



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Web: [hongwanjihawaii.com](http://hongwanjihawaii.com) Email: [hqs@honpahi.org](mailto:hqs@honpahi.org)



**MAY 2026**

*Please note that the Headquarters Update is an official monthly communication from the HHMH Headquarters to the temples, ministers, lay leaders, and affiliates of the Hawaii Kyodan. The Headquarters encourages you to share the news in this update with your temple or community members.*

### 2026 PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY GRADUATION



### MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GIKO SONOKI, THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF THE JODO SHINSHU HONGWANJI-HA

To the graduating class of 2026, Congratulations!

On behalf of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha organization, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you all, graduates of Pacific Buddhist Academy.

I also express my deepest respect and gratitude to your families, teachers, and all those who have warmly supported you until today.

The founding spirit of the Ryukoku Sogo Gakuen School Association to which PBA belongs to is Mahayana Buddhism, in particular, the Jodo Shinshu teaching established by the founder, Shinran Shonin. Shinran clarified that no one can live alone and that we are all enabled to live thanks to countless causes and conditions in the warm embrace of Amida Tathagata's great compassion.

Here at PBA, in addition to classroom learning, through your encounters with friends and teachers, you have learned to look within yourself and the importance of living together with others. Not only have your high school days been filled with joy and fun, but also with worries and struggles, all through which have been important steps in your human growth.

In modern society, convenience and efficiency are extremely valued, and consideration for others is easily overlooked. However, it is precisely for this reason that the spirit of "living together" which you have nurtured here at PBA will provide you with the ability to live in the society to come.

Although your high school days end today, your path of learning continues. Even when things do not go as planned or you run into difficulties and uncertainty, cherishing what you have learned from your friends, teachers, and the founding spirit of PBA, I hope will support you as you each walk your own paths.

Finally, I would like to conclude my message wishing each of you a bright future filled with precious encounters and sincerely hope that you will continue to live cherishing all life, as you continue to appreciate the guidance you will receive from people around you. Congratulations!

May 15, 2026

Governor General SONOKI Giko  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

## **COMMENCEMENT CLOSING REFLECTION BY BISHOP TOSHIYUKI UMITANI**

May 17, 2026

First of all, on behalf of the ministers and members of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Pacific Buddhist Academy Class of 2026.

Today, we gather together as one community, one sangha, to celebrate an important milestone in the lives of our graduates. Commencement is both an ending and a beginning—a moment of reflection and realization upon the journey that has brought you here, while also looking ahead to the new paths and possibilities that await you.

During your years at PBA, you have grown not only academically, but also personally and spiritually. You have been nurtured in an environment rooted in the Buddhist values of Wisdom and Compassion. Through your studies, friendships, challenges, and experiences, you have learned not only how to move forward, but also how to care for others, how to listen deeply, and how to live with empathy and respect.

Today is a celebration of your hard work and achievements. But it is also a reminder that none of us reaches this moment alone. Behind every graduate stands the loving support of parents and family members, the guidance of teachers and mentors, the encouragement of friends, and the countless causes and conditions that have supported your journey in ways both visible and invisible.

The Buddha's teachings remind us that our lives are deeply interconnected. Wisdom allows us to recognize that we are not separate and independent beings, but part of a much larger web of relationships. Compassion encourages us to respond to this realization with gratitude, humility, and care for others.

We live in a world filled with both great opportunities and great uncertainties. There are divisions, conflicts, and many challenges facing society today. Yet it is precisely in such times that the qualities you have cultivated here at PBA become even more important. The world needs people who can think critically yet act compassionately; people who can embrace diversity with openness and respect; people who seek not only personal success, but also the well-being of others.

As you move forward into the next chapter of your lives, may you continue to carry the founding spirit of PBA wherever you go and whatever you do.

As this commencement ceremony comes to a close, let us place our hands together in Gassho and express our deepest gratitude for the immeasurable Wisdom and Compassion that embraces and sustains us all. Let us recite the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu, together.

Namo Amida Butsu.

Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani  
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

#### **JOB OPPORTUNITY AT THE HHMH**

The Headquarters/Office of the Bishop is looking for an Administrative Assistant. The position is at the HQ office is fulltime 40 hours per week Monday to Friday (on-site). This position will provide administrative, financial, & event coordination to the HQ, Kyodan Board of Directors, & committees. HHMH provides medical insurance, vacation/sick leave, 401k with matching. Please contact Derrick Inouye (Business Manager) at 808-522-9200 or at [dinouye@honpahi.org](mailto:dinouye@honpahi.org).

#### **HAWAII KYODAN-SO FUNERAL SERVICE FOR MR. ROY MIYAMOTO**

It is with deep sadness that we must inform you of the passing of Mr. Roy Miyamoto. Mr. Miyamoto passed away and returned to the Pure Land on Sunday, March 29, 2026. Mr. Miyamoto served the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as its President from 1992 to 1998, then as Immediate Past President from 1998 to 2008, followed by Advisor from 2008 to 2020, and finally as Honorary Advisor from 2020 to 2026.

The Hawaii Kyodan-Sponsored Funeral Service, currently coordinated by the Office of the Bishop and the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, will be held at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin on **Saturday, August 1, 2026**, under the officiation of Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani. The visitation will begin at 10:00 am, followed by the Funeral Service at 11:00 am.

The Office of the Bishop kindly requests that ministers and local temples consider using the Hawaii Kyodan Funeral Guidelines for Koden when determining your Koden for the family of the late Mr. Roy Miyamoto. You may send your Koden, payable to David Miyamoto, to the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin at 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813, if you wish to do so.

## ZENSHINZA'S PERFORMANCE IN HAWAII

ZENSHINZA, a professional theatre group from Japan, will be visiting Hawaii to present their production “*Hana Kobushi—Shinran Shonin and Lady Eshinni*” on September 3 and 4, 2026, at the Palikū Theatre at Windward Community College.

“Hana Kobushi,” meaning *Magnolia Flower*, is a moving theatrical work that tells the story of Shinran Shonin and his wife Eshinni. Living among ordinary people, Shinran shared the teaching of the Nembutsu, which embraces and illuminates all beings equally. Through this performance, audiences are invited to experience the compassion, humanity, and spiritual journey of Shinran and Eshinni—lives that continue to inspire countless individuals today.



One of the performers, Miki Hamana, who portrays Lady Eshinni, reflects on the significance of the play: in a time filled with uncertainty, it is especially important to listen to the voices of those who came before us and reflect on their lives and hearts. She shares that it would be the greatest joy for the actors if each audience member could encounter Shinran and Eshinni anew within their own hearts through this performance.

She is particularly inspired by Eshinni as a strong, thoughtful, and independent woman who walked alongside Shinran in spreading the Nembutsu. Rather than seeing her as a distant figure to be revered, she hopes audiences will come to feel Eshinni as a close and relatable presence in their lives today.

The production “*Hana Kobushi—Shinran Shonin and Lady Eshinni*” has been performed across Japan, touring 56 different theaters between 2023 and 2025. Now, for the first time, ZENSHINZA will bring this deeply moving production to Hawaii. **More detailed information about the show, including ticket purchasing details, will be available soon.**

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii endorses their performance in Hawaii.

## YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT IS SEPTEMBER 6-7

The Young Adults Retreat (YAR) 2026 is a weekend getaway for young adults aged 18-32(ish) who are interested in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. For those who are familiar with YESS Camp, YAR is a similar opportunity for the slightly older adult crowd. At YAR, we play games, discuss the Dharma, make new connections, eat good food, and disconnect from our busy everyday lives.

This year, the theme is “Wabi-sabi” which is based on the Japanese philosophy of embracing life's imperfections. Rev. David Fujimoto of Moiliili Hongwanji will be the guest speaker and will discuss how we can cope with grow from the struggles and tribulations that we may experience. Tentative plans for workshops include tea ceremony and meditation.

If you know anyone in the 18-32 age range who is wanting to learn more about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and connect with others their age, please encourage them to register for the Young Adults Retreat. Registration is open NOW at [tinyurl.com/HMHYAR2026](https://tinyurl.com/HMHYAR2026) and the registration cost (until August 1) is \$40 for two days of food, friends, and fun! [A flyer](#) is available.

## BUDDHIST STUDY CENTER FELLOWSHIP CLUB CAR WASH

Mark your calendars! The Buddhist Study Center Fellowship Club will be having their second car wash fundraiser on Sunday, September 13 from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Buddhist Study Center (1436 University Ave.) Please drive by the BSC after Sunday service to support the Fellowship Club. Suggested donation per car is \$10, or \$15 per truck or van. There will also be refreshments for sale.

What is the BSCFC? It is a group of young adults (college students) who are interested in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Activities include Dharma learning, professional development, social and bonding activities, intercultural relationship-forming with exchange students from Ryukoku University, and community service. We hope you'll support us. [A flyer](#) is available.

## THE 18<sup>th</sup> WORLD BUDDHIST WOMEN'S CONVENTION UPDATE

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations will host the 18th World Buddhist Women's Convention at Hilton Hawaiian Village on September 11-12, 2027. The deadline for early registration (\$325) is June 30, 2026. You can visit <https://hawaiibwa.org/world-convention-2027> to learn more about this event and register online!

**To commemorate this occasion, we produced a special Monto-Shikisho and Wagesa.**

Our convention theme, "Live Peace, Live Aloha, Live as One in the Nembutsu," is reflected here. The sky-blue color of the Monto-Shikisho evokes Hawaii's clear skies. Its design features the red ohia Lehua blossom, a sacred native flower of Hawaii. A background pattern of origami cranes symbolizes peace. This imagery portrays the Ohia Lehua blooming beneath the Hawaiian sky, with cranes—universal symbols of peace—gracefully soaring above.

The 18th World Buddhist Women's Convention's Commemorative Shikisho costs \$60.00, and Wagesa for the minister is \$300.00.

Per request from the Hawaii Federation of BWAs, the Shikisho and Wagesa are now available at the **Headquarters Bookstore**. These are fundraising items for the upcoming Convention, so we accept only check payments Payable to **HMH HFBWA**. If you have any questions, please contact Yoshiko Umitani at [hqbooks@honpahi.org](mailto:hqbooks@honpahi.org) or (808) 522-9202.



## CALENDAR COMMITTEE – CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HMH) Calendar Committee invites members, Dharma friends, and affiliates to provide photos for the 2027 Hongwanji Calendar that show **“NURTURING NEMBUTSU: LIVING ALOHA.”** Please read the attached flyer for detailed instructions. The submission deadline is Monday, September 14, 2026. [A flyer](#) is available.

## HAWAII ISLAND NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

The Big Island branch of the Commission on Buddhist Education is excited to host the 2026 Hawai'i Island Nembutsu Seminar from October 2-4, 2026. The featured speaker will be Reverend Dr. Carmela Javellana-Hirano, Minister of the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple. The focus will be on supporting our well-being and dealing with the challenges of our daily lives through Nembutsu teachings. There will be three days of activities, ranging from a talk story session, a Nembutsu Seminar, a Hawai'i District service and dharma talk, and a family movie activity. Locations will be in Waimea, Hawaii, and in Hilo. Please save the dates of October 2-4 for this engaging and interactive weekend. In-person and Zoom options will be offered. [A flyer](#) is available.

## DHARMA EDUCATORS' RETREAT – MAY 2, 2026

Thirty-three (33) Dharma Educators from across the state came together on Saturday, May 2 at the Buddhist Study Center to network and engage in discussions about the future of Dharma teaching practices. A basic *Introduction to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism* was presented by Reverend Blayne Higa. Reverend Eric Matsumoto presented the *Jodo Shinshu perspective of the Golden Chain of Love*. Existing Dharma education resources ([Shin Buddhist Media Resources](#), [Dharma-Centered Living 101 seminars](#) by Trinidad Hunt, [Study Guide Presentations for Minister Assistants and Dharma Educators](#) by Reverend Kevin Kuniyuki, and annual opportunities to attend the Buddhist Churches of America's Federation of Dharma School Teachers League) were shared by Debbie Kubota. Joan Tamori (Wailuku Hongwanji) shared an Enlightenment (Escape Room) Game. Prudence Kusano (Windward Buddhist Temple) put together activity kits for everyone to make their own "*Grateful Hands*." Stephen Chinen (Mililani Hongwanji) led everyone in an activity to eat Hershey's kisses in a mindful manner.

Dr. Miki Tomita-Okamoto, educational consultant and Wailuku Hongwanji BWA member, facilitated small group discussions on strategic planning. Discussions were held on Dharma Education vs. Dharma School, promoting educational programs for journey mapping tailored to specific individuals at our temples –school-age students, current members, inactive members (who attend memorial services), newcomers to Buddhism, etc. A closing circle culminated the day with everyone sharing their learnings and takeaways from the session, based on their "*Head, Heart or Feet*." A Dharma Educators' Handbook was distributed to all participants. Here's a [link](#) to the digital version. A follow-up post-retreat survey will be sent out to participants to determine follow-up actions and next steps.



## YESS CAMP 42

Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers Camp 42 was held on April 3-5, 2026, at Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Rev. Blayne Higa was the guest speaker and discussed the theme, "THE DHARMA AWAKENS" which was based on the Star Wars franchise. There were 15 campers, 8 counselors, 2 ministers, 6 staff, and a number of Kona volunteers who participated in the weekend retreat.

During the weekend, the campers played games, listened to the Dharma, and did activities. Annual traditions such as camper and counselor skits, campfire, and cabin bonding were continued. As a service project, the YESS Camp participants volunteered at Amy Greenwell Garden and helped to pull weeds and restore plants at the farm. There was also a movie night for Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope, which was a first time watch for many campers! Hopefully some of the young ones were inspired to watch more of the series after they returned home from camp.



Of the 15 campers, the majority were from the Big Island. This was the first face-to-face camp since YESS Camp 27 to be held off of Oahu, and the first time in over 30 years that it was held on the Big Island specifically. We are very grateful to Kona Hongwanji for hosting us, and glad to have had the opportunity to bring YESS Camp to residents of other islands. Thank you to everyone in the Hongwanji community who supported this special opportunity for the youth aged 13-23 to experience the Force of the Dharma in their lives. Please encourage any interested youth to attend next year's YESS Camp.

## BSC SUMMER SESSION 2026: REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The Buddhist Study Center's 2026 Summer Session will be held July 26-29 with guest speaker Rev. Dr. Aaron Proffitt. With the theme "Rethinking Buddhist Education," the session begins this year with a family dharma session at Jikoen Hongwanji on Sunday morning followed by three evening sessions at BSC from Monday to Wednesday. The Jikoen portion is available in person only, and the sessions at BSC are available both in person and online. [A flyer](#) is available.

Rev. Dr. Aaron Shōken 正見 Proffitt is an Associate Professor of Japanese Studies in the East Asian Studies Department of the University at Albany — State University of New York and an ordained Buddhist priest (tokudo) in the Jōdo Shinshū Hongwanji-ha lineage. He also co-founded the Albany Buddhist Sangha ([albanybuddhist.org](http://albanybuddhist.org)) and regularly teaches mindfulness and meditation for community organizations in the Albany area.



*Rev. Dr. Aaron Proffitt*

Registration is now open. Complete information is available at <https://bschawaii.org/summer-session>, or go straight to registration at <https://honpahi.link/bscss26>.

*P.S. A video playlist for Summer Session 2025 with Rev. Dr. Enrique Galvan Alvarez is now available on the BSC Hawaii YouTube channel at <https://honpahi.link/bscss25>.*