



JIHO
October 2023



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together

Please join our hybrid services in October and November. All services will begin at 10:00 am (unless otherwise noted). A Zoom link to join the service will be emailed a few days before. Please contact the office to be included in our email list to receive weekly temple updates, zoom links, and other interesting information. Wearing face masks and sanitizing of hands continue to be required in temple. We look forward to seeing you in person or online!

Dharma Family Service
October 1 at 10:00am

Dharma Family Service
October 8 at 10:00am
Sangha Speaker: Margaret Masunaga

Pet Appreciation Service
October 15 at 10:00am
Guest Speaker: Rev. David Nakamoto
Retired Minister of Hawaii Kyodan
You are invited to this service honoring the furry, feathered, or fluffy members of our families. We celebrate the companionship and unconditional love they bring into our lives. Pets are most welcome to attend with their owners. Please keep all animals on a leash or in a carrier. You may also bring a photo or memento of a deceased pet to be remembered.

Dharma Family Service
October 22 at 10:00am
Sangha Speaker: Linda Nagai

*****No Service on October 29*****

Veteran's Appreciation Service
November 5 at 10:00am

Eitaikyo (Sangha Memorial) Service
November 12 at 10:00am
Guest Speaker: Rev. Tomo Hojo
West Kauai Hongwanji Mission

Annual Temple Cleanup
November 19 from 8:00am

*****No Service on November 26*****
Happy Thanksgiving

For Assistance

Office Clerk: Ramah DeMello (Phone: 808-323-2993 Email: konahongwanji@twc.com)
Resident Minister: Rev. Blayne Higa (Emergency only 808-383-9153)
Temple President: Linda Nagai (Emergency only 808-936-6079)

KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
P.O. Box 769
Kealahou, HI 96750

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KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750

Aloha Sangha Members,

On September 15th and 16th, we hosted the Hawaii State Lay Convention. Although there was business at hand, the talk revolved around the Maui Wildfire disaster. It was so nice to see some of our Maui Temple members in attendance, it signaled a new beginning. In speaking with them, we found that the Maui Sangha was doing as well as can be expected as they extended their deep appreciation for the outpouring of Aloha from the entire State.

I would like to extend my sincere Mahalo to our Sangha members who volunteered at the Convention, from providing transportation to clean up as Kona welcomed Sangha members from throughout the State. A big Mahalo to Glenn Hirowatari and his Cub Scouts for the delicious breakfast and to Dale Kabei for spearheading the delicious lunch assisted by our Cub Scouts. Kona Hongwanji really extended its Kona style hospitality to the "Max" with the help of our Sangha and affiliate organizations.

We missed our trusty organist at our Ohigan service, and because this was a special service, we asked a group of our Sangha members who were practicing playing the ukulele for next year's Gatha fest, if they could try to fill Corinne's big shoes. Maki, Mildred, and Jules graciously agreed to try their best. They played the accompaniment for our Gatha as Betty lead the congregation in the singing. Two thumbs up to everyone.

Last October we celebrated our 125th anniversary, and it was a very busy month, however this October it will be a bit quieter. As October is the beginning of Autumn, and as the weather becomes cooler and in some parts of the country the leaves will change, it is a good time for some self-reflection.

As we sang the Gatha "A Special Place" at our Grandparents Day service, it reminded me of what I once read. "Rennyō Shonin once tapped on his tatami mat and remarked, 'As we are sitting here, we're resting on Namō Amida Butsu'. As the song states, "Now there's time to think of all that I can do, to care for those around me, each day the whole week through," and this includes yourself, and as we realize that we are completely embraced by Amida, we will come to see how fortunate we are. Let's enjoy the season and live our life to the fullest embraced by the all-encompassing Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha.

In Gassho,
Linda Nagai

Giving Voice to our Losses **Rev. Blayne Higa**

The devastating wildfires on Maui have been a reminder of our innate capacity for kindness and the resiliency of our community. We have witnessed the power of small everyday deeds which have been a healing light in the darkness of tragedy. In Hawaii, we experience this light of hope in the aloha spirit which gives us courage and inspires us to act compassionately when life gets difficult. We have been reminded of who we truly are as a community as we have risen to meet this tragedy with our very best selves.



In order to heal we need to grieve by giving voice to our losses. Buddhist author Paula Arai shares, "Healing mobilizes our deepest despair and highest values. Healing occurs in the space where fear and love meet." This is why the September 1 "Kipuni Aloha no Maui- Embrace Beloved Maui" statewide vigil was so powerfully healing because it brought our diverse communities together to uplift our sorrows and hopes.

I would like to share Rev. Ai Hironaka's heartfelt message from the statewide vigil which he attended as the minister of Lahaina Hongwanji:

"Kipuni Aloha no Maui" Message for People of Lahaina

The fire destroyed the houses and took everything away.

Many people were killed, and many are still missing.

I am at a loss for words when I think of the heartache of so many families.

I would like to express my deepest condolences to people who lost their loved ones.

People got hurt.

People are still crying.

When I'm alone, tears well up at random moments.

We have absolutely no control over when it comes.

When driving alone,

When I see the smiles of children,
 I can't cry when I want to cry, and I feel like crying when I shouldn't.
 I gave up on controlling it.
 I never thought that a man could cry so much at the age of 46.

Now the same pained people are encouraging and comforting each other at Ross, Target, TJ Maxx, Costco, and more.
 Heart-to-heart hugs of those who share the same heartache are stronger than before the fire.

People who know each other's faces in the town of Lahaina, but have never spoken to each other, now they are communicating with and healing each other.
 After the fire, Lahaina's community ties are definitely stronger and thicker.

Now we need to see the future.

The white shirt, tie, pants, socks, and shoes I am wearing today are all brand new.
 Except underwear...

All of this was purchased with donations from the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and many others.

All the clothes I wear everyday dress me up with donations from everyone.
 Thank you very much.

Like me, the town of Lahaina will be dressed up with donations from all over the world.
 This tie is not a fancy brand, but now I have a special tie that I don't want to burn for the rest of my life.
 Because behind this simple necktie, the thoughts of many people, not just my wife, are packed.

All my photos from before the iPhone era have been burned.
 Gone are photos of my children when they were babies, photos of when I was married, and photos of myself when I was a baby too.

Many of you must be as sad as I am.

But folks, the photos taken at your friend's house or shelter right now may be far more valuable than the lost ones.

Casually taken photos at shelter, showing strong ties among family and friends.
 Those photos are embraced by the support and help of many people.
 These are the most beautiful pictures of family and friends desperately helping each other.

Things that we really don't want to burn – they did not burn – life, human ties, human kindness, All that is still within us.

It seems like, those who are hurt become more sensitive to the pain of others.
 They seem to be more considerate of others.
 Lahaina, it will be a new town rebuilt by those who have been hurt.

Lahaina, a town of history, aloha, tradition, culture, and diversity, will become a great town that incorporates new values of humility, kindness, and compassion.
 One day the respected elders will say, "If you want to know the spirit of Aloha, go to Lahaina!"
 It may become a town where you can say that.

A town full of compassion, it matches the local community that we at Lahaina Hongwanji Mission aim for.

We of Lahaina Hongwanji Mission will also do our best to rebuild this town of compassion.

Finally, I would like to praise the name of Amida Buddha, who works in our struggling hearts to relieve the suffering.

Amida Buddha is the Buddha of voice which delivered Amida's healing power to peoples' painful hearts.
 The meaning of reciting Namo Amida Butsu is,

"Strong one as strong, the weak one as weak, the crying people as crying, and I will embrace you just as you are now. You don't have to be strong, because you are not that strong. You are not alone, you are already embraced by me".

Amida's voice became my voice, and it reaches my ears. It is the Buddha, the voice of wisdom and compassion.

Even if everything burns, the voice of Buddha never burned, but still shines and embraces us.

Namo Amida Butsu Namu Amida Butsu

May Peace prevail in Lahaina.

May Peace prevail in the world.

May this event will raise the eye level of Lahaina people even just a little bit.

Namo Amida Butsu

Namo Amida Butsu

Lahaina Strong

Namo Amida Butsu

Namo Amida Butsu

Imua Imua Imua

Let's go Lahaina

Nan Man dabu

Nan Man dabu

Giving voice to our losses and opening our heart is the only way to heal. Paula Arai shares, "When caring for someone in grief, including yourself, open the senses of your heart...Breathe in gratitude before talking. Breathe out lovingkindness while listening. Breathe in the beauty of the web of interconnections. Breathe out peaceful joy. Grieve one breath at a time." May we find comfort and healing in Amida's compassionate embrace. Namu Amida Butsu.

Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund

In response to the recent wildfires on Maui, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii has established the **MAUI WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND**. You can donate in the following ways:

1. Online at www.hongwanjihawaii.com by clicking on the "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" button under the "Donate" tab.
2. Through GoFundMe at the following link: <https://gofund.me/ff77a520>
3. Check and cash donations can be sent directly to Hawaii Kyodan Headquarters. Please make check payable to HHMH and in the memo line designate "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" to ensure proper credit.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, HI 96813

All donations collected will go to support Lahaina Hongwanji and relief efforts on Maui. The Office of the Bishop and Committee on Social Concerns will prioritize addressing the immediate and short-term needs of temple families displaced by the fires and supporting the greater community as it rebuilds. The Committee will select reputable relief agencies and organizations to support in order to ensure our donations will directly aid those impacted by this disaster. Updates will be shared on our website at www.hongwanjihawaii.com. Mahalo for your generosity and support during this time of tragedy.

Morning Chanting Service

**Mondays and Fridays @ 8:30am
(Except Holidays)**

Begin and end the week with a moment of reflection and gratitude by chanting the Shoshinge (Hymn of True Entrusting) written by Shinran Shonin. Sutra chanting has a meditative quality which settles our heart and mind, helping us to hear the calling voice of Wisdom and Compassion in our lives.

Monthly Meditation

**Last Wednesday of Each Month
6:30pm to 7:30pm**

Enjoy a moment of contemplation and self-reflection at our monthly meditation session. Engage in quiet sitting, guided mediation, and sutra chanting.

As we calm our mind and body, we can focus on the present moment revealing our profound connection to all beings. No experience necessary.

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Preschool News

Happy October! I can't believe that we are already in our third month of school. This is the first year since 2020 that we have our fourth classroom back up and running and able to accommodate more families with preschool-aged children. We are very excited about that.

It has been a while since I have written about what has been happening here at the preschool; let me backtrack for a moment. In May, we had an actual preschool graduation program in the hall, no drive through this year. It was really nice to see the children perform on stage again and have the families gather together. We also had a concession stand at this year's Bon Dance in July. Our lemonade stand was a huge hit! Thank you to Darcie Asakura and Armstrong Produce for donating the fresh fruit and lemons for our stand. Much appreciation to Sharon and her hard-working team for making the items to sell, setting up and manning the concession.

Last month, we participated in "Ring Your Bells for Peace Day" as we joined the Temple and others around the world in celebrating international Peace Day. We also kicked off our cultural studies as we go around the world this school year. Our first stop was Hawaii; our theme was Pili'aina: to have kinship with the land.

This month, we are visiting Mexico where we will look at some ancient temples, learn about its history, learn some simple Spanish words and phrases, and sample some Mexican cuisine. We finish off the month with our Halloween Walk (trick or treating in our community) and see how the Mexican holiday Dia de los Muertos is celebrated.

Postings:

We are looking for qualified part-time and temporary/substitute preschool teachers
AND
part-time and full-time teacher's aides

If you are interested in working with preschool children and have an educational background in Early Childhood, please complete Form 1 with the DHS Hawaii Early Childhood Registry and submit it to PATCH to determine if you meet DHS licensing requirements. We are looking for friendly, positive, highly motivated individuals who love and care about children, are open-minded, team players and willing to work hard.

Please complete Form 1, attach required documents and submit it to PATCH Registry. Then contact us to set up a time to meet. We look forward to hearing from you!

PATCH Registry link:

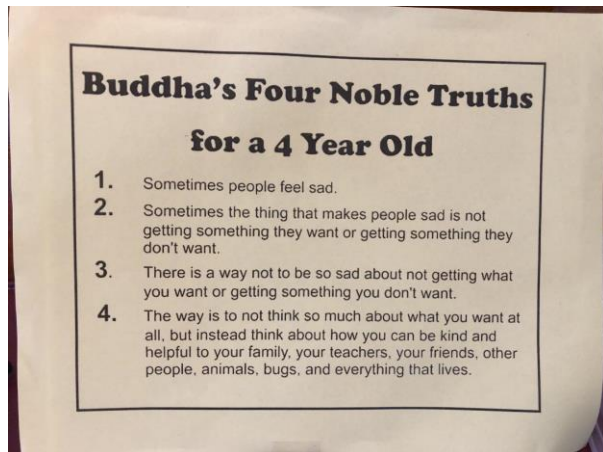
<https://www.patchhawaii.org/programs/dhs-hawaii-early-childhood-registry/>

Grandparent's Day Service



On September 10, Nancy Shimamoto shared a wonderful message on the joy of being a grandparent and how they have a profound influence on their grandchildren. Nancy is a retired teacher and principal and former President of Moiliili Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. She is also the sister of Betty Takeoka and Susan Miyashita.

Dharma Family Service Sangha Speaker



On September 3, our temple member Daren Katayama shared a funny and insightful message on why Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is the right path for him. It's always wonderful to learn from fellow Sangha members on how they appreciate the Buddha's Teaching. If you would like to be a Sangha Speaker sometime, please contact Rev. Blayne. We would love to have you share!

2023 Sustaining Membership

If you haven't already done so, please remember to submit your annual membership pledge before the end of the year. This is also a great opportunity to update your current contact information with us! We rely on your support to help ensure our temple is a spiritual home where we can create Sangha together through sharing the Dharma. Mahalo!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—OCTOBER 2023

SERVICES

Jeffrey Ichishita, Wally Ichishita's 1st Year

Kenneth Komo, Mutsumi Komo & Kathleen Komo's memorial services

Dr. & Mrs. James Mitchell, Minoru Inouye's 25th Year

Scot Urada, Funeral & Related Expenses for Toyoko Urada

Jeanne Hartney, Beside service for Fumie Yoshida

Total - \$1,000.00

IN MEMORY OF

Carol Honda, IMO Iwaki & Kitsu Honda, Harry & Tomie Honda, Sakae Honda

Jeffrey Ichishita, IMO Wally & Aiko Ichishita

Wynn Ichishita, IMO Wally & Aiko Ichishita

Masae Okamoto, IMO Frank & Wayne Okamoto

Claire Oue, IMO Francis Oue

Leinette Schaetzl, IMO Hitoshi & Ayako Aoki

Janet Yanagi, IMO Michael Yanagi

Anonymous, IMO Aoki Ohana

Bart Aoki & Marty Low, IMO Kazuyoshi & Ethel Aoki

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Davidson & Ohana, IMO Kazuyoshi & Ethel Aoki

Claudia Chang, IMO Aoki Ohana

Don Inouye, IMO Minoru Inouye's 25th Year

Mr. & Mrs. Keith Inouye, IMO Minoru Inouye's 25th Year

Myrna Kunihiro, IMO Namie & Kumie Aoki

Jennifer Nakamoto-Oba & Ohana, IMO Toshio & Jean A. Nakamoto

Jonathan Tomono & Ohana, IMO Toshio & Jean A. Nakamoto

Cynthia Nakamoto-Tomono, IMO Toshio & Jean A. Nakamoto

Mr. & Mrs. Kiyoshi Watanabe, IMO Kevin Deguchi

Total - \$665.00

OBON

Anonymous

Lisa Ciriako

Jean Fujino

Carol Honda

Hiroki Ishimaru

Mary Katayama

Myrna Kunihiro

Janet Lindner

Janet Maeda

Alan Matsumoto

Morris Nagata

Chizu Nakashima

Helen Oishi

Masae Okamoto

Claire Oue

Leinette Schaetzl

Janet Yanagi

Mikie Hanato-Wells

Carol Ichishita

Morinoue Ohana

Elaine Nakagawa

Jimmy Nakagawa

Nellie Reed

Carol Zakahi

Acknowledgements continued:

Bart Aoki & Marty Low	Gerri Ann Aoki Davidson	Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Gabriel
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Kurozawa
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano	Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hiraishi
Mr. & Mrs. Takeo Nakasone	Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina	
	Total - \$1,456.00	

HIROSHIMA REMEMBRANCE

Anonymous	Claudia Chang	Lisa Ciriako
Carol Honda	Tadashi Hosokawa	Hiroki Ishimaru
Mary Katayama	Myrna Kunihiro	Janet Lindner
Alan Matsumoto	Ann Matsumoto	Chizu Nakashima
Carol Zakahi	Kona Hiroshima Kenjin Kai	Susan Nakamoto-Takimoto
Ayako Okubo-Sasaki	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman	Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Nagata	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina	Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue
Jennifer Nakamoto-Oba & Ohana	Jonathan Tomono & Ohana	Cynthia Nakamoto-Tomono
	Total - \$691.00	

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Anonymous	Boys & Girls Club	Yoga Class
Ruth Honda	Melvin Kawahara	Betty Takeoka
Patrick Komo	Jeanne Hartney	Ruth Meyers-Miyashita
Leinette Schaetzl, Jiho, Hakasoji/Nokotsudo		
Jennifer Nakamoto-Oba & Ohana, Grandparents Day		
Jonathan Tomono & Ohana, Grandparents Day		
Cynthia Nakamoto-Tomono, Hakasoji/Nokotsudo		
Stanley Tokunaga, Hakasoji/Nokotsudo		
	Total - \$2,023.00	

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023

Dear Members: It is the Buddhist Custom that Family members observe memorial services to pay their respects to those who passed away. Through the services, the families are reminded of the importance of religious life. The role of the rites is helpful in strengthening and aiding the families to lead a meaningful life in the guiding light of Amida Buddha's Compassion. Please note the list below and make an appointment at least **Three Months** prior to the service date.

FIRST YEAR (2022)

10/09 Frances Oue
11/08 Dennis Motoyama

10/09 Edna Kitagawachi

THIRD YEAR (2021)

11/02 Flora Fukumitsu
12/10 Frances Abe

12/04 Aiko Ichishita
12/16 Doris Higashi

SEVENTH YEAR (2017)

10/17 Mitsuo Hasegawa
11/21 Wayne Hiroji Nakayama

11/15 Asayo Shirai
12/21 Masaaki Sakata

THIRTEENTH YEAR (2011)

10/08 Harold "T-Bone" Kaku
11/15 Muneo Inouye
11/23 Alan J. Pratt

10/27 James I. Kukita
11/20 Bessie Matsuyama
12/27 Teruo Ezuka

SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2007)

10/04 Yachiyo Kukita
10/22 Minoru Kawakami
12/05 Noboru "King" Kitaoka
12/09 Fredrick Haruo Iwamoto
12/29 Gerald "Jacko" Hisashi Uemoto

10/07 Hideo Sakata
11/28 Alan Todomu Nakamura
12/05 Milton Mitsuo Miyazono
12/20 Wally K. Sato
12/31 Jack Taichi Masuhara

TWENTY FIFTH YEAR (1999)

10/09 Ruby Shimeko Murasaki
12/08 Yasuko Mana

11/12 Yoshio "Calvin" Hayama
12/28 Kikue Fukumitsu

THIRTY THIRD YEAR (1991)

10/01 Diane Y. Shirota
11/05 Jane A. Yoshimura
11/27 Yasu Aoki
12/28 Eizo Moriguchi

10/14 Pearl M. Nagata
11/11 Jack I. Tokunaga
12/19 Miko Honda

FIFTIETH YEAR (1974)

10/01 Kinju Iwane
10/19 Yoshii Kikuji
11/06 Haru Matsuda
12/22 Shizue Araki Sugimoto

10/17 Glenn Koji Sasaki
10/27 Otozo Hirata
11/08 Miyono Ota
12/24 Seizo Tokumura

NOTE: If you have any questions or corrections regarding the information listed above, please call the office at 323-2993. Thank you.