

# Puna Hongwanji Mission



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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)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

	Page
Temple Toban, Nenki	2
Calendar of Events	3-4
Minister's Message	5-6
President's Message	7
Membership / Children's day / Weekly emails	8
Project Dana	9
Rummage Sale	10
Triple Celebration	11-12
Donations Acknowledgements	13-15
Online Buddhist Education Series	16

# February 2024 Hi-Lites

Puna Hongwanji Mission by:



Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@punahongwanjibuddhisttempl7238>



• Facebook:

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



• Instagram:

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

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

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Keri Furukado

**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.



### **February 2024**

1 yr. None	2023
3 yrs. Joanne Arita Sumie Takeguchi	February 8, 2022 February 19, 2022
7 yrs. Hisayo Kubo Myrtle Zukeran Yeichi Yamamoto	February 10, 2018 February 26, 2018 February 28, 2018
13 yrs. None	2012
17 yrs. None	2008
25 yrs. Thomas Kuritani Sr.	February 18, 2000
33 yrs. None	1992
50 yrs. None	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

*Iris Asato*

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.

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](mailto:mpunahongwanji@twc.com).

Zoom online service is also available.

# FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>  Taiko 3 - 6 pm Judo 6:30 - 8 pm	<b>2</b>  Yoga 9 - 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4p Karate 6:00 pm	<b>3</b>  BIBF Installation Taishoji
<b>4</b>  <b>Scout Sunday BWA Meeting</b> Taiko 3 – 6 pm	<b>5</b>  Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	<b>6</b>  Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 - 6 pm Judo 6:30 - 8 pm	<b>7</b>  <b>Sr. YBA Mtg. 7 pm</b> Farm to Car 9a -6p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	<b>8</b>  Taiko 3 - 6 pm Judo 6:30 - 8 pm D. Rm. Rental 5-7	<b>9</b>  <b>Giseikai</b> Yoga 9 - 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4p Karate 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>10</b>  <b>Giseikai</b>
<b>11</b>  <b>Dana Day Super Bowl Party</b> Taiko 3 – 6 pm	<b>12</b>  Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	<b>13</b>  Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 - 6 pm Judo 6:30 - 8 pm	<b>14</b>  Farm to Car 9a -6p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	<b>15</b>  <b>BOD Mtg. 7 pm</b> Taiko 3 - 6 pm Judo 6:30 - 8 pm	<b>16</b>  Yoga 9 - 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4p Karate 6:00 pm	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>  <b>Family Service</b> Judo D. Rm 12 pm	<b>19</b>  Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p <span style="color: red;">Presidents' Day</span>	<b>20</b>  Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 - 6 pm Judo 6:30 - 8 pm	<b>21</b>  Farm to Car 9a -6p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	<b>22</b>  Taiko 3 - 6 pm Judo 6:30 - 8 pm	<b>23</b>  Yoga 9 - 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4p Karate 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30pm	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>  <b>Gathafest Hilo Betsuin</b> Taiko 3 – 6pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>		

# MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Total Body Fitness 4 p	2
3 Family Service 9 am BWA Meeting Karaoke Taiko 3 -6 pm	4	5	6	7	8 Total Body Fitness 4 p Scouts 6:30 pm	9 Rummage Sale 9 to 12
10 Family Service 9 am Taiko 3 -6 pm	11 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	12 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	13 Farm to Car 9a -6p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	14 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm D. Rm. Rental 5-7	15 Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4p Karate 6:00 pm	16 D Rm Rental 7am to 1 pm
17 Family Service 9 am Taiko 3 -6 pm	18 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	19 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	20 Farm to Car 9a -6p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	21 BOD Mtg. 7 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	22 Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4p Karate 6:00 pm	23 D Rm Rental 9 am – 12 pm
24 Spring Ohigan Shinen Enkai Taiko 3 -6 pm	25 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	26 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	27 Farm to Car 9a -6p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm Judo D. Rm 7 pm	28 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	29 Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4p Karate 6:00 pm <u>Good Friday</u>	30
31 Family Service 9 am Taiko 3 -6 pm <u>Easter Sunday</u>	Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p					

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## **Minister's Message**



Buddhism is a world religion that offers universal teachings. Its teachings are applicable to anyone, regardless of their background or location, and can offer guidance in their lives. The reason why these teachings are available and accessible beyond space and time is because they address the struggles of human beings. Buddhism identifies the causes of various pains of human life and provides a way to liberation from them, such as attachments, desires, illness, and death. All humanity, from the past to the present, share the same nature of human beings who go through ups and downs in their lives. Separation from loved ones is a form of suffering that is experienced by everyone. Even though society and the world change, the worries and concerns of human beings remain the same, and their fundamental uncertainty has been there although the subjects and matters might change.

Sakyamuni Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, or the awakened one who realized the truth of life and human nature, identified our limited perception as the cause of struggles. It is a distinctive and judgmental perception based on our preferences and convenience. We feel comfortable if things go as we wish and uncomfortable if they don't. Life goes as it is, but we try to make it in our way. Buddha's wisdom guides us to understand the flow of life and urges us to know our own limited perception that makes life difficult for oneself and others. From there, Buddha's teachings offer a way to reach enlightenment as a step so we can navigate our life. One of the important teachings that Buddha gives us is about death. It is natural that things change, including human beings, so inevitably, we will welcome physical death. However, there is a realm of enlightenment that we enter upon our death, and that is called Nirvana, the realm of Buddha or the world of enlightenment. There are no desires, attachments, sufferings, and concerns in that realm, but true tranquility. It is the goal of Buddhism where everyone attains awakening and liberation from the cycle of birth-and-death.

Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Pure Land tradition, understands that entering Nirvana is made possible through the primal vow of Amida Buddha, who pledges to liberate all from suffering and bring utmost bliss to all. Since we can't rely on our own limited heart and effort, Amida Buddha practiced and accumulated all the necessary virtues for us and fulfilled its vow as Namo Amida Butsu. Death is not the end, but a moment to be born in the Pure Land, attaining enlightenment, and guided to return to this world of endurance to help those left behind. This will be assured at the moment of receiving a warm connection with Amida Buddha, right here, right now. Then, every day and every moment is a journey to the Pure Land accompanied by the vigorous compassion and eye-opening wisdom of Amida Buddha.

Nirvana Day is the day that Sakyamuni Buddha drew his final breath in this world and attained enlightenment, passing into the lasting peace of tranquility. It is a day not only to honor and commemorate the Buddha but also to reflect on our own life and death: How am I living every day? What will happen to me when I die? Will my family and friends be okay after I go? If we are not sure, welcome to Buddhism. Buddhism has answers for you. For Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, it is Namo Amida Butsu whose compassion always embraces all as they are, and the eye-opening wisdom always guides our life. It is the compassionate and commanding calling voice of Amida Buddha saying, "Whatever happens in your life, I shall embrace you. I'm here for you, always." Let us joyfully recite the Name of Amida Buddha together with the awareness that Amida Buddha found me, and I find myself in Amida's embrace. Namo Amida Butsu.

日本語にはもとを訪ねれば仏教に語源がある言葉が多くあります。その一つが、「渋滞にはまって〇〇したよ」や「いい加減あきらめろ！〇〇際が悪いぞ！」というときの〇〇です。当てはまる言葉は、何でしょうか。そうですね、往生、です。一般的には思うようにならず困ること、追い詰められた状態、という意味がありますが、仏教用語としては仏様の世界に生まれることを指します。この世からあの世へと往きて生まれる、ということですね。我々はまだ死んだことはありませんが、生きているのが終われば死後である、ということは理解していますが、果たして死後とはなんなのでしょう。またどこにあるのでしょうか。またどのようにしていくことができるのでしょうか。

浄土真宗では、阿弥陀様という仏様の願いによって必ずお浄土へと生まれ仏になると説きます。この上なく優しい慈悲と真実を見る智慧の南無阿弥陀仏が、喜怒哀楽をこの世だけでなくあの世でも受けて、クルクル輪廻してまた苦しみの世界に生まれるということを繰り返す私の姿をご覧になり、「必ず苦しみの連鎖から救い出し、今、ここで絶対に安らかにする」と誓ってくださったのが南無阿弥陀仏です。本来ならば、自分で努力して修行してお浄土へと生まれていくのが仏教ですが、親鸞聖人は私たちはそんなことをできるだけの心も力もなく、ただただ阿弥陀様にお任せするしかないと気づかれました。そんなことはない、努力すればできるという方もいるかもしれません。しかし、新年が始まってから一度も怒ったり悲しんだりしたことがない人がいるのでしょうか。心のざわめきがほんの一瞬でもあれば、お浄土への道はシャボン玉のように儂く消えてしまいます。智史よ、あなたのいのちを決して無駄には終わらせない、必ず安穏なるいのちにさせます、とお誓いくださった阿弥陀様の願いが私の心に至るとき、それが喜びとなりまた往生が定まるときなのです。

シャボン玉の歌のように、確かに儂いいのちを生きるのが人間かもしれません。しかしその一瞬一瞬、そのいのちが尊く輝くかけがえのないいのちと見てくださるのが阿弥陀さまの眼です。生老病死、人間関係、人生の苦楽、笑顔、涙一粒そのすべてに阿弥陀様の慈悲と智慧がご一緒にいてくださいます。私の笑顔に阿弥陀さまのぬくもりがいつもあり、私の涙に阿弥陀様のあたたかい存在が必ず寄り添ってくださっています。この辛さ、私の思いは誰も分かってくれていないと思う苦しみにやさしくしっかりと包み込むのが阿弥陀様です。ちょうど冬の雪でかじかんだ手を包み込みあたたかい息を吹きかけてくれるように、私の苦楽を抱きこみ「そのまま まかせよ 必ず救うよ、親だからね」とお喚び声が私に届いてくださるのです。一人じゃない、阿弥陀様と一緒にの人生なのです。ともにお念仏を申させていただきます。南無阿弥陀仏

## 訂正とお詫び

1月号にて、ご門主様のお名前に脱字がありました。正しくは、「大谷光淳」ご門主様です。

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## **TOBAN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

There are 4 temple toban who assist in helping out the temple in various projects on a rotational cycle. In every 4th month, one toban performs services for the temple. One of the most appreciated services is the spending of an hour or two once a week during their month in assisting in Temple cleaning. Some of the duties are cleaning of the temple, columbarium, monuments, and bathrooms and making flower arrangements for the altar. Also on a rotational cycle the toban plans and prepares refreshments for special services and other select Temple activities.

What you may not know is that that each toban would greatly appreciate the assistance of new members. If you have not joined a toban, and if you are willing and able to help out, please contact Clifford at (808)938-3177, and let him know that you would like to join a toban. It would be a good opportunity to strengthen bonds with other temple members, and know that your assistance will be much appreciated!

## **Seattle Betsuin Arson Restoration Fund**

On December 31, 2023, Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple fell victim to an arsonist, resulting in significant damage to their archival storage area and essential items used for their Bon Dance. While thankfully, no one was injured, they lost Thousands of historical records dating back to 1901 and their Bon Dance materials also suffered damage. Additionally, there are concerns about damage from smoke and moisture in their Main Hall and Columbarium.

In light of this unfortunate situation, the Board of Directors has approved a donation of \$500 from our social concerns fund to Seattle Betsuin. We believe that extending our support is a meaningful way to express our solidarity with our fellow Hongwanji members during this challenging time.

If you would like to contribute personally to this cause, you can do so by writing a check payable to Puna Hongwanji and make sure to include "Seattle Arson Restoration Fund" on the memo line. Your donation will be added to the amount the board approved and we will send them one check. Your kindness and generosity will make a positive impact on their journey toward restoration.



In Gassho,  
Clifford Furukado

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## MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome Zachary Mermel & Melissa Kunz of Hilo to our Sangha.

Recommended dues are \$250.00. You can pay weekly, monthly, & quarterly also. If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. And if you have a new address, please inform our office.

Rummage sale is on March 9. Please bring in your donations.



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

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## CHILDREN'S DAY

Please mark your calendars for April 20, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. to help with our Children's Day event. We are currently in the planning stages so will be soliciting our affiliates and others to see if you are willing to participate. If you have an ideas or suggestions, please contact Jenn Kurohara or Robin Sato.

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## WEEKLY EMAIL

In addition to the monthly hi-lites newsletter we have the weekly emails that is sent out. If you are not receiving the weekly email on temple updates and would like to be added to the list email us at [mpunahongwanji@twc.com](mailto:mpunahongwanji@twc.com) or let Robin Sato know. Sometimes activities or events miss the hi-lites deadline so during the weekly email from MailChimp we notify you on the activities. Some of you may be on our listing, but it may be going to your spam email or junk email box.



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## PROJECT DANA

Project Dana volunteers brought Christmas cheer to seniors in December. Cans of Christmas cookies were delivered with the bentos on a Wednesday. The seniors were happy to get a treat. On their last visitation to Life Care Center, volunteers Lei Kakugawa, Florence Nishimura, Eileen Usagawa and Stella Miyashiro shared gifts with the four temple members. Colorful crocheted lap blankets and Christmas cookies brightened their day.



Wishing Donald a Happy New Year, 2024!



Happy Birthday Ann!

Puna Project Dana is grateful for the financial support received throughout the year. This program is maintained through the generosity of temple members and friends. Thank you very much.

In gassho,  
Richard Solie  
Stella Miyashiro  
Sent from my iPad

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**Puna Hongwanji Rummage Sale**  
**Saturday, March 9, 2024**  
**8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

Thank you to Stan and Karen Mason for taking on the task of co-chairing the Puna Hongwanji Rummage Sale to be held on Saturday, March 9, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

They alone cannot do this task so we request that you, your family, and/or your friends volunteer to assist us. There is a job for everyone. Prior to the rummage sale help will be needed to sort all the donated items and organize it by sections in the hall. Items will need to be priced. On the day of the sale help will also be needed. Do you want to be a security for the entrance and exits? Can you help with parking? Do you want to be in one of the many sections (Kitchen, clothing, children's area, shoes/handbags, books/music, stationary/holiday items, sewing/bedding, tools, furniture)? Do you want to be a cashier on the day of the event? Do you want to be a packer for the cashier? The more help we get for this big task the easier the work will be for all.

If you have items to drop off at the temple for the rummage, please reach out to Stan Mason at 408-206-9279 or email him at [smason4@aol.com](mailto:smason4@aol.com). If he does not answer his phone, please leave a message. Stan is willing to meet you at the temple so that he can assist you with the donations and then will be able to secure them, place the items in the storage container that we have for the rummage sale. Also, items can be dropped off in the garage area or bench by the kitchen.



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## Let's celebrate together!

By Rev. Tomo Hojo, Triple Celebration Committee Co-Chair



We are pleased to inform you that the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will commemorate the Triple Celebration on September 7 & 8, 2024.

The year 2023 marked the 850th anniversary of the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition, and 2024 will be the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching and the 135th anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Accordingly, in 2024, we will observe commemorative services and workshops on those auspicious occasions.



**Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Triple Celebration**  
**September 7 – 8, 2024**  
**Ala Moana Hotel**



Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together: Our Living Heart of Gratitude.

**Triple Celebration Registration:**

Registration cost includes:

- One breakfast
- One lunch banquet
- Services
- Workshops
- Panel discussion

Early Registration: \$250 by March 31, 2024

Late Registration: \$300 by July 31, 2024

Youth Registration: \$150 by July 31, 2024 (25 years old or younger)

Make checks payable to: **Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**

We will provide a \$200 subsidy per person for neighbor island participants; checks will be mailed out after the late registration deadline.

Online Registration & Payment:

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/triple-celebration/>



**Room Reservations at Ala Moana Hotel:**

Please reserve your room at Ala Moana Hotel by August 6, 2024. After that date, we will release rooms in order to avoid paying a penalty.

Kona Tower	\$194.00 plus tax
Waikiki Tower	\$224.00 plus tax
No resort fees	

If you would like to reserve the hotel online, the link is:

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50708991>

If you wish to reserve by phone, please use one of these numbers:

Be sure to mention that you are with the Honpa Hongwanji Triple Celebration

Reservations Toll Free: (800) 367-6025

Reservations Local Phone: (808) 955-4811

Rev: 1/9/2024



HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII  
TRIPLE CELEBRATION

# ONLINE BUDDHIST EDUCATION SERIES 2024

- 1** What is Mahayana Buddhism?

JANUARY 13, 10 AM  
DR. DAVID MATSUMOTO  
(Two topics now in one session)
- 2** What is Pure Land Buddhism?

JANUARY 20, 10 AM  
DR. MATSUMOTO
- 3** Development of Jodo Shinshu in Japan and Hawaii Part 1

FEBRUARY 3, 2 PM  
PROF. MITSUYA DAKE
- 4** Development of Jodo Shinshu in Japan and Hawaii Part 2

FEBRUARY 17, 2 PM  
PROF. DAKE
- 5** Significance of establishment of Jodo Shinshu Tradition

MARCH 16, 2 PM  
PROF. EISHO NASU
- 6** Kyogyoshinsho: Teaching

APRIL 13, 10 AM  
REV. MUTSUMI WONDRA
- 7** Kyogyoshinsho: Practice

MAY 18, 10 AM  
REV. YUKI SUGAHARA
- 8** Kyogyoshinsho: Entrusting Heart

JUNE 22, 10 AM  
REV. KIYONOBU KUWAHARA
- 9** Kyogyoshinsho: Realization

JULY 20, 10 AM  
REV. HENRY ADAMS
- 10** The world is waiting for Buddhism and Shinran Shonin: Joy of the Nembutsu

AUGUST 24, 2 PM  
REV. GENE SEKIYA



Scan to register

TRIPLE CELEBRATION  
**September 7 & 8**

Email:  
[triple.celebration@honpahi.org](mailto:triple.celebration@honpahi.org)

850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth  
800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching  
135th Anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii