

PUNA HONGWANJI MISSION



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April 2025 Hi-Lites

Stay connected with
 Puna Hongwanji Mission by:



Youtube:

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



• Facebook:

www.facebook.com/PunaHongwanji



• Instagram:

www.instagram.com/punahongwanji1902/



• Online donation:

<https://punahongwanji.org/donate/>

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.

Email: "hilites@punahongwanji.org"

Editorial: Sam Horiuchi, Tammy Molina, Warren Noguchi

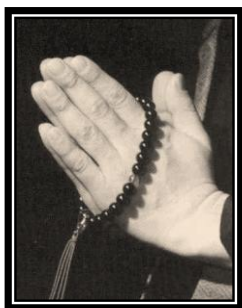
Production: Lei Kakugawa, Ann Toma, Dora Hashimoto, Susan Sunada & Clifford Furukado, Keri Furukado.

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, 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.

April 2025 & May 2025

1 yr.	None Kenji Oshita Tei Schrey	April 2024 May 11, 2024 May 21, 2024
3 yrs.	None Kay Kawazoe	April 2023 May 15, 2023
7 yrs.	Lisa Cabudol None	April 17, 2019 May 2019
13 yrs.	Misao Tanaka Yoshikazu Isa Adeline Nakamura June Matsushita Betsy Miyashiro Choki Toma	April 8, 2013 April 21, 2013 April 30, 2013 May 1, 2013 May 23, 2013 May 23, 2013
17 yrs.	Jack Issa Tsugie Tsutsui	April 3, 2009 May 1, 2009
25 yrs.	Calvin Uchida Yukio Murayama Chieko Nagata Masayuki Sumiki Minoru Tagawa	April 1, 2001 April 2, 2001 April 4, 2001 May 11, 2001 May 16, 2001
33 yrs.	Keiko Yoshimura None	April 15, 1993 May 1993
50 yrs.	Yuki Takata Victoria Makio None	April 21, 1976 April 29, 1976 May 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

Ayako Nakamura

Laurie Izumi

Raymond Kamei

Chishiko Takata

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.



APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm Sr. YBA Mtg. 7 pm	Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
BIBF Hanamatsuri @ Higashi Hongwanji 10 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	Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
PHM Hanamatsuri 9 am BWA Meeting Judo 12- 2:30 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	Yoga 9- 10:30 am 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	Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm <u>Good Friday</u>	Children's Day 10 am – 2 pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Family Service 9 am Taiko 3 -6 pm <u>Easter Sunday</u>	Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm	
27	28	29	30			
Lady Eshinni/Kakushini Day 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	Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm			

Minister's Message



In our lives, one of the unavoidable sorrows is the separation from our beloved ones who have filled our memories with significance. The deeper our love, the greater the pain we feel. Reflecting on those who have passed reminds us to contemplate our own existence. Are we assured of our life's purpose, or are we merely wandering? Our loved ones, enveloped in compassionate wisdom, guide us to recognize the truths of impermanence, interdependence, the preciousness of our lives, and the true acceptance of awakening, embodied in the phrase *Namo Amida Butsu*.

Memorials prompt us to reflect on the meaning of being held by someone who exists not only in a physical sense but also transcends space and time. We often feel that we are thought of by their presence. This connection provides a spiritual foundation and comfort, reassuring us that we are embraced in warm acceptance, no matter the circumstances. This reassurance extends to the end of life as well. While we may wish to control how we approach our final moments—be it at home, in a hospital, or in a comforting place, surrounded by friends and family, able to express love and gratitude—there are no guarantees. Our end may arrive unexpectedly, through an accident, illness, or in solitude, leaving us feeling isolated and in darkness. In those moments, a warm, calming call beckons me: “come into my embrace! I am always here for you!” This is the voice of *Namo Amida Butsu*, the Buddha of infinite life and light.

As we navigate the suffering caused by our limited lives and the separation from loved ones, Amida's infinite light vows to embrace us forever—past, present, and future—reminding us that even in physical separation, there is no true goodbye. This boundless light shines upon all places, whether in Hawaii, neighbor islands, the mainland, or elsewhere, including the afterlife, uniting us in its warmth. *Namo Amida Butsu* is the name of the Buddha, a voice reaching out to us, witnessing our joys and sorrows, calling to me “let me be with you, allow me to stand by you, I'd wanna be next to you” to accompany me and never leave me alone. This is Amida Buddha's innermost wish. When touched by and hearing this voice of *Namo Amida Butsu*, a warm comfort blossoms in my heart, revealing that my loved ones and I are indeed connected. My destination in life becomes clear: I am not dying; I am being born into the Pure Land, attaining awakening, and reuniting with my loved ones in their most beautiful forms, guiding those left behind through the compassion and wisdom of Amida Buddha. The recitation of *Namo Amida Butsu* flows from my lips, fulfilling my life. Though life can be challenging, it is also beautiful in Amida's embrace. Together, we exist in that embrace. *Namo Amida Butsu*

亡き人を思う私が、亡き人に案じられている。み仏に抱かれてお浄土に生まれた方々は、この苦悩の世に生きる私を今でも導いてくださっている。願われている私の命。

Puna Hongwanji Mission Buddhist Women's Association

At the March meeting of Puna Hongwanji BWA, vice president Carol Tsunezumi presided as president K.T. Cannon-Eger was traveling in Japan. This report was compiled with the help of Carol Tsunezumi and Marilyn Sato.

The Saturday, March 29, Rummage Sale will have BWA help with sorting, organizing, and selling items as well as assisting past kyodan president Clifford Furukado with cooking.

At the Children's Day festivities Saturday, April 19, BWA will be making chili and rice, and also will sell bottled water.

Gail Takaki has agreed to be our speaker for Sunday, April 27, the annual Lady Eshinni and Lady Kakushinni Day. Gail is the founder and vice president of NexTech Hawaii, an organization dedicated to connecting keiki throughout Hawaii Island with fun, high-impact science, technology, engineering, and math experiences. She has a background in aerospace engineering and worked on several innovations for NASA.

BWA is considering how best to participate in Treasures of Hawaii set for January 2026.

Subsequent to the March meeting, HIUHBWA considered a motion to support the revived AIDS walk in Lili'uokalani Gardens, set for Saturday, May 3.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and support,
K.T. Cannon-Eger



PROJECT DANA



On March 20, 2025, Puna seniors and Papaaloa seniors were invited to the Hakalau Jodo Mission for a luncheon. The Puna group included Richard Solie, Tokimi Miyatake, Craig Shimoda, Eileen Usagawa, Lei Kakugawa, Florence Nishimura, Carol Tsunozumi, Sarah Kay, Nancy Yamada, Sel Brockmiller and her grandson, Wyatt, Mieko Nagao, Arlene Valleau, and Stella Miyashiro. Akiko Masuda, who was the hostess, led everyone in sitting exercises. The seniors sang “Jack and Jill” with movements and danced “Tanko Bushi”, which is the coal miners bon dance. It took coordination, concentration, and lots of laughter to keep up with Akiko’s exercises.



Before lunch was served, Mieko Nagao was recognized for being 99 years old this month. She was honored with a lei and a birthday cake. After everyone sang “Happy Birthday”, Mrs. Nagao blew out the candle. Everyone received a mask that she sewed.

Clifford and Keri Furukado prepared the delicious meal, which started with abalone soup. The clear soup with fresh greens was such a hit, that requests for seconds were made. Beef broccoli, yakisoba, tofu with namitake mushrooms, and rice were on the menu. Florence shared her specialty, cucumber koko. The home made desserts like jello, mochi, and a lilikoi bar made by Arlene, were greatly appreciated.

Before leaving, a group picture was taken to remember this first 2025 Project Dana outing.

In gassho,
Stella Miyashiro

CHILDREN’S DAY – SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2025 FROM 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Can you believe that we are already in April and this month we will be hosting a Children’s Day event at Puna Hongwanji on Saturday, April 19, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. This event is open to the public. Everyone is welcome! Bring your children, your little ones, friends, neighbors, and the young at heart. There will be many games, activities, prizes, and fun times.

Purchase game cards to play games and win some prizes. We will also have a passport that take you to the different activities. Bring your completed passport to us and get your chance to win a fabulous prize. We will also have CU Hawaii FCU; Hawaii Police Department – offering free keiki ID; Hawaii Fire Department will bring along 3 trucks for everyone to explore (you can climb in them); Hilo High School Japanese Club – learn to make and take a koinobori out of toilet paper roll; Puna Taiko – andagi; Pahala Taiko – maki sushi sale - \$6 a roll (recommend you do a pre-sale); Malama Haloa Hui Kui Kalo – learn to pound your own paiai; outdoor activities with Jade Toma; E.M. Awareness – make Genki Balls; color Kabuto Hats (samurai hats) and koi; Puna Hongwanji Judo – Easter Baskets and crafts; Scouts – cornhole game and Scout Discount Cards.

On the concession side please help support the Puna Hongwanji BWA – chili and rice and water sale; Puna Hongwanji Judo – they will have a variety of food items so be sure to check out their menu. Please be sure to send your final listing of food items by April 2 so that the food permits can be obtained.

Any questions, please contact Jenn Kurohara or Robin Sato.

Scholarship

The Puna Hongwanji Scholarship Committee is pleased to release the Scholarship Application for 2025. This \$1000 scholarship is awarded to an active temple member who is a graduating high senior, or current university or college student enrolling as a full-time or part-time student in the Fall of 2025.

To download the application, click over to: <https://bit.ly/phmscholarship>.

Questions can be directed to Paul Sakamoto at psakamoto808@gmail.com

PAHALA HONGWANJI TAIKO – MAKI SUSHI SALE

Pahala Hongwanji Taiko will be fundraising during our Children's Day event. **They are taking presale orders until Saturday, April 5, 2025.** Cost of the maki sushi is \$6 per roll. The proceeds will be donated to support Pahala Hongwanji and Pahala Hongwanji Taiko. Pick up will be on Saturday, April 19, 2025 at Puna Hongwanji from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

There will be two types of sushi:

REGULAR ROLL: rice, sugar, vinegar, salt, shoyu, egg, **tuna**, kanpyo, nori

VEGETARIAN ROLL: rice, sugar, vinegar, salt, shoyu, egg, **carrot**, kanpyo, nori

Preorder no later than Saturday, April 5. There are different ways to order. Email Kayo Munnerlyn at kayolua@gmail.com or Lois Yokota at kikuely60@gmail.com. They have not left their phone numbers as they will be unavailable to take calls during this period. You can fill out the google form by clicking on the link. <https://forms.gle/Upmxa9o8vC2LGJ2h9>. Or you can sign up on the sign up sheet at temple or by contacting Robin Sato.

If writing a check, please make it payable to: ***Pahala Hongwanji Mission Special Account*** and in the memo notate ***“presale maki sushi – Puna”***. You may mail in your payment or give to Robin

Payment can be mailed to:

Pahala Hongwanji Mission Special Account
c/o Kayoko Munnerlyn
PO Box 807
Pahala, HI 96777

Scholarship Opportunity Due May 2, 2025

The Japanese Community Association of Hawaii is offering two \$1,500 scholarships to high school seniors whose interest is primarily in Japanese studies and encourages and/or promotes Japanese culture and values. Post-secondary students formerly from the Big Island may also be considered.

https://mcusercontent.com/5eceddb34279e3dfaf5221bf3/files/c6d8a80a-d437-3c67-a450-e5604fa1fa45/2025_JCAH_Scholarship_Application.docx

MEMBERSHIP

Warren Tanigawa is the new membership Chair.

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.

FRIENDS OF THE GARDEN



Remember when koinobori were huge and flew across the village roads? (1930 photo courtesy of the old Yamada General Store in Mt. View)

The tradition has been revived at Waiakea peninsula with koinobori flying at businesses and restaurants throughout Banyan Drive and Lihikai Street.

The mass display on the bridge to Mokuola takes a lot of hands to create. If you'd like to help, please come to the Mokuola parking lot at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 26.



Mahalo,
Friends of Lili`uokalani Gardens

125th Anniversary of Puna Hongwanji Mission

The 125th Anniversary of Puna Hongwanji Mission's planning committee is requesting your help. We are planning to have a two-day celebration on October 16 and 17, 2027 at Puna Hongwanji.

We want to invite all of you to come up with a theme for this auspicious celebration. Please submit your recommendation by May 1, 2025 so that at our next meeting we can select a theme. With the different submissions we may take different people's ideas and combine them to come up with a theme.

Please submit your theme idea to mpunahongwanji@twc.com with the subject "125th Anniversary Theme". Or submit your idea to Robin Sato to compile and present at our next planning meeting.

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

Save The Date

APR 19

2025

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

HAPPY CHILDREN'S DAY

everyone IS WELCOME HERE

On the grounds of Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in Keaau across of the 7-11. Open to all! Keiki's and keiki at heart are all welcome. Stay tuned for more information.