

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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July 2021 Hi-Lites

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Webpage: www.punahongwanji.org

Online donation:

www.punahongwanji.org/donate/

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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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

None

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.**

July 2021

1 yr.	Albert Genichi Nishimura	July 10, 2020
3 yrs.	Roy Kazuo Yamashita Gail Leiko Miura	July 14, 2019 July 19, 2019
7 yrs.	Miyoko Matsunaga Saburo Fukunaga Mildred Kawaguchi Audrey Kakugawa Hisae Campbell Jeannie Sakoda	July 10, 2015 July 11, 2015 July 11, 2015 July 19, 2015 July 20, 2015 July 25, 2015
13 yrs.	Patsy Arakawa Reynold Miyashiro	July 19, 2009 July 24, 2009
17 yrs.	None	2005
25 yrs.	Stanley Mitsuo Sakoda	July 28, 1997
33 yrs.	None	1989
50 yrs.	Kosei Shimabukuro Hiroshi Nariyoshi	July 3, 1972 July 28, 1972





Minister's Message

My Happy Retirement

I'm looking forward to my retirement. Some may wonder and think you are still young (33 years old) and there many more years! One of the reasons is that retirees look relaxed and calm. They seem to have enough time to do things for themselves and can spend time with family and friends too. Sometimes, people say jokingly I'm more busy! Of course, retirement will occur to anyone who is working and that is one of the life decisions. Do you remember when you retired? How did you decide to retire and how did you feel about it? After you retired, did you miss your work and people you associated with? Any regrets? Any happy, funny, unforgettable memories? Please share it with me as I don't know what it looks like as I have never retired.

According to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii document, normal retirement for a minister is defined as 70 years of age. So there are 37 years for me to reach that age of retirement. I hope to serve as a minister until that age in Hawaii. How do I feel when I retire? I want to say like Frank Sinatra, "I did it my way". But I guess I will feel I should/shouldn't have done this and that, or are ministers who take over my positions okay? I'm concerned about temple members and friends, and so forth. Right now, I'm doing what I can to the fullest with my ability. And when I retire, and when I look back at what I have done as a minister, not perfect, some good, some bad, I want to see there are people's smiles and comfort in their life. If I can hear the voice of Namo Amida Butsu in their life, I think I would say "I did it my way."

How about Amida Buddha? Do you think Amida Buddha retired already or not yet? Retirement occurs to anyone who is working. If so, Amida Buddha is also working. What is it? Amida Buddha's work is to save all living beings from struggles and bring the utmost tranquility to every single person without distinction and without discrimination. In order to save all, Amida Buddha practiced for countless years (kalpa), contemplated the vows, and finally established the 48 vows. Out of the 48 vows, the 18th Vow is the Primal Vow (Hongwan) which promised to save and embrace all from suffering and assure of the birth in the Pure Land. This vow does not require human being's effort, calculated mind, practice, mindfulness, meditation which unfortunately contains the ego and self-centered attachments. Nothing from us is involved for the birth in the Pure Land. Only Amida Buddha's compassionate Vow saves and embraces me. That Vow is Namo Amida Butsu. Namo Amida Butsu is the Name of Amida Buddha and the compassionate calling voice of "Don't worry be happy, I shall embrace you as you are." So, all of the practices, merits, virtues, and everything is in the Name of Amida Buddha and nothing else is needed nor added. Namo Amida Butsu is Amida Buddha's fulfillment and it encompasses the unconditional Compassion and transcendent Wisdom. Namo Amida Butsu is the completed serene practice and wish. Therefore, there are no regrets of "I should/shouldn't have done", no concerns or worries. In other words, Amida Buddha can retire as Namo Amida Butsu is there. Amida Buddha retired?

Although the Name and the vows have been established, Amida Buddha does not retire because of me. I, this Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka, is still struggling in life as a person and as a minister. Although I take refuge in Namo Amida Butsu, my greed, anger, mind of distinction, mind of discrimination and ego occurs every moment when things don't go as I wish. I entrust myself to the Primal Vow and receive the joy of being embraced by Amida Buddha, and I still feel worried, concerned, frustrated and irritated. By the virtue of the Primal Vow, a person who receives the mind of awakening will be assured to be born in the Pure Land. But I don't want to die now as I just got married! Because of me, such as me, how could Amida Buddha retire?

Amida Buddha never retires. Amida Buddha's wish is manifested as Namo Amida Butsu, and Namo Amida Butsu is the compassionate calling voice of Amida Buddha. These two are not separated but oneness. Until I also attain enlightenment in the Pure Land, Amida Buddha never retires. Rather, until every single person receives the profound tranquility in their life, Namo Amida Butsu is forever working from the past, present and to the never-ending Future. Therefore, Namo Amida Butsu has the meaning of infinite light and infinite life. The infinite light symbolizes the Buddha's transcendent wisdom reaching out to everywhere. And the Infinite Life symbolizes the Buddha's unconditional compassion which embraces every single person anytime.

When I retire, what I will see is not what I did, or my accomplishments, careers, nor awards. What I will see is my life which has been embraced by Amida Buddha. A life with Compassion and Wisdom. My life would not be perfect, some good, some bad. However, a life with Amida Buddha is always joyful and beautiful. And when I retire from my life as a human being, finally I can also retire from all the struggles and suffering of life. Oh, once I'm born in the Pure Land, now my mission and joy is to guide people left behind in this world to attain their enlightenment through the virtue of the Primal Vow. So, no retirement as Amida Buddha continues to work for me and for others. Every day and every moment is a journey with Amida Buddha until the day of birth in the Pure Land. Namo Amida Butsu

Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights

Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, May 20, 2021. Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

Repair and Maintenance

- The Yard Maintenance Committee continue to keep the Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple grounds a source of great pride. The small group of volunteers work regularly whether the temple doors are open or not. Thank you for your commitment and dedication!

Approved Activities/Announcements

- Rev. Tomioka announced the passing of Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani, the 11th Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.
- Re-opening of the temple: Temple will welcome people with the June Sunday Service. If you come to temple, please wear a mask, social distance, and practice good hygiene, etc.
- If you are interested in using the temple facilities, contact Rev. Tomioka and/or Clifford Furukado.
- The Rental Committee, as a community service, loaned tents to Keaau High School.
- A State Board of Directors' Meeting was held and the President of the Hawaii Kyodan, Dr. Warren Tanamoto, is thinking of traveling to the temples and to get feedback.
- Bishop Eric Matsumoto's term ends on June 2023. There are 17 members on the Bishop Selection Committee.
- Sr. YBA will have meetings on the second Thursdays of the even months on Zoom.
- Carol Tsunezumi reported Mrs. Mieko Nagao, Mrs. Lei Kakugawa, Mrs. Ilene Hara, and she continue to sew face masks and blankets.
- Several BWA members helped Clifford with the fresh coconut preparations for future baking projects.

- Project Dana has a bento delivery service to clients in Keaau and Hilo.
- The Interfaith Memorial Day Service will be a virtual event on May 29. Next year will be the 75th Anniversary of the remembrance.
- Rev. Tomioka and President Furukado visited members who are or will be 80 in 2021 (Keirosha) with a gift and bento.
- The Board approved hot meals on Father's Day, June 20. Pick up will be @3:30 p.m.
- Drive-thru bon dance will be on July 10; service will be held on a different date. Committee is waiting for response from the Civil Defense. The vision now is to have four tents with limited dancers and the pick up of preordered plate lunches (chicken hekka or spare ribs).

In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much

- On behalf of the members of Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU** for the ono-licious hot meals on Mother's Day! Members were treated to a chicken + walnut shrimp plate + miso soup **AND** a breakfast bento! What a wonderful treat!!! Thank you to all the hands, especially the **MEN of PUNA HONGWANJI**, who worked really hard. Mahalo to Dharma School for the beautiful and thoughtful floral bouquets that were given to the women. Together, you all brought lots of smiles and tears to a grateful audience.
- Mahalo to the mask and blanket makers! The request continues for more masks and blankets. Contact Rev. Tomioka and/or Carol Tsunozumi if you would like to donate fabric, supplies, money, and/or your time.
- Now that the temple is open, toban volunteers are needed. Thank you to those who continue to help keep the temple and columbarium clean.
- Paul Sakamoto's daughter Emily raised \$1,600 on a school project to combat rising Asian hate crimes via taiko and bon dance. She far exceeded her goal. Way to go, Emily! We are so proud of you for addressing an important issue. Thank you!

Membership Committee News

Please welcome Mr. Eli Miura of Hilo to our Sangha

Thank you for your dues payment. Our fiscal year is January to December. Dues is \$240.00. If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. Please notify our office of your situation and if you have a new mailing address, please let us know too.



In Gassho,

Roy Toma
Membership Chairman
808-935-7712

BWA News

To wish everyone a Happy Father's Day, the BWA included a mask with each hot meal picked up at temple. Before the pandemic, BWA celebrated Father's Day with special platters at refreshment time and a gift for every man. This year, everyone will get a mask to keep us safe.



Puna BWA welcomes a new member Ilene Hara, who retired recently. She has sewn masks and lap blankets for BWA projects. Anyone can join the BWA throughout the year.
Reminders: The 2021 BWA dues can be mailed or dropped off at the kitchen door.

The BWA Maui Convention is accepting reservations at a special rate until October.

Hawaii Care Choices, Celebration of Life Andagi Sale

Hawaii Care Choices, formerly Hospice of Hilo, held their virtual Celebration of Life on May 30th. Although this was a virtual event, food was presold and people would go to various vendor's to pick up their order. Puna Hongwanji provided the Andagi. As a result of the sale, over \$1400.00 was raised for Hawaii Care Choices. Thank you to Ann Toma and April Yoshimoto and their crew for working so hard on this project. Also, THANK YOU to Roy and Ann Toma for their generous donation for the ingredients for the andagi.

In Gassho,
Clifford Furukado



PROJECT DANA

Since the Project Dana volunteers have been vaccinated, they are providing services to the elders again. Upon request, transportation is being provided for temple activities, for doctor's appointment, and for shopping. Homebound seniors are getting mail, friendly visits, and phone calls from volunteers.

Project Dana is celebrating the birthdays of clients and volunteers. June honorees are Clifford Furukado, Dora Hashimoto, Hatsume Tanaka, and Warren Tanigawa. Birthday wishes were extended via phone call, text message, card, a cupcake and a sweet treat.



Happy Birthday Warren



Happy Birthday Dora



Happy Bithday Clifford



Happy Birthday Hatsume

On May 27th, Stella Miyashiro and Lei Kakugawa made a visitation to Hale Anuenue for the first time since the pandemic. An appointment was made, names of visitors (2 limit) were given, forms were filled out, temperatures were taken and only half an hour was allotted for the visit. Sumie Takeguchi was waiting at the table in the patio. There was a health aide sitting near by Mrs. Takeguchi remembered us and talked about the old days She will be 101 years old this year. On the way home, Stella and Lei made a friendly visit at Mako Sanehira's home. Since she stopped driving, Mako enjoyed having company.

On June 8th, Ann Toma took Dora Hashimoto and Lei Kakugawa to Life Care Center and Hale Anuenue. Their visits brightened the day for Bernice Tanioka and Sumie Takeguchi. Ann made an extra stop at Kay Kawazoe's home. Adela Hara joined the ladies for a pleasant afternoon visiting with Kay.

On June 21st, Clifford Furukado and Stella Miyashiro presented centenarian Makiko Ohashi a lei, a commemorative plaque, an orchid plant, and a gift card to celebrate her longevity. Mrs. Ohashi and her daughter, who was visiting remembered Clifford. Mrs. Ohashi was concerned that she could not serve us anything. Her daughter had to reassure her that it was all right. Clifford said that it was her nature to always think of others. It was an uplifting experience to meet such a special senior.

Virtual Puna District Interfaith Memorial Day Observance

This was a 2nd year that we could not be on front lawn of the memorial monument to pay tribute to those from the Puna District that gave the ultimate price for our freedom. With the help of Paul Sakamoto we were able to put the program on virtually again. Thank you to Paul for piecing all the videos together into one video. Thank you to our guest speaker Colonel Debra Lewis (USA Ret) for a wonderful message. We could not have done this without the cooperation and assistance from our Puna District churches. Participating in the video was Rev. Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka, Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple; Pastor Jack Snell (who has recently retired), Puna Covenant Church; Pastor Lorin Carmichael, Sure Foundation Puna; Pastor Alan Tamashiro, Puna Baptist Church; Pastor Frank Castagnetti, New Hope East Hawaii; and Michael Donenfeld, Mindfulness Meditation Facilitator, Artist, Community Builder. It took a team to make this event a success. Thank you to everyone that participated in the event by bringing flowers, making the bouquets, hauling all the bouquets away, submitting a message, reading the messages, being the MC, watching the virtual observance, and getting the thank gifts. If you haven't viewed the video it can be found on our Puna Hongwanji Facebook and YouTube pages. <https://youtu.be/VzpWODP4awk>. We hope in May 2022 we will be able to be in front of the monument. In 2022, it will be the 75th Anniversary that the monument was erected in the front of the temple. We are also hoping that by 2022 we will have the plaque finished and placed on the monument for the Iraq-Afghanistan Conflict.

Virtual Sunday Service

We were hearing from people that there was a lot of buffering, there was a buzzing noise, the video was not matching Rev. Tomioka's mouth, or we would be live and all of a sudden we get disconnected. We solicited the assistance of Nader Shehata to help trouble shoot our situation. Nader spent many hours at the temple trying to figure out how to improve our set-up. He drove back and forth from Keaau to Hilo trying to find the right cable that might solve the issues. We also asked Cary Tanoue to meet with Nader to help him with the audio portion. The final conclusion was that we were using a laptop that did not have enough RAM and Nader was very surprised how we were able to do our virtual services. Nader donated a desktop and monitor so now our connection is better. You may still hear a slight buzzing, but that should be corrected as the Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA voted to purchase a preamplifier.

Bon Dance – Saturday, July 10, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

During the drive thru you will enter from the Hilo side gate near the yagura and exit through the main entrance. There will be tents set up for those that have signed up to dance and the Puna Taiko drumming along. If you have pre-ordered plate lunches you will be able to pick it up between 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Please be patient as you drive slowly along the route. We will also have a choba tent which will collect your donation and you will get a bon dance towel. Please note that there will be no parking and no one will be able to wander on the temple grounds. You must remain in your car at all times. We ask that you wear your mask if you will be putting your window down.

Wednesday Evening Zoom Dharma Gathering

Effective July 2021 we will no longer be having our weekly Wednesday Evening Zoom Dharma Gathering. During the pandemic Rev. Tomioka added a mid-week service. It started off with a similar format as a Sunday Service. It was then decided to do a Zoom session so that people could interact with each other. He continued to share the Dharma Message, but then was told this is Zoom so it shouldn't be only him talking. It then turned into a discussion session for those in attendance to share regarding the topic of the night. Thank you Rev. Tomioka for your commitment, dedication, and time to share the Dharma with all of us. We appreciate it and many will miss the weekly talk story session (gathering).

Sunday service resumes



On Sunday, June 6, 2021 we once again opened the temple doors for our weekly Sunday Service.

If you decide to come in person, mask are required, and sanitize before you enter the temple. Although you will be excited to see everyone, please remember to maintain your social distance. We have designated areas that you can be seated. Members of the same household may sit together.

If you are not ready to come to temple, you may still be a part of the service as we will continue to live stream the service on our Puna Hongwanji Facebook and YouTube pages. The service will begin at 9am.



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Hawaii District Ministers Association
2021 Online Buddhist Education Series

"SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION: NEMBUTSU THAT IS TRUE AND REAL"



WHAT DOES NAMO
AMIDA BUTSU MEAN
TO YOU?

Rev. Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka
Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

[Click link for bio](#)

"Is Namu Amida Butsu simply a word we chant? or expression of gratitude? Rev. Tomioka will share the meaning of the phrase. He will explore the joy of Nembutsu through Shin Buddhist texts and examples."

Saturday, July 10 10 a.m. to 11:30 am

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

[Click to donate](#)

Questions? Email: hawaii.kyogakkai@gmail.com
or call at 8089669981



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Hawaii District Ministers Association

2021 BUDDHIST EDUCATION SERIES

[Click to Register](#)

Free & Open to the Public

Monthly Online Seminars

Saturday July 10 10-11:30 a.m.	Spiritual Foundation: Nembutsu that is true and real. Rev. Ka'imipono Tomioka Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple	
Saturday August 14 10-11:00 a.m.	Relationship between Amida Buddha and Shakyamuni Buddha Rev. Masanari Yamagishi Kamuela Hongwanji Mission	
Saturday September 25 10-11:30 a.m.	How should Buddhist temple exist as a part of community? Discussion led by Rev. Shinji Kawagoe Papaikou Hongwanji Mission	
Saturday October 9 10-11:30 a.m.	Embracing our Shadow: Shin Buddhist Wisdom for When Life Gets Difficult Rev. Blayne Higa Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple	
Saturday November 13 10-11:30 a.m.	Learning from the Shoshinge Rimban Kazunori Takahashi Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin	

NEMBUTSU SEMINAR 2021

Saturday **October 2,** **Shin Buddhism and Mental Health**
10-11:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. Carmella Javellana Hirano

Saturday **December 11, Ways of Living in Wisdom and Resilience--**

10-11:30 a.m. **Footsteps of Some Nembutsu Practicers on the Big Island**

Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, Retired Minister of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Any questions? Email: hawaii.kyogakkai@gmail.com

