



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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FEBRUARY 2022

BISHOP'S CORNER

"Compassion of my Religion's Founder"

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



Recently, an invitation from Murabbi (Missionary) Matiullah Joyia of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Hawaii was extended to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii to participate in the 2nd World Religions' Conference with the theme "Compassion of my Religion's Founder." At the conference, 6 world religions (Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam) presented a variety of chants or sacred readings and the compassion of their respective faiths. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, Office of the Bishop was honored to be asked to represent the Buddhist Tradition while Rev. Yuika Hasebe chanted "The Tradition of Shinran Shonin" (Shonin Ichiryu no Sho) as our contribution.

I began by explaining that the Buddhist Tradition is vast and varied in its approach as it recognizes that people's individual abilities and capabilities differ. Thus, I often refer to the illustration of a large tree or a spectrum to describe Buddhism. Further, as we all know, the Founder of Buddhism is the Historic Buddha, Sakyamuni, who was born in Ancient India as Prince Siddhartha Gautama, but for this presentation, I focused on Shinran Shonin, who we revere as the Founder of Jodo Shinshu or Shin Buddhism.

Although I have to admit I had to think about what I would share for as we know Shinran Shonin would never say about himself that he was compassionate. Of course, this is not to say that we of later ages cannot regard him as being compassionate for he truly was!

I decided to focus my presentation on Shinran Shonin's gratitude for the Great Compassion of Amida Buddha. For Shinran Shonin, the Compassionate One is Amida Buddha, not himself. Shinran Shonin, out of awareness of Amida Buddha's compassion, was moved to share that compassion with others. In a poem of hymn, he wrote

*Persons who truly realize shinjin
As they utter Amida's Name,
Being mindful of the Buddha always,
Wish to respond in gratitude to the great benevolence.*

Thus, for Shinran Shonin, even in exile, he devoted the latter half of his 90 year life to sharing the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha or the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light as expounded in

the Larger Sukhavativyuha Sutra in which a universal Buddha whose reach is cosmic in proportion makes unprecedented vows to lead all with no exceptions to Supreme Enlightenment to the extent that this Buddha conditions the Buddha's own personal attainment of Perfect Enlightenment with the enlightenment of all other forms of life. In almost all of the 48 vows made by this Buddha, the phrase, "If, when I attain Buddhahood, (if such and such is not so) ...may I not attain perfect enlightenment." are part of the vows.

In the Jodo Shinshu or Shin Buddhist Tradition, Enlightenment reaches out to us, not as rigorous and demanding religious practices or even in the form of meditation, but the Calling Voice of Enlightenment beckoning us to please wholeheartedly entrust, just as you are, in the Compassionate 18th Vow. Shinran Shonin's reading of the 18th Vow, in part, is

If, when I attain Buddhahood, the sentient beings of the ten quarters, with sincere mind entrusting themselves, aspiring to be born in my land, saying my Name perhaps even ten times, should not be born there, may I not attain the supreme enlightenment.

Thus, in the Jodo Shinshu Pure Land Tradition, central is the Buddha's Name of "Namo Amida Butsu." It is the form in which the Buddha approaches us and at the same time the Great Practice and also our gratefully responding to it by reciting it in awareness, joy and gratitude of that all-inclusive and all-embracing compassion. Ultimately, even our awareness and gratitude are because of the Buddha's compassion not my own compassion or endeavor. Therefore, our entrusting can be described as an Endowed True Entrusting brought forth by Enlightened Wisdom and Compassion, that is Namo Amida Butsu, itself.

As a final point, I introduced the special characteristic of Shin Buddhism as experienced by Shinran Shonin, which truly expressed the all-inclusiveness and all-embracing aspect of Great Compassion which reaches out to save the "spiritually foolish being" (bonbu). I made sure to mention that this quote (to follow from the *Tannisho*) is often misinterpreted as endorsing negative behavior which it does not! It adds a new dimension to Great Compassion. If Great Compassion is great compassion it has to be equally accessible and applicable to one and all including those who by some other standards may not be included. Great Compassion reaches out to those who are not able to help themselves and thus only speaks of True Entrusting. For it is the nature of Great Compassion or the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light to include all. Thus, Shinran is known to have said,

"Even a good person attains birth in the Pure Land, so it goes without saying that an evil person will." "It is impossible for us, who are possessed of blind passions, to free ourselves from birth-and-death through any practice what(so)ever. Sorrowing at this, Amida made the Vow, the essential intent of which is the evil person's attainment of Buddhahood. Hence, evil persons who entrust themselves to Other Power are precisely the one who possess the true cause of birth. Accordingly, he said, "Even the good person is born in the Pure Land, so without question is the person who is evil."

Many people were confused about the true nature and intent of Great Compassion and thus Shinran Shonin devoted his entire latter part of his life clarifying what the Shin Buddhist Teaching was all about, a non-dichotomous Compassion.

To close, Shinran Shonin said, *“How joyous I am, my heart and mind being rooted in the Buddha-ground of the universal Vow, and my thoughts and feelings flowing within the dharma-ocean, which is beyond comprehension! I am deeply aware of the Tathagata’s immense compassion, and I sincerely revere the benevolent care behind the masters’ teaching activity. My joy grows ever fuller, my gratitude and indebtedness ever more compelling. Therefore, I have selected [passages expressing] the core of the Pure Land way and gathered here its essentials.”* Again, it was out of awareness, joy and (especially) gratitude of Amida Buddha’s Great Compassion, which he found embracing a “spiritually foolish being” that he saw himself as, that motivated Shinran Shonin to dedicate his life to sharing about Great Compassion so that others too would come know and experience Great Compassion. Thank you very much.

Namo Amida Butsu.

GISEIKAI MESSAGE FROM THE JODO SHINSHU HONGWANJI-HA GOVERNOR GENERAL BISHOP CHIKO IWAGAMI

On the occasion of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 110th *Giseikai*, which is being conducted online, I humbly extend my appreciation to you, the ministers and sangha representatives from throughout the state of Hawaii. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all for your continuing efforts in propagating Jodo Shinshu and maintaining the temples within your respective districts.

I would first like to extend my condolences to those who lost their lives to COVID-19 and offer my sympathy to the people who are currently undergoing treatment for the disease.

With the surge of a new variant, the pandemic shows no signs of ending. Its influence goes far beyond the individual and health risks, and is leading to great social division as a result from the anxiety of being infected as well as the groundless rumors and disagreements on preventive measures. Being aware that these issues are caused by our own self-oriented mindset that every one of us possesses as a human being, I cannot help but renew my appreciation for the value of Buddhist life relying on the Dharma as the foundation.

In his Message on the Completion of the Inner Altar Restoration of the Hall of Amida Buddha at Hongwanji, Monshu Ohtani Kojun provides us with the following words: “Through upholding Shinran Shonin’s teaching and constantly reflecting on ourselves as foolish beings filled with selfish desires and attachments, we come to feel gratitude for the working that Amida Buddha extends us out of great compassion. In today’s world where we see so much social division and discrimination occurring, let us respect and support each other while spreading the Dharma and enlarging the circle of fellow nembutsu friends.” Receiving this message, let us listen to the teaching even more earnestly, living with the Dharma as our guide. Thus, we are able to strive to live each day to its fullest sharing in the joy and sadness of others.

As announced, the Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin’s Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching will be observed at Hongwanji in 2023, and we are preparing for the occasion. It would be wonderful if we are able to celebrate this special event together with all of you in Kyoto.

In closing, it is my hope that the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will continue to prosper and that many fruitful results will arise from this annual meeting.

February 11, 2022

Governor General Iwagami Chiko
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

HHMH 110TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (Giseikai)

The 110th Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii was held on February 11-12, 2022 virtually via Zoom. All programs such as Opening Service (Memorial Service for the Ingo recipients in 2021 as well as past ministers and members of HHMH), Plenary Session, Presentations, Installation of Officers, Directors, Advisors, Sanmu, and Kanji ministers, and Special Recognition of the retirement of Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki and Rev. Toyokazu Hagio were conducted online.

Delegates from the Hongwanji temples throughout Hawaii discussed and passed the following resolutions:

1. 2022 HHMH Budget
2. HHMH Bylaws Amendment Relating to Article VII: Board of Directors
3. Consolidation of Papaaloa Hongwanji and Honohina Hongwanji
4. Establish a Honpa Hongwanji Statewide Newsletter
5. Establish a Honpa Hongwanji Statewide Online Calendar
6. Establish an Annual Endowment Campaign
7. Provide a Permanent Annual Subsidy to Pacific Buddhist Academy
8. Provide Capital Funds for Hilo Hongwanji Preschool New Preschool Construction
9. Condolence and Appreciation – Reverend Yoshiko Shimabukuro, Reverend Yoshikazu Saito, Reverend Yoshiaki Fujitani, Yoshio Kijima, Kiyoko Imada, Earl Iwao Mukai and Stanley Yoshio Oishi.

There were several interesting and informative presentations shared with Legislative Assembly attendees. Joshua Hernandez-Morse, Head of School for the Pacific Buddhist Academy, and Ivan Nakano of Hilo Hongwanji presented updates on the Pacific Buddhist Academy and the soon to be built new Hilo Hongwanji Preschool. Both institutions provide a curriculum based on Buddhist values with the goal of developing young adults who live and share these values with their communities.

Other presentations included: Doris Oshiro shared information about the Planned Giving Program at Jikoen called the “Legacy of Gratitude Fund”, Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani updated everyone regarding plans for the upcoming 850th/800th Commemoration in 2023 and 2024 and Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara informed everyone of the work being done at the Jodo Shinshu International Office (JSIO) in San Francisco, California. Also, Cindy Alm and Stacy Bradshaw shared the changes that helped some temples with responding to the financial crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and a virtual presentation by the youth of the Hawaii Federation of Jr. YBA.

Legislative Assembly attendees were asked to respond to two polls designed to assess interest in future events—a possible Joint Conference in 2024 or 2025 (similar to the Joint Conference in 2018) and the State Lay Convention scheduled for Oahu in September 2022.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii expresses our deepest gratitude to all those who attended and supported the second virtual Legislative Assembly.

OFFICERS, ADVISORS, AND DIRECTORS OF HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII FOR YEAR 2022

President:	Warren Tamamoto (O)		
Immediate Past President:	Pieper Toyama (H)		
Vice Presidents:	Wendy Harman (H)	Evan Watarida (O)	Lynne Matsumura (K)
	Gary Murai (M)	Joseph Gusman (HI)	
Secretary:	Russell Nonaka (O)		
Assistant Secretary:	Sharon Nohara (M)		
Treasurer:	John Toguchi (H)		
Assistant Treasurer:	Alan Tomita (H)		
Advisors:	Alan Goto (H)	Dexter Mar (H)	Rodney Moriyama (O)
	Carolyn Uchiyama (O)	Alton Miyamoto (K)	Janet Shimada (M)
	Michael Munekiyo (M)	Ivan Nakano (HI)	Frederick S. Nonaka (HI)
	Harold Uyeno (HI)		
Honorary Advisors:	Roy Miyamoto (H)	Keiji Kukino (H)	
Directors:			
Honolulu (5)	Wendy Harman	John Toguchi	Alan Tomita
	Joanne Kealoha	Prudence Kusano	
Oahu (6)	Russell Nonaka	Myra Nohara	Rene Mansho
	Clifford Togo	Miles Tamura	Evan Watarida
Kauai (2)	Lynne Matsumura	Fay Tateishi	
Maui (4)	George Borg	Sharon Nohara	Carol Yamamura
	Gary Murai		
Hawaii (7)	Burt Tsuchiya	Edwin Hara	Earl Tanaka
	Delbert Nishimoto	David Oshiro	Joseph Gusman
	Jason Hashimoto		

CONDOLENCES

Ms. Lily Yoshiko Horio, a member of Jikoen Hongwanji Mission, passed away October 17, 2021. Ms. Horio served as the President of Jikoen Hongwanji Mission Mission from 2005 through 2021. She was also a Hawaii Kyodan Director, Dharma School teacher, and director for Jikoen Choir for many years. The Ingo of ICHI-JOU-IN 一乘院 which means “One who contributed to the spread of the One Buddha Vehicle” in recognition of her life of Nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Eric Matsumoto on December 29, 2021.

Mr. David Shunichi Ikawa, a member of Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Bestuin, passed away on January 15, 2022. Mr. Ikawa served as the President of Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin from 1975 through 1977. He was also a Choir Director and Scout Master of Troop 23 both for over 50 years of service. The Ingo of I-YOO-IN 威曜院 which means “Majestic Brilliance” in recognition of his life of Nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Eric Matsumoto on February 5, 2022.

MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, was assigned as Acting Rimban of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as of January 1, 2022.

Rev. Yuika Hasebe, was assigned as Assistant Rimban (Fuku Rimban) of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as of January 1, 2022.

Rev. Arthur Kaufmann, currently serving at Lihue Hongwanji Mission as its Resident Minister, will be retiring from the active ministry of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of February 28, 2022. (Ministers of Kauai District Minister's Association are asked to oversee Lihue Hongwanji Mission during the absence of the resident minister.)

CANCELLED - 2022 YBICSE

The Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE) is a program for young Jodo Shinshu Buddhists (from 9th grade to age 25). Its basic purpose is for young Jodo Shinshu Buddhists to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Nembutsu teaching by visiting our Mother Temple or Honzan, the Hongwanji, experiencing a home stay, and traveling to several historical and/or significant sites with fellow young Buddhists.

The YBICSE is held biennially and was originally scheduled for 2021. It was postponed to 2022 but Honzan decided to cancel it due to the current pandemic situation in Japan and other countries.

2022 BCA NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Ms. Cindy Alm (Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin) and Ms. Doris Oshiro (Jikoen Hongwanji Mission) will represent Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and attend the 2022 Buddhist Churches of America National Council Meeting which will be held via Zoom on March 5, 2022 and March 11-13, 2022. The meeting will be hosted by Central California District Council of the BCA.

PAPA'ALOA HONGWANJI MAHALO SERVICE

"Celebrating 118 years Papa'aloa Hongwanji Mahalo Service" was held, officiated by Bishop Eric Matsumoto with Rev. Shinji Kawagoe, on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at Papa'aloa Hongwanji Mission. Papa'aloa Hongwanji President, Jerry Broughton and Hawaii Kyodan President, Dr. Warren Tamamoto shared the history and their memories of the temple. 20 people attended the in-person service and 70 people joined to the online Livestreaming service.

The new journey of Papa'aloa Hongwanji Sangha is starting with their merging with the Honohina Hongwanji Sangha.



HILO HONGWANJI PRESCHOOL GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

Sunday, January 30, 2022, marked the Groundbreaking Ceremony for what will become our new Hilo Hongwanji Preschool building. Covid restrictions meant the day's activities were attended by a very small number of invited guests. Rimban Kazunori Takahashi and Reverend Joshin Kamuro officiated over a meaningful service. Bishop Eric Matsumoto and State President, Dr. Warren Tamamoto, delivered messages via Zoom. Kyodan President Burt Tsuchiya and Chairman Ivan Nakano spoke of "Okagesamade" and the significance of remembering our forefathers and contributions that continue to have meaning for us.

Special guests included Roberta Chu, representing the Kono Foundation, our Lead Donor. Their gift of \$1,000,000 assures attainment of our Capital Campaign goal. The new construction will be named The Hiroaki, Elaine & Lawrence Kono Foundation Building. Toby Taniguchi represented Koichi & Taniyo Taniguchi, founders of KTA Super Stores and K. Taniguchi, Ltd. Also in attendance were Neil Fujiyama, contractor and Yen Wen Fang, architect/engineer for this project. (Note: Neil grew up in our temple. His parents are Stanley and Judith Fujiyama.)



PBA'S 16TH ANNUAL TAIKO FESTIVAL

Tickets are on sale now for PBA's 16th Annual Taiko Festival at Moanalua High School's brand-new Performing Arts Center! The event will take place on March 13, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. The theme is Kishikaisei, meaning rebirth, and it encourages us to persevere through a difficult situation. Seating is restricted to 50% capacity, so be sure to choose your seats before they sell out!

Tickets are available for purchase online here: <https://events.ticketspicket.com/agency/3ebc2635-8576-465b-82a8-c7b790f5bf7e/events/e0fac1c3-b1f7-48fd-9a97-2095c1492286>

For making donations or becoming a sponsor to help offset production costs, please visit the PBA website: <https://pacificbuddhistacademy.org/giving/taiko-festival> All proceeds will enhance programs offered at Pacific Buddhist Academy.



BSC 2022 SPRING SEMINAR

Date: March 25th and 26th, 2022
Time: Friday: 7-8:30 p.m. (HST)
Saturday: 10-11:30 a.m. (HST)
Topic: Dharma Through the Eyes of Youth

Panelists on Friday will be the Federation of Junior YBA Hawaii Officers, Manami Alspach, Chihiro Okawa, Kana Suzuki, Jay Yokoyama, and Naho Umitani. There will be a Q&A Session after the Panel Discussion.

Saturday presents Jacob Chang, former HHMH Youth Coordinator as our guest speaker, along with panelists Wayde Toyama, Dwight Matsuo, and Wayne Yoshioka. There will be a Q&A session after the talk.

Please use the link to register (<http://bit.ly/bscspringsession2022>). Registration is free, please register by March 18th. This seminar will be held via Zoom.

2022 KAUAI HONGWANJI COUNCIL NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

Kauai Hongwanji Council will host a Zoom Nembutsu seminar with Dr. Rev. Mutsumi Wondra on Tuesday, April 26th from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The topic is "Women in Buddhism - Historiographical Approach -"

Registration is required. Please go to the link (<https://forms.gle/7oBvsVVrazFJM5ma6>) and fill out the information. When you complete the seminar registration, you will receive an automatic confirmation email from Google forms. Registration deadline is Tuesday, April 19th. Maximum capacity is 100 people, first come first serve. We will email you a Zoom link three days prior to the seminar. Registration fee is free but donations can be made to "Kauai Hongwanji Council".

Women's roles in the history of Buddhism and Jodoshinshu-Buddhism are vital. In the historiographical approach, this seminar talks about Sakyamuni's stepmother Mahapajapati, Śrīmālādevī described in Śrīmālādevī-siṃhanāda-sūtra, Queen Vaidehī in the Contemplation sūtra, and in the Pure Land Buddhism. Shin Buddhism has nurtured the Shin Buddhist women such as Shinran Shonin's wife Eshinni-sama, and daughter Kakushinni-sama who established the current Hongwanji. In the modernism time, Lady Takeko Kujo, the daughter of the 21st Gomonshu Myoyo Shonin, founded the BWA-Fujinkai in Japan in 1907 and established the first women university, Kyoto Women's University. We will also explore the view of women by Shinran, Kakunyo, Zonkaku, and Rennyō Shonins.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the Kauai temples:

Kapaa Hongwanji Mission at (808) 822-4667
Lihue Hongwanji Mission at (808) 245-6262
West Kauai Hongwanji Mission at (808) 335-3195

2022 SPRING VIRTUAL NEMBUTSU SEMINAR (HONOLULU & OAHU HONGWANJI COUNCIL)

Honolulu & Oahu Hongwanji Councils and Office of Buddhist Education will sponsor an online Nembutsu seminar in April 2022.

Date & Time: Saturday, April 30, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (HST)
Guest Speaker: Rev. Blayne Higa, Kona Hongwanji Mission
Topic: Building Sangha Together: Nurturing Dharma-Centered Communities
Free Registration: <https://forms.gle/4ShPw8emshpmm9Sm8>
Registration Deadline: Friday, April 22, 2022

HILO BETSUIN ZOOM SPRING SEMINAR 2022

Date & Time: Saturday, March 12, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 12 9.m. (HST)
Guest Speaker: Rev. Patricia Kanaya Usuki, San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
Topic: "Finding Happiness in a Viral Age: Exploring Peace, Happiness and Well-being, Guided by the Buddha-dharma and Nembutsu Teachings."
Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/93470607158?pwd=NTdqRDBaUmhSQ2VXZHM5ZzdGOEZGUT09>
Zoom Meeting ID: 934 7060 7158
Zoom Passcode: HHHB

HQ BOOKSTORE UPDATE

HHMH Bookstore introduces new item.

"DIY (Do It Yourself) Cute Home Altar" - \$12.00

The DIY Cute Home Altar which is fun and easy to assemble is available for sale now. The altar is made of tri-fold cardboard and has stickers that can be applied to create your own designed home altar. As you put stickers and make your own personal altar (Obutsudan), you will learn about Amida Buddha and his Pure Land. English instruction is included. Perfect gift for Preschool and Dharma School students, and of course, for adults as well.



If you are interested in purchasing the DIY Cute Home Altar, Please email hqbooks@honpahi.org or call (808)522-9202 (Yoshiko Umitani, HQ Bookstore)