



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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MARCH 2026

### MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP (also available as a [YouTube video](#))



#### Nurturing What Is Unseen

I would like to share a part of my Giseikai closing message. This reflection was inspired by *The Purpose-Driven Church*, written by Pastor Rick Warren. Pastor Warren, an American Christian minister and founder of Saddleback Church in California, writes about his love of gardening and the lessons it offers.

He describes a particular type of bamboo tree. When it is first planted, there is no visible growth for four or even five years. You water it and fertilize it, then water it and fertilize it again. You repeat this over and over, yet there is no visible growth. None at all. But around the fifth year, everything begins to change. In just about six weeks, the bamboo suddenly begins to grow, reaching as tall as 30 meters (100 feet). It may seem unbelievable that a plant which appeared to lie hidden underground for years would suddenly shoot up like a rocket.

Pastor Warren introduced this bamboo story and reflected that we should not worry too much about whether the church is growing. Instead, he admonished that we focus on whether the church is aligned with its God-given purpose. He wrote that we should faithfully continue to water, fertilize, cultivate the soil, pull out the weeds, and prune the branches. There may be years of service without visible results. Yet, beneath the surface, unseen by human eyes, something is happening. Deep underground, roots are spreading and being prepared.

This image of the bamboo offers us a meaningful perspective as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists.

In many ways, our own lives are like that of bamboo. Before we became aware of Amida Buddha's Compassionate work, before we awakened to the Nembutsu, there were countless causes and conditions supporting us. There were people who gently and patiently nurtured us—family members, ministers, and fellow Sangha—who helped prepare the ground for our awakening. They prepared the conditions for us to rise and grow.

Just as we have been nurtured through countless causes and conditions, now it is our turn to “water the soil” with sincerity and gratitude, staying aligned with our purpose as a Jodo Shinshu organization in Hawaii, so that others, too, may awaken to the joy of the Nembutsu. I firmly believe that every action we take today, no matter how large or small, creates the conditions for someone to discover true meaning in the Dharma. Even if the results are not yet visible, beneath the surface, something magnificent is unfolding.

*Namo Amida Butsu*

Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani

## CONDOLENCE

Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani conferred the following posthumous title (Ingo) on those who recently passed away and made exceptional contributions to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and its efforts to share the Nembutsu teaching.

### **Ms. Dianne Sumida (HQ)**

EN-NYU-IN 円融院

Meaning: The one who exemplified the perfect interpenetration

## SOCIAL CONCERNS: STORM IMPACTS AND RELIEF

Temples around the state experienced varying impacts from the recent “Kona low” storm events March 10-16 and March 19-23.

Kahului Hongwanji was particularly hard-hit during the first event, as its preschool experienced floodwaters in its classrooms up to the height of benches. Flooring, furniture, and supplies were damaged and community cleanup and fundraising efforts are underway. (An independent [GoFundMe fundraiser](#) is active.) Hawaii News Now covered the recovery effort in a [March 17 video story](#).

These storm events have tested our facilities and emergency planning. Assessing and documenting the leaks, water intrusion, and damage is one step in preparing for future events.

**The statewide Committee on Social Concerns is gathering information on impacts to Hongwanji temples across the state. The committee has resources to help provide some limited relief thanks to its annual Social Concerns Fund collections. The specifics of relief gifts for temples and the wider community will be determined pending more complete information.**

**To support Hongwanji Hawaii’s Social Concerns Fund:** You may [donate online](#) (PayPal link) or write a check to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (with “Social Concerns Fund” in the memo line) and mail it to HHMH at 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813.

## RESOURCES FOR SAVING ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

Hongwanji Hawaii’s Archives Committee receives helpful, archives-related information through its membership in the Association of Hawai’i Archivists. A recent post to the email listserv included resource links and contacts for addressing water impacts.

If your temple or organization’s collections have materials damaged by water, please take advantage of these resources from the **American Institute for Conservation**:

- [Emergency Programs and Assistance](#) pages
- [Water Resources](#) pages, including “Salvaging Water-Damaged Items”

For emergencies, institutions may contact a 24/7 [National Heritage Responders](#) hotline: **202.661.8068** (or email at [NHRPublicHelpline@culturalheritage.org](mailto:NHRPublicHelpline@culturalheritage.org))

Not urgent? Email [emergencies@culturalheritage.org](mailto:emergencies@culturalheritage.org)

## BUDDHIST STUDY CENTER SPRING FESTIVAL ON APRIL 18

### BSC Spring Festival “Appreciating Our Ohana”

April 18, 2026 | 9:30 am – 2:00 pm



### Recipe

#### Ingredients

- 13 tsp. of informational booths like games, counseling, cardmaking, and a bookstore.
- 4 C. of food, snacks, and drinks from the YESS Camp counselors, Jikoen Hongwanji, Hawaii Betsuin, and the Oahu United BWA.
- 8 Tbsp. of workshops and entertainment will be available.

#### Directions

Place all the ingredients into a 50 gal. drum. Add ample volunteers and 200 + visitors. Mix well. Simmer for 4 ½ hours. Serve immediately for a delicious dish that’s satisfying for everyone.

**See you on April 18<sup>th</sup>!!!** For the Oahu and Honolulu District temple presidents and ministers, we ask that you kindly promote the Spring Festival in your temple newsletters if possible. [BSC Spring Festival flyer](#)

#### Schedule

- 9:30 Pacific Buddhist Academy **Hyaku Sen Ki Kai Taiko**
- 10:10 **Dancing Through the Ages** (downstairs)  
“**Gratitude Chain**” workshop (upstairs)
- 10:50 “**Body and Brain Yoga**” workshop
- 11:30 **Shakuhachi and Koto**
- 12:10 “**Read Together**” workshop
- 12:50 “**Intergenerational Conversations**”
- 1:30 Pacific Buddhist Academy – **Oubaitori** (Japanese and Okinawan folksongs)

## YBICSE SET FOR JUNE 30-JULY 9

The Young Buddhist International Cultural Exchange (YBICSE) will be held from June 30 to July 9, 2026, in Osaka, Kyoto, and Hiroshima, Japan. The program is open to high school graduates under the age of 24. Five participants will be selected to attend along with Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata as the minister advisor.

The program includes a visit to our main temple Honzan, historical founder sites around Kyoto, Peace Tour in Hiroshima, and fellowship opportunities with other youth from the US mainland, Canada, South America, and Japan. The estimated cost is \$2000, and the application deadline is April 25.



Please share [the flyer](#) and [tentative program schedule](#), and encourage your youth, especially those who have graduated and are back for the summer, to apply to this special Japan trip.