

# Puna Hongwanji Mission



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Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri– 9am to 12pm\*

\*unless called away by other duties

Thurs. – day off

Kyodan Pres.: Clifford Furukado (Cell: 938-3177)

Email: [cfurukado@yahoo.com](mailto:cfurukado@yahoo.com)

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# March 2021 Hi-Lites



## **2021 Honpa Hongwanji Theme & Slogan**

**Building Healthy Sanghas**

*(Nurturing Empathy and Respect)*

## **Puna Hongwanji 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.

## **Puna Hongwanji 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.



### The Hi-Lites Monthly Newsletter

The Hi-Lites is published monthly by the Puna Hongwanji Mission. The articles and opinions expressed by the editors and individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of Puna Hongwanji Mission.

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**Advisor:** Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

### Memorial Service (Nenki)

Families, relatives, and friends of deceased members listed, please contact the temple if there are any corrections or omissions. Researched and compiled by Reverend Satoshi Tomioka.



**\*\*\*Memorial services in-person is permitted following health guidelines.**

**\*\*\*Online memorial service is also available.**

**\*\*\*Please contact Rev. Tomioka for more information.**

### March 2021

1 yr.	Masato "Cream" Meguro	March 26, 2020
3 yrs.	Rodney Kenji Kamei	March 3, 2019
7 yrs.	Herbert Isamu Kumano	March 3, 2015
13 yrs.	Miyoko Nakata	March 24, 2009
	Yoso Kuwahara	March 29, 2009
	Itono Kan	March 31, 2009
17 yrs.	Thomas Charles Pratt	March 15, 2005
	Toshiko Violet Tahara	March 27, 2005
25 yrs.	Mamoru Fujimoto	March 13, 1997
	Hanako Kihara	March 23, 1997
33 yrs.	None	1989
50 yrs.	Sasayo Kotomori	March 22, 1972

### With Deepest Sympathy



Puna Hongwanji Mission extends its sincerest sympathy and condolences to the family and relatives of the following member(s) who recently passed away

*Stanley Oishi*

*Shigeo Kiyojima*

*Teruo Kodani*



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## **Minister's Message**

Frequently asked Questions

**Question: As we are getting vaccinated, will the temple open soon?**

Answer: We will continue to watch the situation and follow the CDC guidelines and Hongwanji HQ's directives. When opening, it will be a gradual opening and we will make necessary adjustments to any events, activities, gatherings which we have had before.

**Question: How about Sunday Service? Can we come to the temple?**

Answer: As of today (February 20), we will have only online services and no in person service is planned. Please join our online service on YouTube, Facebook.

**Question: Is temple facility open for member's use?**

Answer: Basically, no. Please contact President Clifford Furukado at 938-3177 or Rev. Tomioka at 966-9981.

**Question: Is the columbarium open?**

Answer: Yes it is open. For the health and prevention reason, there are some policy like leaving flowers outside, bring your own incense stick and lighter, up to 10 people, etc.

**Question: I want to have a memorial service for my loved one. What is the procedure?**

Answer: We can have a service at temple up to 10 people in attendance. Online service is also available. We can have a hybrid style while some are at the temple, others can join online.

**Question: My spouse has been in the hospital and maybe soon transitioning to of end of life. Is there anything I should prepare for?**

Answer: Sorry for what you're going through. Please let Rev. Tomioka know about the situation so that he is aware of it and he can offer any spiritual assistance.

**Question: When my spouse passes away, what should I do?**

Answer: Please contact the proper authorities immediately. You may inform close family friends or relatives as soon as conditions permit so that they can attend the bedside service.

**Question: Should I contact minister after love one passes away?**

Answer: Yes, please contact the resident minister anytime 24 hours a day at 966-9981, day or night regardless of the hour. The service is an occasion of reaffirming that Amida Buddha embraces your spouse warmly and gently through the chanting of sutra. This also gives family left behind to express their gratefulness and find comfort in Amida's Embrace.



**Question: Can I contact minister before my spouse passes away?**

Answer: Yes, that is also encouraged and appreciated. Although your loved one may be in the transitional stage, it is said, hearing is the last senses to go before passing. While the love one is alive, we chant together and reaffirm that Amida Buddha is embracing all of us.

**Question: What about a funeral and other services?**

Answer: If there is a funeral plan, please contact the mortuary for arranging services. The mortuary will also contact the resident minister to set a date.

**Question: What we can do at the funeral?**

Answer: Please contact the minister for funeral meeting.

**Question: When I want to talk about my end of life, my family member says “nah, I don’t want to hear that”, or “make is make, nothing we can do”. Any advice?**

Answer: Yes, it is not easy nor comfortable to talk about death. It is, however, a thing we will inevitably encounter in our life. The conversation about your end of life not only help yourself but also your loved ones who will be left behind. “Five Wishes” is one of documents and groups you may take a look at. Please contact Rev. Tomioka if you want a hard copy. Or you can search it online.

Kokuamau Website: <https://kokuamau.org/>

**Question: COVID-19 made me think of my own life. I know I will die someday and I have to see my family and friends dying. Any comments about this?**

Answer: It is always hard to experience separations. In life, there are 8 things we can’t avoid: Birth, aging, illness, death, separation from loved ones, meeting up with people we don’t like, not getting what we want, and difficulties caused by our body and mind. Buddhism teaches us this truth of life and guides us to live to the fullest while experiencing those 8 things.

**Question: After COVID-19 spread, the situation of not being able to do what I have been doing made me worried, concerned, and sometimes depressed. How should I handle this?**

Answer: It is natural to have different emotions as we encounter life experiences. And each person will react to the same thing differently, so no need to compare yourself with others. There is always a cause and often times our own minds that creates difficulty to ourselves and to others. Some professional resources like counselor are available to support you.

**Question: After losing my family member, I lost hope, energy and don’t know what to do.**

Answer: Have you ever thought of killing yourself by suicide? Each person will undergo different ways of grieving and it is natural to have various emotions when they experience a separation. There is professional support which can help you face and live with those emotions.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255

**Question: Can I come to talk with a minister?**

Answer: Yes, when you find yourself in need of spiritual guidance, the resident minister is available. Please contact at 9669981 or email at [mpunahongwanji@twc.com](mailto:mpunahongwanji@twc.com)

**Question: Please tell me something about Amida Buddha.**

Answer: Amida Buddha is the Buddha of All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion. This Buddha promises to save and embrace every single person without discrimination no matter what. Once a person encounter this innermost promise and receives the entrusting mind (shinjin), the person is assured to be born into the Pure Land, freed from all sufferings, attain enlightenment and continue to guide people left behind by the virtue of Amida Buddha. This innermost promise is Namo Amida Butsu which embraces all and guide us to live a life of reflection, humility, gratefulness, harmony and assurance.

**Question: Not a question but just want to say thank you for answering my questions.**

Answer: Thank you. Please contact us anytime. Let us listen to Amida Buddha's wish for us. And let us remember there is a great Life who is always thinking of you more than you do for yourself. That is Amida Buddha's innermost wish, Namo Amida Butsu.

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## **Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights**

Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, January 21, 2021. Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

### **Repair and Maintenance**

- Some team members are unable to continue to do R & M at the temple. Let Glenn Watarida know if you are able to assist with small R & M jobs.

### **Approved Activities/Announcements**

- Rev. Tomioka thanked everyone for their support, cooperation, help, understanding, etc. He came to PHM four years ago in 2017. We have seen a lot of changes but he is looking toward the future.
- Hongwanji calendars are available in the kitchen. Contact Rev. Tomioka for the special gift.
- Per Headquarters, no in person Sunday Services due to Covid-19. Bishop Matsumoto says we now have an online sangha – our online services are viewed by members, non-members, people outside of the Big Island, etc. Please share the online events with family and friends.
- December Activities included Christmas Drive Thru and entertainment by Mark Yamanaka.
- January Activities included New Year's Eve Temple Bell Ringing, Martin Luther King 3rd Annual Remembrance, food drive for the Food Basket, and Zoom Wednesday Dharma Night. To join the Zoom meeting, send an email to [mpunahongwanji@twc.com](mailto:mpunahongwanji@twc.com)
- The Puna Hongwanji BWA folded cranes and strung them together to place leis on the statue of Shinran Shonin for the Martin Luther King Remembrance. They also delivered lap blankets and masks to Hawaii Care Choices.
- Carol Tsunezumi reported Hawaii Care Choices requested face masks and lap blankets. Drop off your donations at the temple.
- The Investment Committee reports our portfolio (30% in medium risk and 70% in higher risk) showed a gain for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020.
- Hilo Medical Center is offering vaccines to 75+ seniors. Please help them register, offer transportation, etc.
- Welcome to our PHM Sangha: Mr. Hiroshi Kozohara
- Virtual Giseikai Meeting will be attended by Rev. Tomioka, Clifford Furukado, Robin Sato, Richard Solie, Mike Fukutomi, and Warren Tanigawa. It will be on Feb. 12-13.

- The Board Meeting was preceded by the Installation of Officers and Board of Directors for 2021-2022. Officiating the ceremony was Rev. Satoshi Tomioka. Newly elected President Clifford Furukado said Puna Hongwanji is a special place with special people. Let us continue to support each other and communicate then challenges can be overcome. Puna Hongwanji is Ohana.

### **In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much**

- Thank you, Jason Hashimoto, outgoing Kyodan President.
- Thank you and welcome new and returning Kyodan leaders. Your commitment and acceptance for the responsibilities at Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple is greatly appreciated.
- Four years ago we welcomed Rev. Satoshi Tomioka to PHM. The Sangha would like to say doomo arigato gozai masu for all that you do to make Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple ALIVE and WELCOMING and INCLUSIVE. With your leadership, we are known in the community in a positive way.
- Thank you to temple members who volunteered and continue to volunteer when R & M is needed. Your talent/expertise/hobby is appreciated and saves the temple money.
- Mahalo to Mrs. Mieko Nagao for sharing her talent and time. The request for masks is still on high demand and she continues to help fulfill the need.
- Thank you to members who already made their dues donations. Awesome! On the ball!

### **Membership Committee News**

Thank you for your dues payments. Recommended dues is \$240.00/yr. And if you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues is exempt. Please notify us of your situation. Also please notify us of change of address.



In Gassho,  
 Roy Toma  
 Membership Chairman  
 808-935-7712



## Remembrance of Martin Luther King Jr. Food Drive for the Food Basket

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude appreciation to each and everyone of you that contributed to our non-perishable food and monetary donation drive-by drop off. With all the items we received we had two card loads of donation totaling 1,003 lbs and total monetary donations over \$600 to assist feeding those in our community.



Rev. Tomioka, Jenn Kurohara, and Robin Sato took down the donation and met with Kristin Frost Albrecht the CEO. She gave us a tour of the facilities that they use and then we sat down to talk to her and she shared how we could partner up with them in the future. She also expressed her gratitude and appreciation for us helping our community. As she stated there are many people who never imagined they would need to seek assistance from The Food Basket. The people could be ourselves, family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. that really need the assistance during this pandemic. On a positive note they did see the number of people needing assistance drop in Kona and Volcano.



Mahalo to our prize donors for our prize drawings. Congratulations to Maya Cathcart (\$50 KTA gift card); Deb Tucker (\$50 KTA gift card); and Jason Hashimoto (Yeti Loadout 5 gallon bucket with lid). Although we could not give out a prize to each and every donor, please know that you are all winners for helping others as that is the greatest gift.

We thank the Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Association for coming up with activities we could do to remember the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

## **NEW TUESDAY EVENING ONLINE ZOOM BUDDHISM CLASS**

Starting Tuesday, February 23, 2021 we will start a Tuesday Evening Online Zoom Buddhism Class from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. We will be reviewing the Tannishō which is considered to be one of the most influential books about Shin Buddhism. Written by Yui-en, a disciple of Master Shinran, it chronicles their conversations during the emergence of Buddhism in Japan. The Tannishō helps us to capture the insights of Shinran, the founder of Shin Buddhism. We will read and discuss the chapters during the class. We will start Part 2 from Chapter 11 as previously we covered up to Chapter 10. If you missed the first part that is okay you can still join us. Please register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcofuGrrT4sEtRwtm3Cts2cxIQUDodQP1Jf>.

## **WEDNESDAY ZOOM DHARMA NIGHT**

Come join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. By switching over to Zoom we are able to interact with each other unlike having the services via Facebook and YouTube Rev. Tomioka cannot see or receive your reactions. During this time you can connect with others and have a feeling of being close together. During the session you decide if you want to participate/share and if you want to keep your camera on or off. We leave it all up to you and how comfortable you may feel. During the first part Rev. Tomioka does his talk and discussion in English. About 7:45 p.m. he does the session in Japanese. You are welcome to attend or both sessions. 英語法話のすぐあとに、日本語法話もあります。

If you would like to receive the Zoom link please send an email request to [mpunahonwanji@twc.com](mailto:mpunahonwanji@twc.com). If you do not have an email and have long distance on your phone we can provide you a phone number that you can call in to listen to the discussion. You will not be able to see what is shared on the screen, but will be able to listen and talk through your phone. Just make sure you have long distance coverage as it is not a toll-free number.



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## BWA

The Hawaii Island United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association has scholarships available to two deserving graduating high school seniors. Applicants must be of Shin Buddhist Faith, whose parents are dues paying members of any Hongwanji temple of Hawaii Island. Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded and can be used at any accredited college, university, or technical school. Application forms are available on the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin website ([www.hilobetsuin.org](http://www.hilobetsuin.org)) under Scholarships and Awards. All applications must be postmarked by April 9, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Stella Miyashiro at (808) 959-7919.



Stella and Carol with donations of afghan blankets made by Rose to Hospice of Hilo.



Donations of face masks and lap blankets to HOSPICE. Sewn by Mieko Nagao

## **Acknowledgement - December 2020**

Donations received each month are recorded on the first Tuesday of the following month, and then listed in the next month's Hi-Lites. Please notify us of any errors or omissions so that they can be corrected. Thank you for your generous support of Puna Hongwanji Mission. Compiled and submitted by Richard Solie.

Email:richardsolie@gmail.com

<u><b>Spring Ohigan</b></u>		<u><b>In Memory Of</b></u>
Cary	Tanoue	
<u><b>Obon</b></u>		
Irwin/Evelyn	Kawano	Kaoru Nakahara & Family
<u><b>Social Concerns</b></u>		
Danny/Catherine	Kosora	
Byron H.	Toma	
<u><b>Columbarium</b></u>		
Clement/Amy	Esaki	Masuo & Toyoko Mori
Sharon	Kanegawa	Kanegawa Family
Takeshi	Motomura	
Janet	Nakamura	
Lloyd/Sandra	Nishida	
Masanobu	Oshiro	Kame/Atsu Oshiro
Masanobu	Oshiro	Kamako Oshiro
Rodney/Virginia	Oshiro	Eisho Oshiro
Shokichi	Tokita	Hiroyuki/Kyoko Tanaka
Shokichi	Tokita	Elsie Tanaka-Tokita
James/Chiyoko	Ishii	Masao & Toyoko Mori
Irwin/Evelyn	Kawano	Kaoru Nakahara & Family
Tokimi	Miyatake	Miyatake Family
Nelson/Clara	Rego	Eisho, Eizen, Kama, & Moshi Oshiro & Family
<u><b>Kinen Kifu</b></u>		
Tokimi	Miyatake	
Ellison/Lynn	Ancheta	Dale Nakayama
James/Grace	Arakaki	Sueko Arakaki - 5 yr
Clifford/Keri	Furukado	
Clifford/Keri	Furukado	New Year
Clifford/Keri	Furukado	Mitsuo Miyatake
Clifford/Keri	Furukado	George Singles
Clifford/Keri	Furukado	Rosie Tatsuta
Clifford/Keri	Furukado	Anne Yanazaki
James/Gayle	Furuta	
Janet	Ikeda	Happy Thanksgiving
Nancy S.	Ishida	Rosie Tatsuta

## Acknowledgement - December 2020

<b>Kinen Kifu</b>	<b>Continued</b>	<b>In Memory Of</b>
Dan/Terrie	Koyamatsu	Rosie Tatsuta
Clayton	Ishida	Rosie Tatsuta
Rock	Ishida	Rosie Tatsuta
Gary/Joni	Anderson	Rosie Tatsuta
Annette	Iwahashi	Mitsuo Miyatake
Ronald/Karen	Iwata	
Kenneth/Loretta	Kamei	
KLM Kamei Foundation		
KLM Corp.		
Shirly/Brian	Kang	Gotaro & Maru Hirae
Kay	Kawazoe	Lefty Kawazoe 100 day service
Doris/Carol	Kuwahara	Mitsue Miyatake
Kikuko	Kuwahara	Mitsuo Miyatake
Dennis /Karen	Maedo	Mitsuo Miyatake
Stanley/Karen	Mason	New Year Donation
Iris	Matsumoto	Tsuneyoshi Matsumoto 1 yer
Tokimi	Miyatake	Mitsuo Miyatake
George	Muraoka	Mitsuo Miyatake
Kent/Cynthia	Inouye	Mitsuo Miyatake
Ann, Aaron,Rose,Wolfgang,Steven	Inouye	Mitsuo Miyatake
Robbi & Kathy	Abley	Mitsuo Miyatake
Florence	Nishimura	Mitsuo Miyatake
Stuart	Oda	
Stanley/Susan	Oshiro	Annual Donation
Alvin/Sharman	Oyadomari	Mitsuo Miyatake
Masako	Sanehira	Special Donation
Russell,Kazuko, Calvin	Shimasaki	Yutaka Shimasaki 1 yr
Aiko	Sato	Mitsuo Miyatake
Ken	Oyadomari	
Gary/Susan	Sunada	Rosie Tatsuta
Gary/Susan	Sunada	Mitsuo Miyatake
Byron H.	Toma	Mitsuo Miyatake
Wayne/Sandra	Toma	Roy Toma Recognition
Grace	Uchida	Grandparents Yamashita & Uchida
Helen	Yamada	Mitsuo Miyatake
Nancy	Yamada	Mitsuo Miyatake
Helen	Yamada	Rosie Tatsuta
Nancy	Yamada	Rosie Tatsuta
Alan/Joanne	Yokota	
Caroline M.	Shipman Foundation	
Anonymous		Yukiko Uchida
Anonymous		Rosie Tatsuta

## Acknowledgement - December 2020

<u>Eitaikyo</u>		<u>In Memory Of</u>
Sachiko	Arakaki	
Norman	Hayashi	Maxine Hayashi
Kay	Kawazoe	
Thomas/Susan	Kiyojima	
Calvin/Lynn	Koshiyama	
Earl	Mukai	
Kei	Nakamura	
Yoshiaka	Noguchi	

### Temple Clean up Schedule



Each section will be responsible for weekly clean-up of the temple for the entire month. Section leader will contact members on the clean-up dates and times

**APRIL** – Group 1 **KEAAU**

**MAY** – Group 2 **PAHOA**

**JUNE** – Group 3 **HILO**

Toban Group Contact Person

Group 1: Ethel Miyashiro (808)982-7981

Group 2: Janet Watarida (808)936-1170

Group 3: Roy and Ann Toma (808)935-7712

Group 4: Keri Furukado (808)987-1215

Obon Refreshment Schedule: (If needed)

Thursday, Set up, Group 3

Friday, Group 4

Saturday, Group 1

Sunday, Clean up, Group 2