

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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July 2024 Hi-Lites

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• Online donation:

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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"

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.



July 2024

1 yr.	Hatsuko Yamashita	July 26, 2023
3 yrs.	Roy Tanimoto James Miura	July 9, 2022 July 29, 2022
7 yrs.	None	2018
13 yrs.	None	2012
17 yrs.	Shizuka Sato	July 7, 2008
25 yrs.	Itsuki Sakoda	July 31, 2000
33 yrs.	Mitsuji Furukawa Tetsuo Hara	July 25, 1992 July 30, 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

Kenji Oshita

Tei Schrey

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.

JULY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 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	<i>Independence Day</i>	Obon Set up 4 pm	Hatsubon Service 4 pm Bon Dance 6 pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
No Sunday Service Back Pack Drive Deadline Obon Clean up 9 am	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 D. Rm. Rental 5-7p	Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Obon 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 BOD Meeting 7 p	Hall Rental	Hall Rental
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Family Service 9 am Judo Mtg/Practice 12 – 2:30 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 Karate 6:00 pm	Judo Ohana Day 9a – 3p
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			

Minister's Message

“It's been a long day, without you my dearest”

Every time Obon season comes, a story comes to my mind and reminds me of the significance and uniqueness of Obon in Jodo Shin Buddhism shared by my senior ministers. One night, a minister was on call. As he slept, an emergency phone call startled him awake — it was a hospital requesting his presence for a bedside service. Quickly preparing, he left the temple and headed to the hospital. Upon arrival, while searching for the patient's room, he encountered a mother cradling her child. Assuming the child was asleep, he complimented the mother, "What a beautiful boy. How old is he?" She responded with a smile, "Three years old." As they conversed, a nurse approached to express gratitude for the minister's arrival for the bedside service. When he inquired about the patient's location, it was the mother who replied, "Reverend, the patient is in my arms. My child has just passed away." Tears streamed down her

face as she spoke. That night, the minister solemnly performed the bedside service, surrounded by the grieving family. He would go on to conduct the wake, funeral, and all subsequent services

Amidst overwhelming shock and persistent struggles, the parents sought intermittent counseling and shared stories with the minister. As Obon season commenced, they attended their first Hatsu Bon service at the temple. The mother tenderly placed her child's photograph on a table, garnished with a lei. Emotions surging, she moved forward to offer incense, caressing her son's image as tears cascaded down her cheeks. "I yearn to be with my son. He must feel so sad and alone. It's unbearable to think of him by himself. Since he left, I talk to his photo every day, offering incense and rice. He's always in my thoughts, no matter my actions or location. Why did this happen to him? I desperately wish to be with him," she shared. The minister, upon hearing her anguish, replied, "My words and condolences may only lightly touch the vastness of your deep sorrow and the indescribable agony of losing your child." "He continued, 'The Obon season has arrived. During this time, people honor and show gratitude to our ancestors by visiting their resting places, offering flowers, and tending to their graves. We joyfully remember and reflect on the guidance of our departed loved ones.' The minister paused, then said, 'You mentioned wanting to be with your son.' The mother nodded. 'There is a realm known as hell, where beings are consumed by selfish desires and rage, endlessly fighting one another. In such chaos, even a mother and son would clash, unaware of their bond. Knowing this, do you still wish to join your son? And upon death, where do you think you'll go?' This dialogue with the minister marked a pivotal moment in her life. Realizing that if her son was in hell, and she too ended up there after death, they could not be together as family.

The minister's words echoed in her thoughts: "Every being must face life's end. Amida Buddha's vows were made to save all with unconditional love, promising to lead us to the Pure Land and enlighten us as Buddhas. Your child, embraced by this vow, now guides you to life's truths. Our rituals and offerings are not for the deceased's ascent but to express gratitude and respect for Amida Buddha, who saves and embraces us. Through our memories, we hear Buddha's teachings. Our loved ones, in Amida's care, guide us towards true peace and happiness amidst life's trials. Our mortal lives are finite, yet within Amida Buddha's infinite life, they continue under that vow, ever-present. In the Pure Land, we'll reunite in beauty. This vow is Namo Amida Butsu. Awakened to this vow, we recite Namo Amida Butsu, feeling its gentle, warm embrace.

Moved by the minister's words, the mother placed her hands and tearfully chanted Namō Amida Butsu, feeling both sorrow and the joy of Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom. She will always remember and miss her son, yet she now understands that he is cradled in Amida's loving embrace, which teaches her the truths of life through cherished memories, kind words, smiles, and warmth. "Years may pass, yet tears can still spring forth. But within Amida Buddha's embrace, there is also a smile and solace. Such profound gratefulness for Amida's Great Compassion!" During this obon season, let's joyfully remember our departed loved ones and their enduring influence in our lives. Amida Buddha's boundless compassion remains with us, steadfast through all life's trials. 'Don't worry, be happy, I will hold you close,' calls Amida Buddha. Though we part ways in the physical realm, in Amida's compassionate hold, farewells do not exist; we are forever united. As you partake in bon dances and services, take a moment to visit the temple altar, offer your respects, and recite Namō Amida Butsu. With reverence and entrusting heart (shinjin), we join hands in reverence. Mahalo. Namō Amida Butsu.

お盆の由来は、^{うらぼんきょう}盂蘭盆經に基づきます。お釈迦様の10大弟子のお一人であった^{もくれんそんじや}目連尊者が、亡くなったお母さまを探していました。しかし、あの世のどこを探しても見つからず、最終的に発見したのはお母さまが^{がき}餓鬼という苦しみの世界に生まれていたことでした。あんなに優しくかったお母さんがどうしてと戸惑いながら、なんとか力を尽くして救おうとしますが成功しません。そのときお釈迦様から、餓鬼に落ちた理由は、自分の子供がかわいいがために他の子どもを邪険に扱ったその自己中心性によるときき、目連尊者は悲しみに暮れました。自分のせいでお母さんは。。。お釈迦さまは目連尊者に、僧侶の集まりに飲食の施しをし、^{さんぼう}仏法僧(三宝)の力によってお母さんは救われると説きました。いわれたとおりにしたところ、三宝の功德によってお母さまは餓鬼から救われ、目連尊者は喜びのあまり、手と足を叩いて喜んだそうです。これが盆踊りの由来といわれます。

目連尊者の母親の姿は、我々の姿でもあります。私たち人間は自分を中心に、その家族、子供が大事であり、関係性が薄い人々を家族と同じように思うことはできません。いい人、悪い人という言葉の前に、「あの人は自分にとって」が付くように、自分の都合や物差しがあるのが私です。そんな私は、本来ならば死後には餓鬼の世界に生まれるはずですが、しかし、そんな私をご覧になり、必ず救う、餓鬼なんかに行かせてなるものか、と誓ってくださったのが南無阿弥陀仏です。お浄土という仏さまの願いの国に生まれ、先立たれた方と再び会い、色々な形でこの世に残された方々を導くいのちにしてくださるのです。死んで終わりではない、また会える世界があるのです。(倶会一処^{くゑいつしよ}といい、俱に、一つの処ろで会う)この願いに触れ、自分の都合のいい心を知らされ、少しずつ仏様の智慧と慈悲に導かれ毎日を過ごさせていただくのですね。考えてみると、目連尊者のお母さまは確かに他の子を雑に扱ったかもしれませんが、目連尊者にとっては大事な大事なお母さんだったのです。どんなことがあっても、どんなあなたになっても、大好きだよ、と言ってくれる存在がいることは、人生の大きな支えになります。人間の命に限りがあるからこそ、阿弥陀様は、^{むりやうじゆ}無量寿(限りがないいのち)の仏様として、過去、現在、未来、時を超え場所を超え、私たちを暖かく包んでくださっております。「別れても思い出は残る 別れても言葉は残る 別れても同じぬくもりに包まれる喜びがある」ともにお念仏を申しませう。南無阿弥陀仏

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May and June flew by and were very busy months.

Thank you to the Dharma School for coordinating the Mother's Day Brunch and thank you to those that attended. The funds raised will go to our Scholarship Fund.

Thank you to Robin Sato and Glenn Watarida for coordinating another great Puna District Memorial Day Service. Thank you to those that donated flowers, those that helped with making arrangements, the Sr. Y for the set up and clean up, and to the toban for preparing the refreshments.

The Baccalaureate Service was held on June 2nd. Congratulations to the graduates. Thank you again to the Dharma School for coordinating it and thank you to Darryl Olivera and Janice Ikeda for their inspiring message.

Thank you the BWA for doing something special for all the Dads as we celebrated Father's Day.

Obon is now upon us. Thank you to those that have made donations up until now. Obon is our major fundraiser so please support us in any way you can. The event is getting larger every year so if you are able to help with manpower it will be gratefully be appreciated.

Bishop Umitani will be visiting Puna Hongwanji on August 4th so if you would like to meet him, please attend the service that day.

On a sad note, the Monkey Pod tree at the Shipman Memorial will have to be cut down. The tree was planted by Herbert Shipman when the Columbarium was dedicated in 1963. The base of the tree is badly decayed and the tree is leaning dangerously toward the road. WH Shipman hired Big Island Tree Service evaluate the condition of the tree and it was recommended that the tree be removed. Thank you to WH Shipman for paying for the work.



In Gassho,

Clifford Furukado

PROJECT DANA

May Site Leaders Meeting
Richard Solie, Project Coordinator

Every month the state Project Dana office sponsors a meeting of the local site leaders. I found the May meeting particularly inspiring and wanted to share the discussion

Each month we talk about what we are doing at the local level, what problems and issues we face, and what the state office is doing to streamline the process and support the local groups. I found it interesting to hear about what other groups are doing.

Puna Project Dana offers a variety of services for our kupuna.

Weekly delivery of meals.

This gives them a meal that they don't have to fix or go out for. It also provides an opportunity for personal interaction and a weekly wellness check

Transportation for appointments and doctor visits

Visits to clients in care homes. Again, an opportunity to personal interaction, a chance to talk story and see how they are doing.

Greeting Cards Some of our volunteers send out greeting each month, a friendly reminder that they are not forgotten

Activities Project Dana also provides transportation to various events. It could be a visit to the Cherry Blossom Festival, the Japanese Cultural Center, or just an invitation to have lunch with a group of volunteers and other clients.

Medical Equipment Project Dana has acquired a small inventory medical equipment. I would like to thank Ellen Wong for her donation of some like-new equipment. She generously donate a wheelchair, a sitting walker, a standing walker, and couple pairs of crutches, and in new condition. If you know someone who might need something like this, please contact Stella Miyashiro or myself.

A big part of the discussion was brainstorming about other things we can do to expand our services and increase awareness of Project Dana. We could sponsor or attend senior fairs. Someone suggested that we could take part in charitable events sponsored by other groups. There was a suggestion that we make up t-shirts to wear when we are attending senior fairs or charity events. I like that idea. It is a good way to raise the community awareness of Project Dana, who we are and what we have to offer



On another note, I would like to send out Happy Birthday wishes to Warren Tanigawa, Clifford Furukado, and Dora Hashimoto. Stella sent me some great pictures.

Social Concerns:

Within the State Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, the Social Concerns Committee (SCC) stands out as a key entity. This committee is dedicated to providing support for the various challenges and adversities faced by the community, both locally and globally. During the Lahaina Fire, the SCC played a critical role in gathering donations to aid the Lahaina Hongwanji and the affected residents of Maui. In a world where unforeseen events, including natural disasters, human-made catastrophes, wars, and conflicts can occur at any moment, the presence of the SCC is vital. It offers financial and spiritual support to Hongwanji members and others. The SCC is currently seeking donations to continue their mission of relieving suffering and promoting peace and tranquility. To contribute, please send your donation as follows:

Payable to Puna Hongwanji Mission
In the memo: Social Concerns

Mail to: Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
PO Box 100, Keaau, HI 96749
Attn: Social Concerns.

Thank you in advance for your support and consideration.

BWA

The BWA women honored the male members of Puna Hongwanji by giving them party mix as a favor and preparing a special luncheon for Father's Day. Lei Kakugawa, Stella Miyashiro, Carol Tsunezumi and Eileen Usagawa prepared the furikake party mix and packaged them for the Sunday service distribution.

The Father's Day lunch consisted of Korean chicken, pasta casserole, somen salad, tossed green salad, and garlic bread. There was also a dessert table with an abundance of cakes, pies, fruits, and Jello, many of which were donated by temple members.

The BWA appreciates the helping hands of temple members who assist with serving the food and cleaning up after the luncheon.

The party mix turned out to be a hit so the recipe is being shared below.

Furikake Mix

1/2 cup butter or margarine
1/2 cup light Karo syrup
6 tbsp sugar
1/2 cup salad oil
2 tbsp shoyu
2 boxes (12.3 oz) Chex
1 jar (1.3 oz) nori furikake

Heat butter, syrup, sugar, oil, and shoyu till sugar melts. In a separate bowl, pour mixture over cereal and mix till cereal is coated. Sprinkle furikake evenly over cereal and mix well. Spread cereal in a large roasting pan lined with foil. Bake for one hour at 250°. Stir after 30 minutes. After an hour, lift foil and cereal onto a table to cool. Store in airtight container



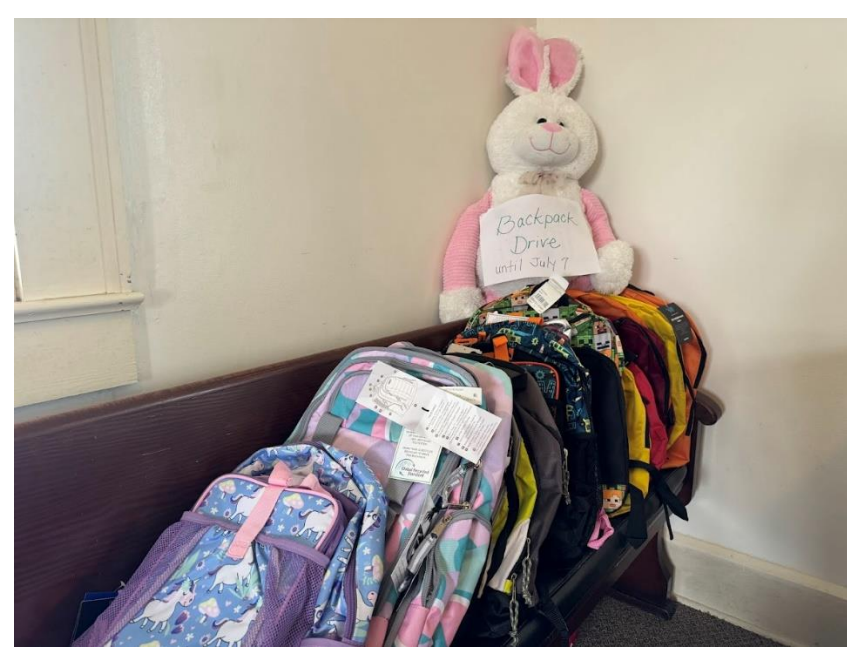
Annual Puna District Interfaith Memorial Day Observance

On behalf of the Memorial Day committee we would like to thank everyone who helped prepare for the event and those that participated in the event. This is a community event and we appreciate everyone coming together and doing their part to make this event successful. With everyone taking a portion of the task it made the event even more successful. Looking ahead save your calendar for Saturday, May 24, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Backpack Drive for Our Island Keiki

Thank you to those that have started to bring new and unused backpacks for us to donate to the Hawaii Police Department. This is our third year in participating in this event. Backpacks are the most requested non-item requested by charities in Hawaii. The backpacks will be delivered to the Hawaii Police Department and they will be distributed to children at women's shelters, homeless shelters, and transitional housing facilities around the island.

Last year we donated 48 backpacks and the previous year 54 backpacks. Please drop off your donated backpacks by Sunday, July 7, 2024 at Puna Hongwanji. You may bring them to the Bon Dance and drop them off by the Children's Game area in the social hall.



Backpack as of 6/23/24 these are the backpacks donated.

Weekly Email Notice

A weekly email notice is being sent out via MailChimp from the mpunahongwanji@twc.com account. That notice started off as a way to send the Zoom link to those that requested it. Then it became a way to keep everyone updated as sometimes we find out about things after the hi-lites deadline. If there is an announcement related to the temple that you need to be passed on, please send information to Robin Sato at robsato@yahoo.com or email mpunahongwanji@twc.com. If you are not getting the weekly email and interested in getting on the list email the Puna Hongwanji email or email Robin so that your email address can be added to the listing.

Obon 2024 – Saturday, July 6, 2024

Besides the Hatsubon Service (4pm), the concession filled with delicious food, and Bon Dance there will be other things to look forward to at the Puna Hongwanji Obon. From 3 pm – 4:30 pm there will be a lantern making session (while supplies last). At 5:30 p.m. meet at the base of the temple and participate in the Memorial Lantern Parade at 5:30 p.m.



Lei, Carol, Florence, and Stella came to make a lantern.

In the social hall we will have Children's Games (or children young at heart). This year we have two games that Pahala Hongwanji Taiko graciously lent us. Buy a game card to participate in the games. If you accomplish the task you will win tickets. The tickets can be redeemed for prizes.

Come get dressed in a Yukata and then take a photo by our photo backdrop with the Yukata. If you are already dressed and would like to take a photo with the backdrop you will be able to do that as well. There will be a fee for this event.

This year there will be an overflow parking area. Besides parking on our temple grounds HMSA/Kamehameha School across of Longs Drugs have graciously allowed us to park in their parking lot. Please do not park in Longs Drugs parking lot and leave that for their customers.

If you are deciding should I go to the bon dance or should I stay home? You should come to see your family and friends. Also you should come to get some delicious homemade meals that will be prepared by our hardworking members and friends in the kitchen. This is some of the food items we will have: smoked meat bowl, chicken hekka bowl, poke bowl, chili bowl, spare ribs plate, spam musubi, manapua, hot dog, Tonkatsu burger (this was tested at the Children's Day event and people raved how this tasted like the katsu sandwich in Japan, takuwan, andagi, anpan, and other items.

On Sunday, July 7, 2024 we will have no Sunday Service at 9:00 a.m. Instead we would graciously appreciate you coming to help us with cleaning up and putting away items from the bon dance.

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.



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

Garden News

Genki balls will be tossed into Waihonu, the pond at the heart of Lili`uokalani Gardens, on July 4 during the VFW annual 5K Run/Walk around the park.

Friends of Lili`uokalani Gardens will have a small tent set up on the lawn near the taiko bashi (Drum Bridge). Enter through the east torii, pass the registration area, and continue down the sidewalk toward the pond.

Amy Nishiura and Bert Mukai are coordinating this event for Friends with volunteer assistance from veterans, participants in the 5K, Lions and Leos Clubs, and students from Keaukaha.

More than 850 genki balls are on hand so please join in the fun to help clean the pond.

The next volunteer day to clean the tea garden around Shoroan will be Saturday, July 13, from 8 a.m. until noon. Please wear closed tow shoes and bring your favorite gardening tool.

For more information on Lili`uokalani Gardens and future events, please go to the new website: <https://www.liliuokalanigardens.org>

Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
16-492 Old Volcano Road, Keaau (808) 966-9981

**Puna Hongwanji Winter
Craft Fair**

Saturday, November 16, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE



**Interested vendors please contact
Ronnie for more information at
808-895-2493 or email
vlskitayama@yahoo.com**