

# 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)

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

|  | Page  |
|--|-------|
| Temple Toban, Nenki                      | 2     |
| Minister’s Message                       | 3-4   |
| Kyodan                                   | 5     |
| BWA                                      | 6-7   |
| Dharma School / Installation of officers | 8     |
| Project Dana / Temple Announcements      | 9-10  |
| Liliuokalani Gardens News / Membership   | 11    |
| Sangha Activities                        | 12-13 |
| Donations Acknowledgements               | 14-16 |

# February 2023 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/)

**2023 Honpa Hongwanji Theme & Slogan**  
**Building Healthy Sanghas**  
*(Sharing Joy Together)*

## **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  
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.



Memorial services in-person is permitted following health guidelines. Online memorial service also available.

### **February 2023**

|         |                                  |                                       |
|---------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 yr.   | Joanne Arita<br>Sumie Takeguchi  | February 8, 2022<br>February 19, 2022 |
| 3 yrs.  | Teruo Kodani<br>Shigeko Kiyojima | February 4, 2021<br>February 9, 2021  |
| 7 yrs.  | None                             | 2017                                  |
| 13 yrs. | Hideo Nakauchi                   | February 9, 2011                      |
| 17 yrs. | None                             | 2007                                  |
| 25 yrs. | Kimie Higashi                    | February 26, 1999                     |
| 33 yrs. | Richard Tonda                    | February 12, 1991                     |
| 50 yrs  | None                             | 1974                                  |

### *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*

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





## Minister's Message

What is love? There are different definitions and each person has their own experiences and understanding. Whatever the definition is, what matters is that if the person loves somebody and being loved by others. It is the feeling of comfort and assurance that you have somebody who thinks of you more than you do for yourself. It is to be thought of by, to be embraced by, to be worried by, to be cared by, to be protected by, and to be cherished by the dearest. When love is fulfilled, there is joy and laughter. But when it is not satisfied, there will be anger and frustration. Some may call it tough love. Or some says that if love is one way, it is lonely. If love is both ways, it is happiness.

I had some one way love in my life but finally I found love that is both ways. Although there is love between my spouse Haruka and I, it seems it doesn't mean that we are always happy, peaceful, loving, caring, and thinking of each other. Especially when we have "discussions", it is not easy for me to feel "I love you" and "I'm loved by you." It is said that human love always comes hand in hand in with jealousy or complex feelings.

Amida Buddha's Love is unconditional. It is "Love." It is beyond distinctive and judgmental mind. "I love you" can be considered as human love as there is a distinction of "I" as subject and "you" as object. "I love you" is followed by a sentence like "because you are my child", "when you make me happy", "if you are with me." This is a love with condition. That love will change if this "I" change and if "you" becomes a person I don't like. Here again, Amida Buddha's love is unconditional. It is "Love" or it is called Great Compassion that goes beyond dichotomy and there is oneness and togetherness. In that realm, it is the world of freedom and liberation from all kinds of desires, attachments and suffering but only true and real of enlightenment exists that bring us the true happiness and tranquility.

This realm is called Nirvana. It is like the burning flame was extinguished and only calmness and serenity exists. It is contrary to the human world and cycles of birth and death of suffering worlds (samsara). Nirvana also indicates that passing of Sakyamuni Buddha as the Buddha enters the ultimate nirvana. The Buddhism teachings us that we can also reach to this realm of enlightenment, the world of love through various hard practices. It is the path of controlling our desires and blowing them out. However, Shinran Shonin said in this way:

*"When the one thought-moment of joy arises, Nirvana is attained without severing blind passions."* -  
Chapter on Practice

When we listen to and receive the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha who promises to enlightens all as they are, we are assured to attain Nirvana in the Pure Land. Indeed, if only way to reach nirvana is to control our love, how many of us can achieve it? Me, I will be left behind. Our human love is always swayed by our conditions and mind and hard to maintain it. Knowing such a nature of myself, Amida Buddha contemplated, practiced and accumulated all the necessary virtues and merits for me. That is Amida Buddha's love for me. That is Namo Amida Butsu. It is the moment to know that I am loved by Amida Buddha, I am thought of by, I am embraced by, I am worried by, I am cared by, I am protected by, and I am cherished by Amida Buddha. That realization is the one thought moment of joy or Shinjin (entrusting heart). Only through the love of Amida Buddha, my birth in the Pure Land and attainment of Nirvana is settled. The unconditional love gives me a profound comfort in my life and it always guide me to reflect upon my limitations and inspires me to live life according to that love. How wonderful and joyful it is to live life in the embrace of Amida Buddha's love, love, love, Namo Amida Butsu.

On Nirvana Day, February 15, let us commemorate the teaching of Sakyamuni Buddha and let us hear the compassionate calling & commanding voice of Amida Buddha: “I’m here for you. I shall embrace you no matter what.”

愛とは何かを訊ねたら、たくさんの定義がありますが、大事なことはその愛を人に与え、そして人からもらっているかどうかかな気がします。片思いの人生でしたが、今は奥さんのお陰で両思いです。しかし、議論（喧嘩）しているときは、愛してるとか、愛されているとかを思うことは難しいのが現状です。人間の愛は、愛憎という言葉があるように、どうしても都合や条件に左右されてしまうようです。仏さまの愛は、無償の真実の慈悲です。条件はありません。私とあなた、という区別を超えた絶対的な究極的なぬくもりです。そこには苦悩はなく、穏やかな安らぎの真実の境地です。その世界のことを涅槃（ねはん）といいます。

仏教を開かれたお釈迦様が亡くなることを涅槃に入ると表現します。これは、すべての苦悩から解放された世界に生まれたということです。仏教では、たくさんの厳しい修行を通してこの涅槃に入ることを目指します。しかし、浄土真宗を開かれた親鸞聖人は、阿弥陀様の救いの願いによって、私たちはお浄土で涅槃を得るのだと教えてくださいました。もし、完璧な愛と清らかな心を持つことが救いの条件ならば、私のように救われない人がでてきてしまいます。阿弥陀様は、煩惱という心を持ったこの私を救うという願いを建てられました。それは、私の煩惱を消して救うのではなく、煩惱を持った私をそのまま救う力と働きです。その願いをいただき、お浄土に生まれるいのちを生きているのだと気が付くとき、自分の煩惱の姿・自分勝手な心を知らされ、やさしい心へと少しずつ育まれていきます。阿弥陀様の無償の、無条件の、真実の愛に抱かれているのが、私の、皆様のいのちなのです。愛されているいのち、とはなんて有難いことでしょうか。私のことを心配して、思っ、守って、見てください、知ってください、見捨てずに、嫌わずに、いつも一緒にいて下さる方がいるのは、どれほど嬉しいことでしょうか。どんなことがあっても、どんなあなたになっても、一緒にいてくださるのが、南無阿弥陀仏です。それが、「そのまま まかせよ 必ず救うよ 親だからね」のお喚び声です。

## Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights



Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' meeting held on Thursday, December 15, 2022.  
Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

### **Repair and Maintenance**

- Thank you to Gary Sunada who worked on the double hung windows. We received a quote of \$1,000 per window years ago.
- Temple was tented. Thank you to all who helped bag items.

### **Approved Activities/Announcements**

- Two big items in November made a positive difference: Eitaikyo donations and the Winter Craft Fair
- Giseikai will be attended by Rev. Tomioka and delegates Clifford Furukado and Richard Solie. Robin Sato will attend as an observer.
- The Big Island will host the Lay Convention in Kona. The Hongwanji Golf Tournament will be chaired by Ivan Nakano.
- The Bishop Selection Committee made a recommendation and now approval is needed.
- BWA donated lap blankets and walker bags, that were sewn by members, to temple members at Life Care Center. Deliveries will be made to private care homes and homebound members during the holidays.
- The assessment to Headquarters will reflect a 22% increase. Board approved the 2023 Budget.
- Board accepted the Slate of Officers and Directors (Jan. 1, 2023 – Dec. 31, 2024). Clifford Furukado will seek another term as Kyodan President. Members will vote at the General Membership Meeting.
- Much time was spent discussing what to do about delinquent members who do not make dues donations. Letters are sent but many do not respond. A committee was formed and they will meet/plan next steps with Rev. Tomioka. Recommended dues are \$240 per year or \$20 per month.
- Feb. 10-11, 2023: Giseikai
- Feb. 26, 2023: Gathafest
- June 30-July 2, 2023: Regional Taiko Conference at Keaau High School
- AED Training: To be scheduled – two sessions online, ½ hour each
- Calendars are available for pick-up

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

- Thank you to Gary Sunada and others who continue to make improvements to the temple. You are appreciated!
- President Furukado said November and early December were busy: 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Eitaikyo, Distinguished Sangha Service Award, Keaau Christmas Parade, BIBF Bodhi Day hosted by PHM, etc. He said thank you for your help throughout the year.
- Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple is very pleasing to the eye. The grass is regularly cut, the hedges are maintained, the outdoor area is clean and welcoming. The restrooms are cleaned regularly. Statues and monuments are respected and decorated with flowers weekly. The temple and columbarium are also cleaned and cared for weekly. It's always awesome to see the flowers beautifully arranged at the altar. How does this happen? Volunteers. Yes, volunteers. If you would like to volunteer and/or donate flowers, see Rev. Tomioka and/or President Clifford Furukado. Domo arigatou gozaimasu to our volunteers, toban groups, individuals, etc. who are devoted to maintaining our temple and making it one of the best. 2022 was our 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Let's work together so Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple can have many more anniversaries. Thank you!
-

---

---

## BWA NEWS

The President reminded members to please pay 2023 dues of \$20, to P O Box 100, or place it in the kitchen box. Of the dues, \$12.50 goes to the United BWA. This comes out of the \$20 membership fee. Associate members fees are \$1.00 and will be paid by the Puna BWA.

Ms, Mieko Nagao has now sewn and donated 3,300 masks. She plans to sew 100 masks each month! She requested if anyone has extra fabrics, please donate.



Kay Kawazoe received a BWA sewn lap blanket from Lei Kakugawa, Florence Nishimura, Masako Sanehira and Stella Miyashiro. Kay was very appreciative of the gift and home visit.

Adela Hara is in charge of the upcoming BWA luncheon. Kenichi's has been selected for the luncheon which will be held on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. Metered parking is available across the street at the courthouse. BWA will have the private room in the back. Attendees are requested to be there on time. BWA will pay for lunch for its members. Non-members may also attend. Their cost is \$21.95 plus tax and tip. We will have games and prizes! An attendance sheet for the luncheon was circulated at the Hakalau Jodo Mission luncheon on January 19, 2023 and many BWA members have already signed up. If you are a member and have not yet signed up for the luncheon, please let Adela know if you would like to attend!

Next month on February 19, 2023, the Dana Sunday service will be held. Carol Tsunozumi will chair the proceedings. Guest speaker will be K.T. Cannon Eger. Ms. Cannon Eger is the chair and organizer of the Liliuokalani Park and Garden events, and that organization will be the recipient of the calabash donations. Marilyn Sato will emcee the event. Reverend Tomioka will be in charge of the program. Eileen Usagawa will handle the calabash and signage. Ilene Hara will be responsible for the leis. Greeters will be Dora Hashimoto and Lei Kakugawa.



Satsuyo Taira was pleased to see Masako Sanehira, Lei Kakugawa, and Stella Miyashiro, who gave her a BWA sewn lap blanket. Sats covered her legs and said that she liked the attractive colors.



Bill Eger was happy with the well made patriotic quilt , which was sewn by a BWA member. He is clapping his hands with delight.

Puna BWA will have no meeting in February 2023. The next meeting will be on March 5, 2023.

Naomi Hirayasu & Ilene Hara

---

---

## DHARMA SCHOOL

On February 26th, at 9:00 AM, at Papaikou Hongwanji Temple, we will be presenting our Choir, Dharma School students and anyone who wants to burn off some energy and have some fun, is invited to our 49th Gathafest. We will have a signup sheet in the kitchen so the hosting temple can prepare a meal for all of us.

Also, please let us know if you need a ride to Papaikou or can offer a ride. If you have any questions, you can ask anyone from Dharma School. Come join us to represent Puna Hongwanji! Hope to see you there!

Warren Tanigawa

---

---

## Installation of Officers



The Installation of Officers was held in conjunction with our Hoko Service on Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup>. I would like to congratulate and thank all of the Board members and officers of the Kyodan and the affiliates for volunteering to serve Puna Hongwanji Mission for the next two years. Your commitment to the organization is greatly appreciated. We may face some difficult times and encounter some obstacles but as long as we work together and respect each other, we can overcome them. Again, thank you for volunteering to serve.

Clifford Furukado



---

---

## PROJECT DANA



On January 19, 2023, twenty five Puna seniors went to the Hakalau Jodo Mission Luncheon. The drivers were Adela Hara, Claire Arakawa, Warren Tanigawa, Chung-Li Solie, Richard Solie, Hiroshi Kozohara, Stella Miyashiro and Rev. Satoshi Tomioka. The seniors attending were Dora Hashimoto, Sayoko Higa, Tokimi Miyatake, Lei Kakugawa, Florence Nishimura, Masako Sanehira, Kiyoko Sumi, Mieko Nagao, Arlene Valleau, Anne Robinson, Naomi Hirayasu, Kazumasa Okamoto, Ilene Hara, Marilyn Sato, Sel Brockmiller, Mabel Tanaka, and Frances Tanaka.



Before lunch, Akiko Masuda, led everyone in chair exercises, in songs with motions, and in the Pokémon dance. Akiko explained how the exercise, singing and movements help with our memory and coordination. After following Akiko's routines, everyone was ready for lunch.

Clifford and Keri Furukado prepared the meal, which included miso soup, gyoza, a chicken tofu dish with rice. A Thai pastry filled with curry hamburger, made by a temple friend, was an addition to the meal. For dessert, Keri baked a cake and a refreshing jello with pineapple treat. The dessert table was filled with a variety of cookies, candies, mochi, bars, and a Happy New Year Cake, which the seniors shared. When it was

time to leave, the seniors were encouraged to make a dessert plate to take. Everyone left with a pleasant memory and some were already looking forward to their next Hakalau Luncheon.





Puna Project Dana is fortunate to have Richard Solie as a new Puna Site Coordinator, which was a position held by Eileen Usagawa. Richard, who is the treasurer for Puna Hongwanji Mission, will be responsible for Puna Project Dana's finances. As a volunteer, he provided transportation to outings and has been delivering the Keaau bentos. Thank you, Richard. You make a big difference in the lives of our seniors.

Stella Miyashiro

---

---

## **Food Drive**

Thank you to all that made a contribution to our food drive. We realize the cost of goods have gone up, but you still shared what you could. Thank you for the donations of non-perishable items and the monetary donations. Items will be donated to The Food Basket, Hawai'i Island's Food Bank.

## **Service**

Sunday services are available in-person (with a mask) and online via Zoom. If you would like to receive the Zoom link, please email us at [mpunahongwanji@twc.com](mailto:mpunahongwanji@twc.com). We will add you to our email listing and sending you out an email each week with the Dharma Message and the Zoom link.

Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. join us on our Puna Hongwanji Facebook or YouTube pages for the Wednesday Night Dharma. The format is Vandana & Ti-Sarana - Dharma Message in English - Chanting of Sutra - Dharma Message in Japanese. <https://www.youtube.com/@punahongwanjibuddhisttempl7238>.

Dates to remember:

Giseikai Feb 10-11

Superbowl Party Feb 12, 2023. 12 noon

Gathafest Feb 26, 2023. 9 am Papaikou

---

---

## Lili`uokalani Gardens News

Thanks to UH-Hilo, DNA testing identified one of the seaweed varieties in Waihonu as invasive. Removal will begin Saturday, February 4, from 8 a.m. to noon. Meet at the small ponds near the bamboo patch. Other land based chores will involve thinning a Rhapis palm patch near the center of the garden.



Kamehameha Schools marine biologist Blake McNaughton and UH-Hilo professor Karla McDirmid helped with identifying invasive limu at Waihonu.

---

---

## MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for your dues payment. Recommended dues is \$240.00. Payment can also be made weekly, monthly, quarterly, & semi-annual. If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues is exempt. Also if you have a new address, please inform our office.



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

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Theme: Understanding Jodo Shinshu services through rituals.**

**Time: March 11, 2023. 9 a.m. to 12 noon (lunch to follow)**

**Place: Papaikou Hongwanji Mission**

**Free in-person session**

**Sponsored by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**

**Anyone who wants to learn and deepen the knowledge and skills that are associated with the temple rituals and traditions of general Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu.**

**Details to be announced.**

---

---

### **G.L.O.W. (Green Light on Wellness): Healthy Eating & Group Coaching Program**

Learn easy ways to improve eating habits to feel better, have more energy and improve overall health. This 4-session program includes:

- grouping foods for healthy meal planning
- makeover your fridge/pantry & remodel recipes
- shopping & healthy food prep
- individual goal setting tools
- instruction, materials & support from a national board certified health coach

Group meeting Thursdays 10-11:30am March 9, 16, 23, 30, Puna Hongwanji Conference Room. Free to join. Donations accepted.

The GLOW Program is sponsored by Vivawell.org, a Hawaii-island-based 501c health promotion nonprofit organization focused on preventing chronic conditions. For more details and to sign up visit [www.vivawell.org](http://www.vivawell.org) or call Sara 808-494-2111.



### Healthy Eating Group Coaching

Learn easy ways to improve eating habits to feel better, have more energy and improve overall health.

This 4-week program includes:

- grouping foods for healthy meal planning
- makeover your fridge/pantry & remodel recipes
- shopping & healthy food prep
- individual goal setting tools
- instruction, materials & support from a national board certified health coach

Groups meeting in Kea'au & Mountain View Thursdays or Saturdays in March 2023  
4 weekly sessions by donation  
Sign up at [vivawell.org](http://vivawell.org)  
or call Sara 808-494-2111

Sponsored by Vivawell.org, an East Hawaii Island-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to health promotion & chronic condition prevention with nutrition, movement, stress reduction & community connection. Your donations allow us to expand our programs to more communities.





### **Total Body Strength Group Fitness Classes**

Get moving, build strength, stay motivated and feel great!

Fridays 4:15-5pm

Puna Hongwanji Community Hall

First class is free. \$6/session or \$5 with a 5-class punchcard

Bring a mat and weights

Taught by Sara Krosch, ACE Certified Group Fitness Instructor/Personal Trainer

More information at [www.bigislandactive.com](http://www.bigislandactive.com) for call 808-494-2111

### **Affiliates and Organizations of the temple.**

- **Buddhist Women's Association (BWA):** Helping sustain the teachings through fellowship, programs, and volunteer service. Our temple's BWA unit is connected to BWA at the district, state, and world levels.
- **Junior and Senior Young Buddhist Associations (Jr. YBA and Sr. YBA):** Our temple YBA groups organize events, serve the community, and maintain connections to YBA members throughout Hawaii and elsewhere in the world.
- **Dharma School:** A community of students, teachers, and families learning and practicing the Teachings with classes held after Sunday morning family service.
- **Project Dana:** An organized group of volunteers offering support to the elderly and others in need at our temple and within the wider community. Our temple group is connected to the statewide [Project Dana](#) organization.
- **Puna Taiko:** Our taiko (ensemble drumming) group. Practices and classes for various skill levels and age groups are held throughout the week at our temple as well as off-site. Classes are Tues, Thurs and Sun. 3pm to 6pm. Paul Sakamoto (808) 938-9835
- **Puna Hongwanji Judo Club:** Offering practices every M/ W 5:30pm to 7pm. T/Th 6:30pm to 8pm. David Nishioka (808) 989-7191
- **Yard Maintenance Group:** Clean up every other Tuesday. Feb 7 and Feb 21
- **Karate:** Every M/W 6:30pm to 8pm. Sat 10am – 11:30am. Edward Smith (808) 938-2934
- **Choir:** On hold for now.
- **Cub Scouts:** Meet Friday Feb 3 and Feb 24. 6pm to 7:30pm.
- **Yoga:** Friday 9am -10:30am Steve Salkin-Krucker (808) 217-2363
- **Total Body Group Fitness:** Frida 4:15pm to 5pm Sara Krosch (808) 389-0620

If you are interested in joining any of these groups. Please see Reverend Tomioka if no contact is listed.