

PUNA HONGWANJI MISSION



August 2025 Hi-Lites

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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

Thursday - day off

Kyodan President: Richard Solie

Cell: (808) 426-6256

Email: richardsolie@protonmail.com

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.

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Hi-Lites Committee:

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Email: "hilites@punahongwanji.org"

Editorial: Sam Horiuchi, Tammy Molina, & Warren Noguchi

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

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.

August 2025 & September 2025

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| 1 yr. | Chieko Sato
Bill Eger
Masao Higa
Miyoko Kaleikini
Sally Yamaguchi | August 12, 2024
August 16, 2024
September 2, 2004
September 25, 2004
September 28, 2004 |
| 3 yrs. | Mitsuye Toma
Sats Taira
Deborah Osaki
Raymond Zukeran | August 21, 2023
September 2, 2023
September 10, 2023
September 25, 2023 |
| 7 yrs. | Shirley Ann Kamimura
Masawo Narimatsu
Hajime Tanaka
Kokimi Takaki | August 11, 2019
August 17, 2019
September 17, 2019
September 28, 2019 |
| 13 yrs. | Terumi Nakahara
Haruko Akiyama | August 24, 2013
September 27, 2013 |
| 17 yrs. | Hazel Furukado
Kazuko Kobayashi
Tsutomu Yamashita | August 10, 2009
August 10, 2009
September 5, 2009 |
| 25 yrs. | Hisako Okamoto
George Namihira
Akio Hayashida
Rickey Kiyabu | August 16, 2001
September 10, 2001
September 21, 2001
September 30, 2001 |
| 33 yrs. | None
Chiyoko Narimatsu
Chiyo Takaku | August 1993
September 4, 1993
September 12, 1993 |
| 50 yrs. | None
Shige Nakamura | August 1976
September 10, 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

None

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

AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Ukulele Session 9:00 a Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	2 BSC Summer Session (Virtual) D.Rm 10a -4 p Hall Rental
3 Family Service 9 am Taiko 2 -6:30 pm	4 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	5 D. Rm Rental 10a-12:30pm Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	6 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	7 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	8 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Ukulele Session 9:00 a Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 am	9
10 Family Service 9 am Taiko 2 -6:30 pm	11 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	12 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	13 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	14 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm D. Rm. Rental 5-7p	15 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Ukulele Session 9:00 a Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	16
17 Family Service 9 am Judo 12-3 pm Taiko 3 -6:30 pm	18 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	19 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	20 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm BOD Meeting 7 pm	21 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	22 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Ukulele Session 9:00 a Total Body Fitness 4 p Scouts 6:30 am	23 Puna Taiko Summer Festival 9am – 3 pm
24 Family Service 9 am Taiko 2 -6:30 pm	25 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	26 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	27 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	28 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	29 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Ukulele Session 9:00 a Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	30 Pahoa Nikkei Jin Kai Bon Dance 3-6 pm
31 Family Service 9 am Taiko 2 -6:30 pm						

Minister's Message



Outside Appearance, Inside Truth

From the people I've met in Hawai'i, I've learned that the brightest smiles often belong to those who've endured profound tragic loss. While Buddhism teaches the impermanence of youth, health, possessions, and loved ones, unexpected loss remains difficult to accept. These smiles quietly speak of pain and suffering—yet they also reflect a deep appreciation for the present and the people around them. That inner awareness shines through their outward expression.

Like two sides of a coin, the inner and outer self mirror and influence each other. From a Buddhist perspective, Wisdom sees all things as they truly are. Imagine a mirror reflecting not just our appearance, but our thoughts, actions, words and everything! Could we stand before it? Many would hesitate, knowing we aren't always pure and beautiful. But Shinran Shonin (1173–1263), founder of the Jodo Shinshu tradition, could stand before such a mirror—not through personal virtue, but in complete trust of Amida Buddha's Compassion, which never abandons him. Amida Buddha's Wisdom reveals his anger, greed, and self-centered mind. Shinran Shonin once strove to eliminate those within himself. Yet through deep reflection in the teaching, he found it impossible. Rather than denying or resisting these tendencies, he came to acknowledge them as part of his true nature. This wasn't a justification, but a profound realization in the Wisdom of Amida Buddha. Even when his reflection feels unbearable, Amida Buddha calls: "Come as you are. I shall never let you walk alone." This compassionate embrace gives him the courage to be seen fully and honestly. Moved by this embrace, Shinran Shonin recited the Name—*Namo Amida Butsu*—not out of obligation, but as a spontaneous expression of joy, humility, reflection, and gratefulness. The Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha resonated throughout his life, guiding his daily path and assuring his birth in the Pure Land, where enlightenment is realized at the moment of death.

When the Dharma touches us deeply, it naturally overflows into ritual. Chanting praises Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom. Incense becomes an expression of reverence. Flowers remind us of both impermanence and beauty. Candles signify the light of Wisdom that dispels the darkness within. Altar ornaments manifest the Pure Land—the realm of awakening. These rituals nurture our inner attitude of respect toward Amida Buddha. Thus, maintaining the altar with care and beauty is not mere tradition—it reflects our inner gratitude and our encounter with the teachings. The way we dress, wear our *nenju & monto shikisho*, offer incense, bow, and volunteer, donate, —each act is an outward expression of reverence, awakening, and acceptance of ourselves, all blossoming from our connection with Amida Buddha.

Let us reflect on both our outer conduct and inner heart. Both reveal our path. And instead of hiding, let us be held by Amida's Compassion and Wisdom—who does not judge, but calls to us: "Put your head on My shoulder. I am always with you."

先月号の英語欄で書いたことのまとめとして、何をもって私は仏教徒となるのでしょうか。お寺のメンバーシップを払うこと、活動や行事に参加すること、ボランティアをすること、法事や葬式をお寺にお願いすること、日曜礼拝（らいはい）にお参りするなどはとても大切なご縁ですが、これらをすることは必ずしも自動的に仏教徒であることではないように思えます。よく、家の宗教としての仏教徒と、求めた仏教徒という考えがあります。前者は、親や育ってきた環境が仏教に関係があり、自然とお寺や仏教が生活の一部となっている場合です。後者は、仏教にかかわりはなかったけども、何かを縁として関係が出来た場合です。どちらがよいというわけではなく、どのようにして仏教とのご縁が始まったのかという点を示し、前者は親しみや関係性が既にありますが、後者は仏教に新鮮さを感じることでしょう。

仏教にはいろいろな宗派（浄土宗、禅宗、浄土真宗など）がありますが、根本として仏教を開かれたお釈迦様（仏）を先生として仰ぎ、その説かれた教えや考え（法）を人生の道標として生き、その仏法を大事にする方々と一緒に教えを聞き生きていく仲間（僧）を尊くいただくのが仏教徒であります。仏法僧のことを三宝といい、私たちを本当のいのちへと導くからこそ、敬い、大切にします。浄土真宗を開かれた親鸞聖人は、お釈迦様が私のために説いてくださった教えは、南無阿弥陀仏であると理解されたました。真実を見抜く智慧によって私たちの都合のいい心を知らせ、あたたかく包み込む慈悲によって孤独ないのちで終わらせない、必ず安穏なる尊いいのちへと導くと誓われたのが阿弥陀様です。「人間みんな裁判官 他人は有罪 自分は無罪」という言葉にあるように私たちは自分の都合で人や物事を見て、好き嫌いをし、自分が苦悩するだけでなく他人にも苦悩を与えます。阿弥陀様の智慧は、そんな私の姿を照らし出します。また、「一人だと孤独感、二人だと劣等感、三人だと疎外感」というように、人間関係そして人生の苦楽のなか、孤独、寂しさ、虚しさは付きまといまいます。そんなとき、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というぬくもりが慈悲です。この南無阿弥陀仏に出会うとき、空しく生きてただ病んで老いて死ぬいのちではなく、お浄土に生まれ仏となり亡き方々を再び会い、残された方々を様々な形で導く存在とならせていただく尊いいのちを生きている、といただけます。このいのちに気が付く時、自然と手が合わさり南無阿弥陀仏、とお念仏が口からこぼれでてくださいます。仏教徒は、この阿弥陀様とのつながりを深く感じ、日々の生活で人間としての自分だけの価値観・考えだけでなく、仏様の教えに導かれて生きようとする、それが仏教徒の姿勢であろうかと思えます。共にお念仏を申しませう。

MEMBERSHIP

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.

Foodland's Give Aloha Program 2025

Again this year, Puna Hongwanji is participating in Give Aloha, Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts program! This program runs during the month of **September** and it's easy to participate! Simply donate to Puna Hongwanji at any Foodland or Sack N Save this month, and Foodland will match a **portion** of your gift! Membership dues are not considered a donation.

Here's how it works:

- Go to any Foodland or Sack N Save store
- Make a donation of any amount up to \$249 at checkout. The donation in the form of cash, check or credit card and must be made payable to Foodland or Sack N Save. Donations can also be added to your grocery bill.
- Give the cashier our organization code # **79088**
- Present your Maika'i card to the cashier when making your transaction.
- Review your receipt to confirm the donation amount and the name of our organization is correct. You may ask for a duplicate receipt which can be submitted to our treasurer. If you want to specify what your donation is for, please write it on your receipt. For example, if you want it to be credited as your Ohigan donation, you can write that down.

Mahalo for your support to help Give Aloha to Puna Hongwanji in September.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (Clifford Furukado) at (808) 938-3177.

BWA

BWA report to Kyodan July 17, 2025

At the July meeting of Puna Hongwanji BWA, members recalled happy memories of the recent obon: services, lantern parade, and dance.

Dora Hashimoto said, "There was lots of good food and of course rain. If it's Puna Hongwanji obon, you can count on rain." Sara Kay was particularly impressed by Puna Taiko. "It was so moving to hear compositions from younger members and to note taiko had inspired them to compose their own numbers." Marilyn Sato was happy with the children's activities in the Social Hall. "There were lots of people this year," she said. Carol Tsunezumi remarked that "BWA helped prepare bento for the dancers."

There were 25 hatsubon remembered at services this year. Personally I am grateful to BWA members who offered incense for my late husband Bill as I was away traveling in Canada.

Pahoa Nikkei Jin Kai needs flowers and foliage for the annual commemoration at the Japanese Cemetery in Pahoa. Please deliver flowers and foliage to the YBA Hall in Pahoa on Sunday, July 20 at 2:00 p.m.

BWA Hilo has asked for help at their garage sale August 9 from 6:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Sangha Hall. Assistance is needed to sort, add up purchases, assist packing, and cashiers. Contact: Susan Nishioka treasurer (808) 896-5456 or Mari Vermeer assistant treasurer (808) 371-1183.

Hilo Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association

SUPER GARAGE SALE

August 9, 2025 - 7:00 - 11:00 AM - Sangha Hall

Accepting items during the following period:

7/28-8/1, 8am-12n
8/4 - 8/6, 8am-12n

@ Sangha Hall
424 Kilauea Avenue, Hilo

NOT ACCEPTING:
FURNITURE
BABY CAR SEATS
TVS OR COMPUTERS
HARD-COVER TEXTBOOKS OR ENCYCLOPEDIAS
HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Kona Hongwanji BWA will celebrate their 125th anniversary on Saturday, September 27 (which happens to be the date of the fundraising sake tasting at Puna Hongwanji that evening). If you wish to attend the service at 10 a.m. at Kona Hongwanji followed by lunch, please RSVP by contacting Ramah at Kona Hongwanji (808) 323-2993 no later than August 15. Our next meeting will be the second Sunday in August 8/10 following family services.

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

Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA to Sell Lilipops at the Puna Taiko Summer Festival

A Sweet Tradition Meets the Beat: Community, Flavor, and Festivity on August 23rd, 2025, in support of the Puna Hongwanji Mission 125th Anniversary Building and Repair Projects.

The vibrant heart of Puna will beat a little louder and sweeter on Saturday, August 23rd, 2025, as the Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA joins the festivities at the Puna Taiko Summer Festival. From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., festival-goers can look forward to purchasing delicious Lilipops, lovingly made and sold by the dedicated members of the Sr. YBA, all while enjoying the rhythmic energy and cultural celebration that defines this beloved community event.



The Sweet Story of Lilipops

<https://www.lilipopshi.com/about>

For many in Hawai‘i, Lilipops evoke childhood memories and a bit of nostalgia. These colorful confections, typically crafted with care on the Big Island, are as much about love and tradition as they are about sugar and flavor. Whether lilikoi, green tea, or coffee-coconut milk, each Lilipop is a little taste of the islands. Mahalo for your continued support!

Friends of Lili`uokalani Gardens

To help the County prepare for two large events in September (the Queen's birthday festival and the Alzheimer's Walk), Friends of Lili`uokalani Gardens will have volunteer days every Saturday in August from 8 a.m. to noon. Gloves and tools will be provided as well as cold drinks. Please wear closed toe shoes.

He Hali`a Aloha No Lili`uokalani is set for Saturday September 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. throughout the park.

The Alzheimer's Walk will be held Saturday September 20 with registration starting at 7:30 a.m., opening ceremony at 8:00 a.m. and walk starting at 8:30 a.m.

PROJECT DANA



On Friday, July 11, 2025, Ann Toma took Dora Hashimoto, Lei Kakugawa, and Kiyo Sumi to Life Care Center. They visited three residents, who were happy to see them. The volunteers spent quality time talking stories and enjoying the fellowship.

Ann also drove the volunteers to Hale Anuenue, where Mrs. Nagao is a resident. She is recovering from her fall at home. Her son Owen, serves as an interpreter for the staff members. Mrs. Nagao was thankful for the visit and appeared to be in good spirits. Puna Project Dana wishes her speedy recovery.

Life Care Center will hold it's annual Bon Dance on August 8, 2025. This event is sponsored by Project Dana. At 5:45pm, a Taiko Performance will start the evening. An opening service will follow at 6:00pm with Rev. Satoshi Tomioka officiating. After the service, the bon dance will take place until 7:30pm. The dance numbers are old favorites that the residents remember. The event ends with light refreshments served to everyone. Puna Project Dana is grateful for the generous donations made by temple members and friends. Our program is maintained by donations only. Thank you very much.

In gassho,
Stella Miyashiro
Site Coordinator - Puna Project Dana



Happy Birthday Stella

Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple – Distinguished Sangha Service Award

Sorry we are running this article again as last month the nomination form was not included in the hi-lites. We don't get to work with all the different members so this is why we need YOUR recommendation as well.

In 2017 with the collaboration of Rev. Tomioka and then President Jason Hashimoto, Puna Hongwanji has established the Distinguished Sangha Service Award (DSSA) to recognize a Puna sangha member who has contributed to the betterment of the temple and the Puna Community. The purpose of the award is to 1) acknowledge the contribution of the member and appreciate them; 2) inspire other members to take action of contributions; and 3) preserving the legacy of the nominees and continuations to their family members.

We are reaching out our membership to see if you have anyone that you believe should be nominated for this award. We are looking for someone who is involved with the temple and other temple affiliates, held leadership roles, contributes to the temple, community involvement, **and/or** inspirational figure to others. If you would like to nominate someone or a couple people, please complete the enclosed form for each individual and return it to Puna Hongwanji by mail, email, or dropping it off. **Please submit forms by Sunday, August 10, 2025** to be considered. The nomination committee will review the nomination forms and make the selection for our 2025 DSSA recipient.

The 2025 DSSA recipient will be contacted so that we can get more information on the person and we can schedule an interview. The nominees will be recognized at our Eitaikyo Service November 2, 2025.

Past recipients include:

2017: Mr. Kazumasa Okamoto; Ms. Hatsume Tanaka; Mrs. Kiyoko Imada; and Mr. Stanley Oishi

2018: Mr. Earl Mukai; Mrs. Dora Hashimoto; Ms. Helen Yamada; and Mrs. Lei Kakugawa & the late Mr. Sadaichi Kakugawa

2019: Mrs. Masako Sanehira; Mrs. Mieko Nagao; Mrs. Yukiko Uchida; and Mr. Mitsuo Miyatake

2020: Mrs. Kiyo Sumi; Mr. Roy Toma; and Mr. Glenn Watarida

2021: Mrs. Satsuyo Taira; Mrs. Jean Tanaka; Ms. Nancy Yamada; and Mr. Donald Shintaku

2022: Mrs. Mitsuye Toma; Mrs. Kay Kawazoe; and Mrs. Florence Nishimura

2023: Mrs. Ann Toma, Mr. Craig Shimoda, and Mrs. Carol Tsunozumi

2024: Mrs. Stella Miyashiro, Mrs. Marilyn Sato, Mr. Gary Sunada

We ask that if you are making a nomination that you are a paid member to Puna Hongwanji and the person is a member of Puna Hongwanji as well.

Please contact Robin Sato at 808-936-7179 or robsato@yahoo.com if you have any questions or need clarification. We appreciate you taking the time to share with us names of members you feel should be honored and recognized. There are many members who quietly in the background get the work done so we need your assistance in ensuring that we recognize them.



Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Distinguished Sangha Service Award



NOMINEE INFORMATION

First Name Last Name

Date joined temple (if known)

NOMINEE'S TEMPLE GROUPS

Check all that apply (if known)

BWA

Sr. YBA

Dharma School

Choir

Board

Project Dana

Toban

Others, _____

Please describe significant contributions made to Puna Hongwanji.

Comments:

Please explain why you feel this nominee should be recognized.

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

MAIL, EMAIL OR DROP OFF
NOMINATION TO:

Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
PO Box 100, Keaau, HI 96749
Email: mpunahongwanji@twc.com



BACKPACK DRIVE

Thank you VERY much to everyone that participated in this event! You are awesome for helping to support our keiki. We are donating 112 bags to this project. The keiki will be very happy!

PAHALA HONGWANJI KEIKI SUMMER PROGRAM

For the first time the Pahala Hongwanji hosted a Keiki Summer Program on the grounds of Pahala Hongwanji Mission. The group was led by Kayoko Munnerlyn. The students started the day with a morning assembly. Then they had activity time with some games. After being all hyped up they went into the temple for a Dharma lesson by Rev. Tomioka. They learned the etiquettes of bowing upon entering the temple and bowing after exiting the temple. They learned about meditation, learned to oshoko, learned to chant the Sutra “Gassho to Amida”, and had a short dharma talk every day. After the dharma lesson they gathered in the kitchen to prepare lunch for the group and the adults. It was great to see them working as a team to create the meals every day. For some of the meals they were given opportunities to create a couple different styles depending on a person’s preference. They learned not to throw everything in the trash but put things in the compost bucket. They then went to the different classes – Aikido, Taiko, and Hula. They ended the day with another Dharma session.

On Friday, you could see the bond and friendship the seven students made with each other. There were comments that they hope to come back again next year. There was also a comment they wished this was a longer session. On Friday after lunch the parents and friends of these students came to the recital. Everyone started in the temple. They shared what they learned during the week. Everyone then moved to the dojo to see what they learned at Aikido. Then everyone went into the hall, and they shared the taiko piece they learned and the hula that they learned.

They were polite as if they didn’t want to eat something, they did not say they did not like the dish, but made some other excuse. One girl said I’ll wait until everyone gets their food and never went to get the main dish. One boy said he was full, but when we cooked the raw fish he ate his lunch.

This was a great program for the keiki. There were two students that came from Volcano and the other five were from the Pahala area. Being a small group was manageable, and it allowed them to have conversations with the adults as well.



Obon Concession Donations, Other than Cash

Isaac & Karen	Akashi	Gary & Susan	Sunada
Claire	Arakawa	Judy	Tahara
Clarence	Go	Raymond	Tatsuta
Gail	Kanetani	Ann	Toma
Karen	Kanetani	Wendell	Toma
Allan & Janie	Karimoto	Carol	Toma
Hiroshi	Kozohara	Roy & Lorraine	Tomita
Nelson & Lily	Kunitake	Carol	Tsunezumi
Marilyn	Sato	Gail	Uchida
Roy	Sato	Glenn & Janet	Watarida
Aiko	Sato	Roy & April	Yoshimoto
Hiroshi	Shiratori	J Hara Store	
Richard	Solie	Hawaii Food Alliance	
Bobby	Sugihara	Loeffler Corn	

Thank you all for your generous donations. Thank you to the donors who made monetary donations, the anonymous donors and those that we have missed. You all helped go make the concession a success.