



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 522-9200 Fax: (808) 522-9209

Web: www.hongwanjihawaii.com Email: hqs@honpahi.org



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MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Spring is a season of transition, a time when nature reminds us of life's ever-changing flow. The blooming of the sakura trees signals the arrival of spring, offering beauty and renewal after the long winter. As the seasons shift, we are given the opportunity to reflect on where we have been, where we are now, and the path that lies ahead.

In my own family, this season of change feels especially close. As my second daughter prepares to graduate from Pacific Buddhist Academy in May, she continues to contemplate her path forward, considering which college she will attend this summer. This time of transition is filled with reflection—on past efforts, present opportunities, and future possibilities.

Similarly, many temples observe the Spring Higan Service, a moment to pause and reflect on our lives. Higan, meaning "the Other Shore," reminds us to walk the path of the Nembutsu, illuminated by the Buddha's Vow. In the midst of impermanence and uncertainty, we find joy and assurance within the boundless compassion of Amida Buddha, who embraces us just as we are. - Namo Amida Butsu.

BCA National Council Meeting

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), our sister organization on the U.S. mainland, held its annual National Council Meeting on February 28 and March 1. Representing HHMH, Michael Munekiyo and Wayne Yoshioka attended the meeting, while I also participated on the first day via Zoom.

The theme of the National Council Meeting was "A Promise Shared." In his opening Dharma message, Bishop Marvin Harada spoke about the Promise, or Vow, of Amida Buddha, emphasizing that it is now "being shared" through our collective efforts in propagation. He expressed deep appreciation for the dedication of ministers and temples and encouraged everyone to continue working together in sharing the Vow of Amida Buddha.

HHMH: Moving Forward

Like the BCA's National Council Meeting, the HHMH held the Giseikai Legislative Assembly in February. The messages and reports are available in the previous HQ Update.

I felt inspired and uplifted by the presentations from the temples and committees as they shared their initiatives. Their efforts demonstrate how HHMH embodies and spreads the joy of Nembutsu through action, enriching the lives of others and contributing to the welfare of all beings. Despite the challenges we face, I appreciate our collective efforts in transforming obstacles into opportunities for growth and deepening our appreciation of the Dharma.

The path we walk today has been shaped by the dedication and compassion of those who came before us. Similarly, our efforts today will help guide and inspire future generations. Every action—no matter how small—has the power to nurture the seeds of the Nembutsu, creating the conditions for others to encounter the boundless wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha.

With gratitude and determination, let us continue to share the Dharma and illuminate the world with the light of the Buddha’s Vow. - Namo Amida Butsu.

Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani

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 10, 2025.

総長	園城義孝	Governor General SONOKI Giko
総務	桑羽隆慈	Governor KUWABA Ryuji
総務	竹田空尊	Governor TAKEDA Kuson - in charge of International Department
総務	松原功人	Governor MATSUBARA Kojin
副総務	清岡大地	Vice Governor KIYOOKA Daichi

MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENT

Rev. Sol Kalu, the Resident Minister of Windward Buddhist Temple, will be retiring from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of July 31, 2025. Rev. Kalu served Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for 12 years. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii expresses our deepest appreciation and gratitude to Rev. Sol Kalu for his dedication and effort of spreading the Nembutsu Dharma to our members and community.

LARRY MIWA BOOK SIGNING EVENT SUPPORTING PEACE ON YOUR WINGS

I am excited to invite you to the Larry Miwa Book Signing Event to support Peace on Your Wings on April 27, 4PM-5:30PM at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Social Hall.

As “Peace On Your Wings” once again draws nearer in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing, we are gearing up for a series of events to help raise awareness. A wonderful gentleman named Steven Miwa has been on a book tour in memory of his father Larry Miwa who as a child, wrote a diary just after the atomic bomb explosion. Larry Miwa established a peace foundation and has also turned his diary into a book which his son now sells, giving all proceeds to various peace organizations. All proceeds from this event will go to Ohana Arts for our “Peace On Your Wings” three-city tour.

As Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is the father organization of this show, your presence and support are greatly appreciated. Please share this information with your temple sangha and community.

YBICSE – YOUNG BUDDHIST INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL STUDY EXCHANGE

HQ distributed YBICSE applications to ministers, presidents and youth leaders on March 13, 2025. YBICSE is an educational trip to Japan, sponsored by the Jodo Shinshu International Office, Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, and Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Participants will join other young Buddhists from the continental U.S., Canada, and South America to learn and experience Japanese culture. The program will be held on July 1-9, 2025. During the program, participants visit Kyoto, Hiroshima, Nara and Tokyo. This time, high school students are eligible to participate, and five delegates will be selected. The chaperone is Rev. Tomioka of Puna, Pahala and Naalehu Hongwanji. The registration fee for the 2025 YBICSE is \$1,200. This includes lodging, meals, and travel from Honolulu International Airport to Japan but does not include inter-island travel to HNL.

In addition to the online application form (<https://forms.gle/1D2vqMrSMjRHqbES8>), each applicant needs to submit a profile and reference letters from their resident minister and a fellow temple member to HHMH Headquarters, hqs@honpahi.org. All application materials must be received by April 25, 2025.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rev. Baba, hqs@honpahi.org.