

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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May 2023 Hi-Lites

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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.

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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.

May 2023

1 yr.	Jane Uyeki	May 1, 2022
	Katsue Nishimura	May 15, 2022
	Makiko Ohashi	May 22, 2022
	Richard Karasuda	May 22, 2022
3 yrs.	Takeo Tamashiro	May 16, 2021
7 yrs.	Umeko Kamei	May 13, 2017
	Hiroko Oishi	May 24, 2017
13 yrs.	None	2011
17 yrs.	None	2007
25 yrs.	Yo Yano	May 28, 1999
33 yrs.	None	1991
50 yrs.	None	1974

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

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

Nobue Oba
(Honohina Hongwanji)





Minister's Message

Everything has its beginning. Zippy's began its business in 1966, KTA Super Stores began in 1916, and Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple began in 1902 as Olaa Hongwanji Mission. My life began on January 3rd, 1988. How about your beginning? When we try to trace back our beginning, we will find the existence of parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, great-great grandparents, and more! What we will realize is our beginning is not only our birthday but there has been a continuation and transmission from the past which is beyond our calculation and imagination. In other words, we are living THIS life because of the beginningless beginning.

However, being born as human beings is not everything. Buddhism teaches us that we will become a true self when we encounter something higher than ourselves. The reading of Homages says, "Hard it is to be born into human life; now we are living in it. Difficult it is to hear the Teachings of the Blessed One; now we hear them. If we do not gain emancipation in this present life, we may not be free from the ill-faring ocean of births and deaths..." Countless causes and conditions have brought you to Puna Hongwanji and received occasions to listen to the teachings of Amida Buddha. To the eyes of Great Wisdom of Amida Buddha, what kind of person am I? I'm the one who is struggling due to my human nature while striving to live a happy life. What we want is peace, happiness, comfort and joy, but life brings us tears, anger, worries, pains and all kinds of difficulties. Sometimes the causes of difficulties are beyond our control such as natural disasters, but fundamental cause is our attachment or blind passions that make us perceive things through our own convenience and desires. My father, who is also a minister used to say this way; "In our world, there is no good person or bad person. One is a good person TO me and the other is a bad person TO me." This word "To me" means we judge people according to our preference, convenience, and mind of like/dislike. Therefore, anytime a good person can become a bad person and vice-versa depends on "To me." If we apply this idea to our life, don't you think we live life like this way? In the world of judgement and distinctive mind, there will be no true harmony and happiness. We may say that is our human nature or some may say so what?

Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Tradition (True essence of the Pure Land), was a failure and a person who clearly understood who he was. At the age of 9, after separating from his parents, he entered Mt. *Hiei* to become a monk and to learn all about Buddhism. For 20 years, his purpose was to attain true happiness, in other words, freeing himself from attachments and attain enlightenment. But the more he practiced, he had to face the reality of himself who possess desires, attachments, judgements and they stayed with him. He failed to attain enlightenment through own his effort and practice. He was a failure. This experience led him to descend Mt. *Hiei* to listen to the teachings of Namo Amida Butsu under his teacher Master Honen. The teaching was so simple; people will be saved through the recitation of Namo Amida Butsu. Shinran Shonin, maybe out of doubt or in efforts to understand it, visited his teacher for 100 days. And finally, he encountered someone higher than himself, who is warmly accepting him, who is compassionately embracing his struggles, who is clearly guiding his life, who is profoundly revealing his true nature as human beings, who is absolutely assuring his birth in the Pure Land. That someone was Namo Amida Butsu.

Namo Amida Butsu is the Name of Amida Buddha who is vowing to make everyone to be born in the Pure Land and attain their enlightenment through the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu exists for the sake of a person who can't help living according to attachments and idea of "To me". Namo Amida Butsu is a compassionate calling and commanding voice of Amida Buddha who is calling out to us: "Come to my embrace! I shall embrace you no matter what." Hearing this virtuous calling voice, Shinran Shonin found comfort and assurance in the awareness that Amida Buddha never judges and liberate himself from sufferings. In the presence of Amida Buddha, Shinran Shonin was urged to reflect upon his foolish existence of attachments, desires, and idea of "To me." Those attachments never leave his place until death, but it is no longer hindrance to attainment of enlightenment. Shinran Shonin was always aware of his desires and lamented his way of being as foolish beings. At the same time, he found joy and ultimate happiness in the embrace of Amida Buddha who embraces him as he is while having those attachments. He was experiencing the happiest happiness of being saved, being embraced, being thought of by, being care by, being worried by, being protected by, and being loved by Amida Buddha. Like heads and tails of coin, those lament and joy are two aspects of one's mind whose heart is in the embrace of Amida Buddha.

Shinran Shonin thought about Amida Buddha and realized that this Buddha has been with him all the time even when he was struggling his life or even before he knew the existence of the Buddha. Amida Buddha has been calling and embracing him although he couldn't see and feel it. This led him to understand that his life is not only THIS life but he must have been wondering and suffering from previous lives from the past. But now, he was born as a human being, and he had a chance to listen to Amida Buddha who liberated him from struggles. Amida Buddha has been there for Shinran Shonin even before he was born. Out of joy and assurance, he said; "If you should come to realize this practice and shinjin (entrusting heart), rejoice at the conditions from the distant past that have brought it about".

Let us listen to and realize the warmth embrace of Amida Buddha who has been with us even before we were born. On May 7, we will observe founder's birthday service (gotane). Let us joyfully celebrate and let us listen to the teachings of Namo Amida Butsu. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Masanari Yamagishi from Kamuela Hongwanji Mission.

あなたの誕生日はいつですか、と問われたら、私たちは生まれた日を答えます。もし、あなたのいのちの始まりはいつですか、と聞かれたら、どう答えるでしょうか。誕生日と答えた場合でも、生まれるためには両親がいて、その前に祖父母、曾祖父母、ご先祖様そしてもっとさかのぼっていくと、私たちのいのちの始まりは一体いつなのか、不思議になります。ずっと昔から紡がれてきた、いわば始まりのない始まりから続くいのちが今、私たちを生きているということになります。袖振り合うもタシヨウの縁と言いますが、この多生とは、生まれる前からずっと続いていた様々ないのちの在り方の中で関係、つながりがあったという意味になります。このように考えると、私たちのいのちが稀であり、貴重な尊いものであることが分かります。

しかし、仏教では、いのちの深さを説くと同時に、真実に出会いたいいのちの大事さも説きます。真実とは南無阿弥陀仏のことです。さとりの世界そのものである阿弥陀様の慈悲と智慧に照らされた私は、幸せな穏やかな生活を求めながらも、自己中心的な偏った煩惱による生き方によって自分だけでなく他の人にも苦悩を与えている存在です。浄土真宗を開かれた親鸞聖人は、この苦悩の連鎖から抜け出すために20年もの間比叡山で修行をされましたが、解脱はかないませんでした。そのとき出遇われた教えが、法然上人によって説かれていたお念仏のみ教えでした。それはすべての生きとし生けるもの必ず安穩なる仏にする、という願いでした。このみ教えに出遇ったとき、親鸞聖人は救われました。自分の力、心、頭、経験を頼っても獲得できなかった本当の安らぎが、阿弥陀様の願いの中に見出されたのです。「あなたを必ず救う」という願いが本願他力です。そして、親鸞聖人は、ずっと前からこの願いは私と一緒にいてくれたに違いないが、煩惱という曇った眼によってそれが見えなかった。それでも、この願いはあきらめることなく、見捨てることなくずっと私を真実に導き入れるために呼びかけ続けてくださったと理解されました。ちょうど両親や周りの言葉が後になって分かってくるように、阿弥陀様はずっと願ってくださっていたのです。昔から続けているこのいのちですが、ご縁あってお念仏のみ教えを聞く環境に身を置かせていただいております。私の生まれる前から、思い願ひ続けてくださっているお念仏の声に耳を傾けさせていただきます。願われている私、いのちとは何なのか、お聞かせいただきましょう。

5月7日は、親鸞聖人のお誕生日をお祝いする降誕会です。ご一緒にお参りいたしましょう。

Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights



May Day is Lei Day in Hawaii... Here in Hawai'i, we make, or in my case buy, and give lei for special occasions: To drape over urns or headstones of loved ones who have passed, to acknowledge milestones like a high school or college graduation, "just because", or for Mother's Day brunch (on May 14th). The official Lei Day started in 1928, almost 100 years ago! It's still difficult to fathom something from the 1900's being that long ago!



If you're from the Big Island like me, you know that our flower is the 'ōhi'a lehua, but in case you forgot like I did, the official state flower is the yellow hibiscus. Each of the eight major islands has its own flower representation.

In Japan, a popular spring flower is the Sakura but Najya-Monjya (Chinese Fringetree) bloom in May, in a only a few areas around the country. Such as Matsue Castle in Reverend Tomioka's hometown of Shimane. It is a rare tree, full of beautiful white blossoms that only last for a mere ten days.

I'm interested in hearing what the official flower of your hometown is! ☺



Here is a synopsis of the Kyodan Board of Directors meeting held in April. Minutes were recorded by Jenn Kurohara, Secretary.

- If you are or know of a PHM temple member graduating from high school or presently enrolled as a student at a university, college, or school of higher education please apply or encourage them to for the Puna Hongwanji Scholarship! Mahalo to Paul Sakamoto for heading this committee. Good luck to all the applicants!
- The new dryer is working well. Thank you very much to the anonymous donor for the generous and treasured gift!
- There have been some notable repairs completed around the premises since the meeting in March. Many thanks to Gary, Mike, Glenn, Kerri, and others for their continued care!
- Puna District Interfaith Memorial Service is on Saturday, May 27th at 10:00 a.m. The guest speaker will be Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Cronin.

Help Wanted!

- Cinder sale on Saturday, May 13: If you are available, please help with bagging from 8:00 a.m. The sale starts at 10:00.
- Mother's Day brunch on May 14: Men! Please see Clifford if you are available to help in the kitchen.

On April 22nd, I attended "LGBTQIA+ 101" via Zoom. Camaron Miyamoto (he/him) along with a panel of LGBTQIA+ community and family members shared insightful strategies on how to navigate the world today. Everyone agreed that acceptance is key and, thankfully, Jodo Shinshu provides such an environment. Whether we understand everything or not, we can continue to be a welcoming and including Sangha. Thank you to the Buddhist Study Center, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Commission on Buddhist Education, and the Committee on Social Concerns. As an ally, I appreciated this opportunity to learn more about the LGBTQIA+ community and become even more aware of the new terms used to identify individuals. P.S. Reverend Blayne Higa had a cool rainbow colored onenju. Where did he get it? 😊

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for your dues payments. If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt and please let our office know of your situation. And if you also have a new address, please let our office know.

We have a cinder sale on May 13 and need your manpower help to bag it. Please show up by 8AM to help.



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

BWA NEWS

The 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention will be held in Kyoto, Japan on May 11-12, 2023. The event will coincide with celebrations of the 850th birthday of Shinran Shonin and the 800th anniversary of the Hongwanji. The four Puna members who will attend are: K.T Cannon Eger, Dorothy Imagire, Kay Aoki, and Mariko Ogawara.

Mrs Mieko Nagao was asked if she could sew Hawaiian print masks for the Hawaii Island delegates to the BWA World Convention. She was able to fill the 115 masks order within a month. The delegates who want to give the masks as omiyage will pay \$2.50 to cover the material expenses for each mask. The four Puna delegates won't be charged.

For Children's Day, the BWA will make chili bowls as a fundraiser. Cloth masks made by Mrs. Nagao will also be sold by the BWA. Members are asked to come to the temple kitchen on Friday April 28th at 8 a.m. to make chili, and on Saturday April the 29th at 7 a.m. to help cook the rice, and to assist in the sale as necessary. For Children's Day, there will be just one large booth for all food sales. 3 people are needed to sell chili from 9-2.

For the Lady Eshinni and Lady Kakushinni Service on April 30, 2023, Ilene Hara has been receiving responses from families of members who have passed on to see who will attend. To date, the families of the following members have been notified: Fusaye Arakawa, Rosie Tatsuta, Kiyoko Imada, Hatsume Tanaka, Anne Yanazaki, Sumie Takeguchi, Makiko Ohashi, Shigeko Kiyojima, Yoshie Kuroda, Yukiko Uchida, Iseko Kawaguchi. Of these members, families of three have said they will attend. Carol Tsunozumi will ring the bell. Marilyn Sato will emcee. Pictures of Lady Eshinni and Lady Kakushinni will be displayed. Ilene Hara and Dorothy Imagire will select gifts to be presented to family member.

The next BWA meeting will be on June 11, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Naomi Hirayasu & Ilene Hara

PROJECT DANA



For the month of April, Project Dana volunteers continued to do weekly bento deliveries, visitations, and transportation to temple services and medical facilities.

Puna on Wheels bento recipients were delighted to receive Easter treats of bunny and chick “peeps” with their lunches in April. They also received colorful Easter cards made by Girl Scout Troops #185 and #388 which were also shared with temple members on Easter Sunday. Thank you to Project Dana headquarters and Claudia Uyeda for providing the Easter cards.



Happy Birthday Sats!

On April 6th, Stella Miyashiro and Sel Brockmiller surprised Satsuyo Taira with a celebration of her 94th birthday. Satsuyo gratefully received the beautiful bouquet of red anthuriums from Sel, a birthday cupcake and tray of mochi from Project Dana and walker bags from BWA.



Sharing Easter cards at temple

Additionally, Ann Toma, Florence Nishimura and Lei Kakugawa made several visitations. At Life Care Center, they spent time talking with Bernice, Bill and Amy who enjoyed their company. Then they visited Kay, who had recently moved in to Yukio Okutsu Veterans State Home. Kay was very comfortable having a room to herself. Finally, the ladies went to a private care home where they had an enjoyable time talking with Satsuyo Taira and a fellow resident who had lived in Kapoho.



Project Dana appreciates being notified of temple members transitioning into care facilities. Before visitations can be made, the client or family members must give their consent. A request for visitations can be made by contacting Stella Miyashiro at (808)959-7919 or Richard Solie at (808)426-6256.

Making a visitation at Okutsu Veterans Home.

Project Dana appreciates those who continue to financially support it through their generous donations. Mahalo.



Happy Birthday Sayoko



In Gassho,
Stella Miyashiro
Eileen Usagawa

Puna Hongwanji Scholarship

Puna Hongwanji Scholarship is available. Please encourage graduating seniors or continuing university students to apply for the \$1000 scholarship. Those interested should contact Paul Sakamoto at psakamoto808@gmail.com for the application.

Applicant (or the applicants parent) must be a member in good standing of Puna Hongwanji.

Applications are due May 21st at 11:59p HST.

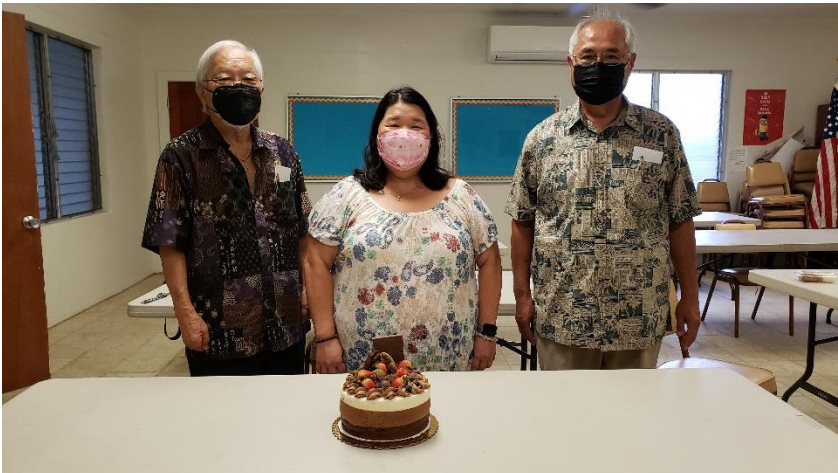
SR. YBA

I am pleased to announce and welcome Warren Tanigawa, who we all know and love, as the new President. Thank you, Warren, for stepping into this new role so soon after transferring the Dharma School presidency over to Craig. It is going to be quite a change, but I am confident that you will be successful in leading this affiliate program and continuing forward progress. You need not worry about support! Mahalo nui loa to everyone for their kindness and support during my time as President! Taking this on during covid made things a lot easier for me, in a sense, but without the help and guidance provided by Sam, Jason, Corey, and Robin who knows what would have happened? (I kid!) I am truly appreciative and grateful!

☺ Jenn

Looking ahead...

- Next meeting is scheduled for Zoom on Wednesday, June 7th at 7:00 p.m.
- Puna District Interfaith Memorial Service setup on Saturday, May 27th at 7:00 a.m.
- Golf Fundraiser.
- Home to Home.
- Friday Night Band.
- Shirts & Polos.
- Future meetings in-person, virtual, or hybrid.



76th Annual Puna District Interfaith Memorial Day Observance

On Saturday, May 27, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. will be our 76th Annual Puna District Interfaith Memorial Day Observance on the front lawn of Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. We invite all to come remember the Puna District residents that gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Our guest speaker will be Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Cronin the Pōhakuloa Training Area Commander.

If you have flowers or greenery to share, please drop them off at the temple on Friday, May 26, 2023 from 9 am – 10 am.

On Saturday, May 27 2023 at 7:00 a.m. we will set-up for the event. If you are able to come help, please stop by the temple.

The Puna residents killed in action:

World War II (*Stanley Cabral; Yuzo Hayashida; John Hernandez; Seiji Higa; Isamu Kanetani; Yutaka Kawamoto; Morio Mizumoto; Frank Mugihira; Shoichi Nakahara; Tadao Nakamura; Mitsuru Ochiai; Eishin Oshiro; Seikichi Oshiro; Kazumi Tsutsui; and Alfred Veriato*).

Korean Conflict (*David Aspili; Julio Figueroa; Yoshimi Fukumoto; Isaac K. Hale; Koichi Moriwaki; Wilson Park; and Paul K. Ura*).

Vietnam Conflict (*Moses I. Kuahiwinui Jr.; George G. Luis; Gilbert Olivar; Hayward K. Peleiholani; and George S. Salema*).

Iraq-Afghanistan Conflict (*Ray M. Furhmann II and Kirk Takeshi Fuchigami Jr*). (*We are still awaiting the plaque to be added to the memorial*)

Mother's Day Brunch

We will be having our Annual Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday May 14th after Service. Tickets are being sold after Sunday Services for \$15 and children under 7 are free. All the money raised will go to our Scholarship Fund. If you are unable to attend service, but would like to purchase tickets, either email mpunahongwanji@twc.com with the subject "Mother's Day Brunch" or contact Robin Sato at rob.f.sato@gmail.com or call/text (808) 936-7179 to reserve your ticket. If any men of Puna Hongwanji are available to help with the food preparation that morning, please call Clifford Furukado at (808)938-3177.

Cinder Sale

Puna Hongwanji will be having a cinder sale on May 13th from 10 am to 2 pm. A bag of cinder will be sold for \$5.00 and there will be no delivery. We are asking for volunteers to help with the bagging which will begin at 8 am that day. Please come out if you are able to help. Lunch will be served.
