August 23 – Friday, August 27, 2021

Times: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (HST)

Place: Buddhist Study Center YouTube Channel

The new program, Summer Dharmathon, will start by featuring 10 Hawaii Kyodan Ministers. The topic will be the Hawaii Kyodan 2021 theme and slogan: Building Healthy Sanghas: Nurturing Empathy and Respect. For more detail, please check the July HQ Update.

### **Virtual 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Lay Convention**

Dates: Friday, September 10 – Saturday, September 11, 2021

Platform: Zoom

Registration Deadline: Extended to August 31, 2021

Registration is by temple, though the organizers are making accommodations for "unaffiliated guests" to attend the Saturday sessions too.

For more detailed information, please visit their website < [laycon2021.org](http://laycon2021.org) >

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ring Your Bell for PEACE DAY**

Dates: Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Times: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. (HST)

Platform: Zoom

Register: <http://www.hongwanjihawaii.com/peaceday2021>

For questions, contact Rene Mansho, HHMH Peace Day Committee Chairperson, phone: 808-291-6151, / [renemansho@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:renemansho@hawaii.rr.com)

For more detail, please check the July HQ Update.

## YOUNG BUDDHIST LEADERS SEMINAR REPORT

On July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, the Buddhist Study Center sponsored the first Young Buddhist Leaders Seminar. The two-day event was designed to develop leaders for the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and related activities, such as YESS Camp.

The first day focused on activities at both the community level and temple level. In the morning we were very fortunate to have Cyndi Osajima, and Dr. Wayne Iwaoka, join us to talk about Leadership, and Project Dana. The conversation led to an open discussion about the importance of volunteerism. In the afternoon, we had a brief lesson about the history and structure of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. After that, we had a panel discussion featuring Rev. Kerry Kiyohara, Rev. Satoshi Tomioka, and Wayde Toyama on the topic of an "E-Sangha / Online Sangha". The discussion focused on the different things and experiences that Makawao Hongwanji, Puna Hongwanji and Kahului Hongwanji each did during the pandemic.



The second day focused on activities and exercises centralized around personal growth and leadership development. Dwight Matsuo led the group on a “manifestation meditation,” a visualization exercise about your personal goals, and focusing on positive energy to help you achieve them. Following the “manifestation meditation,” we also did a quick exercise helping participants start a gratitude journal. We then shifted to leadership development activities, led by Preston Matsuo. First, we did an exercise on impromptu speaking, to improve our public speaking and interview skills. Finally, we ended the weekend with an activity that helped us recognize and focus on leadership values that are most important to us.

A BIG mahalo to the Buddhist Study Center for sponsoring and supporting this event, and to the committee that helped put it all together and make it a fun and worthwhile event! Last but not least, a big mahalo to ALL the participants, for participating and sharing your knowledge and experiences! We hope to do this again in the future.

Chair, Jake Chang