



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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**April 2024**

### MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Eight months have passed since the Maui Wildfire devastated many houses and buildings and displaced thousands of people. We would like to express our appreciation to the ministers, members, and many people from within and outside the Hongwanji Community for your heartwarming words and compassionate actions for those affected by the Maui Wildfire. We would like to provide some updated reports of our emergency responses and recovery actions as Hawaii Kyodan.

As of March 29, 2024, HHMH has received \$872,292.86 in cash/check donations. Through the Committee on Social Concerns, we have processed omimai for each member of Lahaina Hongwanji and other individuals of our Hawaii Kyodan Ohana who have been impacted by the wildfires. We have also donated to various non-profit organizations to support their emergency relief efforts. As the needs of the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, its members, and the West Maui community arise, we will continue to provide support to facilitate the healing process. We are also assessing the significant funding requirements to reestablish the Temple as an integral part of the Lahaina community.

Many temples and individuals in Japan have extended their support directly to HHMH or through Honzan's fundraising campaign. The Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, our headquarters in Kyoto, and its affiliated organizations have also contributed over \$240,000. Bishop Umitani attended the Shukai (Legislative Assembly) at Honzan on February 29, 2024, to make a presentation on the Maui Wildfires and officially express our appreciation for their ongoing support.

FEMA's site visit to Lahaina Hongwanji was held on March 11 and 12, 2024. The purpose of the visit was to enable FEMA to develop an estimate of reconstruction costs for lost structures. During the inspection, our team also met with FEMA Hazard Mitigation, Historical Preservation, & HIEMA. Rev. Hironaka, Derrick Inouye, Gary Murai, and several Lahaina Hongwanji Members represented the HHMH. The Maui County Right of Entry has been approved and the date for the Corps of Engineers to handle the debris cleanup has not yet been set.

As the scope of the Maui Wildfire Emergency Response Ad-Hoc Committee has shifted from emergency response to recovery/rebuilding, the Committee was disbanded on April 1, 2024, and the Lahaina Hongwanji Recovery and Rebuilding Committee was newly organized, chaired by Michael Munekiyo. The new Committee will focus on recovery-related coordination requirements with FEMA, the Corps of Engineers, and other State and County agencies. As well, the Committee will support the Lahaina Hongwanji Sangha in the various planning processes associated with the Temple reestablishment goal.

As fellow travelers of the Nembutsu, may we continue to stand in solidarity with those experiencing suffering and sorrow caused by this unprecedented disaster.

In Gassho,

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, Bishop  
Derrick Inouye, Business Manager  
Michael Munekiyo, Chair of the Lahaina Hongwanji Recovery and Rebuilding Committee

## STATEMENT BY THE JODO SHINSHU HONGWANJI-HA

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii would like to share the Statement calling for an immediate ceasefire and end to warfare between Israel and Hamas presented by Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha in Kyoto, Japan. The statement was released on November 23, 2023.

### **Statement calling for an immediate ceasefire and end to warfare between Israel and Hamas**

On Russia's aggressive invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, we, the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist organization adopted the following resolution on the occasion of our annual General Assembly (March 4, 2022); "As people of Japan, the only nation that has been hit by atomic bombs, as Buddhists who cherish every life, and as Nembutsu followers who aspire for peace across the world, we condemn this aggression by disapproving the self-righteous excuses made by the authoritarian government. As learning from human history, we wish for this war to end at once." Sadly, we must restate this passage once again as another armed conflict now takes place.

Triggered by Hamas' October 7, 2023 missile attack, the warfare between Israel and Hamas has brought about a hellish situation to the Gaza Strip. A devastating attack by Israeli military of a hospital in Gaza City has stood out as an outrageous example of warfare's cruelty and unlawfulness. This is a battle between armed forces who uses unarmed civilians as their human shield and the world's leading powerful military who doesn't mind victimizing those people. Lost in such battle are civilians' lives, many of whom are women and children. As of November 11, it was reported that eleven thousand people have been killed, of which more than 40 percent or 4,506 were children. During a November 6 interview, UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres described the situation saying "Gaza is becoming a graveyard for children" and hearing so has struck our hearts greatly.

Shinran, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu teaching had also lived during a warring age in which many people suffered. Identifying himself as one [of] them, he described the most marginalized people as "they are... none other than we, who are like stones and tiles and pebbles." Shinran never wished for his own happiness only, and in reference to himself and others as "we," represents his deep feeling of bond with all humanity tied together through the Nembutsu teaching. It is a matter of course, that we would like to have his teaching as the basis of our lives, but it is also necessary for us to learn from his way of living.

As the saying goes, "Nobody wins a war." In the first of the Forty-eight Vows that says "there should not be hell, the realm of hungry spirits, or the realm of animals in my land," Amida Tathagata pledged to guide us to a world that is free from suffering. As Nembutsu followers who have encountered this Buddha's wish, we naturally come to aspire for a world in which everyone can live in peace and harmony. In accord with the Buddha's vow, in consideration of those who have been suffering from this battle, we call for immediate ceasefire and an end to war.

November 23, 2023

Governor General IKEDA Gyoshin

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

## REPORT ON BCA NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

### BCA National Council Meeting Feb. 23 and 24, 2024 at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento *“Embracing the Dharma with Hope and Joy”*

Derrick Inouye, Warren Tamamoto and Claire Tamamoto attended the Buddhist Churches of America National Council Meeting (BCA NCM) on February 23-25 at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento. The BCA NCM is the annual business meeting for the BCA, similar to our own Legislative Assembly. It is hosted by one of the BCA Districts on a rotating basis. This year the Buddhist Church of Sacramento hosted the event with the help of other temples of the Northern California District. Next year, 2025, the BCA NCM will be held via Zoom.

Approximately 168 delegates (minister and lay) attended the conference, which consisted of 2 full days of business meetings that includes Bishop/President/Treasurers reports, reports by affiliated organizations such as the Institute of Buddhist Studies, and every BCA committee (approximately 50 items on a very busy agenda). Here are some of the highlights of the BCA NCM:

Bishop Marvin Harada has pledged to make more effort to increase online membership and has created a new committee, the BCA Film and Video Committee.

The BCA Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) reported on their activities. CBE is the educational arm of the BCA which coordinates ministerial training programs, Lay Assistant training, and general Buddhist education programs in coordination with the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) and Jodo Shinshu International Office. BCA Connect is their on line educational tool, which many of you may know.

Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, President of the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) for the past 8 years is retiring, and Dr. Scott Mitchell will be the next IBS President. The IBS received accreditation by WASC in 2020.

John Arima, Chair of the Vision and Strategic Planning Committee reported that the committee is working to update BCA's mission and vision statements. A poll was taken during the BCA NCM to better understand BCA stakeholders' shared vision and values.

Glenn Inanaga, BCA President-elect gave a very interesting presentation titled “The Right Time is Now: Preparing Temple Leaders for Today's Challenges”. The presentation discussed broad challenges that temples and the BCA face including declining membership, minister shortages, social media exposure, temple affiliated partnerships and financial sustainability. Glenn reminded us that on average the U.S. consumer pays \$500 to \$1000 per year for Netflix and similar subscription services (Netflix vs. The Nembutsu). Temples are like Netflix. Subscribers don't switch from Netflix to Hulu because it is cheaper. The key is content and community. Even now, members will pay for value. They don't stay for cost savings. Glenn challenged the assembly, “How do we create, highlight, and invest in content and community?”

Terri Omori, BCA President reported for the Bishop Selection Committee. The committee interviewed Bishop Marvin Harada and selected Bishop Harada for his second four-year term. The motion to ratify a second term (at the BCA NCM) for Bishop Harada was carried unanimously. Bishop Harada shared his goals for the BCA: increase membership, support the Dharma Forward campaign and fully staff all of the temples. Terri Omori, by the way, is the first woman President of the Buddhist Churches of America. She received a standing ovation from the assembly for her work over the past 2 years. Steven Terusaki was installed as the new President of the BCA.

Charles Ozaki, President of the BCA Endowment Foundation recognized the late Rev. Dr. Seigen Yamaoka for supporting the Dharma Forward Campaign. Jodo Shinshu teachings are needed in the world today; we see Jodo Shinshu Buddhists working together to make a better world. The Dharma Forward campaign has collected about 9.7 million out of a goal of 15 million.

Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara reported on the activities of the Jodo Shinshu International Office. JSIO's goals are to develop programs and publications that share Jodo Shinshu teachings with the world. Please go to their website <jsinternational.org> for more information as they are working very hard to accomplish their goals.

I am able to share just a few of the highlights of the conference. Both days were filled with excellent presentations and discussion. The atmosphere was warm, and I felt a spirit of Aloha at the conference. The members of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento (with help from other Northern California District temple members) hosted the entire conference. Meetings, services, and meals were held in the gymnasium/multi-purpose room. The food was cooked by NoCal volunteers and the udon, teriyaki sandwiches, noodles and many other dishes were "ono". And we were treated to a fantastic prime rib dinner banquet at the close of the conference on Saturday.

We are grateful to the BCA Sangha for hosting us for three wonderful days! Aloha and Mahalo nui loa!

Warren Tamamoto  
President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## **YBICSE – YOUNG BUDDHIST INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL STUDY EXCHANGE**

**JULY 2-12, 2024**

### **Hongwanji-sponsored educational trip to Japan**

- Visiting Jodo Shinshu historical sites including the Hongwanji (mother temple) in Kyoto
- Fellowship with new friends from US Mainland, Canada, South America, and Japan
- Learn & experience Japanese Culture
- Special opportunity to experience Nembutsu Moment

### **Candidate Qualification**

- A Person who is currently in 9<sup>th</sup> grade through age 25
- A person who has interest in and appreciation for Jodo Shin Buddhism
- In good health

\*Seven (7) delegates will be selected.

### **Registration Fee: \$2,400.00**

\*The rest of the travel expenses will be covered by Hongwanji.

\*Some meals and other personal expenses are not included.

\*Inter-island airfare within Hawaii is not included.

**For more detailed information,  
please see the attached documents.**



*2019 YBICSE participants at Honzan*

## TRIPLE CELEBRATION

### Room Reservations at Ala Moana Hotel

Please remind your temple members that Ala Moana Hotel is offering a group rate for the Triple Celebration if booked by August 6, 2024. After that date, we will release rooms in order to avoid paying a penalty.

Kona Tower	\$194.00 plus tax
Waikiki Tower	\$224.00 plus tax
No resort fees	



#### **Online:**

If you would like to reserve online, the link is:

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50708991>

#### **Phone:**

If you wish to reserve by phone, please use one of these numbers:

Be sure to mention that you are with the Honpa Hongwanji Triple Celebration Reservations Toll Free: (800) 367-6025

Reservations Local Phone: (808) 955-4811



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

YESS WE'RE BACK!! Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers Camp is back for the 40th time and there's still time to join. YESS Camp 40 will be held at the Buddhist Study Center on May 25-27, 2024. The final registration date is May 1, and the registration fee is \$50.

This is a special opportunity for youth- anyone aged 13-23 who is interested in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism; no Hongwanji experience necessary- to connect with others their age who share similar values. During camp, we will do activities, crafts, bond, and discuss issues related to our theme this year, which is Daruma & Me. The daruma doll is a symbol of resilience and getting back up from hardship. We hope you will join us for our first in-person camp since the pandemic!!

Please share the attached flyer with anyone who might be interested. We also have photos and videos from past camps on our [@yess\\_camp](#) Instagram and Facebook page so please check it out if you are wondering about YESS Camp. Contact [yesscamp@honpahi.org](mailto:yesscamp@honpahi.org) with any questions. See you at camp!

## BSC SPRING TETSUYA

Calling all college students!! Finals coming up? Are you looking for a place to study? Come to the Buddhist Study Center during University of Hawaii finals week for Spring 2024 Tetsuya. Our facilities will be open overnight from 5 pm to 8 am daily during the week of May 5-10, 2024. Dinner is provided free. This is a chance for students to study and hang out together to make it through finals week - the last week until summer!!! Please stop by whenever you can. Contact [ehashi@honpahi.org](mailto:ehashi@honpahi.org) if you are interested.

## DHARMA-CENTERED LIVING 101 – A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS

### Dharma-Centered Living 101 - A Series of Workshops 1st Session on June 1

Would you like to be empowered to:

- Nurture Shin Buddhist values in your children, grandchildren or students?
- Use tools and strategies to share life lessons and skills which cultivate compassionate and resilient human beings?
- Encourage spiritual development through character building?
- Communicate your values through the mindful use of technology?

### DON'T MISS OUT!

Please join us for a series of engaging and hands-on workshops presented by D. Trinidad Hunt, international trainer, author, public speaker & contributor to 3 “Chicken Soup for the Soul” books, granddaughter of Rev. Dorothy Hunt, author of “The Golden Chain of Love.”

Trinidad lives in Kona and will be presenting Session 1 on Saturday, June 1 in-person at Kona Hongwanji (81-6630 Mamalahoa Hwy) from 9:30 am - 12 noon and online via ZOOM at specific sites in each district. There will be small group activities as everyone learns by doing. For future workshops, Trinidad will travel to each district to hold an in-person workshop, so she will have an opportunity to interact with everyone in-person and share her valuable lessons.

Each session will feature a different set of values and character-building activities. Session 1 will include Comfort Zone, Listening and Self-Awareness.

Handouts and resource materials will be available to all attendees.

Here is a QR Code for registration or refer to the flyer for details.



Please contact Debbie Kubota, Chair, Commission on Buddhist Education if any questions arise ([dekub88@gmail.com](mailto:dekub88@gmail.com))

### KAHUKU HONGWANJI SCHOLARSHIP

The Kahuku Hongwanji Mission closed its doors in February 2013 after serving its membership for 111 years. To maintain the legacy of the Kahuku Hongwanji Mission and to develop the future generations of the Hongwanji, Kahuku Hongwanji Mission established a scholarship to support students at the college level.



#### Eligibility:

- The applicant must be a student attending or registered for enrollment in an accredited university, college, or a post-high school program in the State of Hawaii.
- The applicant must show interest in Buddhism, and be active in a Hongwanji program, either at the Hawaii Kyodan level or at a branch temple.
- The applicant must be a full-time student and registered for a minimum of 12 college credits per semester.



The applicant, at the time of the application, must have a required minimum high school, college, or university in Hawaii GPA of 2.5.

(\*Those who registered for enrollment and not yet received Hawaii college/university GPA must submit their GPA after the first semester.)

- The applicant must submit the application form with an essay on “Dharma and My Life”.

**Application Deadline:** July 31<sup>st</sup> of the year of application

**Scholarship Amount:** \$2,000.00 each / two recipients

For more information of this scholarship, please contact the HHMH Headquarters at (808) 522-9200 or email at [hqs@honpahi.org](mailto:hqs@honpahi.org)

### **SAVE THE DATE**

Pacific Buddhist Academy held its 18th Annual Taiko Festival on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Moanalua Performing Arts Center.

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.



Pacific Buddhist Academy's 18th Annual Taiko Festival Airdates		
YARAMAIKA! GO FOR IT!		
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