



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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FEBRUARY 2025

### MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

#### HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII 113<sup>TH</sup> GISEIKAI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

#### BISHOP TOSHIYUKI UMITANI'S WELCOME MESSAGE

Good morning, Dharma friends! Welcome to the 113<sup>th</sup> Giseikai, the Legislative Assembly of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. I am truly grateful for your participation. Whether you are joining us in person or virtually, your presence is a testament to your dedication to the HHMH. It's wonderful to see all of you gathered here today, united in our joy of living the Nembutsu and our commitment to the future of Hongwanji.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our special guests from our sister organizations: Mr. Steven Terusaki and Mrs. Kathy Terusaki from the Buddhist Churches of America; Bishop Tatsuya Aoki from the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada; and Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara from the Jodo Shinshu International Office. I know this is not your first time joining Giseikai, so welcome back to Hawaii! I sincerely appreciate your continued support and collaboration. I hope you enjoy your visit and look forward to exchanging ideas and experiences with you.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation to our ministers, temple leaders, and Headquarters staff, who tirelessly share their knowledge, experience, and skills in service to their temples, districts, and the larger community. Your dedication and commitment are the foundation of our Hongwanji. As we often say, "Teamwork makes the dream work," it is through our collective efforts that the Hawaii Kyodan and our temples can continue to thrive, sharing the living teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in a world that so desperately needs its message of wisdom and compassion.

Last year, HHMH observed the Triple Celebration, marking the 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth, the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching, and the 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. It was a joyous occasion where the voices of the Nembutsu resounded in the banquet room. I was deeply moved and grateful to recite the Nembutsu together with so many ministers and members. That moment reminded me of the countless causes and conditions—especially the sacrifices of those who lived before us—who dedicated their lives to building and strengthening our organization.

As we enter the 136<sup>th</sup> year, let us carry forward the same joy and sense of oneness we experienced at the Triple Celebration. Let us continue to listen to the Compassionate Call of Amida Buddha and embody it in our daily lives—at home, in the temple, and in the community.

Now, I want to take a moment to reflect on the current state of our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and the challenges we face. Based on the latest statistics, our membership has decreased to approximately 3,500, with two temples yet to submit their reports.

The effects of this decline are becoming more apparent in our temples: challenges in leadership succession, reduced income, obstacles in hosting events at previous levels, a drop in attendance at Sunday Services and Memorial Services, and fewer individuals reciting the Nembutsu during our services. These difficulties cannot be resolved overnight, and at times, they may seem discouraging. Some may even wonder if there is a bright future for HHMH.

However, as we confront these difficulties, let us cultivate the ability to see opportunities for growth hidden behind these difficulties. Just as cherry blossom flowers bloom after a harsh winter, we, too, can transform these challenges into opportunities that strengthen our Sangha and ensure that the fruits of the Dharma continue to flourish. We must do our part so that more people—our family, neighbors, members of the community, and even people across the country—will encounter the dharma. (By the way, thank you, Mr. David Oshiro and the Kamuela Hongwanji Mission, for bringing the cherry blossoms from the Big Island. They are so beautiful!)

Even amidst our difficulties, let us not forget to see the moments of joy and gratitude that abound in our temples:

- A heartfelt conversation with our ministers and members
- The joy of placing our hands together in the Hondo with fellow Dharma friends
- A warm and meaningful talk story over delicious meals and refreshments
- The sense of accomplishment after completing a temple project together

To me, these moments of joy and gratitude are the very force that motivates us to transform difficulties into opportunities—opportunities for even more joyful and meaningful experiences to share with others.

Today, more than ever, people are in search of meaning, guidance, and reassurance. Many people experience feelings of disconnect, being lost, or becoming overwhelmed by life's complexities. They are seeking messages that uplift their lives or someone who will listen to them with empathy and care. We need to be aware of the people around us—what they are feeling, the burdens they carry, and how we can assist them in finding deeper meaning and fulfillment in their lives. I firmly believe that the Buddha-Dharma remains significant regardless of time or place and possesses a profound ability to bring joy and gratitude into people's lives. The presence of Jodo Shinshu is crucial for fostering a more compassionate and caring society.

I would like to express my gratitude to the ministers, temples, committees, and HQ staff for their proactive efforts in tackling the challenges that individuals, both inside and outside our organization, encounter in their daily lives. I encourage you to review the Annual Reports from the committees, which highlight the programs and services we introduced last year. If anything catches your interest, I invite you to join us and lend a hand.

Our journey in HHMH is a collaborative one. Ministers, Kyodan Board Members, Temple Presidents, and Temple Members—each of us plays a vital role. By working together, sharing our collective wisdom and experiences, I believe we can overcome difficulties one at a time and smile. Let us cherish every encounter and every opportunity at our temples, and move forward with courage, gratitude, and the joyful heart of Nembutsu. May our temples remain places of warmth, connection, and spiritual refuge. May we continue to support one another and embody the teachings of Shinran Shonin. I humbly ask for your continued support and cooperation in making our Hongwanji truly "Hongwanji"—a place where Amida Buddha's profound aspiration and compassion prevail.

Once again, welcome to the 113<sup>th</sup> Giseikai. Let us have a meaningful and fruitful meeting. Namo Amida Butsu.

## **GISEIKAI MESSAGE FROM THE JODO SHINSHU HONGWANJI-HA GOVERNOR GENERAL BISHOP GYOSHIN IKEDA**

On the occasion of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 113<sup>th</sup> *Giseikai* at the Hawaii Betsuin, I humbly extend my appreciation to you, the ministers and sangha representatives from throughout the state of Hawaii. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all for your continuing efforts in propagating the Jodo Shinshu tradition and maintaining the temples within your respective districts.

With the wildfires spreading across the Los Angeles area since January, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to those who have been affected by the fires. I sincerely hope that they will be able to return to normalcy as soon as possible.

This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II, however, wars and conflicts are still continuing across the world, which have brought to many people sorrows and sufferings. Monshu Ohtani Kojun expressed his determination in the message given on the completion of the Joint Celebration of the 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching as follows: "On this occasion, we should engrave in our hearts Shinran Shonin's words: 'May peace and tranquility prevail throughout the world, and may the Buddha's teaching spread,' and furthermore, by deepening our appreciation for the Nembutsu and sharing the wisdom and compassion of Amida Tathagata, we should continue our efforts toward realization of a society in which everyone can live life of spiritual fulfillment."

Through the sincere efforts and guidance of our predecessors, the teaching of Shinran Shonin has also been transmitted to our districts and regional districts overseas as well as the world. It is our responsibility to pass this teaching on to the next generation, through our appreciation for and joy of encountering the true teaching. Let us keep this in our minds as we continue in our efforts in sharing the Buddha Dharma with others.

In closing, it is my hope that the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will continue to prosper and that many fruitful results will arise from this annual meeting.

February 7, 2025

Governor General Ikeda Gyoshin  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

## **HHMH CONCLUDES 113<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (Giseikai)**

Ministers, delegates and observers from Jodo Shinshu temples across the state gathered in person at the Hawaii Betsuin temple and via Zoom on February 7 & 8, 2025 for the 113<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. At this annual event, ministers and temple leaders representing all of our district temples get together to review our accomplishments and make decisions that will help to sustain and grow our Jodo Shinshu Buddhist organization into the future. We were honored to be joined by representatives from our sister organizations: from the Buddhist Churches of America, President Steven Terusaki and his wife Kathy, from the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Bishop Tatsuya Aoki, and from the Jodo Shinshu International Office Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara.

Each day begins with a service in the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Hondo. This is always an emotional and spiritual highlight of the Legislative Assembly as the temple is filled with beautiful organ music and

many voices chanting and singing in harmony. The Friday morning service was led by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani as officiant, MC Ms. Emi Hashi, and organist Mr. Francis Okano. Messages included a congratulatory message from the Governor General of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, Bishop Gyoshin Ikeda (delivered by Rev. Eric Matsumoto), a welcome message from Mr. Michael Munekiyo (Wailuku Hongwanji) and the Memorial Sermon by Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, Rimban of Hilo Hongwanji. A moment of silence was held for Ingo recipients for 2024 and all deceased Hawaii Kyodan ministers and members. Ingo recipients who were recognized for 2024:

- Fusae Yamashita Kiyokawa (Hawaii Betsuin)
- Florence Tomoe Sakae (Makawao Hongwanji)
- Fujiko Dochin (Kamuela Hongwanji)
- Rev. Charles Kenko Hasegawa (Buddhist Churches of America)
- Kahu Sherman Thompson (Lahaina Hongwanji)
- Bruce Yoshiyuki Shimada (Waialua Hongwanji)

The Saturday morning service was emceed by Jaimee Yokoyama of the Jr. YBA. Highlights of the Saturday morning service included the installation of 2025 Hawaii Kyodan Officers, Directors, and Advisors. Rev. Soshin Kie and Mrs. Akiko Kie, dedicated Jodo Shinshu followers, were recognized for their wonderful legacy gift to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. A resolution of appreciation on behalf of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii was presented to the Kie family members, Ms. Lily Masuda, Ms. Emma Kie and Ms. Ayumi Kie Weissbuch.

The Business Session included: 1) A Special Collection of Funds for the Living Gratitude Program (following a short presentation led by Ms. Irene Nakamoto) which received over \$6,000 dollars, 2) The election of the Hawaii Kyodan Officers and Advisors for 2025, and 3) passage of four resolutions: i) Bylaws Amendment Relating to Article XIII: Bishop and Relating to Article XIV: Internal Components, ii) Appreciation for Rev. Soshin Kie and Mrs. Akiko Kishi Kie, iii) Appreciation and Condolence for the Late Reverend Doctor Mary David, and iv) the 2025 HHMH Budget.

The resolution establishing the 2025 HHMH Budget is often a subject of discussion. It provides for operations at our Headquarters office, board and committee meetings, the Legislative Assembly, and other functions such as the Office of Buddhist Education, Jr. YBA ,and the Living Treasures presentation. This year the budget included a donation of \$25,000 to the Pacific Buddhist Academy. The budget process requires careful thought and discussion with all components of our organization with review by our Treasurer John Toguchi, Finance Committee led by chair Ivan Nakano, and Business Manager Derrick Inouye. After review by the Legislative Assembly, the budget for 2025 was passed by unanimous consent.

Friday's program also included many interesting presentations. Mr. David Atcheson, Archives Committee Chair, shared his very useful "Archiving Top 10" suggestions for persons interested in archiving temple photos and documents. The Archives Committee is a valuable resource for anyone with questions on this topic. Head of School Josh Hernandez Morse updated the Assembly on developments at Pacific Buddhist Academy by highlighting activities of the senior class as they progress through the year. Michael Munekiyo and Derrick Inouye updated the Assembly on the work of the Lahaina Hongwanji Recovery and Rebuilding Committee as they work through a thoughtful process that includes bimonthly meetings with FEMA and

rebuilding strategy sessions with the Lahaina Hongwanji Sangha. Related to the Lahaina wildfire, Mr. Ryne Masuda of Moiliili Hongwanji has led a multi-year effort to support the Lahaina Hongwanji Sangha with sales of “Aloha Maui” t-shirts. Mr. Masuda was able to present a check for \$28,281.48 to Rev. Ai Hironaka and the Lahaina Hongwanji Sangha.

Dennis Tashiro, Prudence Kusano and Ryan Miyamoto of Windward Buddhist Temple shared their temple “rebranding” program with the Assembly, highlighting their efforts to enhance their exposure in the Windward community through participation in community-wide events, extensive use of social media and meaningful temple activities. Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair of the Social Concerns Committee briefed the Assembly with a slide presentation highlighting the numerous charitable causes supported by donations to the HHMH Social Concerns fund. Friday’s presentations ended with a highlights video of the Triple Celebration held at the Ala Moana Hotel last September. Follow the link to recall warm memories of that event.

Following the Saturday morning service, a group picture of the entire Assembly was taken on the stairs of the Hawaii Betsuin Hondo. The group was thankful that photographer Alan Kubota was safe and sound after the photo session!

At Saturday’s plenary session, the Federation of Jr. YBAs shared their activities with a lively slide presentation. The assembly then heard comments from the Buddhist Churches of America President Steven Terusaki, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Bishop Tatsuya Aoki, and Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara representing the Jodo Shinshu International Office. Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani delivered his closing remarks and announcements to bring the 113<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly to a close.

We then reassembled at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel Coral Ballroom for the Aloha Luncheon and the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Living Treasures of Hawaii presentations (see separate article below).

Warren Tamamoto MD  
President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## **OFFICERS, ADVISORS, AND DIRECTORS OF HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII FOR YEAR 2025**

President:	Warren Tamamoto (O)		
Immediate Past President:	Pieper Toyama (H)		
Vice Presidents:	Alan Goto (H)	Rene Mansho (O)	Carol Valentine (K)
	Gary Murai (M)	Jason Hashimoto (HI)	
Secretary:	Boyd Marumoto (O)		
Assistant Secretary:	Myra Nohara (O)		
Treasurer:	John Toguchi (H)		
Assistant Treasurer:	Wayne Y. Yoshioka (H)		
Advisors:	Joel Determan (H)	Dexter Mar (H)	Russell Nonaka (O)
	Rodney Moriyama (O)	Wayne Fujioka (K)	Michael Munekiyo (M)
	Ivan Nakano (HI)	Frederick S. Nonaka (HI)	
Honorary Advisors:	Roy Miyamoto (H)	Keiji Kukino (H)	

Directors:			
Honolulu (6)	Cynthia Alm Wayne Y. Yoshioka	Alan Goto Joanne Kealoha	John Toguchi Prudence Kusano
Oahu (6)	Boyd Marumoto Carolyn Uchiyama	Rene Mansho Evan Watarida	Clifford Togo Myra Nohara
Kauai (2)	Lynne Matsumura	Carol Valentine	
Maui (4)	Wayde Toyama Gary Murai	Aileen Cockett	Carol Yamamura
Hawaii (6)	Jill Atwal Margie Kaiser	Edwin Hara Joseph Gusman	Delbert Nishimoto Jason Hashimoto

## THE 50<sup>TH</sup> LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAII™

The 50<sup>th</sup> annual Living Treasures of Hawai'i program honored five extraordinary individuals on February 8, 2025, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom before a capacity crowd of 673 people. Five remarkable leaders whose expertise and commitment in their fields of expertise were honored for having made a lasting impact in Hawai'i and beyond. They were:

- **Dennis Sueo Agena** shaped the lives of thousands of young athletes for 59 years through his Kalakaua Basketball Clinic in Kalihi. Besides the fundamentals of basketball, Coach Agena instilled the values of discipline, teamwork, and humility, motivating his athletes to pursue higher education and become contributing members of society.
- **William “Bill” Char** elevated the practice of lei making into a celebrated art form while preserving the traditions and techniques of his elders. A dedicated teacher, he has mentored countless students, passing on his ancestral knowledge while innovating techniques. His efforts to propagate native plants highlight the intersection of cultural preservation and environmental stewardship.
- **Neil Jacob Kaho'okele Hannahs** profoundly changed the concept of land stewardship for generations in Hawai'i. A champion of leadership development, he founded First Nations Futures, an alliance nurturing 'ōiwi leaders grounded in cultural values. As director of Kamehameha Schools' Land Assets Division, he shifted the focus solely from maximizing profits to a holistic approach generating cultural, environmental, and educational benefits.
- **Victoria Holt Takamine** preserved and perpetuated sacred traditions of hula for more than four decades, and spearheaded efforts to protect traditional Hawai'ian arts and culture. Through her PA'I Foundation, transformative projects affecting artists and fashion designers fostered partnerships, all imbued with integrity, courage, and a commitment to service.
- **Dr. George Tanabe, Jr.** embraced the Buddhist principle that a nation's true treasure lies in its spiritual and moral integrity. An esteemed academic, he inspired students for decades, before championing the dissemination of Buddhist teachings as president of BDK Hawaii and chair of BDK America. He continues to organize interfaith seminars, advocate for community cohesion, and bridge the divide between religious and cultural communities.

In 2026, Living Treasures of Hawaii will celebrate its 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary. Since its inception in 1976, more than 250 have been honored by the program, inspired by the Living National Treasures (Ningen Kokuho) of Japan. Nominations may be submitted by mail, fax, or online by August 1. For more information about the award and nominations, please visit: <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/living-treasures/>



*2025 Living Treasure of Hawaii Honorees,  
Bishop Umitani and President Dr. Tamamoto  
Photos courtesy of Mr. Alan Kubota (Hawaii Betsuin)*

*The newly installed Officers, Advisors, Directors, Sanmu and  
Kanji Ministers of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii  
Photos courtesy of Mr. Alan Kubota (Hawaii Betsuin)*

## MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

**Rev. Blayne Higa**, currently serving at Kona Hongwanji Mission as its Resident Minister, will be assigned to the Headquarters as the Part-Time Director of the Buddhist Study Center and the Office of Buddhist Education as of July 1, 2025. Rev. Higa will retain his role as the Resident Minister of the Kona Hongwanji Mission while taking on the new responsibilities as the Part-Time BSC/OBE Director.

**Rev. Daido Baba**, currently serving as the Executive Assistant to the Bishop at the Headquarters, will be assigned to Kamuela Hongwanji Mission as its Resident Minister as well as to Honokaa Hongwanji Mission, Kohala Hongwanji Mission, and Paauilo Hongwanji Mission as their Oversee Minister as of July 1, 2025. Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani will cover the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Assistant to the Bishop until the new minister is assigned to this position.

## YBICSE – YOUNG BUDDHIST INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL STUDY EXCHANGE

The Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE) program is coordinated by Honzan, our mother temple in Kyoto, Japan. Through this program, young students from BCA, Canada, South America, and Hawaii assemble in Kyoto, Japan, to participate in various exciting and educational programs to experience the joy of being Jodo Shinshu Buddhists. The program will be held on July 1-9, 2025. This time, high school students are eligible to participate, and five delegates will be selected. More detailed information about the program, application, and itinerary will be distributed to the ministers and temples soon. We encourage our youth to consider attending this meaningful program.



## 2025 BCA NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Michael Munekiyo (Wailuku Hongwanji) and Mr. Wayne Yoshioka (Hawaii Betsuin) will represent Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii at the 2025 Buddhist Churches of America National Council Meeting, which will be held via Zoom on February 22 and February 28-March 2, 2025.

## CHORALFEST 2025

**MUSIC COMMITTEE:** On the weekend of September 20 and 21, 2025, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will host Choralfest 2025 at Hawaii Betsuin. Singers from temples statewide will once again gather to celebrate the joy of the Buddha-Dharma in a massed choir performance of choral gathas in a biennial event that was paused during the long pandemic following Choralfest 2018.

The two-day convocation begins Saturday at noon at the Hawaii Betsuin Social Hall for an all-afternoon rehearsal, interspersed with refreshments; dinner and fellowship will follow from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. On Sunday morning, the festival choir will perform its program of selected choral gathas at a music service at 10:30 AM at the Hondo. Post-service refreshments and fellowship in the Social Hall will conclude the program.

Choral conductor Nola Nahulu, a Hongwanji Living Treasure of Hawaii, will lead the festival choir, as she has successfully done since the very first Choralfest of 2005. The musical program will feature an entertaining mix of both familiar and new translations from the Japanese: To My Daughters (Musume Tachi Yo), Upon Clouds (Nagareyuku Kumo ni), Where Oh Where (Hotokesama wa), To All We Owe (Ikasarete), Surely We Will Meet Again Some Day (Kitto Mata Aeru Ne), and Gratefulness II (Ondokusan II). Brief program notes will provide the congregation with an introduction to each choral piece.

All singers, whether veteran or novice, are warmly invited to join the festival choir to learn and sing the two-part choral gathas before an anticipated full-house congregation in a celebration of joy. Registration forms and fees (\$35) must be received by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters by April 30, 2025. All singers will receive a booklet and access to recorded vocal parts for required preparation. To register, please see your temple offices for announcement, flyer, and registration forms that were distributed in late December or contact the Music Committee through Headquarters at (808)522-9202.

You may reserve rooms at the special group rate at the Pagoda Hotel by accessing the link, <http://honpahi.link/pagoda>, and specifying the special group rate, under the group name "HHMH Choralfest." The last date to book is August 18, 2025. Extended stays may be booked at the group rate for 2 days before and after the event dates. You may also call Reservations at (808) 941-6611 for rooms and mention the group name "HHMH Choralfest."

## THE POWER OF COMPASSION: REDISCOVERING YOUR TRUE VALUE

**COMMISSION ON BUDDHIST EDUCATION:** Please join us for D. Trinidad Hunt's final workshop "The Power of Compassion: Rediscovering Your True Value" on Saturday, March 8 from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. (lunch break from 11:45 a.m. -12:30 p.m.). She will be in person at Hawaii Betsuin and via Zoom on Hawaii Island and Kauai. Trinidad is an enthusiastic, captivating, engaging speaker who will motivate and inspire you through interactive sessions throughout the day. The deadline to register is Saturday, March 1. Don't miss this amazing opportunity! Please note: If anyone from another island wants to fly to Honolulu to attend the session in person, we will coordinate rides from the airport & back.



## YESS CAMP 41

We are excited to share that YESS Camp 41, “Mālama Amida,” will be coming up this year! Anyone ages 13-23 with an interest in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is highly encouraged to attend. YESS Camp creates a friendly and safe atmosphere where campers will be sure to laugh, learn, have fun, and most importantly, build lifelong friends. This is a great opportunity for youth to meet new people and become familiar with Buddhism, no experience necessary.

YESS Camp 41 will be held April 18-20, 2025, at YMCA Camp Erdman, situated on the North Shore of Oahu. Registration is open online at [yesscamp.com](http://yesscamp.com). The final deadline to register is April 8, but those who register early will receive a discounted price! And if you invite a friend who is a first-time camper, you will receive a 50% refund on your registration fee (non-stackable).

We’re very grateful to the Hongwanji community for their support of YESS Camp. We’d like to carry on this success by kindly asking everyone to spread the word about YESS Camp 41 by encouraging or sponsoring interested youth to register.

For questions/more information, please contact [yesscamp@honpahi.org](mailto:yesscamp@honpahi.org). We look forward to seeing everyone at camp!

*In Gassho,  
Koji Suzuki, Kenji Suzuki, and Cristina Gervais  
YESS Camp 41 Co-chairs*

P.S. If you’re on Instagram, please check out the YESS Camp Instagram account (@yess\_camp) for exciting updates and important information leading up to camp!

## PBA’S 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TAIKO FESTIVAL

Pacific Buddhist Academy (PBA) will host its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Taiko Festival “Wabi Sabi” at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 16 at the Moanalua Performing Arts Center.

The event features PBA’s premier taiko ensemble, Hyaku Sen Ki Kai, showcasing the artistry and energy that make this annual show a community favorite. The show will also feature the all-school performance of Soran Bushi, a traditional Japanese fisherman’s dance that symbolizes strength and unity.

Taiko drumming is incorporated into the school’s curriculum as all ninth graders take Beginning Taiko as freshmen. Ticket sales help to support PBA and its taiko program.

PBA is the country’s first Shin Buddhist high school, one of only two Buddhist high schools in the country. Through such activities as the practice of taiko, students nurture Japanese culture as well as spirit through perseverance and a more harmonious interdependence through listening and drumming together.

Tickets are \$40 for general admission and \$30 for students grades K-12 and seniors over 62. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [pacificbuddhistacademy.org](http://pacificbuddhistacademy.org), call Pacific Buddhist Academy at (808) 532-2649, or email [megan.lee@pbahi.org](mailto:megan.lee@pbahi.org). Don’t miss this unique opportunity to celebrate and support the enduring legacy of taiko!

## MAUI DISTRICT NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

Rev. Grant Ikuta, former Bishop of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada and current resident minister of Steveston Buddhist Temple in British Columbia, will speak at the 2025 Maui District Nembutsu Seminar on March 8 and 9, 2025.

His four-part lecture series will begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 8, then include an Ohigan service on Sunday at 9 a.m. and conclude with a final lecture at 11 a.m. Each session will conclude with a 10-minute question and answer period.

The seminar will be held at Wailuku Hongwanji Mission, 1828 E. Vineyard St. in Wailuku, and via Zoom.

Registration fees for in-person attendees are \$10 for participants attending for one day and \$20 for both days. The fee covers lunch and study materials. For Zoom attendees, registration is free, but donations can be made to “Maui Hongwanji Council” and sent to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission, 1828 E. Vineyard St. Wailuku, HI 96793. Here is the Zoom connection information.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81025079157?pwd=Yp2AUKMYZJITsF6sK1VYKblfaDoLaK.1>

Meeting ID: 810 2507 9157

Passcode: 584269

For more information, call Wailuku Hongwanji Mission at (808) 244-0406.