



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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April 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

“Reflection on the 80th Anniversary of the Kamikaze Attack and Burial on the USS Missouri”

On April 11, 2025, I had the honor of attending and offering the Invocation and Benediction at the 80th Anniversary of the Kamikaze Attack and Burial on the USS *Missouri*. This solemn event, hosted by the USS Missouri Memorial Association, served as a time of remembrance and reconciliation, marking eight decades since a significant moment in the Battle of Okinawa.

In April 1945, a kamikaze aircraft struck the *Missouri*, causing damage and loss. Amidst the wreckage, part of the plane and the body of the young Japanese pilot landed on the main deck. In a remarkable act of compassion, then-Captain William Callaghan ordered that the pilot be given a proper burial at sea in accordance with naval tradition. Despite being an enemy combatant, the pilot was treated with dignity and respect—an extraordinary gesture that has continued to resonate through generations.

At the anniversary ceremony, we were joined by the descendants of Captain Callaghan, including his grandson, Mr. Carey Callaghan, who shared: “My grandfather’s decision – controversial at the time, and maybe even today – was a humble one rooted in empathy, a sense of dignity, and a vision of the future that was a part of who he was every day.”

Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi also offered his reflections, stating: “This moment of remembrance stands as a testament to the power of reconciliation and the strength of peace. Captain Callaghan chose to respond not with hatred, but with honor and respect. That act of compassion continues to teach us that dignity and respect are not weakened by war; they are strengthened through understanding and forgiveness.”

As part of my Invocation and Benediction, I shared these thoughts: “Despite the extreme conditions of the battlefield, there existed profound respect and compassion for an individual who sacrificed his life. This compassionate act transcended national borders, ideologies, and conflicting emotions. All lives are equally embraced by the Light of the Buddha’s Great Compassion. While conflicts rage globally, people tend to alienate those with differing values, and I feel an urgent concern as divisions and isolation continue to grow. I sincerely hope that everyone gathered here today, both young and old, reflects on the power of compassion that enfolds all lives, nurtures a sense of oneness of all lives within our hearts, and walks together toward the realization of a society in which everyone can live a life of spiritual fulfillment. May we each return to our communities with a renewed commitment to practice compassion, uphold dignity, and foster mutual understanding and peace.”

The ceremony concluded with a wreath-laying, followed by the scattering of flower petals by all participants—a quiet yet powerful act of tribute, memory, and hope for peace.

Toshiyuki Umitani
Bishop, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

CONDOLENCE

Elaine Honma, a member of Kamuela Hongwanji Mission, passed away on March 20, 2025. Elaine Honma served as board member and treasurer of Kamuela Hongwanji. The Posthumous Title (INGO) of **FU-KAN-IN 普勸院**, which translates to “The one who guides people to take refuge in Amida Buddha” in recognition of her life of Nembutsu, was conferred by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani on April 12, 2025

INTRO CLASS ON CYBERSECURITY: SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025

Hongwanji Hawaii is offering an introductory class on how to protect yourself and your sangha from email scams known as “phishing.” **The class is offered both in person at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin’s Annex Temple and via Zoom on Saturday, May 10, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Our expert speaker will be Giovanni D. Williams, a cybersecurity advisor with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). The class is geared to a general audience and will not be overly technical. While the emphasis will be on email scams such as those experienced recently by sangha members, additional cybersecurity topics will be introduced for potential follow-up by temple leaders. **More information and a registration link may be found by visiting honpahi.link/cybersecurity.** Please register (even if you’re a “maybe”) so you can receive confirmation of workshop details. Stay vigilant out there!

– David Atcheson, HHMH Communications Coordinator



Giovanni Williams
Cybersecurity Advisor

BUDDHIST STUDY CENTER SUMMER SESSION



Save The Dates
Summer Session – August 4-8, 2025
6-8pm - Held In-person and via Zoom



As the 51st Annual Buddhist Study Center Summer Session features **Rev. Dr. Enrique Galvan-Alvarez** in an interactive learning series entitled:

“The Path Comes to Meet Me”
Awakening to Namu Amida Butsu

You are invited to re-evaluate your understanding of the Dharma by exploring a series of encounters, relationships, and journeys. Relevant to both newcomers and experienced travelers on the Buddhist path. Professor Galvan-Alvarez is a Hongwanji Kyoshi minister and leader in the United Kingdom and Spanish Shin Buddhist European community.

Each session will be an interactive workshop that leads to an experience of the benefits of Shin Buddhism. This is a practical guide of how being a Shin Buddhist in the 21st century can resolve many issues.

Come learn how to bring joy into the flow of ordinary life. For more information and registration, visit <https://bschawaii.org/summer-session/> or contact the Buddhist Study Center.

BSC SPRING TETSUYA

The Buddhist Study Center hosted a Tetsuya study session during UH finals week in the Spring and Fall 2024 semesters. There were around 5 college students in attendance throughout the week, and they used the BSC facilities to study, rest, and eat good food during the stress of finals. They also held a meeting of the Buddhist Study Center Fellowship Club. As a result of their Tetsuya meeting, the BSC Fellowship Club held two events this semester, a New Years party and Genki Ball service project, with another study and game day coming up in May. The BSC Fellowship Club continues to grow thanks to the support of Tetsuya during finals week.

Spring 2025 Tetsuya will be held May 11-16, 2025. Please see the attached flyer for more information. All college students who are interested in joining the Buddhist Study Center Fellowship Club are welcome to join us for dinner! Please share this opportunity with any students who may be interested.

“SHARING YOUR NEMBUTSU MOMENTS” BOOKS AT THE HHMH BOOKSTORE

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii’s 2024 slogan, “Sharing Nembutsu Moments,” was brought to life in the book *Sharing Your Nembutsu Moments*. The book is our sangha’s culminating reflections on the 2024 slogan and contains stories and artwork from Dharma School students to young adults to the young at heart from across the state of Hawai‘i.

The many illustrations and photographs in the book help you visualize these shared personal moments. Seeing and reading these heartwarming stories and submissions is your chance to get to know Hongwanji members and ministers on a more personal, intimate level. Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity!

***Sharing Your Nembutsu Moments* is now available at the [HHMH Book Store](#) for only \$7 per copy. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Yoshiko Umitani at (808) 522-9202 or hqbooks@honpahi.org.**

MUSICAL NOTES APRIL 2025

Twice a year, the Music Committee of Hongwanji Hawaii's Office of Buddhist Education publishes a newsletter called Musical Notes. Issues are available as PDFs and on our Music Committee web page, <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/music/>.

The April 2025 issue includes these items:

- Danny Topp: Living the Values of Jodo Shinshu
- More on Choralfest 2025 Gathas
- Honolulu District News
- Oahu District News
- Choralfest 2025 flyer
- Music Committee roster

We are fortunate to have a rich history of Buddhist music within Hongwanji Hawaii and through a global network of collaborative efforts. Mahalo to the Music Committee for sharing what's happening!

SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING EVENTS

LARRY MIWA BOOK SIGNING EVENT SUPPORTING “PEACE ON YOUR WINGS”

Date: Sunday, April 27, 2025

Time: 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Location: Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Social Hall

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 over Hiroshima. 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 the Hongwanji Hawaii leadership and sangha have been instrumental in inspiring and supporting this show, your presence and support are greatly appreciated. Please share this information with your temple sangha and the community. A calendar item is available on our website via the shortcut link <http://honpahi.link/miwa>.