



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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**FEBRUARY 2024**

### MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

#### HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII 112<sup>TH</sup> GISEIKAI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BISHOP'S WELCOME MESSAGE

Fellow travelers of the Dharma, Good morning. Welcome to the 112<sup>th</sup> Giseikai Legislative Assembly of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Your participation is truly appreciated. If this is your first Giseikai, welcome on board. I hope this will be a meaningful and joyful experience for you. If you are a veteran, welcome back, and thank you for your continued support and participation. What we will discuss at Giseikai sets the course for the future of the HHMH. I extend my welcome and appreciation to every one of you for taking the time, despite your busy schedule, to attend the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to welcome our special guests from our sister organizations. We welcome Mr. Glenn Inanaga and Mrs. Michiko Inanaga from the Buddhist Churches of America, Ms. Laura Sugimoto from the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, and Reverend Kiyonobu Kuwahara from the Jodo Shinshu International Office. In order for the Hongwanji to survive and thrive in the future, Hawaii, BCA, Canada, and JSIO must build a close relationship and work hand in hand to tackle various issues. The magnitude may differ, but we all share similar challenges and obstacles, as well as joy and pleasures as Nembutsu followers. I hope you will get to know more about Hawaii Kyodan, and we would also like to know more about you and your organizations. I hope you will enjoy your stay in Hawaii and our Legislative Assembly.

The first time I attended the Giseikai was in 2002, and it was held at the newly built Sangha Hall at the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin. As a new minister, I had difficulty understanding what was happening at that Giseikai. I only remember that Bishop Chikai Yosemite introduced me as an eligible bachelor and asked the delegates to find the "better half" for me so that I would continue to live in Hawaii. Believe it or not, it was at that very Giseikai that I first met my wife, Yoshiko, who was invited to the meeting as a guest with her sister. I will not share with you how we deepened our romantic relationship.

What I wanted to say is that we always talk about causes and conditions in Buddhism. "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." We are the recipients of countless causes and conditions, and we never know which ones produce a particular result. But one thing we can clearly state is that we are here today because we are nurtured and guided by our Nembutsu forefathers.

Shinran Shonin expressed his joy in encountering the Nembutsu teaching as follows.

"Such is the benevolence of Amida's great compassion,  
That we must strive to return it, even to the breaking of our bodies;  
Such is the benevolence of the masters and true teachers  
That we must endeavor to repay it, even to our bones becoming dust."  
(“Ondokusan” – Hymns of the Dharma-Ages #59)

Shinran Shonin expressed his profound gratitude to Amida Buddha's Compassion and the masters and teachers who have transmitted the Buddha's heart of compassion to him. His sense of gratitude was so deep that he felt compelled to repay that debt of gratitude by sharing the Nembutsu with others. Like Shinran Shonin, we, too, received wonderful conditions to immerse ourselves in the compassionate heart of Amida Buddha together with our fellow travelers. Each condition is unique, and each of us has a story to share. With a feeling of joy and gratitude, let us now endeavor together so that the actions we take today will bring fruitful and meaningful results. Hopefully, those results will serve as wonderful conditions for others to be a part of the Hongwanji movement.

Let us remember that what lies as the foundation of our organization is *Hongan*, the primal vow of Amida Buddha. As a community of people joined together to take refuge in the teaching of Shinran Shonin, let us first and foremost listen to the Nembutsu, the voice of Wisdom and Compassion, recite it in our daily lives, and move. And when I say "move," I mean for us to "walk the talk" and put our joy of Nembutsu into action, no matter how large or small, for the realization of a compassionate society in which all lives are equally affirmed and appreciated.

I am truly grateful for the ministers and temple leaders who work tirelessly at their temple, district, and the State, oftentimes spending many hours and actively serving the needs of your members and the people in the community. Indeed, great things in business are never done by one person. They are done by a team of people. It is certainly only through a team effort that the Hawaii Kyodan can move forward and share the living messages of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. As your new Bishop, I have visited some temples during the past six months. Each temple and each district has strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities. On the state level, Hawaii Kyodan faces challenges such as declining membership, the need for an alternate source of income, lack of human resources, deterioration of temple buildings, and personnel concerns. But Hawaii Kyodan also has strengths and opportunities. Take a look at the 2023 Annual Report and see how many activities and programs we have done last year. Many committees and individuals have worked hard in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities. And the greatest strength that we have are people who express their deep concerns about the future of our organization, seriously thinking about what they can do, and actively putting their ideas into action. Again, it is a team effort. I believe that even if the power of each individual is small, if we come together, we can make a big difference. Thank you, Rev. Yuika Hasebe, for your dharma message this morning. Indeed, we don't know the answer to the challenges we face. But, we are not alone in this journey. Let us share our collective wisdom and experiences toward these challenges and opportunities, and move toward the spread of the Buddha-Dharma to our contemporaries. I firmly believe that Buddhism and the messages of Shinran Shonin can contribute to building a more compassionate society.

Last year, the devastating wildfires on Maui destroyed Lahaina Hongwanji and affected many temple members and others in the community. The Hawaii Kyodan immediately established the Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund, and ever since then, we have received tremendous support from around the world.

Recently, Governor Bishop Shoshin Kumona from Honzan visited Hawaii. He is one of the three Governors at Honzan in charge of the Department of Social Affairs and Emergency Management. Governor Kumona was accompanied by Rev. Rie Fujisawa from the Hongwanji International Department. The three of us visited Maui on January 17 and 18.

I would like to report that the Honzan pledged to make another donation of 15 million yen, which is about \$100,000, toward the Maui Wildfire Relief in addition to their initial contributions of approximately \$140,000.

At Kahului Hongwanji, where we met Rev. Hironaka and 20 Lahaina Hongwanji members, we held a short presentation ceremony. We distributed the altar (Obutsudan), Onenju, Shikisho, etc., which were all donated from Hongwanji in Kyoto. At the end of the ceremony, Mrs. Aileen Cockett, the president of the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, delivered a message of appreciation to Governor Kumona, and I would like to quote a part of her message.

“It was not just losing a house or being displaced. We lost our HOME. A place where we had a sense of belonging, comfort, security, stability, and a place of refuge. And for those gathered here today, that is what Lahaina Hongwanji was for them. It’s like going on a trip where you enjoy yourself and have a nice time, but in the end, you look forward to returning home. I think we ALL want to go back HOME. It may take a while, but I know one day we will be able to go back HOME.”

Hongwanji Temples are our spiritual HOME, where Amida Buddha and our Sangha members welcome us all with open arms. The Office of the Bishop is committed to supporting the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission together with the Committee on Social Concerns, the Maui Wildfire Emergency Response Committee, and all of you. There is a resolution of forgiving Lahaina Hongwanji’s annual assessment. Your careful and compassionate deliberation on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Lastly, I would like to introduce two individuals who have joined the Hawaii Kyodan. I am sure many of you know them already since they are both full of energy and actively participate in our programs. This is the first Giseikai for them, so please welcome them warmly.

Rev. Blayne Nakasone-Sakata joined the HHMH on June 1, 2023, and currently serves at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister. He is also a School Chaplain at the Pacific Buddhist Academy. He is very young, energetic, talented, and has a deep respect and understanding of the Nembutsu teaching. He is the first-ever Kaikyoshi minister who graduated from the Pacific Buddhist Academy.

Ms. Emi Hashi joined the HHMH at the beginning of October as the Children and Youth Activities Specialist. She grew up attending Makawao Hongwanji Mission on Maui where I served as its Resident Minister when Emi was around middle school age. In the last “Ka Leo Kāhea” newsletter, Emi mentioned that her aunties and uncles at the temple shaped her into the person she is today. Again, we never know what causes and conditions would bring a particular result. I am so happy to have Emi back in the Hawaii Kyodan. She is currently working hard to reactivate youth programs such as YESS Camp and BSC Fellowship Club.

Please extend them your warm welcome.

Let us remember that people gather only where there is movement. I humbly ask for your active participation and support for the Hongwanji movement. Once again, welcome to the 112<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani  
February 9, 2024

## **GISEIKAI MESSAGE FROM THE JODO SHINSHU HONGWANJI-HA GOVERNOR GENERAL BISHOP GYOSHIN IKEDA**

On the occasion of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 112<sup>th</sup> *Giseikai*, 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 the Jodo Shinshu tradition and maintaining the temples within your respective districts.

I would first like to extend my condolences to those who lost their lives due to the Maui Wildfire and express my sympathy to all who have been affected. Hoping for the area's speedy recovery, we will continue our support for their efforts mentally as well as physically.

With the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine and reignited battle between Israel and Palestine, more and more countries have come to rely more heavily on armed military force, and in accordance with this tendency, a number of confrontations and conflicts are taking place across the world. Although while regaining relative normalcy in everyday life after strictly controlled days of COVID-19 preventive measures, we are thus forced to see another sad reality of human's self-centeredness. At the same time, however, this anxious world situation reminds us of how important it is to share with as many people as possible the teaching that is founded on the undeniable truth, Buddha Dharma.

At Hongwanji Kyoto, the Joint Celebration of the 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching was successfully concluded last May. We are truly grateful for the large overseas delegation that attended the services. Preceding the occasion, Monshu OHTANI Kojun proclaimed the New *Ryogemon* (a way of appreciating the teaching) "Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching" in his effort of updating the original *Ryogemon* that is believed Rennyō Shonin composed. He concluded the introductory message on that passage that he hopes it "will be recited by everyone during various gatherings to share it with a wide range of people as well as the next generation."

Despite the challenging world situation, let us each continue our own efforts to fulfill the Buddha's aspiration toward the realization of a society in which everyone can live life of spiritual fulfillment.

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 9, 2024

Governor General Ikeda Gyoshin  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

## **HMH CONCLUDES 112<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (Giseikai)**

Delegates and observers from Jodo Shinshu temples around the state convened in Honolulu and online via Zoom on February 9-10, 2024, for the 112<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, or Giseikai. The assembled delegates took part in business matters, such as discussing and approving the 2024 budget and passing resolutions, and benefited from presentations on fundraising, Pacific Buddhist Academy, the Lahaina wildfire disaster, Jr. YBA, and other topics. Each day began with a service in the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Hondo prior to the business meetings in the Social Hall.

One feature of the morning services during Giseikai is the rich sound of so many voices – especially those of the ministers – filling the temple hall during chanting and gathas. Thanks to Zoom, the voices and video images were conveyed to our remote Giseikai participants as well, and both services were recorded. Each service had special elements we may be able to share with a wider audience.

The opening service and the HHMH 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Service, emceed by Youth Specialist Emi Hashi, included a prelude offering by the Honpa Hongwanji Choir, a new style of chanting Shoshinge, a message from the Governor General of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha (read by Rev. Sol Kalu), a welcome message by Alan Goto, and a dharma message by Hawaii Betsuin chief minister Rev. Yuika Hasebe. Ingo recipients from 2023 were recognized with a moment of silence. Ingo recipients for 2023 were:

- Norman Mitsuyuki Sakata (Kona)
- Harry Masayoshi Akazawa (West Kauai)
- Jay Kunio Hamai (Moiliili)
- Steven Don Lee (Kahului)
- Mary Okada Fujitani (Hawaii Betsuin)
- Alice Yamada (Kapaa)

The second day's service, emceed by Chihiro Okawa of Junior YBA, included installation of the Board of Directors, Sanmu, and Kanji Ministers as well as picture-taking.

At the business meetings, delegates considered and voted on several resolutions. There was a significant discussion about the 2024 Pacific Buddhist Academy subsidy. After discussion, a decision about whether to renew the subsidy and where the funds would come from was delegated to the board of directors, who some argued were in the best position to get additional information and decide.

Another budget-related matter was whether to forgive Lahaina Hongwanji's annual assessments for the second half of 2023 and the full calendar years of 2024, 2025, & 2026 in the aftermath of the wildfire disaster. The draft budget proposed to spread out an equivalent increase in assessments among all the other temples. After discussion, it was decided that Lahaina's assessment would be forgiven, but that the funding would not be from increasing assessments on other temples. With the proviso that the Capital Fund also be ruled out as a source, the matter was delegated to the board to determine the source of funds.

Interspersed with the business matters were presentations. Dr. Warren Tamamoto, Irene Nakamoto, Carolyn Uchiyama and Terry Jean Arakaki reported on a new, statewide Hongwanji endowment called the Living Gratitude Fund. In line with the fundraising need for this endowment and for temples, the afternoon included a presentation by Ms. Sanae Tokumura entitled, "Pursuing Your Vision: What Nonprofit Leaders Need to Know." Mr. Ivan Nakano of Hilo Betsuin joined Ms. Tokumura for a dialogue about the recent successes in raising funds for and building the new Hilo Hongwanji preschool building. Head of School Josh Hernandez-Morse updated the assembly on developments at Pacific Buddhist Academy, including accreditation; peace activities; planning, finances, and marketing; and highlighted multiple high-achieving students and programs. In a particularly affecting presentation, Rev. Ai Hironaka shared dramatic photos and videos of the Lahaina fire and the post-fire condition of Lahaina Hongwanji. He related what the temple sangha and wider community members are going through due to the fire. Finally, as part of the Saturday

session, Junior YBA members gave an informative and well-received slide presentation of their activities.

In addition, attendees were able to hear from our overseas guests representing Buddhist Churches of America (Glenn and Michiko Inanaga), Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (Laura Sugimoto), and the Jodo Shinshu International Office (Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara). The mutual sharing with our overseas guests is one of the many valued aspects of Giseikai.

As is tradition, on the evening prior to the Legislative Assembly, some delegates and observers gathered for a “rap session” to discuss a topic of interest to temple sanghas. (For our younger readers, “rap session” is an old-school term for getting together to talk story, not an event where we attempt to express ourselves through hip-hop music.) The speaker to kick off this year’s rap session was Dr. Jeff Wilson of Waterloo, Ontario, the author of *Living Nembutsu: Applying Shinran’s Radically Engaged Buddhism in Life and Society*. The theme was “Engaged Buddhism for Engaging Youth.” He related fascinating information about engaged Shin Buddhists in the 1970s and now, and shared insights into youth perspectives and priorities when it comes to getting involved. A key factor: “Will there be people my own age at the event?” We recorded the session, now available on the HHMH YouTube channel (visit [honpahi.link/youtube](https://honpahi.link/youtube) ).

Another Giseikai-adjacent event is the Living Treasures of Hawai’i™ Recognition Program and Luncheon, held this year on February 10<sup>th</sup> after the conclusion of the Legislative Assembly. But that is a story for another article! In the meantime, you can see information about the five honorees at [hongwanjihawaii.com/living-treasures](https://hongwanjihawaii.com/living-treasures). Next year (2025) will be the 50th Living Treasures event.

As we look forward to the [Triple Celebration](#) in September, we hope this article has given you some additional insight into the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, which turns 135 years old this year. Thank you for your interest and support for this important institution in the histories of both Jodo Shinshu and Hawaii.

## OFFICERS, ADVISORS, AND DIRECTORS OF HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII FOR YEAR 2024

|                           |                       |                      |                          |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| President:                | Warren Tamamoto (O)   |                      |                          |
| Immediate Past President: | Pieper Toyama (H)     |                      |                          |
| Vice Presidents:          | Alan Goto (H)         | Russell Nonaka (O)   | Wayne Fujioka (K)        |
|                           | Gary Murai (M)        | Jason Hashimoto (HI) |                          |
| Secretary:                | Carol Yamamura (M)    |                      |                          |
| Assistant Secretary:      | Sharon Nohara (M)     |                      |                          |
| Treasurer:                | John Toguchi (H)      |                      |                          |
| Assistant Treasurer:      | Wayne Y. Yoshioka (H) |                      |                          |
| Advisors:                 | Joel Determan (H)     | Dexter Mar (H)       | Dean Sakamoto (O)        |
|                           | Rodney Moriyama (O)   | Alton Miyamoto (K)   | Aileen Cockett (M)       |
|                           | Michael Munekiyo (M)  | Ivan Nakano (HI)     | Frederick S. Nonaka (HI) |
| Honorary Advisors:        | Roy Miyamoto (H)      | Keiji Kukino (H)     |                          |

|              |                   |                  |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Directors:   |                   |                  |                   |
| Honolulu (6) | Cynthia Alm       | Alan Goto        | John Toguchi      |
|              | Wayne Y. Yoshioka | Joanne Kealoha   | Prudence Kusano   |
| Oahu (6)     | Russell Nonaka    | Rene Mansho      | Clifford Togo     |
|              | Miles Tamura      | Carolyn Uchiyama | Evan Watarida     |
| Kauai (2)    | Wayne Fujioka     | Carol Valentine  |                   |
| Maui (4)     | Wayde Toyama      | Sharon Nohara    | Carol Yamamura    |
|              | Gary Murai        |                  |                   |
| Hawaii (6)   | Jill Atwal        | Edwin Hara       | Delbert Nishimoto |
|              | David Oshiro      | Joseph Gusman    | Jason Hashimoto   |

## THE 49<sup>TH</sup> LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAII™

The Living Treasures of Hawai'i celebrated its 49<sup>th</sup> annual luncheon at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom on Saturday, February 10, 2024. Over 400 people were in attendance. Dennis Sekine and Hailama Farden served as Masters of Ceremony, Māpuana de Silva offered the opening oli, and Hoku Zuttermeister's group offered Hawaiian music. Mark Nitta produced a video for all of the awardees. The Living Treasures Luncheon Committee did a fabulous job in organizing the luncheon.

The Living Treasures committee selected 5 outstanding people in the local community who have worked selflessly to positively impact on the lives of their constituents and beyond. Each had a passion for service, attained the highest level of expertise and attainment in their respective field, and demonstrated a lifelong commitment to servant leadership.

The 2024 Living Treasures awardees are:

- Julian Keikilani Ako, retired Teacher and Administrator, Kamehameha Schools; Hawaiian music composer and musicologist, leader in the indigenization of curriculum, promoter of international studies and relations, and regenerative tourism
- Douglas D.L. Chong, leader in the Hawai'i Chinese Community, member of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, historian of Chinese in Hawai'i, retired University of Hawai'i Professor
- Sarah 'Ilialoa Ayat Quick Keahi, leader in the renaissance of 'Olelo Hawai'i and Hawaiian culture. As a long-time instructor and mentor at Kamehameha Schools, she is credited in playing a central role in the revival of the Hawaiian language.
- Davianna Pōmaika'i McGregor, Professor Emeritus, Ethnic Studies Department; Director Oral History Center, University of Hawai'i; one of the primary leaders of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana; author of seminal book, "Na Kua 'Aina: Living Hawaiian Culture.
- Ricardo "Ric" Trimillos, Professor Emeritus, Ethnomusicology, University of Hawai'i, perpetuator of Hawai'i's cultural, music, and artistic traditions, international consultant on ethnomusicology.

In 2025, the Living Treasures recognition and event will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Please submit your nominations early. For more information about the award and nominations, please visit: <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/living-treasures/>



*2024 Living Treasures of Hawaii Honorees,  
Bishop Umitani and President Dr. Tamamoto*

*The newly installed Officers, Advisors, Directors, Sanmu and Kanji  
Ministers of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii*

*Photos courtesy of Mr. Alan Kubota (Hawaii Betsuin)*

## CONDOLENCES

**Mrs. Alice Yamada**, a member of Kapaa Hongwanji Mission, passed away on September 7, 2023. The Posthumous Title (INGO) of MON-KO-IN 聞光院, which translates as “The one who listened to the working of the Buddha’s Light of Wisdom” in recognition and appreciation of her exemplary contributions and the role she played as a true Nembutsu follower, including her service as the temple president in 1991-1992, was conferred by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani on December 28, 2023.

**Mrs. Fusae Yamashita Kiyokawa**, a member of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, passed away on December 8, 2023. Mrs. Kiyokawa served as the Hawaii Federation of BWA president for 6 years (1994-1999). The Posthumous Title (INGO) of JI-GEN-IN 慈眼院, which translates as “The one who possessed the eyes of compassion” in recognition of her life of Nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani on February 3, 2024.

## MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENT

**Rev. Sol Kalu**, the Office of Buddhist Education Assistant, will oversee the Mililani Hongwanji Mission from March 1, 2024, until the new Resident Minister is assigned. He will also continue his duties as the OBE Assistant.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Joshin, Minako, and Yuma are excited to welcome our new baby girl, Nanami Kamuro!

On January 6, 2024, Nanami (七海) was born healthy, although it took 16 hours to give birth after the water broke. Nanami means seven seas or seven oceans. We can’t wait to watch her grow, learn, and build bridges across the seven seas.

Born: January 6, 2024  
7 lbs. 1 oz., 20.5 inches



Rev. Joshin Kamuro currently works at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin as its Associate Minister. Congratulations to Rev. & Mrs. Kamuro!



✂Nanami Kamuro was pointing up and down.

### 2024 YBICSE

We're excited to announce the return of the YBICSE this summer. The Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange program is coordinated by Honzan, our mother temple in Kyoto, Japan. Through this program, young students from BCA, Canada, South America, and Hawaii Kyodans assemble in Kyoto, Japan, to participate in various exciting and educational programs to experience the joy of being Jodo Shinshu Buddhists today. Honzan's YBICSE program will be held on July 4-9, 2024. More detailed information about the program, application, and itinerary, including the Hawaii Kyodan's original program, will be distributed to the temples later. We encourage our youth to consider attending this meaningful program.

### 2024 BCA NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

President Dr. Warren Tamamoto (Headquarters, Aiea Hongwanji Mission) and Mr. Derrick Inouye (Headquarters, Business Manager) will represent Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and attend the 2024 Buddhist Churches of America National Council Meeting on February 17 and February 23-25, 2024 at Buddhist Church of Sacramento.

### IMPORTANT UPDATE: TRIPLE CELEBRATION BUDDHIST EDUCATION SERIES

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will commemorate it's Triple Celebration on September 7 & 8, 2024 at Ala Moana Hotel. It is a great time to register for the celebration since the early registration deadline is March 31, 2024. We are offering two types of registration methods. The first is online registration and payment. Please go to the following link and fill out the registration form.

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/triple-celebration/>

The second is a paper registration form. Please fill out the form and mail it to H.Q. with a check.

The early registration deadline is March 31, 2024 and the registration fee is \$250. The late registration deadline is July 31, 2024 and the registration fee is \$300. The youth registration deadline is July 31, 2024 and registration fee is \$150 for those 25 years old or younger.



The registration cost includes one breakfast, one lunch banquet, services, workshops and panel discussion. We will provide a \$200 subsidy per person for neighbor island participants.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email [triple.celebration@honpahi.org](mailto:triple.celebration@honpahi.org) or contact H.Q.

### **BUDDHIST STUDY CENTER SPRING FESTIVAL**

The Buddhist Study Center will hold a Spring Festival wellness fair on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The theme is "Nurturing Mind and Body" and there will be a variety of workshops and food/activity booths. Admission is free and open to the entire family! Please come on by if you are in the area or help spread the word by including the flyer in your temple newsletter. Please see our flyer for more detail. Hope to see you there!

### **KA LEO KĀHEA**

Want Out of Snail Mail?

If you would prefer to receive Ka Leo Kāhea electronically and stop your mail delivery, simply email your request along with your address and the name of your temple affiliation to [newsletter@honpahi.org](mailto:newsletter@honpahi.org). Please allow up to 30 days to process requests.

### **SHARING NEMBUTSU MOMENTS PROJECT**

Please Encourage Your Sangha to Share Their Nembutsu Moments

The 2024 Hongwanji Theme and Slogan is *"Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments."* The Commission on Buddhist Education and the Buddhist Study Center Committee invite everyone to participate in this year's slogan activity by sharing their Nembutsu Moments.

What is a *"Nembutsu Moment?"* – Here is an excerpt from a description of this year's slogan by Reverend Eric Matsumoto in the 2024 HHMH Calendar

*No string of words can accurately convey that moment, however, perhaps we might be able to relate to it by explaining that it's like when you see or hear or experience something so beautiful, touching and profound that it leaves you speechless and all you can say is "Wow!" After that, as one continues to be in awe of that life changing encounter, you continue to say "Wow." This moment is explained in The Collected Works of Shinran, Volume Two as "...the moment of awakening of shinjin (True Entrusting) and saying the nembutsu is a moment both in and out of time. It is time that has become full and rich, having been permeated by timelessness (Amida Buddha or Namo Amida Butsu)." The "Nembutsu moments" that is part of the slogan, though, wants to include other precious moments, Dharma inspired moments of your life that are unforgettable and of lasting value. The slogan encourages us to share other moments of gratitude, joy, happiness and meaningful reflection which have filled our life with meaning and fulfillment in hopes that it will also make a difference in the lives of others and eventually guide others to the ultimate Nembutsu Moment.*

We hope to share these Nembutsu Moments in future editions of Ka Leo Kāhea, your temple newsletters and eventually, a book with a compilation of everyone's Nembutsu Moments.

We can't wait to hear about your Nembutsu Moments, which will bring this year's slogan to life. This will be an exciting year!

## POSTPONED - 6<sup>TH</sup> VIRTUAL DHARMA SCHOOL GATHERING

Regretfully, we would like to provide an update...we have decided to POSTPONE the Virtual Dharma School Gathering **originally scheduled for Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** until later in the year, possibly sometime in October. We have made this decision for a number of reasons.

We appreciate your understanding and support, and hope that you will register for this event when it is held later in the year. Feel free to contact Debbie Kubota ( [dekub88@gmail.com](mailto:dekub88@gmail.com) ) if you have any questions.

## PBA 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TAIKO FESTIVAL

Pacific Buddhist Academy (PBA) will host its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Taiko Festival "Yaramaika" at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Moanalua Performing Arts Center.

PBA's taiko sensei Jay Toyofuku said, "The theme Yaramaika, or 'go for it!' reflects that our world needs a new sense of urgency to tackle its biggest challenges - global conflicts, climate change, even our relationships with one another. We need to put new energy into the world and that is what the school's drummers are working hard to achieve."

Taiko drumming is incorporated into the school's curriculum as all ninth graders take Beginning Taiko as freshmen. Ticket sales help to support PBA and its taiko program.

PBA is the country's first Shin Buddhist high school, one of only two Buddhist high schools in the country. Through such activities as the practice of taiko, students nurture Japanese culture as well as spirit through perseverance and a more harmonious interdependence through listening and drumming together.

Tickets are \$40 for general admission and \$30 for students grades K-12 and seniors over 62. For more information and to purchase tickets, call Pacific Buddhist Academy at 808-532-2649 or email [megan.lee@pbahi.org](mailto:megan.lee@pbahi.org).

PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY  
March 17, 2024  
YARAMAIKA! GO FOR IT!  
18th ANNUAL TAIKO FESTIVAL

Moanalua Performing Arts Center  
2825 Ala Ilima St, Honolulu, HI 96818  
4:00 p.m.  
Doors open at 3:15

Visit [pacificbuddhistacademy.org](http://pacificbuddhistacademy.org) or  
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