



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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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.

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP TOSHIYUKI UMITANI

Message of Sympathy and Support Following Hurricane Lala

On behalf of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, I extend my heartfelt sympathy and concern to all those who have been affected by Hurricane Lala and the severe damage it has caused throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

Our thoughts are especially with those who have lost loved ones, those whose homes and property have been damaged, and all who have been facing disruptions to electricity, water, transportation, and other essential services. In this difficult and uncertain time, we deeply share in the concerns of our temple members and communities throughout the islands.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude and respect to the first responders, emergency personnel, utility workers, government agencies, volunteers, and many others who continue to work tirelessly to keep our communities safe and support their recovery. I am especially grateful to our ministers, temple leaders, and members who are checking on one another and extending a compassionate hand to those in need.

In times such as these, we are reminded of how deeply our lives are interconnected and sustained by countless people around us. As listeners of the Nembutsu, may we respond to the suffering before us with compassion and a spirit of mutual support, helping one another in whatever ways we can.

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters, through the Committee on Social Concerns, is continuing to assess the impact of Hurricane Lala on our temples, members, and surrounding communities. We will work together with our districts and temples to determine how we can best offer assistance and support in the days ahead.

As recovery efforts continue, may we keep all those affected in our thoughts and hearts. We sincerely hope for the safety and well-being of everyone and for the restoration of peaceful daily life as soon as possible.

Within the compassionate embrace of Amida Buddha, may we continue to walk together, supporting and caring for each other.

In Gassho,

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, Bishop
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

August 19, 2026

This message is available on our website at:
hongwanjihawaii.com/messages/bishop-hurricane-lala/

SOCIAL CONCERNS UPDATE

Fund Drive Reminder

Action needed: The current Social Concerns Fund Drive runs through August 31, 2026, and temples are asked to submit all collected donations to Hawaii Kyodan HQ by September 30, 2026. We encourage your contribution so the Committee on Social Concerns can respond compassionately to urgent needs in our community.

Individuals may also donate directly to the Social Concerns Fund online via the Donate page on our website. Or use this shortcut link: <https://honpahi.link/scdon>

How Donations Help

Through your generosity, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is able to support worthy organizations and programs by funding their continued work in our community and providing aid during times of disaster. We continue to award Golden Chain Grants to encourage sharing the Dharma through compassionate service and the Dana Matching Grant to double the impact of charitable giving by organizations within the Hawaii Kyodan Ohana.

Approved Disaster Relief Donations

The Committee on Social Concerns recently approved the following disaster relief donations:

- \$5,000 to Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha for relief efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Kumamoto, Japan.
- Spokane, Washington Wildfires Recovery
 - \$1,000 to Second Harvest Inland Northwest “Spokane Wildfire Response”
 - \$1,500 to Catholic Charities Eastern Washington “Spokane Complex Fire Support Fund”
- Hurricane Lala Recovery
 - \$2,000 to Vibrant Hawaii
 - \$2,000 to The Food Basket
 - \$2,000 to the American Red Cross
 - \$2,000 O Kau Kakou
 - \$500 Omimai for Lahaina Hongwanji
 - \$500 Omimai for Puna Hongwanji
 - \$500 Omimai for Pahala Hongwanji
 - \$500 Omimai for Naalehu Hongwanji

Hurricane Lala Resources

Our hearts go out to everyone affected by Hurricane Lala. May Amida Buddha’s boundless wisdom and compassion surround and sustain us all. The recovery resources below may be helpful.

Tropical Storm Lala: District-by-District Impacts & Recovery Resources

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2026/08/17/lala-recovery-resources/>

Your support directly impacts the lives of others. Mahalo for your generosity!

In Gassho,

Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair
Committee on Social Concerns

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE REV. HIROMI KAWAJI

The Hawaii Kyodan Funeral Service for the late Reverend Hiromi Kawaji will be held at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin on **Saturday, October 10, 2026**, with Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani officiating, assisted by the Kanji Ministers. The visitation will begin at 10:00 am, followed by the Funeral Service at 11:00 am. Representatives from the District Hongwanji Councils, temples where Rev. Kawaji served, and the Kanji Ministers are requested to attend the service.

The Office of the Bishop 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 Rev. Hiromi Kawaji. If you wish, you may send your koden, payable to Yumi Suzuki, to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters at 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813.

ZENSHINZA “HANAKOBUSHI - SHINRAN SHONIN AND ESHINNI”

We would like to inform you about Zenshinza’s Special Performance, “**Hanakobushi - Shinran Shonin and Eshinni.**” We encourage you not to miss this special opportunity.

Event Details: <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/event/zenshinza-performances-2026-09/>

“Hana Kobushi,” meaning Magnolia flower, is a moving theatrical work that tells the story of Shinran Shonin and his wife, Lady Eshinni. Living among ordinary people, Shinran Shonin 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.

Dates of Performances:

- September 3, 2026, 1:00 pm (doors open at 12:30 pm)
- September 3, 2026, 5:00 pm (doors open at 4:30 pm)
- September 4, 2026, 1:00 pm (doors open at 12:30 pm)

****The performance will be in Japanese and will include English subtitles.***

Place:

Paliku Theatre (at Windward Community College)
45-720 Keaahala Rd, Kaneohe, HI 96744

Ticket Price and How to Purchase:

Ticket Price: \$80

Please reserve your seat by visiting:

<https://honpahi.link/hanakobushi>

Full ticketing URL:

<https://hibustrolley.com/products/63046227-0501-5fee-a408-564144bbf5ab?lng=en-US>



MINISTERS LAY ASSISTANT RETREAT 2026

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Minister Lay Assistant Retreat will be held at Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on Maui on Saturday, October 31, 2026. As a Minister Lay Assistant, you have the rare and wondrous opportunity to

- Live the Dharma every day
- Learn new skills and knowledge
- Support your temple

The Minister Lay Assistant Retreat is a one-day immersion into serving as a Minister Lay Assistant at your temple.

The Minister Lay Assistant Retreat is intended for current Minister Assistants, who serve their temples under the mentorship of the temple minister, and also welcomes Sangha members who are sincerely interested in becoming a Minister Lay Assistant, as well as Certified Minister Lay Assistants who would like to polish their skills, keep their knowledge current, and share what they've learned.

At the end of the Retreat, participants will be able to plan, organize, and lead a Dharma Family Service as a Minister Lay Assistant, as well as support the minister for regular, special, and major services.

Participants must have the endorsement of their temple minister to participate in the Minister Lay Assistant Retreat 2026 and submit both application and payment by the deadline of **September 22, 2026**.

Bishop Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, Buddhist Study Center Director Rev. Blayne Higa, and Ministerial Training Committee Chair Rev. David Fujimoto will be master instructors for the retreat, supported by *kaikyōshi* ministers of the Maui Hongwanji temples.

Travel subsidies are available for participants who are not resident on Maui.

The [schedule and application form](#) are available at honpahi.link/flyers0826.

2027 HHMH CALENDAR SUBMISSION—REMINDER

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH) 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 flyer](#) for detailed instructions. (It is among the flyers provided in May 2026 at honpahi.link/flyers0526.) The submission deadline is Monday, September 14, 2026.



2027 HHMH POSTER CONTEST

It's Poster Contest Time Again! Calling all artists and photographers!

The Commission on Buddhist Education is sponsoring a poster contest to visually express the 2027 Hongwanji theme/slogan "Nurturing Nembutsu: Living Aloha." The focus will be on "How do we live with aloha in our daily lives?" Through your art, reflect on what it means to live with aloha each and every day.

Posters can be created using any medium (e.g., painting, drawing, digital art, photography) but must be submitted as a high-resolution digital file (JPEG, PNG, or PDF). Poster dimensions: Standard poster size (24" x 36" or equivalent in digital format). Complete information is available at:

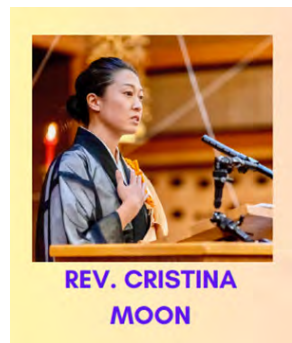
<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2026/08/04/poster-contest-2027/>



If you are ready to enter and submit the digital poster file, you may go straight to <https://honpahi.link/poster27> (access to detailed guidelines is available at the top of the entry form). The winning poster will be selected as a statewide poster promoting the 2027 Theme and Slogan. Reverend Shawn Yagi (Kauai Commissioner) and Debbie Kubota (Honolulu Commissioner) are the chairs of this project. Please contact Debbie Kubota at dekub@gmail.com if any questions arise.

COMMISSION ON BUDDHIST EDUCATION – DISTRICT NEMBUTSU SEMINARS

Honolulu and Oahu Districts



The Honolulu and Oahu Districts will be having their annual Nembutsu Seminar on Saturday, September 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Hawaii Betsuin and virtually via Zoom. The guest speaker will be **Reverend Cristina Moon**. Rev. Moon will also be the featured speaker on Sunday, September 27 at Jikoen Hongwanji at 9 am for their Sunday service, followed by a Talk Story session in the Social Hall.

Please see the [flyer for the 9/26 Nembutsu Seminar](#) and the [flyer promoting both the 9/26 seminar and 9/27 service/talk story](#) for details. (Both are available at honpahi.link/flyers0826.)

Hawaii District

The Big Island branch of the Commission on Buddhist Education is excited to host the 2026 Hawai'i Island Nembutsu Seminar, October 2-4, 2026. The featured speaker will be **Reverend Dr. Carmela Javellana-Hirano**, Minister of the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple. Registration: <https://honpahi.link/nemsemhi>

October 2: A "Talk Story: Monku, Monku, Monku!" for all ages, starting at 5:00 pm at Kamuela Hongwanji.



REV. DR. CARMELA JAVELLANA HIRANO

October 3: “Shin Buddhist Psychology: The Wisdom of Foolishness to Compassion – Shinjin” geared for adults, from 10:00 am to noon at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin.

October 4: “Dharma Talk: Oya Sama: The Runaway Bunny” following a District Service for all ages starting at 9:00 am at Hilo Betsuin. Dr. Bart Aoki will be a special guest.

Kauai District

Kauai District will be having their district Nembutsu Seminar on Sunday, October 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at Lihue Hongwanji Mission. The guest lecturer will be **Reverend Blayne Nakasone-Sakata** of the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin. More details will be shared later.

Maui District

November 21, 2026, at Makawao Hongwanji Mission (1074 Makawao Avenue, Maui)

10:00 a.m.: The Hongwanji Buddhist Temples of Maui cordially invite everyone to a free showing of the film, **“Nā Wāhine Buda Kiakahi: The Legacy of Hawaiian Women Buddhists”**, which explores of the contributions Hawaiian Women Buddhist to Buddhism in Hawaii and around the world.

11:00 a.m.: The 42-minute documentary will be followed by a Panel Discussion with Director & Co-Writer Eleni Avendaño, Producer and Co-Writer Jon Matsuoka, and Dr. Miki Tomita Okamoto, a lifelong Japanese Buddhist and Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner, moderated by Rev. Kerry Kiyohara of Makawao Hongwanji.

1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.: Following refreshments and talk story about the film, the day continues with Nembutsu Seminar 2026, which will focus on the teaching, practice, and benefits of Nembutsu in everyday life, seeking to answer the questions:

- What is Nembutsu Mindfulness of Amida?
- What is *Shinjin*, the Entrusting Heart and Mind of No Doubt?
- What are the benefits of the Path of Nembutsu and Life of Gratitude?

Nembutsu Seminar 2026 is intended for Hongwanji members, newcomers to the Hongwanji, and anyone interested in Buddhism. Everyone is welcome, come as you are, just leave your Ego-Self at the door (if you are able!). [View the event flyer](#) for more information (available at honpahi.link/flyers0826).

Don't miss out, please register today! <https://forms.gle/TBeHwaepMWih1YEA9>

BSC SUMMER SESSION VIDEOS

Mahalo nui loa to Rev. Dr. Aaron Proffitt for his tour of the islands sharing the dharma and his perspectives on “Rethinking Buddhist Education”! The three evening sessions held at the Buddhist Study Center are available on video on the BSC Hawaii YouTube channel. See: <https://honpahi.link/bscss26>

