

# REFLECTING ON 2022

(Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Anniversaries)



**AIEA HONGWANJI MISSION  
120TH ANNIVERSARY**

**MILILANI HONGWANJI MISSION  
45TH ANNIVERSARY**



**BUDDHIST STUDY CENTER  
50TH ANNIVERSARY**



Website <https://bschawaii.org/?s=50th>

Opening Service and Slideshow [https://youtu.be/WmnL\\_eAN\\_GM](https://youtu.be/WmnL_eAN_GM)

BSC Slideshow <https://youtu.be/rRzjjNUrltg>



## KONA HONGWANJI CELEBRATES 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Rev. Blayne Higa

The Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple celebrated its 125th Anniversary with a series of events on October 15-16, 2022. A Bon Dance, Chigo Parade, Commemoration Service, luncheon, and Affirmation Rites were held. It was a joyful and meaningful celebration for the entire Kona Hongwanji Sangha



and the West Hawaii community.

Leading up to the celebration, the temple completed several improvement projects which included new carpet in the Hondō and new cushions for our Koa pews. We also refurbished parts of our altar by replacing damaged Sumi Yōraku ornaments and the worn Tochō screen. Framed scrolls of the Seven Pure Land Masters and Prince Shōtoku were also added to the altar. In addition, a new camera system was installed to improve safety and security for our entire campus including the temple, preschool, judo hall, social hall, and parsonage.

In celebrating this milestone, we reflected on the importance of building and nurturing community through living the Buddha-Dharma. Like previous generations, we take refuge in the Sangha because we are nourished in body, mind, and spirit as a community of fellow travelers on the Nembutsu Path.

Shakyamuni Buddha taught that a true community has a good teaching at its center. Since 1897, Kona Hongwanji has been a community grounded in the life-giving and life-transforming teaching of Amida Buddha's Primal Vow which embraces us unconditionally. With a heart and mind of true entrusting, each successive generation has nurtured Shinran Shōnin's teaching and has ensured its light continues to shine brightly in the lives of all who seek



Above: Kona-born and raised Bishop Eric Matsumoto and resident minister Rev. Blayne Higa leading the *Chigo*, or young children in a ceremonial procession during the temple's 125th Anniversary observance.  
Below: photo of *Chigo* participants



wisdom and compassion in our often chaotic and turbulent world.

Our Sangha is inspired by the spirit of the early Nembutsu followers who struggled to make a life for themselves on the rocky and fertile slopes of Mauna Loa. Their ability to thrive in a sometimes-harsh environment was made possible through their unwavering confidence in the veracity of the Buddha's teaching. Living with profound gratitude, they persevered through many hardships and

succeeded in building a vibrant temple community that we are responsible for cultivating today. We are their legacy, as we continue to share the living Nembutsu with future generations.

Mahalo nui loa to all our members and friends for their continued support of our spiritual home.

Namo Amida Butsu.

Links to local newspaper

<https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/2022/10/17/hawaii-news/kona-hongwanji-buddhist-temple-marks-125-years-with-bon-dance/>

<https://www.westhawaii.com/2022/10/15/hawaii-news/kona-hongwanji-buddhist-temple-marks-125-years-with-bon-dance-other-festivities/>

## MAKAWAO HONGWANJI 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On October 16, 2022, Makawao Hongwanji celebrated the 50th anniversary of the opening of our temple and the 115th 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!

Shared from the HHMH Nov 2022 Updates

## Kapa'a Hongwanji celebrates 100 years

The following article appeared on Oct. 24, 2022 in The Garden Island. Reprinted with permission from Dennis Fujimoto/ The Garden Island.

**KAPA'A** — The Kapa'a Hongwanji Mission celebrated its 100th anniversary on Sunday with a special commemorative service officiated by Honpa Honwanji Mission of Hawai'i Bishop Eric Matsumoto.

More than a hundred years ago, the first-generation immigrants arrived from Japan, settling in different parts of Kaua'i to work on the plantations. Their arrival in Hawai'i was accompanied by Shin



Photo by Dennis Fujimoto/ The Garden Island

Buddhism that celebrated its first Jodo Shinshu Buddhist service in the kingdom on March 3, 1889,

making it one of the oldest continuous living Buddhist traditions in America.

“Many settled on the

Eastside of the island in the towns of Kealia and Kapa‘a. They faced a difficult life working on the plantations with meager wages and poor housing,” said the Rev. Mieko Majima of the Kapa‘a Hongwanji.

“Despite these 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 Kapa‘a in 1922 where they could continue to gather and listen to the Dharma, or the teaching of Buddhism,” she said.

Matsumoto received support and help from Majima and previous ministers who tenured at the Kapa‘a Hongwanji Mission. That included the Rev. Tomo Hojo, who coordinated the centennial observance, the Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, who now serves at the Hilo Betsuin, the Rev. Shinkai Murakami and the Rev. Koshō Yagi, who recently took over as the minister at the Lihū‘e Hongwanji Mission.

Kapa‘a Hongwanji, one of about three dozen churches affiliated with the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai‘i, first sprouted as the Kealia Hongwanji’s Fukyojo branch in 1910 before becoming independent after its first temple was constructed in September 1922 on land leased from the County of Kaua‘i, with the Rev. Yoshio Ito taking charge for a year.

The temple was destroyed by a fire in 1929, leading to three parcels of land being purchased from the Territory of Hawai‘i, where the Young Buddhists of America hall was constructed, and a new temple built in 1938.

World War II brought difficult times to Buddhist ministers in Hawai‘i, and in December 1941, the Rev. Hironori Nishie was sent to a relocation camp on the mainland. During his absence, Jihei Miura was elected to care for the temple’s butsudān when all facilities were used by the United States Army as officers’ headquarters. This was a time when all properties belonging to Kapa‘a Hongwanji were deeded to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai‘i.

In 1974, the Kealia Hongwanji closed, and its 30 members became part of the Kapa‘a Hongwanji, along with Buddhists in Kilauea and Hanalei.

“We are truly grateful to the founders and members of Kapa‘a Hongwanji Mission, and pay tribute to their many accomplishments over the century,” Majima said. “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.”

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(top) Rev. Tomo Hojo of the West Kaua‘i Hongwanji lights the ceremonial candles Sunday as Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Rev. Mieko Majima of the Kapa‘a Hongwanji Mission look on.

(bottom) Bishop Eric Matsumoto enters the altar Sunday to begin the service that celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Kapa‘a Hongwanji Mission.

Links to Kapa‘a Hongwanji and West Kauai Hongwanji articles

- <https://www.thegardenisland.com/2022/10/24/hawaii-news/kapaa-hongwanji-celebrates-100-years/>
- <https://www.thegardenisland.com/2022/11/14/hawaii-news/west-kauai-hongwanji-mission-celebrates-25-years/>

# West Kaua'i Hongwanji Mission celebrates 25 years

The following article appeared on Nov. 14, 2022 in The Garden Island. Reprinted with permission from Dennis Fujimoto/ The Garden Island.

## 3 consolidated churches each have over 100 years of Kaua'i history

HANAPEPE- More than 100 people, including special out of town guests the Rev. Eric Matsumoto, bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission; Warren Tamamoto, president of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii; and the Rev. Shindo Nishiyama gathered on Sunday to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the West Kaua'i Hongwanji Mission, and the dedication of the statue of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Shin Buddhism.

Bathed in the north winds blowing off the Kalaheo plateau, the West Kaua'i Hongwanji Mission represent the consolidation of three former Buddhist churches; Hanapepe, Waimea and Koloa, in order to cope with the aging and depopulation in the West Kaua'i region with the goal of promoting Buddhist education more efficiently and gaining new membership.

"The members who founded those temples more than a hundred years ago were strangers to this land," said Tamamoto.



The Rev. Tomo Hojo of the west Kaua'i Hongwanji Mission leads the dedication of the Shinran Shonin statue on Sunday following the 25th anniversary service of the West Kaua'i Hongwanji, or the consolidation of three churches.

"They knew little or no English and were brought here primarily as a source of labor for the plantations. Living conditions and pay were very poor. However, they were able to overcome these hardships and build the temples we enjoy today." Tamamoto said.

"We are humbled and grateful for their perseverance through extremely difficult times. Over time, as temple membership decreased, you made changes that were necessary to assure a brighter future for your temple," he told members.

Initial talks about the consolidation started in 1995, and following more than a year of meetings, discussion and planning, the West Kaua'i Hongwanji Mission was incorporated in 1996 with full consolidation

of the three temples taking place on Jan. 1, 2011.

"We experience the big challenge consolidating the three temples in 1996," said Ralph Fujinaka, president of the WKHM. "Each temple has more than a hundred years of histories. This required many discussions, efforts and patience. Through this experience, we are able to sustain our temples and pass the joy of Nembutsu to the next generation."

Waimea Hongwanji, celebrating its centennial on Oct. 23, 2010, started its history after the foundation of the mission was moved from Kekaha to its present site on Menehune Road in Waimea.

Koloa was a plantation community with a large Japanese population. These people formed a religious

group called the Jugonichi Ko, or the 15 Day Group, meeting at each other's homes for religious services. Eventually, they felt the need for a temple, and ground was broken on Feb. 10, 1910. Koloa Hongwanji Mission celebrated its 80th anniversary in 1990.

Four years later, on March 30, 1994, a fire destroyed the temple. The booths that were renovated into classrooms for the church's 75th anniversary were sold to the Koloa Early School for its preschool education program. On April 18, 2010, Koloa Hongwanji celebrated its centennial, and then closed in July 2010 following its last bon dance.

Hanapepe Hongwanji started in March 1909 with services being provided for residents in 'Ele'ele, Wahiawa, Niumila, Port Allen and Makaweli. During the 1930s, the realignment of Kuhio Highway took up the entire front lawn of the church, and a decision was made to relocate to Hanapepe where Sunday school classes were held, a Japanese language school started, the Fujinkai and the Young Buddhist Association were reactivated. Hanapepe Hongwanji celebrated its centennial on March 1, 2009.

"There have been many periods of joy and sorrow during the past years, and there will be many memorable moments to experience



The Rev. Shawn Yagi of the Lihu'e Hongwanji Mission, left, and the Rev. Mieko Majima of the Kapa'a Hongwanji Mission, accept the offering of flowers by Fay Tateishi, left, and Janice Ignacio, on Sunday during the 25th anniversary service of the West Kaua'i Hongwanji Mission at the Hanapepe temple.



More than 100 people turned out on Sunday to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the West Kaua'i Hongwanji, or the consolidation of three churches, at the Hanapepe temple that also dedicated a statue of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shin Buddhism.

in the years to come," said the Rev. Tomo Hojo, the West Kaua'i Hongwanji Mission resident minister.

"Former ministers and members were living with the Nembutsu and guiding us to the same path. Now, it is our turn to listen to the Dharma and share these

wonderful teachings to the next generation. I believe that this 25th anniversary is a stepping stone to the next 25, 50 and 100 years to share Shinran Shonin's teachings."

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## PUNA HONGWANJI 120TH ANNIVERSARY

Olaa Hongwanji now known as Puna Hongwanji Mission was founded in 1902 when the Kyoto Honzan, at the request of Japanese immigrant workers, sent a minister to Olaa to serve the spiritual needs of the community through Jodo Shinshu teachings.

Reverend Shoju Hayashi arrived in January 1902 and delivered his first sermon on the second floor of Tomokichi Hara's home. Land was sub-leased from Olaa Sugar Company, and a wooden traditional Japanese temple was built on the site where the Puna Hongwanji Mission now stands. Construction began in mid-August of 1902 and completed within three months.

In 1934 the Olaa Hongwanji established a Board of Directors to manage the affairs of the temple. The board, under the leadership of Tomoichi Oto, decided to construct a larger temple, two parsonages, and a kitchen because the congregation had outgrown the existing facilities. Construction began in early 1937. The entire cost of \$27,000 was paid for by donations from the members. In May 1938 the project was completed.

Herbert Shipman, President of W.H. Shipman, Ltd, which was the lessor of Olaa Hongwanji, suggested that the mission change its name to Puna Hongwanji, since it served the entire Puna district. He recommended to the Shipman board of directors that they donate to the mission the grounds and additional land, with the mission's name change. In 1957 the temple name changed to Puna Hongwanji Mission.



After temple service we will have photos and albums for you to look at. If you find a photo that is unidentified, please help us by leaving a note on the photo with the year, activity, and/or person(s) in the photo. We need to preserve the memories of

Puna Hongwanji for our future generations.

### LINK

<https://punahongwanji.org/2022/11/eitaikyosangha-memorial-service-120th-anniversary-service-distinguished-sangha-service-award-recognition-sunday-november-20-2022-at-900-a-m-in-person-and-via-zoom/>