

PUNA HONGWANJI MISSION



September 2025 Hi-Lites

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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
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Temple Toban, Nenki	Page	2
Calendar of Events		3
Minister's Message / Membership / Give Aloha		4-5
Give Aloha / BWA / Project Dana		6-8
Sangha Activities / Announcements		8-11
Donations Acknowledgements		12

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.

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm <u>Labor Day</u>	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 Ukulele Session 9:00 a Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 am	Buddhism Class 10 am-12 pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Family Service 9 am BWA Meeting Taiko 2 -6:30 pm	Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	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 D. Rm. Rental 5-7p	Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Ukulele Session 9:00 a Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	All Nations Pow=Wow Pahala/Naalehu Obon 5:30 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Autumn Ohigan 9 am All Nations Pow Wow Taiko 2 -6:30 pm	Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	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 BOD Meeting 7 pm	Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Ukulele Session 9:00 a Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 am	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Peace Day Gathering 9 am Judo 12-3 pm Taiko 3 -6:30 pm	Ring Your Bell for Peace 8:30 am Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	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 Ukulele Session 9:00 a Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	Sake Tasting 5-8-pm
28	29	30				
Family Service 9 am Taiko 2 -6:30 pm	Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm				

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



I Love You

“I love you” is one of the most cherished phrases across cultures. Spoken with sincerity, it evokes warmth and connection. But what if “I love you” is also “I hate you”? Though seemingly contradictory, this paradox reveals a deeper truth: our love is often conditional. We tend to love when others please us or align with our desires. But when expectations aren’t met—through disagreement, neglect, or betrayal—love can shift into anger or resentment. This reflects our distinctive mind—a mind that judges, separates, and struggles to love what causes pain. It’s the same mind that creates division in society, turning away from those who don’t benefit us. Some may say, “Well, there is tough love,” or “My love for this person is unconditional,” or recall moments of true love received. These are beautiful. But the question remains: can we expand that love beyond the special few? Can we love all in the same way? Amida Buddha offers a radically different perspective. Amida’s mind is non-distinctive—a mind of equanimity and unconditional compassion. Whether someone is close or distant, good or flawed, Amida’s care remains the same. This is called onshin byōdō—equal heart toward all beings, transcending those we love and those we don’t.

Shinran Shonin, founder of Jōdo Shinshū, deeply recognized his own judgmental nature. Yet he found comfort in knowing that Amida’s compassion embraces even the most self-indulgent mind. Quoting the Nirvana Sutra, Shinran Shonin likened Amida’s love to parents caring for a sick child—their hearts lean toward the one in need, not because others are unloved, but because compassion flows where it’s most needed. For Shinran Shonin, it was not others but himself—flawed and desire-driven—who was the object of Amida’s embrace. Living with awareness of this truth was both humbling and comforting. Even in sorrow, he rejoiced: Amida’s love never forsakes him.

Therefore, on this observance of Autumn Ohigan, we are invited to encounter the realm of enlightenment—a realm whose influence touches our life of endurance, the pain we cause and endure within ourselves and toward others. Amida Buddha’s compassion and wisdom cannot help but pour forth, seeing the suffering born of ego, pride, attachments, and judgments. Touched by Amida’s love, we become aware of our selfishness and the warm embrace that accepts and nurtures us. Amida’s sharp wisdom reveals the true nature we try to hide or deny—not to shame us, but to guide us with wisdom beyond human limitation. As we observe Ohigan—the “Other Shore” of the Pure Land—let us honestly acknowledge that we live in a world of endurance, where anything can happen to anyone at anytime. Yet even in this uncertain and often painful life, Amida Buddha’s embrace is working, cultivating our lives with compassion and clarity, right here, right now, supporting us in both joy and difficulty. In this embrace, we are never alone—past, present, or future. In our own voice of Namo Amida Butsu, we receive assurance that we are never forsaken.

「暑さ寒さも彼岸まで」と言われるように、9月はお彼岸の季節です。この言葉も、もともとは仏教の考えに由来し、「彼の岸」、つまり阿弥陀様の世界であるお浄土を指します。彼岸の反対は「此岸（しがん）」、すなわち「この岸」、私たちが生きる人間世界です。仏教は、この人間世界から仏様の世界へと生まれることを説く教えであり、そのための方法として修行が

あります。映画やテレビなどで、刑務所を出た人が「娑婆の空気はうまいなあ」と言う場面がありますが、本来「娑婆」とは、仏教でいう苦悩を耐え忍ぶ世界、「忍土」を意味します。刑務所がより過酷な環境であるため、外の世界が少しはましだという意味でしょうが、娑婆世界も思い通りにならない世界であることに変わりはありません。私たちは誰もが幸せと平穏を求めます。しかし現実には、なぜか苦悩や喜怒哀楽があり、心はコロコロと変わってしまいます。仏教では、苦しみの原因を「不如意」と説きます。つまり「意の如くにならない」、思い通り・都合通りにいかないことによって苦しみが生じるのです。ちょうど、スーパーで買い物をするとき、カートのタイヤが押したい方向とは違うところに進んでしまうように、人生も「こうあってほしい」と願っても、そうならない。そこに苦しみが起こるのです。仏教では、その原因こそが「煩惱」という都合の心であり、それをコントロールするのが修行であり、最終的に努力によって彼岸の境地を目指すのが仏教の道です。

しかし、浄土真宗を開かれた親鸞聖人は、どれだけ修行しても彼岸に至ることができませんでした。煩惱が心にも身にも満ち満ちており、頑張れば頑張るほど、完璧でない自分の姿が見えてきたのです。ちょうど影がいつまでもついてくるように、逃げて何をしていても煩惱は消えないのでした。そのとき、親鸞聖人が救われた教えが「南無阿弥陀仏」でした。苦悩の私の姿を、自分で自分を救えない私の命をご覧になり、「必ず救う、まかせよ」と阿弥陀様の声が届いていたのです。必ず此岸から彼岸に生まれさせ、安穩なる命へと導くという願いが、親鸞聖人にすーっと届いたとき、自分の力に頼る必要はなく、ただただお任せする命となったのです。

私を必ず救い、抱きしめ、見捨てないと誓われた仏様の願い。この願いと共に生きる命をお念仏の人生といい、あたたかい慈悲と真実へと導く智慧に支えられたいのちです。お彼岸を迎えるにあたり、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 or email mpunahongwanji@twc.com. Any questions about your membership, please contact Warren Tanigawa, membership chairperson.

If you are interested in becoming a temple member here is a short application form to fill out. Submit the form with your membership due.

<https://punahongwanji.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2024/10/Membership-Form-puna-2024.pdf>

SEPTEMBER IS GIVE ALOHA MONTH

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

At the August meeting of Puna Hongwanji BWA, we continued discussing ways of raising funds for the future, including participating in funding necessary repairs before the 125th anniversary in 2027.

We voted to participate in Treasures of Hongwanji: January 17, 2026. A fee for one table was sent to chairperson BJ Soriano. Possible sale items include photo cards, sekihan, crafts, and hydroponics lettuce

Our members will be participating in the Puna Taiko Fair on Saturday August 23, 2025. Tim Lloyd of EM Hawaii LLC will come to help with making Genki Balls

Another idea being explored is a future Lotus Festival. KT loaned The Lotus Quest by Mark Griffiths to Sarah Kay. Photos of blooming lotus from previous years are being gathered to establish our lotus season.

Puna Hongwanji BWA members will attend the Kona BWA 125th Anniversary on Saturday, September 27, 2025. K.T. will drive and another car is needed; Sarah offered to drive another's car – she said she is a certified/trained bus driver. PHM participants: Carol Tsunozumi, Sarah Kay, Eileen Usagawa, Stella Miyashiro, KT Cannon-Eger, and Dora Hashimoto. A motion was made, seconded and approved to give \$125 donation for Kona Hongwanji BWA 125th Anniversary.



Puna Hongwanji Lotus – July 2025

Announcements

Sept. 7, 2025: Next meeting

Aug. 22-23, 2025: World BWA representative meeting in Honolulu

May 28-29, 2026: State Membership Conference in Honolulu

Sept. 11-12, 2027: World Buddhist Women's Convention in Honolulu

Oct. 16-17, 2027: PHM's 125th Anniversary

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

PROJECT DANA



Hello Everyone,

At the request of Stella Miyashiro, I am writing a short note regarding the Orchid Show.

On July 25, 2025, Sarah Kay and I were so lucky to have Stella take us to the Orchid Show at the Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium. As usual, the orchids were gorgeous with many old and new hybrids. Being surrounded by orchids is like being in heaven on earth. This year, I also took the time to visit the vendors. I got a beautiful apron with lehua blossoms and a great children's book about sea creatures. As a bonus, we ended our day with lunch at Kuhio Grille. Yummy! We had a marvelous day. I never laughed so much!

In Gassho and Gratitude,
Tokimi Miyatake

On August 8, 2025, Life Care Center held a bon dance, sponsored by Project Dana. The evening started with Taishoji Taiko drumming and a service officiated by Rev. Tomioka. Volunteers who attended were Ann Toma, Marilyn Sato, Kiyoko Sumi, Lei Kakugawa, Ilene Hara, Carol Tsunezumi, Hiroshi Kozohara, and Stella Miyashiro. The volunteers made friendly visits to the four Puna seniors before the program. Carol, Hiroshi, Wendell, and Stella danced to the old favorites. Visitations are made monthly to Life Care Center, Legacy, and Hale Anuenue. When a family member transitions into a senior care facility, please let Project Dana know. Volunteers will make friendly visits with the family's consent.



Photo: Stella, Ann, and Carol are showing their special t-shirts for Obon.



Puna members enjoying the snacks and watching the dancers.



In gassho,
Stella Miyashiro
Site Coordinator - Puna Project Dana

SUNDAY REFRESHMENT FELLOWSHIP

Our first Sunday refreshment fellowship was held on Sunday, August 3. The room was full of conversation and we had simple snacks. Thank you to those that brought snacks to share. We had chips, crackers, apples, nectarines, grapes, cucumbers, and kamaboko dip with a choice of water, tea, or coffee. We also had visitors from Japan so this allowed them to speak to multiple people to ask questions they had.

The next time we will have another fellowship will be on Sunday, October 5, 2025.

Thank you to those that have approached Robin and indicated that you would be willing to help out by bringing a snack.



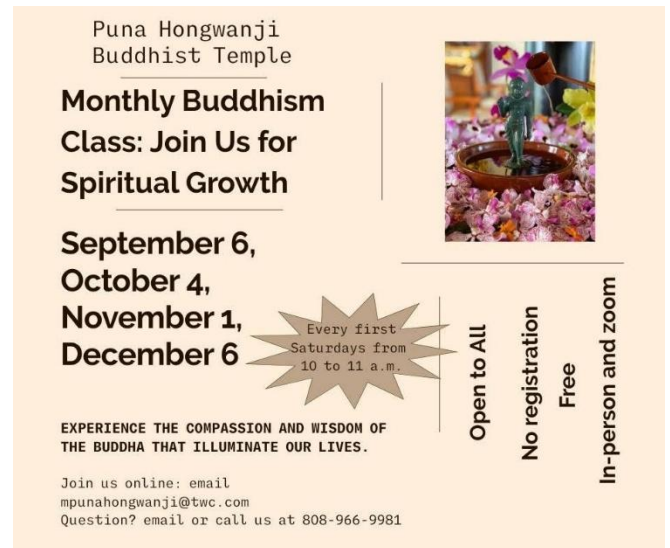
PUNA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE – DISTINGUISHED SANGHA SERVICE AWARD

Thank you to everyone who participated and provided names of recipients for the 2025 Puna Hongwanji Distinguished Sangha Service Award. The committee has reviewed all the information provided for each deserving member.

The 2025 DSSA recipient for this year will be Clifford Furukado, Byron Toma, and Tokimi Miyatake. The nominees will be recognized at our Eitaikyo Service November 2, 2025. We would also like to invite our previous recipients to attend the service as we would like to recognize you as well.

MONTHLY BUDDHISM CLASSES

Join us on the first Saturday on September 6, October 4, November 1, and December 6 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. for a monthly Buddhism Class with Rev. Tomioka. Session will be available in person and by Zoom. No registration is required and classes are free. These classes are open to all. If you want to join the session on Zoom, please send a request to mpunahongwanji@twc.com. If you have any further questions, please email or call us at 808-966-9981.



Puna Hongwanji
Buddhist Temple

**Monthly Buddhism
Class: Join Us for
Spiritual Growth**

**September 6,
October 4,
November 1,
December 6**

Every first
Saturdays from
10 to 11 a.m.

Open to All
No registration
Free
In-person and zoom

EXPERIENCE THE COMPASSION AND WISDOM OF
THE BUDDHA THAT ILLUMINATE OUR LIVES.

Join us online: email
mpunahongwanji@twc.com
Question? email or call us at 808-966-9981

The poster features a central image of a small Buddha statue in a bowl of water, surrounded by pink cherry blossoms. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with a light beige background.

PEACE DAY EVENTS

There will be two peace day events we will have on Sunday, September 21, 2025 and Monday September 22, 2025 at Puna Hongwanji. Please join us for one or both events to support peace.

September 21 is International Day of Peace, which was established by the United Nation in 1981. It is also Peace Day in Hawaii. The Hawaii Federation of Junior Young Buddhist Association (Jr. YBA) members presented a resolution to the Hawaii Legislature in 2007. The bill was enacted and Hawaii is the first state to establish Peace Day Hawaii. “September 21st of each year shall be known and recognized as ‘Peace Day’ to promote peace programs, improve international relations, and increase educational awareness of peace.”

Join us on Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 9:00 p.m. for our Peace Day Gathering in the social hall. We will have a program focused on peace. Our guest speaker will be Aya Shehata. Aya has been a supporter of Puna Hongwanji by bringing her Hilo High School Japan Club students to different events to volunteer their time. Aya is from Hiroshima so come listen and hear her story she will share. We will also have the poster boards regarding Sadako Sasaki and the peace cranes.

We have registered to participate in the “Ring Your Bell for Peace Day” on Monday, September 22, 2025. Join us in the temple as we will join everyone on Zoom. The program will start at 8:30 a.m. and at 9:01 a.m. we will all be signaled by Bishop Umitani to ring our bells. Everyone on Zoom will ring their

bells. We will take turns ringing the temple bell. You are also welcome to bring your own bells. If you are unable to join us at the temple and would like to register for your own Zoom link, please register at <https://bit.ly/PeaceDay2025>. After the program is over we will move into the dining room to watch a video related to peace.

PAHALA/NAALEHU BON DANCE

The last bon dance of the season will be the Pahala/Naalehu Bon Dance on Saturday, September 13, 2025 at Pahala Hongwanji. The Hatsubon will start at 4:00 p.m. and the Bon Dance will start at 5:30 p.m. Please help support their event.

BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE TEMPLE

There are three categories of books available in the back of the temple:

- Books with a price tag are for sale and for you to keep.
- Books to be borrowed and returned after reading for others to enjoy are marked with the Puna Hongwanji label and address.
- Books without any tags or labels are for you to take and keep

Savor the Experience: Sake Pairing Event

Saturday, September 27, 2025 | 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

It will be an unforgettable evening of fine sake, exquisite cuisine, and warm fellowship at our upcoming **Sake Pairing Event on Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Guests will enjoy a curated multi-course menu, created by our committee, each dish thoughtfully paired with premium sake selections by Ryan Kadota that highlight flavor, tradition, and artistry. This event offers a unique opportunity to explore the harmony between sake and food, guided by expertise and hospitality. All while supporting our 125th Anniversary building and repair projects.

Whether you are a longtime sake enthusiast or new to its refined flavors, the evening promises discovery, enjoyment, and community spirit.

We look forward to sharing this special evening with our generous supporters and amazing volunteers!

Seeking Treasurer for Kyodan Board of Directors

The Kyodan Board of Directors is currently seeking a dedicated and responsible individual to serve as **Treasurer**. This important position plays a vital role in ensuring the financial health and stability of our organization.

The Treasurer will:

- Oversee and manage the financial records of the Kyodan
- Work with the Board to prepare and review budgets
- Provide regular financial reports at board meetings
- Ensure compliance with all fiscal responsibilities and reporting requirements
- Work well with others – This is not a one-person position

This is an excellent opportunity to serve our community in a meaningful way and contribute to the continued success of our mission. We are looking for someone with experience in bookkeeping, accounting, or financial management, along with a commitment to integrity, organization, and teamwork.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Robin Sato or Jenn Kurohara for more information. To submit your nomination, please email **Richard Solie** at richardsolie@protonmail.com.

Your skills and dedication can make a real difference. Please consider stepping forward to serve as Treasurer.

We appreciate the donation of flowers and foliage from our generous donors. Each week the temple and columbarium are decorated with the beautiful floral arrangements. We also appreciate the dedication and commitment of all the toban groups who keep our temple beautiful. What is a toban group? Go to our Puna Hongwanji website and read up about joining a volunteer group. <https://punahongwanji.org/join-us/volunteer-support/>

