

History

Puna Hongwanji (Olaa Hongwanji formerly) is a Pure Land Shin Buddhist temple located in Keaau, Hawaii. It was founded in 1902 on the land which was subleased from Olaa Sugar Company.

Puna Hongwanji provided spiritual support and guidance for first generation Japanese immigrants including Japanese school, activities, and Buddhist services. The present temple was built in 1937 with donations from members. During WWII, all Buddhist ministers were interned in relocation camps and temple facilities including school buildings were taken over by the military. With no resident minister, Reverend Ernest Hunt serviced Olaa Hongwanji. Due to the efforts of President Tsugio Tanaka, the temple was reopened and was allowed to conduct services on Sundays and New Year. After the end of the war, temple and activities were reactivated. In 1957 the name of the temple was changed to Puna Hongwanji Mission based on the suggestion by Herbert Shipman, W. H. Shipman, Ltd. which was the lessor of Olaa Hongwanji, since it served the entire Puna District. As the temple's 60th Anniversary and the Founder Master

Shinran's 700th Memorial celebration projects, a new kitchen, dining room complex and a new columbarium were built in 1963 by temple members. For the 75th Anniversary, various projects- construction of a parking lot, refinishing pews, covering the temple and office floors with vinyl tiles and more-were planned and completed. The temple grounds were donated by the Shipman family. A deed was officially presented by Roy Blackshear, on behalf of the Shipman family, to Puna Hongwanji Mission on October 17, 1976.

Experiencing the transfer of ministers, and the closing of Puna Sugar Company, Puna Hongwanji continued to carry on the Mission and completed many projects. In 2002 Centennial projects such as installation of an elevator, leveling the social hall floor, building a Japanese garden, and erecting a bronze statue of Master Shinran in front of the temple were done. Developing clubs such as Taiko, Judo as well as community service, Puna Hongwanji provides spiritual guidance to a larger community so that every single person can live a life of peace and gratitude.

Puna Hongwanji Mission

Pure Land Shin Buddhist Temple



Buddhist Way of Life

COMPASSION WISDOM
GRATITUDE HUMILITY
PEACE HAPPINESS
REFLECTION IMPERMANENCE

VISION STATEMENT

Puna Hongwanji Mission will be a dynamic and unique temple for Hawaii serving the spiritual needs of the community through Jodo Shinshu Teachings.

MISSION STATEMENT

Puna Hongwanji Mission is a community of people joined in the joy of a common faith in Amida Buddha to share the Dharma in our daily living.



Sunday Family Service

Join us at 9 a.m. every Sunday, to listen to the teachings of Amida Buddha. Universal Truth will guide each of us to a life of gratitude and compassion.

Buddha-Awakened Teacher

Buddha is the one who was awakened to the truth of life. With that awakening, Buddha sees the sentient beings and found the way how they may also attain enlightenment. In our Hongwanji tradition, Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Compassion and Wisdom, made vows to embrace all people as they are and emancipate all beings from worries and sufferings, and bring utmost bliss and peace to every single person. With Great Compassion and Wisdom, Amida Buddha embraces and includes all without discrimination. In the embrace of Amida Buddha, we are accepted as we are and live lives to the fullest with humility and gratitude.

Dharma-Universal Truth

Shin Buddhism is based on the life and writings of Master Shinran (1173-1263) who traced the commentaries of seven Buddhist masters back to their source of inspiration. Dharma is the teachings of Buddhism and its essence is the enlightenment of the universal truth. Through the Vow of Amida Buddha, we as human beings are enabled to see our true natures of human ego, self-centeredness, Greed, Anger, and Bombuness (foolishness). Not knowing our true selves, we try to live lives of peace and gratitude each day. We live lives of interdependence and unrepeatable moments. We will help and work together with mutual respect and understanding within our families, friends, cousins, the larger community, and in a world guided by Amida Buddha. Uncertainty and worries that surround us naturally give us negative thoughts; however, in the embrace of Amida Buddha, we will receive everlasting happiness in the midst of uncertainty and worries.

Sangha-Harmonious group

Sangha is a group of people who practice Buddhist values at a temple, home, work place, and in the community. Puna Hongwanji welcomes and embraces all people beyond all differences of race, gender, religious background, sexual orientations, and culture. It provides an opportunity to participate in the various temple activities, meet old friends and make new ones. Puna Hongwanji is a special place for you to apply your skills and knowledge and become a treasure to help serve others in our community as an expression of the Buddhist value: "Dana" – selfless giving.

Contact Us

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9 a.m. to 12 p.m.