

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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 *unless called away by other duties
 Thurs. – day off

Kyodan Pres.: Clifford Furukado (Cell: 938-3177)
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August 2024 Hi-Lites

Stay connected with
 Puna Hongwanji Mission by:



Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@punahongwanjibuddhistempl7238>



• Facebook:

www.facebook.com/PunaHongwanji



• Instagram:

www.instagram.com/punahongwanji1902/



• Online donation:

<https://punahongwanji.org/donate/>



2024 Honpa Hongwanji Theme & Slogan
Building Healthy Sanghas
(Sharing Nembutsu Moments)

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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Memorial Service (Nenki年忌)

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.

August 2024



1 yr.	Mitsuye Toma	August 21, 2023
3 yrs.	Masanobu Sumi Glenn Toyama	August 5, 2022 August 20, 2022
7 yrs.	Clifford Nagao Sadao Oshiro Suzuko Yamamoto	August 3, 2018 August 9, 2018 August 27, 2018
13 yrs.	Elaine Oyadomori	August 19, 2012
17 yrs.	Yoshinori Hirazumi	August 29, 2008
25 yrs.	Darrell Okamoto Shigeru Kotomori Masamori Funamori Hatsu Yamasaki	August 2, 2000 August 4, 2000 August 27, 2000 August 28, 2000
33 yrs.	Kame Iha	August 16, 1992
50 yrs.	Matsuzo Murakami Sueme Mizutari	August 5, 1975 August 23, 1975

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

Gilbert Uyeda

Roy Toma

A memorial service is a time for family members and friends to gather in memory of our loved ones. It's held in gratefulness for the Compassion of Amida Buddha who is always embracing our loved ones and each of us warmly and gently. This is also a precious opportunity for family and friends to reflect upon their lives while remembering departed loved ones. You may schedule this memorial service on the memorial day listed above, or either before or after the day whichever is most convenient. Please contact Puna Hongwanji at (808) 966-9981 or email at mpunahongwanji@twc.com.

Zoom online service is also available.

AUGUST 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Family Service 10a (Bishops Visitation) Taiko 3 -6 pm	Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm Treas. Night 7 pm	Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm Sr. YBA Mtg. 7 pm	Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm D. Rm. Rental 5-7p	Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Family Service 9 am BWA Meeting BSC Summer Session Hilo Betsuin 2pm Taiko 3 -6 pm	Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm BOD Meeting 7p	Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Family Service 9 am Taiko 3 -6 pm	Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Family Service 9 am Taiko 3 -6 pm	Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	

Minister's Message



Every invention has a story, driven by the desire and creativity to craft something from the available resources. For example, in ancient times, fire was used for warmth, protection from wild animals, and cooking. It's unclear how fire was first discovered, perhaps from natural occurrences like lightning, but its use is evident. There are innumerable stories behind the development of various items. Consider the warning symbol on a battery box, which often includes a baby's frowning face next to the words 'bitter coating/taste.' This bitter element is not for the battery's function but to deter children from swallowing it. The hope is that the bitter taste will cause a child to spit out the battery. Before this symbol was introduced, there were numerous emergencies due to battery ingestion. The symbol represents the tears and suffering of children and their families. Ideally, such a warning would not be necessary, but reality necessitated its creation. It stands as a testament to care, prevention, and the hope to end such suffering.

Amida Buddha vowed to embrace and save all beings just as they are. The Primal Vow contains all virtues necessary for enlightenment, requiring nothing more from us. Assuredly, one will be reborn in the Pure Land and achieve nirvana through a heartfelt connection with Amida Buddha, who frees all from desires. Amida's existence is justified by our struggles and the hardships we cause others. If we were perfect and pure, there would be no need for such a vow. Yet, seeing human pain, struggle, tears, and uncertainty, Amida Buddha felt compelled to vow to bring peace to those in fear and suffering. Amida Buddha represents the compassion that acknowledges human suffering, resolved to relieve it and provide solace through its embrace.

Amida Buddha asks for nothing from us. In human society, we are often expected to contribute to activities like potlucks or retirement funds, which then others facilitate or match. In Buddhism, followers practice as per the sutras and teachings to seek enlightenment, purifying their minds and bodies, and cultivating virtues. Yet, Amida Buddha does not demand these practices from us. Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Pure Land Buddhism, understood that our practices are marred by ego and limitations, preventing true enlightenment. In fact, they might lead us away from nirvana. Acknowledging our limitations, Amida Buddha performed these practices for us, creating a vow with the essential elements for enlightenment, encapsulated in the phrase *Namo Amida Butsu*. While ideally, we would engage in practices ourselves, our limitations make this impractical. Accepting the vow means recognizing our limitations and finding joy, not in lamentation, but in the assurance of birth in the Pure Land, pledged by Amida Buddha's Primal Vow. This acceptance fills us with ongoing feelings of remorse, humility, reflection, joy, gratitude, and confidence. Shonin shares with me: *'When we reflect on the establishment of the Vow, we find that the Tathagata (Buddha), without abandoning sentient beings in pain and affliction, has taken the directing of virtue to them as foremost, thus fulfilling the mind of great compassion. -Establishment of the Vow: Amida Tathagata's establishing of the compassionate Vow. l.4: know that Amida has attained the mind of great love and great compassion. (Hymns of the Dharma Ages, #38)*

When I share these teachings, I often encounter skepticism, with responses like "I don't buy it." Some find it illogical that we could be saved by doing nothing and while still holding onto our attachments. My suggestion is to try it for yourself. Imagine a life free from anger, frustration, irritation, tears, or constant desires. There are people and traditions that embrace this way of life. For me, following this path strictly is not practical, as I cannot commit to such protocols. So, the question arises: why would I be saved despite these limitations? It's a pertinent question. Being saved doesn't equate to becoming a Buddha or attaining liberation in our current form. Our desires accompany us until our final moments. Nirvana is reached with our last breath; the end of our physical existence is when we enter the Pure Land through the Primal Vow. This doesn't excuse our limitations or our desires. Rather, it's a call to acknowledge our attachments and aim to live guided by the compassion and wisdom of Amida Buddha. While these attachments are seen as obstacles to enlightenment, the Primal Vow assures that they won't stop us from reaching nirvana. We are assured of birth in the Pure Land and enlightenment at life's end, but the promise is made in the present: "Come to my embrace! I shall envelop you as you are!" Inspired by this invitation, we are encouraged to live reflectively, with wisdom and compassion. Such is the life of Nembutsu.

必要は発明の母、という表現がありますように、何かが発生するには原因と理由があります。最近の電池のパッケージには、子供の顔と一緒に「苦い味」という文字が付きまします。電池の用途には関係ないはずの「味」がついているのは、子供の誤飲を防ぐためです。口に入れた途端、苦みによって子供が吐き出すことを願ってのものです。その「味」の背景には、子供とその家族の苦しみがあるのです。阿弥陀様は、慈悲と智慧の心ですべての人を必ず救うと誓われました。その理由は、日々の人生で苦悩に生きるだけでなく、周りの人にも苦悩をもたらすこの私の存在でした。幸せを求めているはずが、逆に何故か苦悩が起きてしまい、努力しても救いから遠ざかる私をご覧になり、必ず救うよ、まかせよ、と私に寄り添ってくださるのです。その願いが南無阿弥陀仏です。願いに触れることは、煩悩の心に生きる私を知ることであり、その私をやさしく仏様に抱かれる喜びに気づくことでもあります。スパむすびのごはんとスパムが切っても切り離せないように、阿弥陀様は私を抱きとって、ともにいてくださるのです。

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another successful Obon has come and gone. Last year we all thought that the amount of people at the Bon Dance was the most we had ever seen but I think this one surpassed that. Thank you to Jason, Glenn, Donald and their hardworking committee for putting on a very successful event. Thank you to all our members, affiliate groups, members of other temples and friends who came out to help. We couldn't have done it without everyone pitching in. Thank you for your monetary donations to the Temple and the concession and to those who donated food items. Every year we keep getting bigger and better. Can't wait to see how we do next year. Thank you to Robin and Jenn for organizing another successful Back Pack Drive and a big Mahalo to those that donated. Thank you those that made donations to the Triple Celebration. Puna Hongwanji will match the donations received up to \$500.00 and send all the money collected will be sent to Honpa. The Bishop is coming. Bishop Umitani will be visiting Puna Honwanji and attending our Family Service as well as Pahala and Naalehu on August 4th. The service at Puna will be at 10 am on that day. So please come out to meet our new Bishop and have him experience the "Puna Hongwanji" hospitality.

Free Fire Wood

Jason and Misty Van Havel would like to offer free fire wood to members of our Sangha and also the community. They flip houses and they have one in Keaau that has a lot of Albizia trees and would like to offer the wood to anyone who wants it. Please call Misty at (808)989-3019 for more information.



In Gassho,
Clifford Furukado

MEMBERSHIP

Recommended dues for 2024 are \$250.00. Please send in the additional \$10.00 to cover the dues. Thank you for submitting your dues. You can pay your dues weekly, monthly, quarterly or in full. If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. And if you have a new mailing address, please inform our office.

Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights

Did someone say “August”?! School is back in session, but the weather continues to feel like summer!

We have been a very busy Kyodan with no sign of slowing down. Thank you to all who have given of their time, efforts, and resources to create a successful Sangha! Whether you are front and center or behind the scenes, your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Here is a rundown of what the Board of Directors have been up to:

We received a beautiful thank you card from the Kuwahara ‘ohana on behalf of the late Ms. Doris Kuwahara. Continued wishes of condolences and thoughts to all during this time.

The Seattle Betsuin is currently in the process of asbestos abatement and cleaning and are on their way to rebuilding the fire-and-water damaged areas soon! Mahalo to all who have generously donated to our Seattle Betsuin fund.

In June, we approved a motion to support the HHMH Triple Celebration by becoming a Bronze sponsor. The temple has since collected donations from generous members and will be making a matching donation of up to \$500. Seriously, we rock as a sangha!

Did you all notice how massive our bon dance was this year? This would not have been possible without the support of everyone involved. Grateful for our Puna and surrounding community members for attending. どうもありがとうございます!

The Toban have been ever so busy keeping our temple grounds beautifully manicured, the hondo nice and neat, repairs discovered and attended to, and keeping our bellies full! We cannot function without their continuous and genuine care. Mahalo nui loa!

Upcoming Events:

August 4: Service will be at 10:00 a.m.

Bishop Umitani will be visiting our temple and will be meeting with as many of us as possible. We will have fellowship following the service.

September 8 & 9: HHMH Triple Celebration – Ala Moana Hotel

September 14: Sakazuki o Kawasu – A fun and educational fellowship pairing sake and food!

September 15: Autumn Ohigan at 9:00 a.m.

September 21: International Day of Peace – Ring your bell for peace at 8:00 a.m.

September 22: Peace Day Service at 9:00 a.m.

October 13: Clergy Appreciation Day – Thank you, Reverend Tomioka!

October 27: Regular Service followed by Halloween

November 16: Winter Craft Fair – Let’s knock down that gift list!

November 17: Eitaikyo Service and Distinguished Sangha Service Awards – Mahalo!

December 1: No service at PHM. Bodhi Day Service TBD

December 14: Keaau Lighted Christmas Parade – With Puna Taiko

December 31: New Year’s Eve Service – 2025? What!!

Supporting loved ones during difficult times: BEFORE passing

Witnessing the challenges and decline of our loved ones can be exceptionally tough. Throughout life's ups and downs, it's crucial to acknowledge the stress and obstacles this may present. As part of comprehensive care, ensure that the minister is aware of your loved one's situation. The minister can offer spiritual guidance and support by visiting. Remember to contact the minister not only during challenging times but also when things are relatively stable. Even if your loved ones are relocated to a different place, like a neighboring island or the mainland, it's important to keep the minister updated. Within the Hongwanji network, there is a commitment to providing spiritual support for your loved ones.

When the minister visits your loved one and occasionally communicates with the family, if the time of passing is near, a bedside service can be arranged with the family. This is an opportunity for the family to find solace in the fact that their loved one is under the compassionate care of Amida Buddha. It also allows the family to convey their gratitude to their loved one and provide comfort during a challenging time of fear and suffering. In case the minister is not aware of your loved ones' condition, please contact the minister before the passing, so the minister can offer bedside services. Even after passing, please do not hesitate to contact the minister at any time, whether it's late at night or early in the morning. The minister is accessible around the clock to assist you during this difficult time.

Talking about end-of-life care and funeral preferences with family members enables decisions to be made in alignment with their desires, demonstrating respect and preventing regrets. While acknowledging that such conversations can be challenging and uncomfortable, it ultimately benefits both the family and the individual preparing for the future.

In the embrace of Amida, we transition not into death but into birth in the Pure Land through the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha. Let us encounter and let us be affirmed today, here and now.

Backpack Drive

We would like to thank everyone that participated in our Hawaii Police Department Backpack Drive for 2024. Rev. Tomioka, Jenn Kurohara, and Robin Sato delivered the donated backpacks to the Hawaii Police Department in Keaau. We were greeted by Officer Chad Sato and Officer Bryson Miyose. They indicated that the backpacks collected would stay in the Puna area. We delivered 57 backpacks this year. In 2023 we delivered 48 backpacks and in 2022 we delivered 54 backpacks to the Hawaii Police Department in Paho.

Thank you for participating and for helping our island keiki.

Foodland's Give Aloha Program 2024

Again this year, Puna Hongwanji is participating in Give Aloha, Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts program! This program runs during the month of **September** and it's easy to participate! Simply make a donation to Puna Hongwanji at any Foodland or Sack N Save this month, and Foodland will match a **portion** of your gift! Membership dues are not considered a donation.

Here's how it works:

- Go to any Foodland or Sack N Save store
- Make a donation of any amount up to \$249 at checkout. The donation in the form of cash, check or credit card and must be made payable to Foodland or Sack N Save. Donations can also be added to your grocery bill.
- Give the cashier our organization code # **79088**
- Present your Maika'i card to the cashier when making your transaction.
- Review your receipt to confirm the donation amount and the name of our organization is correct. You may ask for a duplicate receipt which can be submitted to our treasurer. If you want to specify what your donation is for, please write it on your receipt. For example, if you want it to be credited as your Ohigan donation, you can write that down.

Mahalo for your support to help Give Aloha to Puna Hongwanji in September.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (Clifford Furukado) at (808) 938-3177.

Miscellaneous Items

On a weekly basis we sent out updated upcoming events that don't make the hi-lites. If you are not receiving the weekly email and would like to be included, please send an email to mpunahongwanji@twc.com.

Sharing Your Nembutsu Moments, must be submitted by the deadline August 31, 2024.

Bon Dance 2024

On behalf of the Puna Hongwanji Bon Dance planning committee, we would like to thank EVERYONE that participated in our Bon Dance this year. We appreciate all that came out to help, made donations, supported us, etc. The Bon Dance could not be successful if we didn't have all of you and your family and friends that came out to help too.

Thank you to our Bon Dance co-chairs, Jason Hashimoto, Donald Ikeda, and Glenn Watarida. We appreciate you taking the lead and guiding the rest of the group. Se

Thank you to Sharyse Molina and group working on the songs and leading the dance this year. It looks like from photos a of the community came out and enjoyed dancing as well.

Thank you to all the committee members that worked hard to make this event a success. We are grateful and thankful to all of you.

Obon Concession Donations, Other than Cash

Isaac & Karen	Akashi	Roy	Sato
Claire	Arakawa	Aiko	Sato
Clarence	Go	Craig	Shimoda
J Hara Store		Richard	Solie
Hawaii Foodservice Alliance		Gary & Susan	Sunada
Mel & Brenda	Isa	Judy	Tahara
Gail	Kanetani	Raymond	Tatsuta
Karen	Kanetani	Roy & Lorraine	Tomita
June	Kiyabu	Carol	Tsunezumi
Shayli	Kotomori	Gail	Uchida
Nelson & Lily	Kunitake	Jason & Misty	Van Havel
Stella & Raymond	Miyashiro	Glenn & Janet	Watarida
Ethel	Miyashiro	Roy & April	Yoshimoto
Kurt	Sanehira		

Thank you all for your generosity. Thank you to the anonymous donors and those that we may have missed.

Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple – Distinguished Sangha Service Award

In 2017 Puna Hongwanji has established the Distinguished Sangha Service Award (DSSA) to recognize a Puna sangha member who has contributed to the betterment of the temple and the Puna Community. The purpose of the award is to 1) acknowledge the contribution of the member and appreciate them; 2) inspire other members to take action of contributions; and 3) preserving the legacy of the nominees and continuations to their family members.

This year we would like to reach out to our membership again to see if you have anyone that you believe should be nominated for this award. We are looking for someone who is involved with the temple and other temple affiliates, held leadership roles, contributes to the temple, community involvement, and/or inspirational figure to others. If you would like to nominate someone or a couple people, please complete the enclosed form and return it to Puna Hongwanji by mail, email, or dropping it off. **Please submit forms by Sunday, August 18, 2024** to be considered. The nomination committee will review the nomination forms and make the selection for our 2024 DSSA recipient.

The 2024 DSSA recipient will be contacted so that we can get more data on the person and we can schedule an interview. The nominees will be recognized at our Eitaikyo Service November 3, 2024.

Past recipients include:

2017: Mr. Kazumasa Okamoto; Ms. Hatsume Tanaka; Mrs. Kiyoko Imada; and Mr. Stanley Oishi

2018: Mr. Earl Mukai; Mrs. Dora Hashimoto; Ms. Helen Yamada; and Mrs. Lei Kakugawa & the late Mr. Sadaichi Kakugawa

2019: Mrs. Masako Sanehira; Mrs. Mieko Nagao; Mrs. Yukiko Uchida; and Mr. Mitsuo Miyatake

2020: Mrs. Kiyoko Sumi; Mr. Roy Toma; and Mr. Glenn Watarida

2021: Mrs. Satsuyo Taira; Mrs. Jean Tanaka; Ms. Nancy Yamada; and Mr. Donald Shintaku

2022: Mrs. Mitsuye Toma; Mrs. Kay Kawazoe; and Mrs. Florence Nishimura

2023: Mrs. Ann Toma, Mr. Craig Shimoda, and Mrs. Carol Tsunozumi

We ask that if you are making a nomination that you are a paid member to Puna Hongwanji and the person is a member of Puna Hongwanji as well.



Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Distinguished Sangha Service Award



NOMINEE INFORMATION

First Name Last Name

Date joined temple (If known)

NOMINEE'S TEMPLE GROUPS

Check all that apply (If known)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BWA | <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. YBA | <input type="checkbox"/> Dharma School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choir | <input type="checkbox"/> Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Project Dana |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toban | <input type="checkbox"/> Others, _____ | |

Please describe significant contributions made to Puna Hongwanji.

Comments:

Please explain why you feel this nominee should be recognized.

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

MAIL, EMAIL OR DROP OFF
NOMINATION TO:

Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
PO Box 100, Keaau, HI 96749
Email: mpunahongwanji@twc.com



Sharing Your Nembutsu Moments

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Temple / Affiliated Group: _____

Title/Topic of Your Nembutsu Moment: _____

Approximate Date of Your Nembutsu Moment experience: _____

Location of Your Nembutsu Moment experience: _____

Briefly describe your Nembutsu Moment experience (1500 characters max please):

Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

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

Sunday, August 4, 2024

10:00 a.m.

***Come meet and talk to our new
Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani, Honpa
Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii***

