



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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November 2022

### BISHOP'S CORNER

#### Season of appreciation and gratitude!

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



As we approach the Holiday Season including the Thanksgiving Holiday, and also in the Eitaikyo Season with Bodhi Day upon us, one word that comes immediately to mind is gratitude. Due to Sakyamuni Buddha and the commitment and dedication of past Sangha members, we gratefully have our temples where we are able to receive the Dharma especially hear the Compassionate call of Amida Buddha who promises *"Vowing not to attain Buddhahood if they are not born."* Amida Buddha is saying that unless, you and I, are not born in the Pure Land, then, I (Amida Buddha) have not attained perfect enlightenment. "Wow!"

Recently, I attended the 61<sup>st</sup> Nuuanu Valley Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, the longest running interfaith service in Hawaii, held every year prior to Thanksgiving to express gratitude and each year a worthy community organization or entity which benefits the community is highlighted with donations collected given to it. As I sat there I remembered the teaching that encourages us *"some of it (our earnings) must be shared with others, some of it must be saved for an emergency, some of it must be set aside for the needs of the community, and some of it must be devoted to the needs of religious teachers."*

Reflecting, again, the next day, a verse from one of Shinran Shonin's poems came to mind *"Casting off the pain of birth-and-death since the beginningless past, We are certain of attaining supreme nirvana. This is through Amida's directing of virtue for going forth and returning; Our gratitude for the Buddha's benevolence is truly hard to fulfill."* In our Jodo Shinshu Teachings, the credit goes to Amida Buddha for our being able to go to the Pure Land and also (after having attained enlightenment) our return from the Pure Land to help others also realize the same joy, peace and happiness. Amida Buddha is the reason for our "going" to and our "returning" from the Pure Land of Enlightenment. Such is Amida Buddha's Great Compassion which will not stop until, one and all, are like Amida Buddha, completely enlightened to the point that Amida Buddha promises (as noted earlier) *"Vowing not to attain (perfect) Buddhahood if they (people) are not born (in the Pure Land)."* Truly as Shinran Shonin said, *"Our gratitude for the Buddha's benevolence is truly hard to fulfill."*

Yes, indeed, how immense is Amida Buddha's compassion and how grateful I am for it! However, when one deeply reflects one comes to understand that the overwhelming gratitude I experience is not from me, but arises because of Amida Buddha. It is Amida Buddha's pure, sincere and compassionate actions

which makes gratitude arise in me. In this sense, it is not “my” gratitude and I find myself responding to that gratitude by living a life of Nembutsu imbued with gratitude.

We have so much to be grateful for including our temples. In the midst of this season of thanksgiving and gratitude, let us remember the expression “Knowing gratitude, Respond in gratitude.” Let us be guided by the (Buddhist) teaching of “The wise show appreciation not only to the person(s) who helped (them) by returning some act of kindness, but to all those around them.” Namō Amida Butsu.

### 2023 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The 2023 HHMH Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) will be held on February 10 & 11, 2023 at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. The Legislative Assembly Aloha Luncheon & Living Treasures of Hawaii Recognition will be held on Saturday February 11, 2023 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballrooms. The registration fee is \$125.00 for both delegates and observers, \$100.00 for the luncheon only and \$15.00 for the Rap Session. The registration forms were sent on November 1, 2022 to the Temples & Council Presidents. Please submit your completed registration form by December 31, 2022. The 2023 Giseikai documents & Zoom link will be emailed to attendees in early February 2023.

### PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE

Pacific Buddhist Academy will be holding the virtual Open House on Wednesday, December 7, 2022. It is an opportunity to learn more about PBA's unique approach to college preparatory education and small-school enlightened learning for grades 9-12.

Please visit the PBA website below for registration for the open house

<https://pacificbuddhistacademy.org/admissions/open-house>

### KONA HONGWANJI 125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a series of events on October 15-16, 2022. A Bon Dance and Craft Fair were held on October 15<sup>th</sup> while a Chigo Parade, Commemoration Service, Luncheon, and Affirmation Rites were held on October 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a joyful and festive weekend of events for the entire Kona Hongwanji Sangha and the West Hawaii community.



## MAKAWAO HONGWANJI 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On October 16, 2022, Makawao Hongwanji celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of our temple and the 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our predecessor, the Paia Hongwanji Mission. Our theme was “Living the Dharma.” Co-chairs were Diane Kosaka and Karen Ishizu, helped by sangha members, friends, and affiliates. Everyone delighted in seeing old friends, making new friends, and enjoying the fruits of the hard work and sacrifices of so many who came before us.



Resident Minister Kerry Kiyohara officiated the service and dedication of the Bodhi tree plaque, assisted by Rev. Shinkai Murakami of Wailuku Hongwanji and Rev. Ai Hironaka of Lahaina Hongwanji.

Honored guests included Keirokai members aged 80 to 104, Dr. Warren Tamamoto President of HHMH, JoAnn Yosemite, the daughter of Rev. Chikai Yosemite, the first Resident Minister at Makawao who later became Bishop Yosemite, Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, the Resident Minister at Makawao when he planted our Bodhi tree in 2007, and Mayor Michael Victorino who spoke at the dedication of the plaque under our Bodhi Tree.

Please visit our website at [makawaohongwanji.org](http://makawaohongwanji.org) for photos and the live streamed video.

**Mahalo nui loa** to Maui for allowing us to be your neighborhood Buddhist Temple in Makawao for 50 years. Now it is our turn to step up and grow the Makawao Hongwanji Temple community into the next 50 years!

## KAPAA HONGWANJI MISSION CELEBRATED ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY



Kapaa Hongwanji Mission celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, October 23, 2022, with a commemorative service officiated by Bishop Eric Matsumoto.

More than a hundred years ago, first-generation immigrants arrived from Japan, and many settled on the Eastside of the island in the towns of Kealia and Kapaa. Despite the hardships, the first generation never forgot their Jodo Shinshu upbringing.

During the early years, they met at homes to organize their mission, and later, through their relentless effort, a temple was established in Kapaa in 1922 where they could listen to the Dharma. We are truly grateful to the founders and members of the Kapaa Hongwanji Mission and pay tribute to their many accomplishments over the century. Let us not forget these members and friends, who have been strong role models for all of us and continue their legacy to the next generation.

## WEST KAUAI HONGWANJI MISSION 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

West Kauai Hongwanji Mission celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service and Shinran Shonin Statue Dedication Ceremony on November 13, 2022, at Hanapepe Temple with special guests Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Dr. Warren Tamamoto, former resident minister and wife, Kauai Buddhist Council President, Kauai Hongwanji Ministers and Presidents. The service was held in-person and Zoom hybrid style. They dedicated the Shinran Shonin's statue to all three temples which were Hanapepe, Koloa and Waimea Hongwanjis.



Each one has over 110 years of history. They consolidated the three temples and Bishop Chikai Yosemite installed the West Kauai Hongwanji Mission Board of Directors on June 9, 1996, which was over twenty-five years ago. They expressed appreciation to all ministers, members and friends who supported the West Kauai Hongwanji Mission over twenty-five years. They were able to celebrate this wonderful day because of these people's cooperation and dedication. The anniversary service was a steppingstone to the next twenty-five, fifty and one hundred years to share Shinran Shonin's teachings on the Westside of Kauai and provide a life of comfort and joy.

## SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING EVENT

### HAWAII DISTRICT ONLINE BUDDHIST SEMINAR 2022

Date & Time: Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 10 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Keynote Lecturer: Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, Retired Minister of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Topic: Never Alone: Shin Buddhism and End-of-Life Care.

Platform: Zoom

Free Registration: <https://forms.gle/TokqewPPZps1dvuh7>