



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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July 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

It is with immense joy and a sense of humble responsibility that I began my duty as the 17th Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. While I am fully aware that I have much to learn and that the responsibilities of this role are significant, I am also filled with an unwavering enthusiasm to serve alongside each and every one of you.

As we continue this shared Nembutsu journey, I want to, first of all, express my gratitude for the dedication and commitment you have put into your temple, district, and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Thank you very much. I am humbled to be surrounded by such inspiring ministers and Dharma friends. I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to meet you and collaborate with you to share the joy of the Nembutsu teaching with people in our community.

Please know that my door is always open, and I am here to support you in any way that I can. Whether it is guidance, encouragement, or simply a listening ear, I am committed to fostering a warm and nurturing relationship within the embrace of Amida Buddha. Together with the entire Headquarters staff, I look forward to working together with you. If you are in the vicinity, please drop by to say “Hi” and visit **YOUR** HQ’s Office and Bookstore.

May our life’s journey be inspired and guided by the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu,

Toshiyuki Umitani
Bishop

PERSONNEL

Rev. Shinkai Murakami was relieved from his position as the Minister Advisor of Federation of Buddhist Women’s Association as of May 31, 2023.

Rev. Blayne Higa was appointed to the Minister Advisor of Federation of Buddhist Women’s Association as of June 1, 2023.

Rev. Yuika Hasebe, currently serving at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Acting Rimban (Chief Minister), will be assigned to the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Rimban (Chief Minister) as of August 1, 2023.

Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata, upon completing his two-month onboarding program, will be assigned to Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister as of August 1, 2023. Rev. Nakasone also serves as the Chaplain of the Pacific Buddhist Academy as of August 1, 2023.

Rev. Daido Baba will be relieved from his position as the Chaplain of the Pacific Buddhist Academy as of July 31, 2023.

Rev. Sol Kalu, currently serving at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister, will be assigned to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters as Headquarters Staff in the Office of Buddhist Education as of August 1, 2023.

Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, Rev. Shinkai Murakami, Rev. Satoshi Tomioka, Rev. Mieko Majima, and Rev. Blayne Higa were relieved of their position as Sanmu (Bishop's Advisory Board) as of June 30, 2023.

Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, Rev. Shinkai Murakami, Rev. Ai Hironaka, Rev. Yuika Hasebe, and Rev. Blayne Higa were newly appointed as Sanmu (Bishop's Advisory Board) as of July 1, 2023. Rev. Takahashi serves as Sanmucho (Chair of the Bishop's Advisory Board).

2022-2023 SOCIAL CONCERNS FUND DRIVE UPDATE

Reminder that the current Social Concerns Fund Drive will run till August 31, 2023. The Committee on Social Concerns requests that temples please submit all collected donations to Hawaii Kyodan HQ by September 30, 2023.

Through your generosity, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is able to support worthy organizations and programs with funding to continue their work in our community and allows us to provide aid during times of disaster. We also continue to award Golden Chain Grants to encourage sharing the Dharma through compassionate service.

Your support directly impacts the lives of others. Mahalo for your generosity!

In Gassho,
Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair
Committee on Social Concerns

66th JR. YBA STATE CONVENTION REPORT

Aloha!

On behalf of the Hawaii Federation of Jr. YBAs, we hope you are doing well! Last month was eventful for our organization as members participated in the 66th Jr. YBA State Convention hosted by the United Jr. YBA of Oahu! Every year, members assemble to make new connections, discuss parliamentary business, and practice the Dharma together.

This year's theme, "Sangha: Our Interdependent Environment," intertwined the concept of interdependence, which we can apply to our connection with the Earth and the micro-communities we are a part of.

Our workshops during our convention helped us explore this concept. We learned about Native Hawaiian practices from students of the Hale Hāola Kanaka Cultural Institute. They shared their experiences about revitalizing and caring for the land. We cared for the 'āina by volunteering at Ka Papa Lo'i O Kānewai at UH Manoa by removing weeds from the taro patches. The kumu shared the interdependence of the water system in the ahupua'a. Taiko Sensei Jay Toyofuku also led an interactive Kumi Daiko workshop emphasizing the importance of playing together.

In addition to workshops, we also discussed business matters. This year we passed five resolutions. We covered resolutions that introduced parliamentary changes to improve our organization and honored members of our community- Former Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Mrs. Kerrie (Wong) Tom.

This convention was only possible with the tireless dedication of many individuals and support from the greater Hongwanji community. This convention was a testament to how interdependent we are. Thank you to all the temples, organizations, and individuals for your donations in support of our convention!

The Jr. YBA is always looking for new members. We welcome youth from 6th grade to 2 years after high school graduation. No temple membership is required. Jr. YBA offers opportunities to develop essential skills, meet other Buddhist youth, serve our communities, travel, and much more. If you are interested, please visit our website: <https://www.hawaiijryba.com/>.

We hope to see you next year in Maui for our next convention!

In Gassho,
Chihiro Okawa & Ty Wakahiro



2023 HAWAII DISTRICT NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

The In-person and zoom online Hawaii District Nembutsu Seminar in August 2023

Date & Time: Saturday, August 26, 2023, from 10 am to 11:30 am (HST)
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson, Professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies at Renison University College and the University of Waterloo, Canada / Minister's Assistant, Toronto Buddhist Church
Topic: "Living Nembutsu: Jodo Shinshu and Social Engagement"
Online Registration: <https://forms.gle/HasehA5mhBNouAed7>
Registration Deadline: Thursday, August 17, 2023
Fee: \$10 with lunch (in-person), Free (online)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Investiture Ceremony and Welcome Luncheon for the 17th Bishop, Reverend Toshiyuki Umitani

Reverend Toshiyuki Umitani was confirmed as the 17th Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii at the 111th Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) on February 11, 2023.

Please join Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii in celebrating this occasion by joining us at his Investiture Ceremony followed by the Welcome Luncheon.

Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023

Investiture Ceremony:

Location: Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu
Time: 8:00am
RSVP: not needed – please attend to show your support.

Welcome Luncheon:

Theme: Ko Ko Sho Gon ("Adorned with the Fragrance of Light")
Location: Sheraton Waikiki – Kauai/Maui Ballrooms
Time: Registration - 10:30 am
Luncheon - 11:30 am
Cost: \$90/person by check
\$95/person by credit card
Attire: Aloha
RSVP by: Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Please submit the payment and name(s) of the attendee(s) to Headquarters (attention Dianne Sumida, Administrative Assistant) **by July 25, 2023**.

If you miss to register for the Welcome Luncheon, please email to HQ admin@honpahi.org as soon as possible.

SAVE THE DATE

HONOLULU & OAHU HONGWANJI COUNCIL NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

Date & Time: Saturday, August 12th, 2023, 9 am -11:30 am
Speaker: Rev. Ko'e A. Umezu, Assistant Minister at the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple
Topic: Diversity & Acceptance in Buddha's Vow
Place: In-person at the Buddhist Study Center and online via Zoom
Free Registration: <https://forms.gle/N9nCqL14xpviooUf8>
Registration Deadline: Saturday, August 5, 2023

KAUAI HONGWANJI COUNCIL NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

Date & Time: Saturday, August 26th, 2023, 10 am -11:30 am
Speaker: Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, Retired Minister of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
Topic: Manifesting Amida's Compassionate Heart
– Legacy of the Nembutsu Followers in Hawaii
Platform: Zoom
Free Registration: <https://forms.gle/7tHn5Kw1XhnsJN7DA>
Registration Deadline: Saturday, August 19, 2023