

Puna Hongwanji Mission



Location: 16-492 Old Volcano Road, Keaau, HI

Mailing address: P.O. Box 100

Keaau, HI 96749-0100

Tel: (808) 966-9981 Fax: (808) 966-7732

Website: punahongwanji.org

Resident Minister: Reverend Satoshi Tomioka

Cell: (808) 285-0275

Email: stomioka@honpahi.org

Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri– 9 AM to 12PM*

*unless called away by other duties

Thurs. – day off

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

Email: cfurukado@yahoo.com

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March 2022 Hi-Lites

Stay connected with
Puna Hongwanji Mission by:

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Instagram:

www.instagram.com/punahongwanji1902/

Webpage: www.punahongwanji.org

Online donation:

www.punahongwanji.org/donate/

2022 Honpa Hongwanji Theme & Slogan

Building Healthy Sanghas

(Connecting with Others)

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.

Email: "hilites@punahongwanji.org"

Editorial: Sam Horiuchi
Tammy Molina
Warren Noguchi

Production: Lei Kakugawa
Ann Toma
Dora Hashimoto
Susan Sunada
Clifford Furukado

Advisor: Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

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

Suyeko Yamasaki

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 2022

1 yr.	Iseko Nakano Kawaguchi	March 11, 2021
3 yrs.	Charles Tamashiro Masato Meguro	March 3, 2020 March 26, 2020
7 yrs.	Ronald Kuritani	March 17, 2016
13 yrs.	Mary Ellen Cannon	March 8, 2010
17 yrs.	Noritsugu Goya Hiroo Sato	March 5, 2006 March 20, 2006
25 yrs.	Jeanne Kawamoto	March 12, 1998
33 yrs.	Noboru Yamate Raymond Yamasaki	March 10, 1990 March 20, 1990
50 yrs	Hatsuzo Ushijima Toku Niimi Masu Aoki	March 12, 1973 March 19, 1973 March 28, 1973





Minister's Message

In Jodo Shinshu tradition, it is always important to have an attitude of not only “what” but also “why.” With the perspective of “what,” we can find some definitions and meaning about teachings of Buddha. But with “why” in our mind, what significance do we discover in the teaching?

For instance, did you notice that some batteries have a label saying “Bitter Taste”? From the “what” view, it literally means the battery has a bitter taste. And from the “why” view, since there are many accidents that kids eat and swallow the battery and it sometimes causes a serious problem to them, the bitter taste discourages kids from eating and swallowing when they put it into their mouth. When we know the fact of “what”, that’s all about it and we understand it as it is. But, when we hear and learn the reason why things are a certain way and circumstances of that, it makes us nod and sometimes we may be fascinated by the reasons. And we may even begin to appreciate it or we may feel sorry for the reason and circumstances which brought about a product or service. In the case of bitter battery, it has appeared that some babies or kids got seriously injured or passed away because they swallowed the battery.

What is the Other Shore? It means the Amida Buddha’s Pure Land. It is filled with the highest virtues and merits, beautiful flowers, wonderful birds’ singing of dharma, ultimate bliss without tears and suffering, the realm of enlightenment based on the Wish of Amida Buddha. For the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist, our goal and purpose are to be born into this Other Shore and attain enlightenment, freed from suffering. To attain birth in Amida Buddha’s Land of Perfect Bliss, we simply listen to the Primal Vow and entrust ourselves to Amida Buddha who unconditionally embraces and accepts all as they are.

Then, why is the Other Shore? What caused Amida Buddha to establish the Pure Land? Contrary to the Other Shore is “This Shore” of endless suffering or *Saha* world of endurance. It is our human life and worldly realm where we are abiding. This is a realm of endurance and we are going through not only happiness and joy but also struggles and pains, sorrows. Sakyamuni Buddha identified the cause of suffering is our ego and attachment. And the medicine and remedy are the teachings of Buddha. If we follow the path of Buddhism and purify our hearts and minds, attainment of enlightenment is possible. Who is on this shore? Who is struggling and giving struggles to others? It is me. I’m indeed in the realm of This Shore and going through difficulties. For the sake of me, the Other Shore exists and Amida Buddha had to take action to guide me and embrace me so that I can be born in the Pure Land.

Here, not only with the “what” view but with “why” view, we can understand the meaning of the Other Shore. It is the Land of Amida Buddha who welcomes us there and assures us of our attainment of enlightenment. It is our destination of life and meeting again with our loved ones with the most beautiful appearance. And we can return to This Shore of delusional world to help people left behind encounter the great embrace of Amida Buddha through the working of the Primal Vow. Pure Land is not only afterlife but it is dynamically beckoning to us and showing us the direction. Every day is a journey to the Pure Land and it guides us to reflect upon ourselves-my greed, anger, and ignorance- and lead to us live inspired by loving-kindness.

Like the phrase “Happy Wife, Happy Life” that I received from many people when I got married, Amida Buddha’s wish is alleviating suffering and giving happiness. Unfortunately, sometimes myself and my spouse Haruka have arguments and usually it is because of the different perspectives. During the argument, I thought to myself, what about the wedding vow? Didn’t I promise to love her and keep her happy always? Sadly and regrettably, I’m a perfectly imperfect person and have ups and downs in my emotions and life. For such as me and because of me, Amida Buddha’s wish is to envelope me and guide me to have a reflection upon myself and my ego touched by the boundless compassion and love of Amida. Still, I feel upset, but the love of Amida nurtures my life. In the light of Amida Buddha’s Wisdom, it shows my true nature and enables me to acknowledge my ego, and leads me to live a life that is warmly within the great embrace. It does not justify my ego nor excuse myself from practicing the teaching. It is ongoing encouragement and continuing beckoning guidance from Amida Buddha.

Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu said “Reverently contemplating the true essence of the Pure Land way, I see that Amida’s directing virtue to sentient beings has two aspects: the aspect for our going forth to the Pure Land and the aspect for our return to this world.” CWS. Page 7

Indeed, Amida Buddha practiced and prepared for us everything for us for our enlightenment. Instead of relying on ourselves, we simply listen to the wish of Amida Buddha and entrust ourselves to that Vow: “Come as you are. Whatever happens in your life, I shall embrace you and take you to the Pure Land.” Hearing this without doubt and without calculation, it is the entrusting heart (shinjin) which cause us to say the Name of Namo Amida Butsu with palms together in gassho. Rev. Sosuke Nishimoto said,

This world is not the Pure Land. Yet, the gate to the Pure Land is Open.

In this Saha world, in this reality, In front of our eyes at the one thought moment.

I tell you once again to make sure you understand there is no entrance to the Pure Land after this life.

(From NISHIMOTO Sosuke “The Path is Here.”)

What is the gate? It is Amida Buddha’s wish which is resonating in our life as Namo Amida Butsu. Our loved ones who died before us, our teachers, friends, and happenings in our life, all are guiding us to encounter the Wish of Amida Buddha and receive the joy of being embraced by vigorous compassion and transcending wisdom.

Why is the gate? It is Amida Buddha’s compassionate determination of never letting you stay in this life of suffering and liberation from it.

Let us deeply receive the gate, and live the life of Nembutsu together. Namo Amida Butsu.

Weekly Sunday Service via Zoom:

We are continuing to have our weekly Sunday Service via Zoom. If you would like to join us, please email mpunahongwanji@twc.com to receive the Zoom link. If you want to join, but unsure about Zoom contact us and we can offer to help guide you through the process. We will be sending out a weekly reminder with the Zoom link, if you are not getting the email and want to be added to the weekly reminder please email us and we will add you to the Zoom Sunday Service email listing.

President's Message

On February 11th and 12th, the Honpa Hongwanji Missions of Hawaii held our annual Legislative Assembly or Giseikai. I was held virtually again this year and along with myself, Reverend Tomioka and our treasurer Richard Solie were delegates. Robin Sato, Warren Tanigawa and Jason Hashimoto attended as observers. I'd like to briefly inform you of the Resolutions that were passed this session. Resolution #1 the Budget was passed. I am happy to report that because there was a surplus last year it was carried over to this year and has been applied to the assessment that member temples pay annually. The end result is that we will be paying roughly 30% less than we did last year.

There were resolutions which amended the language to correct some conflicts with the terms of and the selection process of the State Board of Directors and recognized the merger of Papaaloa and Honohina Hownganji. Resolutions directing the Board of Directors to create a Honpa Hongwanji statewide newsletter and an online calendar were passed. Another resolution tasks the Hawaii Kyodan to adopt an Annual Endowment Campaign to enhance the Capital Fund which is our investment account. Annually, a percentage of the gains of the capital fund are transferred to the operating budget. A \$50,000 subsidy for the Pacific Buddhist Academy was approved for this year and a \$1.0 million line of credit was approved to assist with the construction costs for the new Hilo Hongwanji Preschool. Should money be needed from this line of credit it is to be repaid 18 months after the issuance of certificate of occupancy.

The final resolution was the combined resolution of Condolence and Appreciation. Recognized in the resolution were Reverend Yoshiko Shimabukuro, Reverend Yoshikazu Saito, Reverend Yoshiaki Fujitani, Mr. Yoshio Kijima, and Puna Hongwanji's Mrs. Kiyoko Imada, Mr. Earl Mukai and Mr. Stanley Oishi.

This year, Puna Hongwanji is the Toban Temple for the Big Island Buddhist Federation. In this role, we are responsible for hosting the Joint Hanamatsuri and Bodhi day services; assist the American Legion with the Memorial Day Service, and the Japanese Community Association of Hawaii with the Ireito service held at Alae Cemetery and the AJA Veterans Memorial Service and the Veterans Day Service. We will also be responsible for the Installation service and dinner next year.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for your support that you have given the temple. Thank you for paying you dues and for donating to the temple. It has been a difficult couple of years but we are financially sound due to your generosity. All of your donations are greatly appreciated.



In Gassho,
Clifford Furukado

Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights



Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights

Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, January 20, 2022.
Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

Repair and Maintenance

- On New Year's Eve, a big leak was discovered by the temple bell. The heavy rains caused the stress. Gary Sunada followed the leak flow. There is damage to the tower wall and ceiling.
- Glass for the double hung windows in the social hall were picked up.
- Clifford Furukado cleaned the gutter by the down spout.

Approved Activities/Announcements

- Papaaloa Hongwanji held a closing service after 118 years. They will join Honohina Hongwanji.
- 2022 is Puna Hongwanji's 120th anniversary. Because there is much to be done with repair and maintenance, Rev. Tomioka suggested that we celebrate our 125th anniversary in 2027.
- Covid situation is not ending. We have to think of safety and how we can do events/activities creatively.
- Zoom services are continuing on Sundays.
- Holiday Photo Contest: 27 photos/13 participants. Four Big Island Delights gift certificates were awarded.
- Puna Hongwanji will be the Big Island Buddhist Federation (BIBF) Toban this year. Activities/responsibilities include: Hanamatsuri in April; Memorial Day in May; Ireito Service in August; AJA Veteran's Memorial in September; Veteran's Day in November; Bodhi Day in December; installation of officers & banquet.
- BWA 2022 Conference in Maui will be held virtually. 2023 BWA World Convention will be held in Kyoto.
- Sr. YBA made a donation to Leo Saito on Jan. 2 to help defray travel cost to Augusta, Georgia.
- New members: Lisa Morimoto & children, Michael Donenfeld, and June Kiyabu.
- Investment assets are allocated as follows: 30% in medium risk and 70% in higher risk; portfolio shows a gain for the 4th quarter of 2021.
- Project Dana volunteers resumed visitations to care facilities. The Puna Meals on Wheels delivers 14 meals to Pahoa, Keaau, and Hilo clients. Volunteers continue to stay in touch through mail, phone calls, and friendly visits.
- The Columbarium Improvement Committee has held several meetings to try and prioritize the many projects.
- Jenn Kurohara was voted to the Board of Directors to fill the vacancy due to Earl Mukai's passing.
- Feb. 27: Hot Meal for Shinnen Enkai. Due to Covid and its variants, we can't gather like in the past for the annual Shinnin Enkai. Board approved having hot meals using the Social Concerns Fund.

In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much

- Congratulations to Mrs. Mariko Ohashhi, centenarian. A Congratulatory Resolution from HIUHBWA was presented. Omedetou!
- Thank you to the anonymous donor who gave 10 rolls of print and solid material. Domo arigato gozaimasu!
- Mahalo to our wonderful volunteers who check up on the temple and try to solve the problems when they come across them. Thank you, Gary, Clifford, and the many, many menehunes who keep our temple looking good. You are appreciated!

Membership Committee News

Thank you for your dues payment. Dues are \$240.00 and you can pay weekly, monthly, semi-yearly and in full. If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. Please notify our office of your status. And if you have a new address, please notify the office also.



In Gassho,

Roy Toma
Membership Chairman
808-935-7712

PROJECT DANA



On Jan. 25th, the State Project Dana held a virtual meeting for all site coordinators. The meeting was well attended with representation of coordinators from each temple that has a Project Dana program.

Cyndi Osajima led the meeting which first focused on the new liability insurance from The Hartford Insurance Company and risk management in volunteer and service programs. Then site leaders were asked to share how they were providing services to clients during the Covid pandemic. A second meeting will be held in February to establish the list of volunteers and clients under Project Dana and the authorized volunteer activities.

Puna volunteers are continuing to deliver weekly bentos to their seniors, make visitations, keep in touch through cards, phone calls and visits and celebrate birthdays.

Volunteers Ann Toma, Florence Nishimura, and Lei Kakugawa made visitations to two care facilities. Coordinators Eileen Usagawa and Stella Miyashiro made friendly visits to private homes and celebrated birthdays with volunteers and clients.

February is Dana month and volunteers were acknowledged for the many services that they provide to their clients.

Project Dana is grateful for the continued financial support from temple members and friends.

Volunteers, please send in your timesheets at the end of each month.

Thank you very much for the various donations that have been given to Project Dana. Please take care of yourself.



Happy Birthday Lei!



Happy Birthday Masako!



Happy birthday Richard!



Happy Birthday Kiyo!



Happy Birthday Kay!



Happy Birthday Hatsuko!

In gassho,

Stella Miyashiro

Eileen Usagawa



BWA NEWS

The HIUHBWA held a virtual meeting on Sat., October 19, 2022. Members were reminded that registrations were still being accepted for the virtual State Conference in April. Also the preliminary applications for the World BWA Convention in Kyoto are being accepted.

In October 2022, Naalehu and Puna BWA Units will be hosting the annual HIUHBWA Membership Meeting at Puna Hongwanji. The slate of officers for the 2023-2024 term will be presented at this time. The two vacant positions, secretary and treasurer for the Puna Unit, have been filled to complete the 2022 term. The BWA is open to new members throughout the year. The annual membership dues is \$20.00. Please join this organization which is rich in tradition and flexible in meeting today's challenges.

Sr. YBA Congratulations to Leo Saito

In December 2021 the Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA held our year end party virtually. We ordered bentos from Restaurant Miwa. We set a flat fee for the bento and decided any excess funds we would donate to Leo Saito. Our Sr. YBA members were also very generous and gave extra funds to donate to Leo. In January 2022, President of Sr. YBA Jenn Kurohara and Secretary Robin Sato meet Leo and his father Syuck Ki and his mother Misaki at the Hilo Municipal Golf Course to present him with the check from the Sr. YBA.



Leo with Jenn and Robin



Leo with father Syuck Ki and Mother Misaki

Leo is the first boy from Hawaii to qualify for the annual Drive Chip Putt National Finals in Augusta National Gold Club in Georgia. Leo will be participating in this event on Sunday, April 3, 2022. You may be able to watch it on the Golf Channel. According to Misaki, Leo is practicing non-stop in preparation for this event.

Leo and his family are a part of the Puna Hongwanji Ohana and we wanted to show our support to Leo and wish him the best of luck at the finals.



Good luck Leo!!! Gambatte!!! Do your best, but most of all have fun as you already did your best by qualifying.

Flowers Needed, Please

Puna Hongwanji is serving as the Big Island Buddhist Federation Toban temple this year and we are planning to air a pre-recorded video of the service followed by a public pouring of the sweet tea at Liliuokalani Gardens on April 3rd from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. We will need flowers to decorate our Hanamido as well as flowers to decorate the pavilion and to make floral arrangements. We plan to use the old sumo ring pavilion next to the tea house. If you have flowers and are willing to donate them, we would appreciate it if you could drop them off at the temple by Friday April 1st. Should you have any questions, please call me at (808) 959-4289 or (808)938-3177. Thank you very much.

In Gassho,
Clifford Furukado

MEOW MEOW....TABBY BOY & SISSY GIRL ARE LOOKING FOR A LOVING HOME

These two adorable and healthy kittens are looking for someone to give them a loving home. Their temporary names are Tabby boy and Sissy girl. They are about seven months old. They both are fixed, microchipped, vaccinated and up to date on their flea treatment and SPOLIED.

They were found on the temple grounds in October 2021.

If you are interested in adopting these adorable and loving companions of please call me, Keri at (808)9594289.



Tabby Boy is sweet, gentle and shy.



Sissy Girl is sweet, playful & loves her snacks