

## 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](http://punahongwanji.org)

Resident Minister: Reverend Satoshi Tomioka

Cell: (808) 285-0275

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

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## April 2022 Hi-Lites

Stay connected with  
Puna Hongwanji Mission by:

Twitter: PunaHM1

YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCtQ19ePwF\\_lwTH0A\\_hwkIwg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtQ19ePwF_lwTH0A_hwkIwg)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/PunaHongwanji](http://www.facebook.com/PunaHongwanji)

Instagram:

[www.instagram.com/punahongwanji1902/](http://www.instagram.com/punahongwanji1902/)

Webpage: [www.punahongwanji.org](http://www.punahongwanji.org)

Online donation:

[www.punahongwanji.org/donate/](http://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.

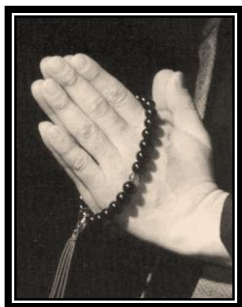
**Email:** "hilites@punahongwanji.org"

**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

## *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.**

## *April 2022*

1 yr.	Elaine Sako Earl Mukai	April 14, 2021 April 19, 2021
3 yrs.	None	2020
7 yrs.	Clarence Fukunaga	April 25, 2016
13 yrs.	Toshiko Yamaguchi	April 12, 2010
17 yrs.	Rikiji Maki Mildred Midori Sumiki Kiyoto Kan Tsutomu Yoshida Nobuyuki Murakami	April 2, 2006 April 14, 2006 April 22, 2006 April 26, 2006 April 26, 2006
25 yrs.	None	1998
33 yrs.	Kiku Tagami	April 3, 1990
50 yrs.	None	1973



### **Minister's Message**

“When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice.”

My birthday is Amida Buddha's birthday.

Do you remember your birthday? You would say “yes of course I know.” Me? Well, I think you know but my birthday is January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1988 as a friendly reminder. Can you imagine that I have welcomed my birthday 33 times since I was born! Today we are here because we were born. Everything we have today has its beginning. And everything has a purpose for its existence. A pen is invented to write something, a car is built to drive, a TV is made to watch and so forth. In this way, when things were used according to its purpose, we can see its existence was valued and fulfilled. In

other words, if things are not used according to the original purpose, its existence is not fulfilled. We use things for different purposes sometimes though.

Here, what is the purpose of your life? Why are we born in this world? Some may say that we were born to find the purpose of life and live it. The other may say that we don't know what the purpose is but so what?! We live, we study, we work, we laugh, we cry, we enjoy each moment. What else do we need? This observation might be a common idea about our life. However, if there is a purpose of life and if it is not realized, and if our life is not according to the purpose, what do we say about this? In other words, if we realize the purpose and live it, what a wonderful life it is, isn't it? But it seems to be difficult to find a purpose of life.

What is the purpose of Sakyamuni Buddha? A legend states that the prince (a baby Buddha) took 7 steps and with his right hand pointing to the heavens and his left hand to the earth proclaimed that between heaven and earth, “In the Heavens above and on the Earth below, I alone am the World-Honored One. All that exists in the Three Worlds is suffering, but I will bring comfort”. Here we can find that the Buddha was born to bring comfort to all who are in fear and suffering. Buddhism teaches the 6 transmigrations of suffering of life & death and offers the 7<sup>th</sup> step to liberate all from this cycle of birth and death. The 7<sup>th</sup> step is Buddha's teaching which leads to enlightenment. Buddha's entire life was to preach the teachings to all to alleviate suffering and bring the utmost bliss of enlightenment to all. We can see that the Sakyamuni Buddha had a purpose of life, lived it, and the purpose was fulfilled through each person receiving the teaching and attaining enlightenment.

About the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha, Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Tradition said in this way: “Sakyamuni Tathagata (Buddha) appeared in this world Solely to teach the ocean-like Primal Vow of Amida; We, an ocean of beings in an evil age of five defilements, Should entrust ourselves to the Tathagata's words of truth.”-Collected Works of Shinran, Shoshinge.

Although there are many, many teachings and schools based on it, Shinran Shonin understood that Sakyamuni Buddha was born to teach the Primal Vow of Amida which embraces all unconditionally and saves all from suffering. Then, Shinran Shonin also says that our purpose is to listen to the teaching and entrust ourselves to the Vow of Amida Buddha. And the object and target of the Compassionate embrace of Amida Buddha is me and you. Sakyamuni Buddha and Amida Buddha were born to meet me, to guide me, to embrace, and urge me to take refuge in the ultimate reliance so we can attain enlightenment free from struggles, pains, ego and attachments. Don't you think we feel a kind of astonishment, excitement, wonder, and rejoice? The purpose and reasons for the existence of Amida Buddha is for the sake of me.

Miyoko Gyoren Nozawa said, “although the umbilical cord is cut, a permanent attachment remains.” A birth is beautiful but that is the beginning of the life that promises sickness, aging, death and all kinds of struggles in our life. Because our life is full of struggles and pains, Amida Buddha can’t stop thinking of us. How dare your loved one leave you alone when you are sad, lonely and need help? In the similar way, observing our human endurance, Amida Buddha’s Compassionate vows were established to embrace us and guide us with the Great Wisdom. Touched by Amida Buddha’s Vigorous Compassion, we can find comfort and assurance in the awareness that no matter what Amida Buddha is with us. Touched by the Transcending Wisdom, we are enabled to see our true human nature of greed, anger, ignorance and we are nurtured to live life not being driven by our ego but guided by the wisdom of Amida Buddha.

When we are exposed to the Vow of Amida Buddha and awaken to the Compassion and Wisdom, the mind of entrusting erupts in our life which urges us to place our hands together in gassho, causes us to recite the Name of Amida Buddha, Namo Amida Butsu in gratefulness and humbling joy. Indeed, I was born to be embraced by Amida Buddha and Amida Buddha was born to embrace me. How beautiful it is, isn’t it? You have someone who thinks of you more than you do for yourself. Amida Buddha is the one who is compassionately calling to us saying “Don’t worry, be happy. I shall embrace you as you are no matter what” even before we ask and even before we know it. Let us joyfully and gratefully recite the Name together. Namo Amida Butsu.

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## **President’s Message**

### **BIBF Hanamatsuri**

Puna Hongwanji is the host temple for this year’s Big Island Buddhist Federation Hanamatsuri or Buddha Day service. We will not be having a traditional in person service at the temple, instead, we will be posting a recorded video on the Puna Hongwanji You Tube channel at 9 am on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The featured guest speaker will be Edythe Vassall of Hilo Betsuin and her presentation will be about the profound essence of the “Asoka Flower” found in the poetry of Lady Takeko Kujo who was the daughter of the 21<sup>st</sup> Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji head priest. At 10:30 am, you are invited to join us at the old sumo ring pavilion at Liliuokalani Gardens for a short service after which you will have the opportunity to offer incense and pour sweet tea over the baby buddha until 2:30 pm. We will need flowers to decorate our Hanamido or flower altar, to make bouquets and to decorate the pavilion. If you have flowers that you can spare, please bring them to the temple by Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Any amount will be greatly appreciated.



In Gassho,  
Clifford Furukado

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## **Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights**



Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, February 17, 2022.  
Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

### **Repair and Maintenance**

- Mike Fukutomi did some repair work in the men's restroom.
- Columbarium Improvement Committee is waiting for contractor to contact them.

### **Approved Activities/Announcements**

- Rev. Arthur Kaufman retired from Lihue Hongwanji and will be moving to the mainland.
- See the Facebook page for a post on Rev. Tomioka – he has been here for six years.
- Rev. Tomioka, Richard Solie, and Clifford Furukado were delegates to the virtual Giseikai. Robin Sato, Warren Tanigawa, and Jason Hashimoto were observers.
  - Planned Giving: Committee will be formed.
  - Budget was approved. Surplus from past budget was used to reduce assessments.
  - By-Laws Amendment: Clear up language of nominations and elections.
  - Establishment of statewide newsletter.
  - Establishment of online statewide calendar.
  - Annual Endowment Campaign for Capital Fund. Percentage of capital fund gains is used for operating budget.
  - Approved annual subsidy for Pacific Buddhist Academy.
  - Approved line of credit for Hilo Hongwanji Pre-School.
  - Resolution of Condolence & Appreciation: Earl Mukai, Kiyoko Imada, and Stanley Oishi were recognized.
- BWA is still accepting registration for the virtual State Conference in April and preliminary application for the World BWA Convention in Kyoto. Naalehu and Puna BWA Units will be hosting the annual HIUHBWA Membership Meeting in October at Puna Hongwanji. BWA is open to new members throughout the year. Annual dues is \$20.00.
- The Shinnen Enkai Hot Meals will be paid by the Social Concerns Fund.
- Sr. YBA President Jenn Kurohara and Secretary Robin Sato delivered the check to Leo Saito and his parents. He is the first boy from Hawaii to qualify for the Annual Drive Chip Putt National Finals in Augusta National Gold Club in Georgia.
- Puna Taiko recruited some students; any youth up to college age may be able to join.
- Project Dana volunteers continue to deliver weekly bentos, make visitations, keep in touch through cards, phone calls, and celebrate birthdays.

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

- Rev. Tomioka expressed his thankfulness and appreciation for members and friends who continue to work and help at the temple. He reminded all that your well-being is important so to take care of yourself.
- Thank you to all who made dues donation. Domo arigato gozaimasu! Membership Chair Roy Toma has been encouraging members to pay their dues on a financial schedule that fits you.
- Mahalo to Mike Fukutomi for doing repairs. You are appreciated!



- Mask Project Chair Carol Tsunazumi announced that Mrs. Mieke Nagao made another 100 masks for a total of **2,500!!!** Fantastic! Awesome! Amazing! Also fantastic, awesome, and amazing is the fact that Mrs. Nagao will celebrate her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 8. Otanjoubi omedetou gozaimasu!

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### **Membership Committee News**

Thank you for your dues payment.

Recommended dues are \$240.00 and can be paid weekly, monthly, semi-yearly or in full. If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt.

And also if you have moved, please inform the office of your new address.



In Gassho,

Roy Toma  
Membership Chairman  
808-935-7712

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### **Share Aloha and Compassion for Ukraine**

As a way to share our aloha and compassion for the recent events happening in Ukraine we are requesting your support, if you are able to. We want to share our loving-kindness for all humanity with a warm embrace for the painful hearts caused by the Russian and Ukraine Conflict.

In 2018 when the lava flow affected the Puna area many residents didn't have to worry about a hot meal as chefs who volunteer with the World Central Kitchen (WCK) created meals to serve the people. Two of the chefs that came to Hawaii are now in Poland and Ukraine serving hot meals to those in need. We are taking up a collection to send to donate to WCK. The Vietnamese American Non-Governmental Organization (VANGO) will be matching up to \$10,000 for donations being made to WCK.

You can support this effort by making a check payable to Puna Hongwanji Mission. We will send a collective check to WCK of all the donations. In the memo part of your check please notate "WCK donation".

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## **PROJECT DANA**



Puna Project Dana got 140 attractive handmade notecards and 100 postage stamps from the State Project Dana. This supply will enable the writing project to continue so that home bound seniors stay connected with others.

On March 8th, Cyndi Osajima of Project Dana Headquarters, held a virtual meeting with site coordinators. A topic on the agenda was the changes in the volunteer application form in regards to references and background checks. Volunteers Ann Toma, Dora Hashimoto, and Florence Nishimura made visitations to care facilities. Transportation to temple for Florence Nishimura, Lei Kakugawa, and Masako Sanehira was provided by volunteers Ann Toma, Hiroshi Kozohara, and Warren Tanigawa. Now that in person service is being held, volunteers may be able to provide rides for homebound seniors.

Coordinators Eileen Usagawa and Stella Miyashiro are planning a field trip for the Dana clients. The Hawaii Japanese Center has a Japanese doll exhibit on display for a limited time. This will be the first outing since the pandemic. The clients and volunteer drivers are looking forward to spending time together.



Happy Birthday Craig!

Mahalo to temple members, who continue to support Project Dana with donations. Please stay safe and take care.



In Gashho,

Stella Miyashiro

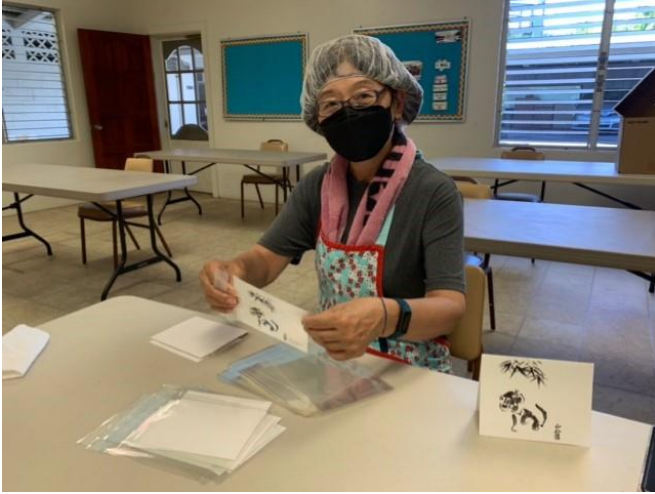
Eileen Usagawa

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## BWA NEWS

The BWA had a sumie painting of a tiger made into a postcard.



The painting was done by Rev. Earl Ikeda for the Puna Hongwanji 2010 Shinnen Kai and New Year Gathering. The cards were given as gifts to temple members, when they picked up the hot meals for Shinnen Kai.



The HIUHBWA has two \$1000 scholarships for deserving graduating high school seniors. Applicants must be of Shin Buddhist Faith, whose parents are dues paying members of any Hongwanji temple in Hawaii Island. The scholarship is to 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. Applications must be postmarked by April 8, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Stella Miyashiro at (808) 959-7919.





**Finally after 2 years we will be having our Mother's Day brunch on Sunday, May 8, 2022 following temple service.**

**Tickets will be \$10.00 and proceeds will be going to the Scholarship Fund.**

**To purchase tickets, please see Robin after Sunday Services.**

**You can also call or text her @ (808)936-7179 to reserve tickets.**

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### **Earth Day 2022**

April 22, 2022 is Earth Day. Let us do our part to think about the things that we can do to keep the landfills from filling up and thinking of ways to recycle items that can be recycled.

During the month of April collect your items and then on **Sunday, May 1, 2022 after service from 10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** drop off your recycle items at the temple. We will collect your cardboard items and recycle #5 items like your take out containers, pill containers, cups, etc. If you are not recycling your HI-5 items, please consider donating it to Puna Hongwanji and we will take it in for redemption.

During the pandemic, the East Hawaii Rotary Club's Peace Committee promoted peace through an Origami Peace Crane (Tsuru) Project. Skylee Hiraki, Hawaii's Ms. Elementary 5th Grade in 2021 and now Hawaii's Ms. Elementary 6th Grade in 2022, folded over 1001 origami cranes as a community service project to promote peace with Aloha. She used recycled paper to make the cranes, as a way to raise awareness about recycling. Her cranes are displayed at the Hawaii County Building. The East Hawaii Rotary Club's Peace Committee would like to add more recycled paper cranes to be hung at the Hawaii County Building. If you are able to fold cranes, please consider using your old magazines or calendars and start folding cranes that you can submit to Robin. We will then share the cranes with the Rotary to have it displayed during Peace Day on September 21, 2022.

# **Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**

**16-492 Old Volcano Road, Keaau (808) 966-9981**



**April 22, 2022**

**Help us fold paper cranes (tsuru) utilizing your recycled paper to be used for Peace Day. In the picture the cranes were made from magazines and old calendars.**



**We can take small steps by helping the environment by recycling card board and Recycle #5 items.**

**Drop off at Puna Hongwanji  
on Sunday, May 1, 2022  
from 10:15 a.m.—11:30 a.m**



**If you are throwing away your HI-5 recycles consider donating it to the temple.**



## MAHALO

A big shout out to the kitchen crew for their hard work preparing for the Shinnen Enkai take-out hot meal on Sunday, February 27, 2022, because of your dedication and hard work we were able to provide our Sangha members with a hot meal.

Thank you very much!



**Saturday's Crew: Cliff, Daiju, Lorraine, Chika, Lei, Mariko, Susan, Kiyo, Eli, Ann, Carol, & Keri**



**Sunday's Crew: Cliff, Karen, Lorraine, Haruka, Keri, Lei, Stan, Susan, Carol, Ann, Gwen, Terry, Eli, & Rev. Tomioka**

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### **Sr. YBA Meeting**

Just a friendly reminder we will be having our Sr. YBA meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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We will be having a rummage sale on Saturday,  
May 7, 2022 from 8:00 to 12 noon.

You may drop off donations starting Saturday,  
April 23, 2022.

Please call Clifford @ (808)959-4289 should you have any questions.

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### **Weekly Sunday Service In-Person and via Zoom**

On Sunday, March 6, 2022 we pivoted our service from online only to in-person and online. If you feel comfortable, please come join us in person for our weekly Sunday Service. We continue to offer our services via Zoom as well. If you are interested in attending the Zoom service, please email us at [mpunahongwanji@twc.com](mailto:mpunahongwanji@twc.com) and we will share with you the Zoom link.



## Granite Signs Around the Temple

Have you noticed that the granite signs around the temple are easier to read? We would like to express our deepest appreciation to Michael Sasaki of Sasaki Monuments, LLC. One day he was at the temple cleaning and adding more gold flakes to the sign by the Columbarium. We have been working with him to add on the two names to our war memorial. He then mentioned that while he was on vacation he sent his workers to the temple to clean and retouch the signs by Shinran Shonin, the Centennial Garden, and Shipman Garden. Thank you Mike and your workers for your commitment and dedication to our temple.

