



# HHMH TRIPLE CELEBRATION



SHARING THE JOY OF NEMBUTSU TOGETHER:  
OUR LIVING HEART OF GRATITUDE  
SEPTEMBER 7 & 8, 2024  
ALA MOANA HOTEL



Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin (1889)  
Photo: Rev. Kazunori Takahashi

## TRIPLE CELEBRATION SERVICE

BY REVEREND KAZUNORI TAKAHASHI  
SERVICE DIVISION CHAIR

"Sensei, the sutra chanting during this morning's service was so beautiful! What kind of chanting was it?"

I had the privilege of traveling to Kyoto in May 2023 to attend the Joint Celebration, the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching, and the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention. The day after arriving in Kyoto, prior to those events, I walked with several people on the early morning streets from my hotel to Honzan and attended the morning service starting at 6 a.m. After the service, some people asked me the question mentioned at the beginning.

It was the *Shoshinge* starting with the familiar words "kimyo muryo junyorai," but it was chanted in a different melody than usual. It was the *Shoshinge* of *Shinsei Gohonden Saho*, or the newly established *gohonden* (lit. 'Major Scripture') ritual, created for the Joint Celebration. In this new ritual, all the verses were selected from Shinran Shonin's main work, *Kyōgyōshinshō*, or The True Teaching, Practice, and Realization of the Pure Land Way.

### TOPICS

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- SPONSORSHIP - 3 & 4



Rev. Kazunori Takahashi  
Rimban, Honpa Hongwanji  
Hilo Betsuin

There are two ways to chant the *Shoshinge* in this ritual. One is newly created, and this version was chanted during the morning service we attended. The other version is chanted with the familiar *Junirai* melody, and in the commemorative service that the Hawaii group attended in Kyoto, this version was chanted beautifully. After we attended the morning service in Honzan, several people expressed to me, "Sensei, let us chant the newly created version of *Shoshinge* in Hawaii," and now, I am pleased to announce that we will chant it together during the HHMH Triple Celebration in September 2024.

During the HHMH Triple Celebration, we will observe two commemorative services. On September 7, 2024, we will observe the service for the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching. This service follows the *Gohonden Saho*. In addition, during the service, traditional Japanese Gagaku music will be performed by the Yamaguchi Gagaku Kai, a guest group of Gagaku performers from Japan. On September 8, 2024, we will observe the Hawaii Kyodan 135th Anniversary Service and the Dharma message will be delivered by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani. For this ceremony, we are looking for participants to join our Triple Celebration Choir. The selected gathas are "When I Look Up at the Sky" (*Ano Sora Mireba*) and "Moments Like This" (*Sonna Toki Watashi wa Kuchizusamu*).

At the beginning of the *Gohonden Saho*, prior to *Shoshinge*, there is a ritual in which Shinran Shonin's words are recited. In this passage, Shinran Shonin expressed his joy upon encountering the teaching as follows:

Ah, hard to encounter, even in many lifetimes, is the decisive cause of birth, Amida's universal Vow! Hard to realize, even in myriads of kalpas, is pure shinjin that is true and real! If you should come to realize this practice and shinjin, rejoice at the conditions from the distant past that have brought it about.

(*Kyōgyōshinshō* Preface: Collected Works of Shinran, p. 4)

If we reflect on various causes and conditions that enabled us to encounter the Jodo Shinshu teaching, we would be grateful that Shinran Shonin was born about 850 years ago, and for 800 years he has revealed the teaching, and for the past 135 years in Hawaii, his teachings have been continuously passed down to us.

The theme of the Triple Celebration is "Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together: Our Living Heart of Gratitude." I have already envisioned that the services will be filled with joy, with the sound of the Dharma, including the chanting of sutras, the singing of gathas, and the resonating sound of the Nembutsu throughout the venue. Let us meet at the Ala Moana Hotel in September. Namō Amida Butsu.

## YOUTH REGISTRATION FEE AND ONLINE REGISTRATION

We are pleased to inform you that we set a youth registration fee of \$150.00 for those 25 years old or younger. It is our wish that the youth participate in this wonderful gathering and share the joy of Nembutsu together with their family.

Online registration and payment are available on the Triple Celebration website. It is very simple and easy so please encourage Sangha members to use the online registration as much as possible.

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/triple-celebration/>

If you have any questions regarding the registration please contact us.

*Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together:  
Our Living Heart of Gratitude*





## STATEWIDE CHOIR FOR THE 135TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

BY MR. FRANCIS OKANO  
MUSIC COMMITTEE CHAIR

After a continental breakfast at 7:00 a.m., all who attend the HHMH 135th Anniversary Commemorative Service on Sunday, September 8, 2024, at the Ala Moana Hotel will be greeted by a statewide choir that will open the morning service at 9:00 a.m. The choir will offer two preludes — *When I Look Up At the Sky (Ano Sora Mireba)* and *Moments Like This (Sonna Toki Watashi wa Kuchizusamu)*. The selections are English renditions of Japanese choral works that have been sung at Honzan’s Midou Ensoukai (a massed choir performance), an event held in Kyoto every November. Both gathas praise our founder Shinran Shonin for his profound teachings, and the second gatha quotes from the verses of the *Shoshinge*.

Celebrants who enjoy singing are encouraged to express their dharma joy by joining the statewide choir on this very special occasion. They may affirm their interest by marking “Yes” to the question “Choir: Would you like to join the choir and sing at the HHMH 135th Anniversary Service on Sunday Morning?” on the Triple Celebration Registration Form.

The choir will be conducted by Hawaii Betsuin Choir director Mari Murakami and accompanied by Francis Okano. Singers wishing to join this statewide choir will receive musical scores and taped recordings around June 2024 for self-learning and practice. A rehearsal will be held on Sunday morning before the service at the Ala Moana Hotel. A flyer, a “call for participation,” has circulated, and any questions may be directed to Francis Okano or Brandi Yamamoto of the Hawaii Music Committee.

Let us all take this opportunity to rejoice in the power of voices raised in song to spread spiritual joy in the commemorative service of the founding of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, an important part of Hawaii’s Triple Celebration.



## SUPPORT THE TRIPLE CELEBRATION

BY REVEREND BLAYNE HIGA  
FUNDRAISING DIVISION CHAIR

The Triple Celebration is being planned as a wonderful event which honors the rich heritage of Hawaii Kyodan, the many contributions our temples have made in communities across Hawaii and celebrates the joy of the Nembutsu. We invite you to be a part of this historic celebration.

Please consider supporting the Triple Celebration as a sponsor. Your financial support will help underwrite our speakers, workshops, special guests, and activities, ensuring a memorable and meaningful celebration for all to enjoy. The event registration fee includes the cost of food and only a portion of our total expenses. Your sponsorship will help support an exciting lineup of engaging workshops, elegant lunch banquet, special musical group from Japan, and a weekend of fun-filled activities for the whole family. We humbly ask for your support.

See the sponsorship form included in this bulletin for how you can support the Triple Celebration. Please contact Rev. Blayne Higa at 808-323-2993 or [bhiga@honpahi.org](mailto:bhiga@honpahi.org) for questions or more information. Mahalo!



# MAHALO FOR SUPPORTING THE HHMH TRIPLE CELEBRATION!



2023 marked the 850th anniversary of the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, and 2024 marks the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching as well as the 135th anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

We will celebrate these auspicious events at a Triple Celebration which will be held on September 7-8, 2024, at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu. A wonderful event is being planned which honors the rich heritage of Hawaii Kyodan, the many contributions our temples have made in communities across Hawaii and celebrates the joy of the Nembutsu. We invite you to be a part of this historic celebration.

Please consider supporting the Triple Celebration as a sponsor. Your financial support will help underwrite our speakers, workshops, special guests, and activities, ensuring a memorable and meaningful celebration for all to enjoy. The event registration fee includes the cost of food and only a portion of our total expenses. Your sponsorship will help support an exciting lineup of engaging workshops, an elegant lunch banquet, a special musical group from Japan, and a weekend of fun-filled activities for the whole family. We humbly ask for your support.

Please consider a gift at the following levels:

- Gold \$2,500+
- Silver \$1,000-\$2,499
- Bronze \$500-\$999
- Gratitude \$1-\$499

All donors will be recognized in the souvenir e-booklet and listed on screen during the event.

Gold level sponsors may submit a company logo in recognition of their contribution. Fill out the attached form to send with your donation and mail to:

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii  
 1727 Pali Highway  
 Honolulu, HI 96813  
 Attn: Triple Celebration Sponsor

All donations must be received by **July 22, 2024**, to be included. Please contact Rev. Blayne Higa at 808-323-2993 or [bhiga@honpahi.org](mailto:bhiga@honpahi.org) for questions or more information.

**YES!** I want to support the  
HHMH Triple Celebration

**Enclosed is my gift of:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Check payable to: *Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii*

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*HHMH is a 501 (c)3 tax exempt organization. Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.*