



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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**MARCH 2024**

### MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Within the HHMH Community, March 2 is widely recognized and celebrated as Hongwanji Day. The history of Hongwanji Temples in Hawaii began when Rev. Soryu Kagahi arrived in Honolulu on March 2, 1889, and established the foundation of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in Hawaii. This year marks the 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Many documents record the living conditions of the early Japanese immigrants in Hawaii. One worker at a plantation in Puunene on Maui said, "In those days, many Japanese people died by disease, and I was asked to bury them in the cemetery after my work. At that time, there were no temples and no ministers. So, I chanted the Shoshinge I had heard as a child." For the people of the time when there were no temples and no ministers, I believe that the Shoshinge chanted by this lay person must have quietly but surely reverberated through the lands of Hawaii and given peace of mind and courage to the people who left Japan and were living in Hawaii.

At that time, it seemed that there was not yet a strong momentum for overseas propagation at Honzan. Still, when Rev. Kagahi learned about the harsh working and living conditions of Japanese immigrants in Hawaii, he was determined to cross the ocean on his initiative to spread the Light of the Buddha-Dharma.

"Kagahi was deeply touched by the difficulties of these immigrants living in a strange country, knowing neither Hawaiian nor English, lacking the support of a sangha, the sustenance of the dharma. It saddened him to think no priest was there to perform the reassuring Buddhist rituals that provide a spiritual rhythm to the natural flow of life and death. As he reflected on all this Soryu Kagahi made a personal commitment. He must propagate Jodoshinshu in Hawaii!" (From "A Grateful Past, A Promising Future")

There is no shortage of history when it comes to the Japanese immigrants and Jodo Shinshu in Hawaii. Through the untiring dedication of the successive ministers and lay followers, the Hongwanji temples steadily took root in Hawaii as 'abodes of Light and Love' (described by Bishop Imamura). Those who set foot in the abode of light and love entrusted themselves to the Light of Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha that illuminates all beings equally as if they were his only child, and lived their lives to the fullest in the face of adversity while reciting the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu.

Now, 135 years later, times and living conditions have changed dramatically. However, the Light of Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion does not change. It always illuminates our hearts and minds, which are clouded by our own egos, and enables us to live a bright life that is embraced by the Light.

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will observe the Triple Celebration on September 7 and 8 at the Ala Moana Hotel. I would like to invite everyone to join us in this commemorative event filled with the joy of Nembutsu. In deepest gratitude and appreciation to our Nembutsu predecessors whose

names we cannot all mention but dedicated their lives to the growth and expansion of the HHMH and its temples and affiliated organizations, and with a grateful response to Amida Buddha's tireless calling, I recite Namo Amida Butsu.

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, Bishop

## CHANGE OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF JODO SHINSHU HONGWANJI-HA

Honzan has announced the members of the new Governing Board of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha effective on March 11, 2024.

総長	荻野 昭裕	Governor General	OGINO Shoyu
総務	日谷 照應	Governor	HIDANI Shouou
総務	三好 慶祐	Governor	MIYOSHI Keisuke
総務	弘中 貴之	Governor	HIRONAKA Takayuki - in charge of International Department
副総務	加藤 尚史	Vice Governor	KATO Shoshi - in charge of International Department
副総務	大河内 隆之	Vice Governor	OKOCHI Ryushi

## CONDOLENCES

**Mrs. Florence Tomoe Sakae**, a member of Makawao Hongwanji Mission, passed away on January 8, 2024. Mrs. Sakae served as the first female temple president (1987-1988) and president of Asoka Club (BWA) for more than 20 years. The Posthumous Title (INGO) of SHO-YO-IN 照曜院, which translates as "The one who illuminated with the light of compassion" in recognition of her life of Nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani on March 2, 2024.

**Mrs. Fujiko Dochin**, a member of Kamuela Hongwanji Mission, passed away on January 28, 2024. Mrs. Dochin worked hard and supported her temple for many years in various ways. The Posthumous Title (INGO) of MON-SHIN-IN 聞信院, which translates as "The one who hears and entrusts oneself to Amida's Universal Vow" in recognition of her life of Nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani on March 16, 2024.

**Rev. Charles Kenko Hasegawa**, a retired minister of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, passed away on March 16, 2024, in Stockton, California at the age of 84. Rev. Hasegawa's funeral service, co-officiated by the Buddhist Churches of America and the Buddhist Church of Stockton, will be held at the Buddhist Church of Stockton on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Hasegawa's funeral service will also be livestreamed on the Buddhist Church of Stockton's YouTube channel and can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/@buddhistchurchofstockton9015>

Rev. Hasegawa became a Kaikyoshi Minister in March 1974 and served the following temples:

April 1974 – October 1974	Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission (assistant)
October 1974 – June 1975	Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin
June 1975 – July 1978	Waimea Hongwanji
August 1978 – January 1981	Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin
January 1981 – February 1983	Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin
February 28, 1983	Resigned (transferred to BCA)

Rev. Hasegawa is survived by his wife, Mrs. Noriko Hasegawa (1964 Cottage Court, Stockton, CA 95207), stepmother Mrs. Atsuko Hasegawa, daughters, Eri (Micah) Furuyama and Aki (Brian) Zeck, and son, Jyotis Hasegawa (Britanie Grandinette), and grandchildren Keiden, Naya, and Christian.

## **IMPORTANT UPDATE: TRIPLE CELEBRATION REGISTRATION**

### **Triple Celebration Early Registration Deadline Extension**

We are pleased to inform you that we will extend the Triple Celebration early registration deadline to April 30, 2024.

Please register for the Triple Celebration and let's celebrate this joyous occasion together.

We are offering two types of registration methods.

The first is online registration and payment. Please go to the following link and fill out the registration form: <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/triple-celebration/>

The second is a paper registration form. Please fill out the form and mail it to H.Q. with a check.

The early registration deadline is April 30, 2024 and the registration fee is \$250.

The late registration deadline is July 31, 2024 and the registration fee is \$300.

The youth registration deadline is July 31, 2024 and registration fee is \$150 for those 25 years old or younger.

The registration cost includes one breakfast, one lunch banquet, services, workshops, and panel discussion.

We will provide a \$200 subsidy per person for neighbor island participants.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email [triple.celebration@honpahi.org](mailto:triple.celebration@honpahi.org) or contact H.Q.



## **NURTURING MIND AND BODY AT BUDDHIST STUDY CENTER SPRING FESTIVAL**

On April 6, 2024, the Buddhist Study Center will host our first ever Spring Festival grand re-opening of the BSC to the larger Manoa/Moiliili/McCully/Makiki community. The purpose of this event is to showcase the Hongwanji and BSC offerings to the community and increase awareness of the facility to encourage participation and use. Everyone – students, faculty, community members, and families – is welcome.

The event will kick off at 9:30 a.m. with live entertainment performances in the downstairs Buddhist Study Center parking lot. There will be booths with food, games, and activities hosted by various Hongwanji-affiliated groups. Notable activities include a travelling bookstore by Honpa Hongwanji, Matcha with a Minister talk story teatime with Rev. Bert Sumikawa and Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata, flower arranging with Irene Nakamoto, and children's activities by Debbie Kubota and Susan Oshiro. Emi Hashi, the Youth Specialist for Honpa Hongwanji, will also lead a Buddha in Your Pocket mini butsudon craft for students and community members to take home and set up a reflection space of their own. We hope to encourage new members to join the Buddhist Study Center Fellowship Club.

Health and wellness workshops will be held upstairs in the BSC lecture hall. We will start with a workshop on coping skills at 10:00 a.m. by Rev. David Nakamoto. At 11:00 a.m., Lisa Yanagi, who also holds weekly classes at the BSC, will lead a yoga class for interested attendees. At 12:00 p.m., a demonstration on healthful cooking will be taught by Carolyn Uchiyama and Wahiawa Blue Zones. Finally, a bokashi healthy living workshop with Chikako Nago will be held at 1:00 p.m. to promote the sustainable practice of

composting. These workshops are centered around our Spring Festival theme of “Nurturing Mind and Body,” and are aligned with our Hongwanji Buddhist values of mindfulness, reflection, and interdependence.

We hope that those on Oahu will attend our inaugural event. Attendees will receive a free eco bag and reusable cup (while supplies last). Parking is available at the UH Manoa parking structure (for approximately \$5 per day), or street parking may be available in the area. Attendees are encouraged to walk, bike, or take public transportation if possible. For questions or more information about the event, contact [ehashi@honpahi.org](mailto:ehashi@honpahi.org).

## **40<sup>TH</sup> YESS CAMP**

### **Come to YESS Camp!**

Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers (YESS) Camp is a weekend getaway for youth aged 13-23 who are interested in learning more about the basics of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and connecting with peers around the state. The first YESS Camp was held over 40 years ago, and although camp was on a brief pause since the last virtual camp in 2021, the legacy lives on!

The purpose of YESS Camp is to allow youth from around the state to meet and discuss topics relevant to their adolescent and young adult lives, in a safe-space emphasizing Buddhist values. No prior knowledge or experience with Buddhism is needed, as long as participants are open minded to learning. Throughout the weekend, we will engage in mixers and games to get to know one another, workshops and activities related to culture and community service, bonding sharing time with the focus on listening to the youth talk about whatever is going on with their lives, and Dharma discussions to learn practical applications of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and engage with social topics to give our youth a voice. Specifically, YESS Camp seeks to 1) strengthen teamwork, leadership, and communication; 2) embrace the teachings of the Dharma in relevant and engaging ways; 3) create an open environment which nurtures lifelong friendships, 4) encourage self-reflection; and 5) have fun!

We are currently looking for campers and counselors for upcoming YESS Camp 40, which will be held on May 25-27, 2024, at the Buddhist Study Center on Oahu, HI. Campers aged 13-23 should fill out the registration form using the QR code in the attached flyer. Prospective counselors aged 18-29, who are interested in leading the youth and providing a safe-space opportunity for young Buddhists in Hawaii, should contact Emi Hashi, the Children and Youth Activities Specialist for the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii at [ehashi@honpahi.org](mailto:ehashi@honpahi.org).

Please share this information with any interested youth or young adults! Thank you for your support and we hope to see you at YESS Camp!

## **PBA REFLECTS ON THEIR 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TAIKO FESTIVAL**

Pacific Buddhist Academy held its 18th Annual Taiko Festival on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Moanalua Performing Arts Center. The theme for this year's festival was “Yaramaika,” which translates to ‘go for it!’

The school’s Hyaku Sen Ki Kai performance taiko group, led by Jay Toyofuku, comprises eight players. Among them are three seniors: twins Leilani and Jenny Chang (whose older sister Fern Chang graduated from PBA’s performance taiko group in 2022), and Mari Miyasato, who recently returned from a six-week study abroad program at Heian High School in Kyoto, Japan.

This year, PBA alumni returned to perform in a number of pieces on multiple instruments including Zachary Agcaoili '14 and Tani Oshita '23 on taiko drums, Reverend Blayne Nakasone Sakata '14 on the Odaiko and sanshin, and Chihiro Ozawa '23 on the Shime, Odaiko, and Shinobue. Agcaoili Sensei is one of PBA's taiko sensei and Rev. Nakasone Sakata is PBA's school chaplain.

All proceeds from the Taiko Festival support PBA's mission to prepare students for college through academic excellence, enrich their lives with Buddhist values, and develop their courage to nurture peace. If you didn't get a chance to attend the live show, or if you want to relive some of your favorite pieces, a recording of the festival will air on 'Ōlelo Community Media on the dates provided below.



4/28/2024	6:00 PM	Olelo 53
5/1/2024	8:30 AM	Olelo 53
5/2/2024	2:30 PM	Olelo 53
5/5/2024	10:00 PM	Olelo 53

