

PUNA HONGWANJI MISSION



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January 2025 Hi-Lites

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2025 Honpa Hongwanji Theme & Slogan

Nurturing Nembutsu,
 Cultivating Awareness

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.

Hi-Lites Committee:

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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Production: Lei Kakugawa, Ann Toma, Dora Hashimoto, Susan Sunada & Clifford Furukado, Keri Furukako

Advisor: Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

memorial day listed, 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.

January 2025 & February 2025

1 yr.	Tomiye Kukino Ellen Tao Ted Uehara Charles Kawamoto Richard Shiigi	January 8, 2024 January 16, 2024 January 26, 2024 January 30, 2024 February 26, 2024
3 yrs.	Edward Toriano Mike Kimoto May Takata	January 10, 2023 February 3, 2023 February 28, 2023
7 yrs.	Tatsuko Hayashikawa Ronald Kawada Kinue Kanda	January 21, 2019 February 9, 2019 February 9, 2019
13 yrs.	None Shizuyo Horiuchi	January 2013 February 11, 2013
17 yrs.	Hatsue Oshita Tsugiko Uchida Mike Sakamoto Yoshiaki Imai Kiyoko Fujimoto Roy Hamada Walter Yamaguchi	January 8, 2009 January 13, 2009 January 14, 2009 January 16, 2009 January 28, 2009 February 14, 2009 February 17, 2009
25 yrs.	Shigeo Ota George Nakayama Stanley Niimi	January 21, 2001 January 22, 2001 February 20, 2001
33 yrs.	None Shigetoshi Tsutsui Susumu Ishida	January 1993 February 1, 1993 February 13, 1993
50 yrs.	Niki Fukuda Junzo Yamaguchi Aiko Fujima Ginzo Kobayashi Ui Takawa Misuyo Shimizu	January 27, 1976 February 1, 1976 February 4, 1976 February 4, 1976 February 22, 1976 February 24, 1976

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

Noreen Toriano

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.



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

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day New Years Day Service 9 am	2	3 Taiko Concert 5:00 pm	4 Judo Kagami Biraki 9 am
5 Family Service and Installation of Officers 9 am Taiko 3 -6 pm	6 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	7 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm Treas. Night 7 pm	8 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	9 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	10 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm	11 Pot Luck with Rev. Ai 5 pm
12 Hoonko Service and Shinen Enkai 9 am Taiko 3 -6 pm	13 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	14 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	15 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	16 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm BOD Meeting 7p	17 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	18 Sr. YBA Party
19 Family Service 9 am Food Drive Recycle Day BWA Meeting Taiko 3 -6 pm	20 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p M.L King Day	21 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	22 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	23 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	24 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm	25
26 Family Service 9 am Taiko 3 -6 pm	27 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	28 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	29 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	30 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	31 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	1 Appreciation Party 5:30 pm

Gomonshu's Message New Year's Greeting

Happy New Year! At the beginning of the New Year, I would like to extend my warm regards to you all.

As in previous years, many people throughout the world have been affected by natural disasters, including earthquakes, floods, and forest fires. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to all who have perished in those calamities. I would also like to express my sympathies to those who are still coping with the dire situations. It is my sincere hope that all who have been affected will soon be able to return to normalcy.

In addition to the continuing Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022, armed conflict in the Middle East since October 2023 has intensified, putting a toll on civilians. As Buddhists, let us embrace the words of Sakyamuni Buddha that "Everyone fears violence and is scared of death. In consideration of all life, do not kill and do not make others kill."

We, as human beings who have received life in this world, shall have our human rights equally guaranteed regardless of reason, and must never have our lives threatened. However in reality, conflicts and terrorist attacks have occurred everywhere in the world and for many people, their right to live and exist has been threatened. As Buddhists as well as Nembutsu followers who aspire to achieve peace, we must keep seriously in our hearts the words of Sakyamuni Buddha as well as Shinran Shonin who aspired for a peaceful world in pursuing our endeavor of contributing toward world peace and security.

Through the Jodo Shinshu teaching, we are guided to appreciate Amida Buddha's working that enables us to become aware of our true self. Being caught up in our self-centered thinking and desires, we are unable to accept the Universal Truth of dependent origination and impermanence, and that is why we constantly suffer from our human desires.

Unable to leave us in such a state, Amida Buddha continuously works to lead us to the Dharma. By regarding each individual as a fellow traveler following the same path being guided and embraced by Amida Buddha, we are enabled to respect and help each other while courageously coping with difficult social issues. Let us continue listening and appreciating Amida Buddha's working as Buddhist followers while cherishing each and every day.



January 1, 2025

OHTANI Kojun
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

年頭の辞

新しい年のはじめにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

昨年も世界各地で地震や洪水、山火事など様々な災害が起こり、多くの方が被災されました。災害によってお亡くなりになられたすべての方々に謹んで哀悼の意を表しますとともに、被災された皆さまに心よりお見舞い申し上げます。皆さまが一日も早く、日常の生活を取り戻されますことを願っております。

また、2022年2月に始まったロシア連邦によるウクライナ侵攻はいまだに続いており、2023年10月以来の中東における武力衝突でも多くの犠牲者が出ています。私たちは仏教徒として、「すべての者は暴力におびえ、すべての者は死をおそれる。己が身にひきくらべて、殺してはならぬ。殺さしめてはならぬ。」（『ダンマパダ』第129偈）というお釈迦様のお言葉を大切にいたしましょう。

この世に生を受けた私たちは、いかなる理由があろうとも等しく人権が保障され、命が脅かされるようなことがあってはなりません。しかし、現実には世界各地で紛争やテロが勃発し、また貧困や政治的・宗教的な対立により、生存の権利が脅かされている人々が数多くおられます。平和主義を掲げる仏教徒であり念仏者である私たちは、お釈迦様のお言葉を深く心に刻み、世の安穏を願われた親鸞聖人のお心を体して、国際社会の平和と安全に大きく貢献することが求められています。

浄土真宗のみ教えをいただく私たちは、阿弥陀さまのおはたらきによって、自分自身の真実の姿を知らされます。それは、自身の思いや欲望にとらわれ、お釈迦様が明らかにされた諸行無常や諸法無我といったこの世界の真実を、そのままに受け入れることができずに悩み苦しむ凡夫の姿です。

しかし、そのような私を救いの目当てとして阿弥陀様ははたらき続けて下さっています。私たちは等しく阿弥陀様から願われた者同士、互いに敬い合い助け合って、困難な社会の課題にも果敢に取り組んでいくことができます。本年も、阿弥陀さまのおはたらきを聞き、仏教徒として一日一日を大切に歩んでまいりましょう。

2025年1月1日

浄土真宗本願寺派
門主

大谷光淳

BISHOP'S MESSAGE

2025 New Year's Message: "Nurturing Nembutsu, Cultivating Awareness"

As we stand at the threshold of 2025, I am filled with profound gratitude for the Sangha of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and the spiritual journey we continue to share. The theme for this year, "Nurturing Nembutsu: Cultivating Awareness," reflects not only our collective aspiration but also our personal commitment to deepening our connection with Amida Buddha and fostering a more profound awareness in every aspect of our lives.

The Nembutsu, "Namo Amida Butsu," is much more than a simple recitation. It is the living embodiment of Amida Buddha's all-embracing Compassion, a compassion that transcends all boundaries we create. No one is left behind. No one is excluded from Amida Buddha's deepest aspiration to save all beings. In this truth, we find solace and strength, knowing that no matter our imperfections or struggles, we are always embraced by the boundless Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha.

I, too, wrestle with my limitations—foolishness, selfishness, ignorance, and the tendency to judge or discriminate against others. These failings often cloud my perspective, narrowing my view of the world and of others. Yet, despite these limitations, I am continually reminded that Amida's Compassion does not waver. The Nembutsu is my anchor, a reminder that I am welcomed just as I am into the warmth of Amida Buddha's embrace. My heart and mind are nurtured in this space, and in turn, my Nembutsu becomes a living expression of joy, gratitude, and humility for the life I live within this Compassion.

As we are nurtured by Amida's Compassionate voice, we are also called to cultivate awareness. This awareness is not merely intellectual or passive; it is a dynamic and active practice that calls us to wake up to the reality of our interconnectedness. It invites us to see the world with clearer eyes, to recognize the oneness of all life, and to develop a deeper understanding of the truths that shape our existence.

In today's world, where distractions and self-centeredness abound, cultivating awareness becomes even more crucial. It helps us move beyond the narrow confines of our personal concerns, allowing us to see the interdependence of all beings. It teaches us to live more mindfully, to understand the suffering of others, and to act with greater compassion. The gift of the Nembutsu is this awareness—an invitation to step forward, to embrace others with open hearts, and to recognize that we are all held within the same Compassionate Light.

Let us renew our commitment to live a life of Nembutsu. Let us nurture our hearts and minds by participating in temple services and activities, deepening our relationships with the Sangha, and listening to the Dharma. In doing so, we not only deepen our appreciation of the Nembutsu but also cultivate an awareness that allows us to live more fully and purposefully.

As we step forward into 2025, let us move together with hearts full of joy and gratitude infused with awareness. Let us share the joy of Nembutsu with everyone we encounter, and through our mindful living, let us help to build a world that is more compassionate, more aware, and more connected.

I wish each and every one of you a joyful and peaceful New Year. May the light of Amida Buddha continue to shine upon us and guide us always.



Namo Amida Butsu.

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
Bishop
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

President's New Year's Message Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Happy New Year! Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu! Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and in good spirits as we look forward to the New Year, 2025!

As we enter the new year, it is natural to look back at the past year. As I look back at the year 2024, I have many warm and happy memories of family and friends. Wonderful family trips to the mainland USA and Japan. An “epic” hiking trip to Korea. Quiet reflection during temple service on Sunday mornings followed by fellowship and delicious lunches! And for myself, one of the highlights of the year was the memorable weekend we spent at the Triple Celebration (850th/800th/135th) in September, held at the Ala Moana Hotel. There were sad occasions as well, with loss of family and close friends. Reliving memories from the past year, I feel fortunate and I am so grateful for all of the events of the past year. *Ichigo ichie*. I hope that you feel the same way.

Looking forward to the New Year, I do not know what the future holds for us - as individuals, as a community and as a Buddhist organization. Just think, five years ago no one thought that we would need to survive a pandemic or experience a Maui wildfire. However, in the face of hardship, we persevered. We met the challenges placed before us by caring for each other and by working together. I believe we are stronger as a Buddhist organization because of how we, each one of us, responded to adversity.

Our five year theme which begins in 2025, “*Nurturing Nembutsu*” reminds us that the Nembutsu is the “core” of our existence. The Nembutsu, expressed as “*Namo Amida Butsu*” is our expression of gratitude in awareness of Amida’s Compassion. Nembutsu is not just our gratitude, it is our response to Amida’s voice which is calling out to each one of us. “Nurturing Nembutsu” reminds us that we nurture the Nembutsu when we share it with others, and in turn we are nurtured by Amida’s love for us. Let us be mindful of the all-embracing Amida and continue on this journey together.

*“Happiness does not depend on what you have or who you are;
it solely relies on what you think.” - Buddha*



With Gassho,
Warren Tamamoto MD
President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Minister's Message



The year 2024, full of personal and societal happenings, has passed, and 2025 has begun with hope. This feeling of expecting a better year is common. Terms like "next time" and "next year" hold hope and encourage diligence as we face challenges. Whether it's a driving test, work promotion, health recovery, or hitting the jackpot, "next time" keeps us focused. Tomorrow will be better, the next one will be different, the future holds better things. I hope to finish the marathon next time in less than 6 hours (this year, my time was 6 hours and 50 minutes). However, relying too much on "next" can cause worry and a sense of a never-ending journey. While many succeed after countless mistakes, some accept that they can't achieve their goals. Sometimes, things are beyond our control. If we rely too much on "next," we miss the significance of the present moment. Thinking "next time" or "tomorrow" can make unrepeatable moments slip away. While "next" gives hope, the importance is right here, right now. If this moment is not fulfilled, the next won't be, as we don't know if we have a next.

In Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, what is assured right here, right now, is being born in the Pure Land at the moment of our last breath, attaining supreme enlightenment, becoming a Buddha, and continuing to guide those left behind. We are reminded that we are not just living a life that perishes but are being liberated from pains and struggles, achieving wisdom and compassion that free us from attachments and desires. How is this possible? One would need to practice for countless years to accumulate purity and virtues. If this life is not enough, then the next life, and so on, until all conditions are met. Shinran Shonin realized that it was impossible for humans to eradicate all desires. Upon that awareness of our limitations, despair, and lamentation of human nature, it was a moment to encounter Namu Amida Butsu. Amida Buddha made vows to embrace all as they are, touching people with compassion and wisdom. Touched by this, the assurances listed above are realized: I'm not just living to die, but I'm in the embrace of Amida Buddha. Not later, not next time, but today, right here and right now, we are urged to encounter this embrace. Then, every day and every moment is a journey accompanied by warmth and guidance that brightens our life and mindfulness of our own limitations, which are taken care of by great wisdom. In this year, let us hear and recite the Nembutsu, Namu Amida Butsu, who is compassionately calling to us, "Come to my embrace! I'm here for you always."

「明日があるさ」は、希望を与える一方で今という尊さと重要性を失わせる。また今度、明日でいいか、これによって後悔を経験した人は私だけではないはず。失って初めて「明日がある」のは「今」をいのちいっぱいにしたからだと分かる。生老病死の人間としての私か、安穩の仏になるいのちを生きる私か。そんな苦悩に喜怒哀楽に生きる私を必ず救うよ、と声が届く。いつかじゃない、明日じゃない、今なのだ。私の口からこぼれてくださるなもあみだぶつ、「どんなことがあっても、どんなあなたになっても、必ずそばにいるよ」と。今年も智慧と慈悲の阿弥陀様のご一緒のいのちです。お念仏を聞き、申しましょう。南無阿弥陀仏

President's Message

Happy New Year. Hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season. As I come to the end of my term as president, I would like to thank each and every one of you for the support I received over the last four years. We went through some difficult times and had to make some changes in the way we did things during the Covid-19 Pandemic but we made it through. One of the positive changes was the usage of video conferencing platforms to conduct virtual meetings and for people to attend Sunday services via the internet. This allowed people to be there virtually when they would not be able to attend otherwise. Mahalo to Reverend Tomioka and the video crew for their hard work. At the recent General Membership meeting, we approved a bylaws amendment to allow for virtual meetings.

I would like to thank Reverend Tomioka for all of his hard work and innovative ideas. Puna Hongwanji has grown under his leadership and it will continue as long as he is here. Thank you also to his wife, Haruka for her support, the Board of Directors, the various committees and the affiliate groups for their commitment and dedication to Puna Hongwanji. You are the ones that do all the planning and carry out the various projects and events.

During my term, we initiated some projects like the repair and painting of the temple and the columbarium but so far, we have not been able to get a contractor to give us a quote. Hopefully, we can get one soon. These major projects will be very expensive so we will need to somehow raise money to fund these projects. We were thinking of a capital campaign like we did for the tower repairs so we will be seeking your financial support in the future to help fund these projects. We have also started renting the upper parking lot to food vendors on a daily or monthly basis.

Congratulations to our new president, Richard Solie and the incoming Board of Directors. It is my hope that you all continue to support them.



Again, Thank you everyone, couldn't have done it without all of you.

In Gassho,
Clifford Furukado

Appreciation Party

We will be having our Appreciation Party on February 1st at 5:30 pm in the Social Hall. Everyone who helped with our various projects throughout the year is invited. Sign-up sheets are provided in the temple and kitchen or call Clifford at (808)938-3177.

Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights



Welcome to 2025!

We finished 2024 doing what we do best: Come together for the temple and our Sangha. The Kyodan Board accomplished a number of tasks, voting to assist affiliates, groups, events, and other temples. Thanks to funding from our generous membership, families, and friends for your assistance! We asked and you all delivered of your time, energy, and resources. Mahalo nui loa! The General cleanup day was well-attended – thank you to our members, affiliates and friends! We were rewarded with a delicious meal put together by the Pahoia Toban, which capped off a delightful day of hard work and fellowship!

Following the cleanup, members gathered for our General Membership Meeting. We discussed new business consisting of the 2025 budget, the new slate of officers, and amending our by-laws to include electronic meetings. Yes, we live in a world where we don't have to meet and talk to each other in person anymore BUT it's so much more fun live. ☺

Welcome new Kyodan President Richard Solie, previously our Treasurer. Thank you, Richard, for stepping up! We appreciate your service and dedication to our Sangha – and for submitting a balanced budget for 2025! We are looking forward to your term and creating a positive team of directors. We bid a fond farewell and extended our gratitude & appreciation to our fearless two-term leader, Clifford Furukado – but not really because, as he stated, he has some “stuff” to finish up. He won't be far away, thankfully! We are lucky that he will still be leading the kitchen team!

Replacing Richard as our new Kyodan Board Treasurer is Ron Maglothin. Ron is a fairly new temple member and will make a terrific Treasurer. Ron and Richard will be seeking a qualified (and affordable) CPA to audit the books during this transition. Welcome to the Board, Ron! Thank you for taking on this crucial role. We are

Domo arigato gozaimasu to outgoing First Vice President, Warren Tanigawa, who will be moving over to our all-important Membership Chair, left vacant after the passing of Roy Toma.

Aloha and mahalo to Craig Shimoda. While he will no longer be a board member, he will continue to serve our Sangha as a Lay Minister and all-around good guy!

Everyone else remains, including me. I will continue to take minutes and keep people on track. Lol! Mahalo to the board and to our members for always being so supportive. Happy New Year!

MEMBERSHIP

Happy New Year!

Recommended dues are \$250.00. It can also be paid weekly, monthly, or semi-annual. 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 at 808-966-9981.

PROJECT DANA



Site coordinators, Richard Solie and Stella Miyashiro, would like to thank temple members and friends, who provided financial support throughout the year. The donations help maintain the Dana Program for the seniors. Please inform the site coordinators when a temple member transitions into a care facility or a private care home. Visitations made by volunteers are opportunities for seniors to Socialize.

As the year comes to a close, Puna Project Dana extends holiday wishes to the Puna Hongwanji Sangha. It is our hope that 2025 brings Happiness, Good Health, and Aloha!

In gassho,
Richard Solie
Stella Miyashiro



Happy Birthday Kiyoko!



Happy Birthday Ann!

BWA NEWS

The pumpkin pie fundraiser was a success.



Making pie crust.



Clifford helped



Making boxes for pies.





After expenses, proceeds from the pie sale will be given to Rev. Ai Hironaka of Lahaina Hongwanji on Jan 12, 2025.

Next year's Puna BWA President will be K.T. Cannon-Eger
Vice President will be Carol Tsunozumi
Recording Secretary will be Marilyn Sato
Corresponding Secretary will be Naomi Hirayasu
Treasurer will be Janet Watarida
Our two auditors will be Brenda Isa and Linda Iwata.

Our BWA Shinnen Enkai party will be on Thursday January 23, 2025, 10:30am at Kenichi's. Marilyn Sato will be compiling a list of attendees and will be collecting \$10 per member for this event. Please let Marilyn know if you need a ride.

All best wishes to all for the New Year, Akemashite Omedetou!
In Gassho,
Naomi Hirayasu

Puna Hongwanji Sr YBA Party

We will be having our Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA Party on Saturday, January 18, 2025 at the Lam's Garden in Hilo. The invitation has been sent out to members with email addresses. The cost for members will be \$17.00 per person and for non-members the cost is \$27 per person. Pupu, desserts, and drinks are allowed. For those that did not get the email and have additional questions, please contact Robin Sato. **RSVP to Robin is due by Wednesday, January 8, 2025** by email at rob.f.sato@gmail.com or call/text (808) 936-7179. When we turn in our count that is how the restaurant is basing our food order on so if you indicate that you will attend and don't show up we will ask that you pay the full price of \$27.

Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA is open to everyone. The Sr. YBA have been the ones that helps out at events with set-up and any other manpower that is needed. We have fellowship with the other Sr. YBA's at Hilo Meishoin and Hilo Hongwanji on an annual basis. If you are interested in joining the membership dues is \$10 per person. If you have more questions, please see one of the officers below or any of our membership. You can make a check payable to ***Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA*** and in the memo put "dues".

Our incoming officers for January 2025-December 2026 will be: President: Jenn Kurohara; Vice President: Jason Hashimoto; Treasurer: Corey Kawamoto; Secretary: Robin Sato; and Immediate Past President: Warren Tanigawa.

Shinnen Enkai Luncheon

Tickets will be sold for the Shinnen Enkai Luncheon. The luncheon will be held after the Hoonko Service on Sunday, January 12, 2024. The ticket price will be the same as last year:

Adults: \$10 in advance/\$15 at the door
Children (Ages 8-18): \$5 in advance/\$10 at the door
Keirosha (those turning 80 in 2025) and Children 7 and under: Free

If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, please contact the temple at 808-966-9981 or email mpunahongwanji@twc.com or contact Robin Sato at 808-936-7179 (call/text)

Food Drive and Recycle Day

Join us on the Martin Luther King weekend on Sunday, January 19, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon to drop off your non-perishable food items for the Food Basket of Hawaii and/or your HI-5 recycles. If making a monetary donation make checks payable to "***The Food Basket, Inc.***" and in the memo put "***Puna Hongwanji Food Drive***"

The HI-5 recycles that are collected goes into our appreciation party account. The HI-5 recycles and donations made to the appreciation account is utilized to funds the appreciation parties that we have had. The appreciation party is a way to thank all our members and friends that come to support Puna Hongwanji with our different events. We would not be able to do these events alone without the help that our friends and family provide. As a token this is party is to show our appreciation.

Looking Towards the Future

We will be having our Puna Hongwanji Children's Day on the 3rd Saturday in April. This year it will be on Saturday, April 19, 2025. If you are interested in participating or helping out, please contact Jenn Kurohara or Robin Sato. We welcome new ideas.

We would like to form a committee for the next Winter Craft Fair scheduled for Saturday, November 15, 2025. Veronica "Ronnie" Kitayama has been handling the past Winter Craft Fairs, but if we have a committee to work on it then it will take the load off of a couple people. Ronnie would like to begin registration in March or April. If you would to be a part of this planning, please contact Robin Sato so that we can include you when we decide on a meeting date.

Our 125th Anniversary of Puna Hongwanji is scheduled for October 2027. Stay tuned as we start meeting as a committee and decide the direction we will be going in. Our main Chairperson will be Jason Hashimoto and helping him will be Jenn Kurohara and Robin Sato.

If you would like to be on any planning of events or have ideas, please see Rev. Tomioka, Jenn Kurohara, or Robin Sato.

We would like to thank all of you who have supported Puna Hongwanji and the many events that we have been participating in. We could not do this alone and appreciate the many people who support us and the events for our temple and the community. As you can see 2025 is already filling up. Have a safe and Happy New Year!

RUMMAGE SALE

Mark your calendars. Rummage sale on March 29, 2025. More information to follow in the coming newsletter.

JANUARY SCHEDULE

January 1	New Year's Day Service 9 am.
January 3	Taiko Recital
January 4	Judo Kagami Biraki
January 5	Installation of Officers
January 11	Potluck with Reverend Ai
January 12	Hoonko/Shinen Enkai
January 18	Sr. YBA Party
January 19	Recycle Day/Food Drive
January 23	BWA Shinnen Enkai
February 1	Appreciation Party

TOBAN SCHEDULE 2025

	Clean Up	Refreshments
January	2	4
February	3	1
March	4	2
April	1	3
May	2	4
June	3	1
July	4	2
August	1	3
September	2	4
October	3	1
November	4	2
December	1	3

Toban Group Contact Person

Group 1: Karen Mason (408)206-9281

Group 2: Janet Watarida (808)936-1170

Group 3: Ann Toma (808)935-7712

Group 4: Keri Furukado (808)987-1215

Obon Refreshment Schedule:

Friday, Set Up, Group 4

Saturday, Group 1

Sunday, Clean up, Group 2

FRIENDS OF THE GARDENS



Come celebrate the legacy of Lili'uokalani Gardens

5th Banyan Drive Art Stroll

January 11th, 2025 - Noon to 6 pm



Bring the family and meet Patrick Ching, Celebrated Hawaii artist and host of the Painting in Paradise TV show on Spectrum oc16tv and Patrick Ching Youtube. Children can draw/paint a project worthy of framing under his direction, for free!

~ Book signing and prints available too! ~

Fun-filled day of events include:

- Juried art show, and a children's draw/paint demo with Patrick Ching at the Castle Hilo Hawaiian Hotel.
- Silent auction & live portrait painting by Sakiko Shinkai at Grand Naniloa.
 - Photography display at Hilo Bay Café.
 - Gyotaku demo with Kurt Kishimori at Suisan.
- Mokuhanga demo with Bob Danhieux Douglas at Ali'i Ice House.
 - Visit Banyan Gallery and enter to win door prizes!
- Plein air painting and photography demos in the garden throughout the day.
 - Taiko drummers - Pupus at each venue - Musical entertainment and more!

~ Visit Banyan Gallery for a schedule and map of events ~

 Friends of Lili'uokalani Gardens  (808) 960-8848

The Banyan Drive Art Stroll will be held Saturday, January 11, from noon to 6:00 p.m. on the Waiakea peninsula with events set at venues from Suisan Fish Market to the Grand Naniloa Doubletree Hotel.

This is a revival of an art event that took place in Lili'uokalani Gardens and along the peninsula from 2017 through 2020. The event took a break during the pandemic.

Gyotaku will be demonstrated at Suisan Fish Market. Photographers' work will be on display at Hilo Bay Cafe. Mokuhanga printing will be shown at Alii Ice Company. Plein air artists will be in Lili'uokalani Gardens. Sign up for door prizes at Banyan Gallery. An art exhibit will be at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel along with live demonstration by Patrick Ching. Silent Auction and entertainment are slated for the Naniloa.

Free admission. Donations welcome.

HONOLULU MARATHON / HONOLULU 10K

Congratulations to Rev. Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka and Haruka Tomioka for participating in the Honolulu Marathon and the Honolulu 10K.

Rev. Tomioka along with Haruka's sister and nephew participated in the full marathon and completed the course.

Haruka, her father, and two nieces completed the 10K.

Good job to all of them. This past year Rev. Tomioka really prepared himself and improved his time from last year which was his goal.



Satoshi Tomioka
Marathon, M35-39 Bib 16461

Honolulu
Marathon, M35-39

Satoshi Tomioka completed the Honolulu Marathon, M35-39

Finish Time
6:53:12
09:48 min/km

Splits

Point	Time	Time of Day	Pace
Badge			
Claim			

Info Leaders Tracker My Account

2024 Honolulu Marathon

Haruka Tomioka
10K, F35-39 Bib 35821

Haruka Tomioka completed the Honolulu 10K, F35-39

Finish Time
2:56:30
17:39 min/km

Splits

Point	Time	Time of Day	Pace
START	00:00:00	5:22:19 am	---
HALFWAY	01:32:28	6:54:47 am	18:30
FINISH-10K	02:56:30	8:18:49 am	16:49

Avg. Pace **17:39**
min/km

Badge Claim

Info Leaders Tracker My Account

2024 Honolulu Marathon