

# PUNA HONGWANJI MISSION



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Thursday - day off

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# July 2025 Hi-Lites

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• 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.

## 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

*Alice Yonemitsu*

## 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 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](mailto:mpunahongwanji@twc.com). Zoom online service is also available.

## July 2025 & August 2025

|                |  |  |
|----------------|--|--|
| <b>1 yr.</b>   | Roy Toma<br>Chieko Sato<br>Bill Eger                                     | July 11, 2024<br>August 12, 2024<br>August 16, 2024                  |
| <b>3 yrs.</b>  | Hatsuko Yamashita<br>Mitsuye Toma  | July 26, 2023<br>August 21, 2023                                     |
| <b>7 yrs.</b>  | Roy Yamashita<br>Gail Miura<br>Shirley Ann Kamimura<br>Masawo Narimatsu  | July 14, 2019<br>July 19, 2019<br>August 11, 2019<br>August 17, 2019 |
| <b>13 yrs.</b> | Misue Sakae<br>Terumi Nakahara   | July 13, 2013<br>August 24, 2013                                     |
| <b>17 yrs.</b> | Patsy Arakawa<br>Reynold Miyashiro<br>Hazel Furukado<br>Kazuko Kobayashi | July 19, 2009<br>July 24, 2009<br>August 10, 2009<br>August 10, 2009 |
| <b>25 yrs.</b> | None<br>Hisako Okamoto   | July 2001<br>August 16, 2001   |
| <b>33 yrs.</b> | Lisa Kawai<br>None   | July 1, 1993<br>August 1993  |
| <b>50 yrs.</b> | Hideo Furuta<br>Toma Furukawa<br>None                                    | July 8, 1976<br>July 14, 1976<br>August 1976                         |

# JULY 2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY          |
|--------|--|---|---|---|--|-------------------|
| 6      | 7  | 1<br>D. Rm Rental<br>10a-12:30pm<br>Choir 12:30 pm<br>Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm  | 2<br>Yoga 9- 10:30 am<br>Farm to Car 3-6 p<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm  | 3<br>Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm                                 | 4<br>Chair Yoga<br>9 – 10:30 am<br>Total Body Fitness 4 p<br>Karate 6:00 pm<br><u>Independence Day</u>                 | 5<br>Hall Rental  |
| 13     | 8<br>Yoga 9- 10:30 am<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm<br>D. Rm Rental 6-8 p  | 9<br>D. Rm Rental<br>10a-12:30pm<br>Choir 12:30 pm<br>Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm  | 10<br>Yoga 9- 10:30 am<br>Farm to Car 3-6 p<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm | 11<br>Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm<br>D. Rm. Rental 5-7p          | 12<br>Chair Yoga<br>9 – 10:30 am<br>Ukulele Session 9 am<br>Total Body Fitness 4 p<br>Karate 6:00 pm<br>Scouts 6:30 am | 12<br>Hall Rental |
| 20     | 14<br>Yoga 9- 10:30 am<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm<br>D. Rm Rental 6-8 p | 15<br>D. Rm Rental<br>10a-12:30pm<br>Choir 12:30 pm<br>Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm | 16<br>Yoga 9- 10:30 am<br>Farm to Car 3-6 p<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm | 17<br>Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm<br><b>BOD Meeting<br/>7 pm</b> | 18<br>Chair Yoga<br>9 – 10:30 am<br>Ukulele Session 9 am<br>Total Body Fitness 4 p<br>Karate 6:00 pm                   | 19                |
| 27     | 21<br>Yoga 9- 10:30 am<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm<br>D. Rm Rental 6-8 p | 22<br>D. Rm Rental<br>10a-12:30pm<br>Choir 12:30 pm<br>Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm | 23<br>Yoga 9- 10:30 am<br>Farm to Car 3-6 p<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm | 24<br>Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm                                | 25<br>Chair Yoga<br>9 – 10:30 am<br>Ukulele Session 9 am<br>Total Body Fitness 4 p<br>Karate 6:00 pm<br>Scouts 6:30 am | 26<br>Hall Rental |
| 31     | 28<br>Yoga 9- 10:30 am<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm<br>D. Rm Rental 6-8 p | 29<br>D. Rm Rental<br>10a-12:30pm<br>Choir 12:30 pm<br>Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm | 30<br>Yoga 9- 10:30 am<br>Farm to Car 3-6 p<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm | 31<br>Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm                                |  |                   |

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## Minister's Message



A pianist is someone who plays the piano. A baseball player is someone who plays baseball. In the same way, suffixes like *-ist* (pianist, artist, scientist) and *-er* (player, lawyer, sawyer) indicate someone who engages in a certain activity or profession.

So, what is a Buddhist? And am I one?

It is said there are two kinds of Buddhists: inherited and converted.

- **Inherited Buddhists** are born into a Buddhist family tradition. They may be connected to a temple through their parents and ancestors. From childhood, they attend services, memorials and various temple events. For them, Buddhism is woven into daily life—a *lived inheritance*.

- **Converted Buddhists** are those who encounter Buddhism later in life, often in search of meaning or answers to life's deeper questions. They may come from non-Buddhist backgrounds but find resonance in the teachings and

choose to walk the path intentionally.

Neither path is better—they represent different starting points. Inherited Buddhists may have deep-rooted familiarity, while converted Buddhists may bring fresh appreciation. Each has something to learn from the other. This leads us to a deeper question: What makes someone a Buddhist? Is it temple membership, attending services, donating, helping, or paying dues? These are forms of connection, and all are valued. But being a member does not automatically make one a Buddhist.

At its heart, a Buddhist is one who follows the teachings of Sakyamuni Buddha—who aspires to awaken from suffering and live with wisdom and compassion. The teachings include the Four Noble Truths, the Eightfold Path, impermanence, interdependence and more. A Buddhist takes the Buddha as a teacher and seeks to embody qualities like mindfulness, selflessness, and loving-kindness. Whether inherited or converted, the most important factor is one's attitude of reverence, willingness to listen to the Dharma, and commitment to practice. Like relying on a trusted guide—a navigator, a financial advisor, a doctor—we rely on the Buddha's teachings to guide our lives, from cradle to gravel, through joys and sorrows alike. The temple offers many doors of entry, and each reason to come is cherished. The Buddha's compassion and wisdom pervade all activities—*"If you open your eyes, the teachings are everywhere."* Let us walk the path together, listen deeply, and be nurtured by the boundless compassion and wisdom of Amida Buddha.

Before I am a minister, I am a Buddhist. I say that because I genuinely appreciate the Buddha's teachings. They point toward the goal of awakening in the Pure Land—but they also speak to everyday life. The great wisdom of the Dharma gently reminds me of my own selfishness (my constant "me, me, me") and shows a path toward harmony with others. It's not always easy, but that path exists. The great compassion of Amida Buddha has been a source of deep comfort through life's ups and downs. Even when it has felt like no one else cared, I've felt that Amida Buddha was quietly there. Let us listen to the Buddha's teaching together—not for others, but to deeply reflect within ourselves and to receive the Dharma as if it were spoken directly to our own heart and life

—先号にて印刷の不備がありましたため、訂正のうえ再掲いたします。—

お盆の由来は、盂蘭盆経に基づきます。お釈迦様の10大弟子のお一人であった目連尊者が、亡くなったお母さまを探していました。しかし、あの世のどこを探しても見つからず、最終的に発見したのはお母さまが餓鬼という苦しみの世界に生まれていたことでした。あんなに優しくかったお母さんがどうしてと戸惑いながら、なんとか力を尽くして救おうとしますが成功しません。そのときお釈迦様から、餓鬼に落ちた理由は、自分の子供がかわいいために他の子どもを邪険に扱ったその自己中心性によるときき、目連尊者は悲しみに暮れました。自分のせいでお母さんは。。。お釈迦さまは目連尊者に、僧侶の集まりに飲食の施しをし、仏法僧（三宝）の力によってお母さんは救われると説きました。いわれたとおりにしたところ、三宝の功德によってお母さまは餓鬼から救われ、目連尊者は喜びのあまり、手と足を叩いて喜んだそうです。これが盆踊りの由来といわれます。

目連尊者の母親の姿は、我々の姿でもあります。私たち人間は自分を中心に、その家族、子供が大事であり、関係性が薄い人々を家族と同じように思うことはできません。いい人、悪い人という言葉の前に、「あの人は自分にとって都合が」と付くように、自分の都合や物差しがあるのが私です。そんな私は、本来ならば死後には餓鬼の世界に生まれるはずですが、そんな私をご覧になり、必ず救う、餓鬼なんかに行かせてなるものか、と誓ってくださったのが南無阿弥陀仏です。お浄土という仏さまの願いの国に生まれ、先立たれた方と再び会い、色々な形でこの世に残された方々を導くいのちにしてくださるのです。死んで終わりではない、また会える世界があるのです。（俱会一処といい、俱に、一つの処ろで会う）この願いに触れ、自分の都合のいい心を知らされ、少しずつ仏様の智慧と慈悲に導かれ毎日を過ごさせていただくのですね。考えてみると、目連尊者のお母さまは確かに他の子を雑に扱ったかもしれませんが、目連尊者にとっては大事な大事なお母さんだったのです。どんなことがあっても、どんなあなたになっても、大好きだよ、と言ってくれる存在がいることは、人生の大きな支えになります。人間の命に限りがあるからこそ、阿弥陀様は、無量寿（限りがないいのち）の仏様として、過去、現在、未来、時を超え場所を超え、私たちを暖かく包んでくださっております。「別れても思い出は残る 別れても言葉は残る 別れても同じぬくもりに包まれる喜びがある」ともにお念仏を申しませう。南無阿弥陀仏

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## 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.

# 2025 Bon Dance

A Joyous Summer Tradition Honoring Community and Heritage

## Celebration

Obon is a time to remember our departed loved ones and reflect on our own lives. Its origins trace back to ancient times. In Hongwanji Buddhism, we understand that our ancestors do not return only during Obon – they are always with us, embraced by Amida Buddha’s boundless compassion. It is an opportunity and reminder to cherish the deep connection we continue to share without departed loved ones.

## Mahalo

Committee:

**Co-Chairs:** Jason Hashimoto and Jenn Kurohara

Sub-Committees:

**Hatsubon, Memorial Ribbon, and Lantern Parade:** Reverend Satoshi Tomioka

**Choba/Towels:** Alvin Oyadomari

**Tents:** Alvin Oyadomari and Bernie Imada

**Yagura:** Jason Hashimoto

**Electrical/Lights:** Mike Fukutomi

**Parking:** Glenn Watarida and Donald Ikeda

**Security:** Byron Toma and Bryson Toma

**Manpower:** Stan Mason

**Trash:** Wendell Toma

**Concession:** Clifford Furukado

**Dancers Food:** Jolie Ishibashi-Dixon and Toban 1, Karen Mason

**Clean-Up Day:** Toban 2, Janet Watarida and members

**Bathrooms:** Toban 3, Ann Toma

**Set-Up Day:** Toban 4, Keri Furukado and Sr. YBA

**Memorial Chochin:** Donald Ikeda

**Boutique:** Linnette Quaid

**Dancers:** Sharyse Molina

**Taiko:** Paul Sakamoto and Puna Taiko

**T-Shirts:** Jenn Kurohara and Paul Sakamoto

**Children’s Games:** Haruka Tomioka, Robin Sato, Jenn Kurohara

**Publicity:** Robin Sato

Thank you to everyone who participated, supported, and contributed to making this celebration a heartfelt success. Everyone gave of their time, resources, and energy from setup to cleanup and *everywhere* in between. Here’s to preserving our heritage and creating cherished memories together!

Photos and videos are available to view on our social media platforms and in next month’s Hi-Lites. Mahalo!

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## BWA

At the June 8 meeting of Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association we took a moment to wish Happy Birthday to Dora Hashimoto.

During the meeting we discussed the approaching 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary and necessary repairs to the columbarium and temple buildings. BWA will consider various ways to contribute to the capital improvement projects and discuss the matter further at future meetings.

For Father's Day, our vice president Carol Tsunezumi traveled to Kona Hongwanji and purchased Shaka shaped shortbread cookies as her donation to the June 15 service.

Treasurer Janet Watarida was given time to announce events coming up at Pahoia Nikkei Jin Kai. Participation in Puna Hongwanji Mission obon activities also were discussed.



BWA previously voted to present calabash donations to Puna Taiko. The check presentation was accomplished at the Father's Day family service.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service,  
K.T. Cannon-Eger

## **Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple – Distinguished Sangha Service Award**

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.

This year we would like to reach out to our membership again 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 and return it to Puna Hongwanji by mail, email, or dropping it off. **Please submit forms by Sunday, July 27, 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. Kiyoko 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 if you have any questions or need clarification. We appreciate you sharing 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.

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## PROJECT DANA



Project Dana Volunteers made visitations to Life Care Center, Hale Anuenue, and Legacy. With the family's permission an initial visit was made to Hale Anuenue. The resident enjoyed the friendly visit and thanked the volunteers. At the request of a family member, a visit was made to a recently transitioned senior at Life Care Center. The senior appreciated the visit and a large print crossword puzzle book. At Legacy, volunteers brought a bag of arare for a senior, who said that he missed eating arare.



Project Dana received 22 dusters (women's housecoats) from a friend, who recently lost his mother. Site coordinator Stella Miyashiro donated them to Life Care Center, where the staff was most appreciative.

As of June, the bento delivery route in Hilo has two new seniors. Asami's provides the bentos on the first and third Weds. of each month. Cafe 100 prepares the lunch on the second Weds. and 5 Spice does the fourth Weds. If anyone is interested in this bento delivery service, contact Richard Solie (808)426-6256 or Stella Miyashiro (808)959-7919.

In gassho,  
Stella Miyashiro  
Puna Project Dana  
Site Coordinator



Happy Birthday Dora!



Hapy Birthday Warren!



Happy Birthday Clifford!



## **THE BOUTIQUE IS BACK IN BUSINESS**

Thanks to the hard work of Linnette and her daughter Chandra, the Boutique has been cleaned up and looks wonderful. It will be open during Obon and may be opening on a regular basis in the near future.

# Sakazuki o Kawasu:

Deepening bonds with each other and creating rapport with new and old friends through the exchange of glass...



## Join Us for a Unique Culinary Experience

We are thrilled to invite you to our *second* sake pairing event, an unforgettable evening of exquisite flavors and thoughtfully paired sake selections. Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 27, 2025, and get ready to embark on a journey that celebrates the harmonious interplay of fine cuisine and the delicate craft of sake brewing.

## Event Details

- Date: September 27, 2025
- Time: 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Location: Puna Hongwanji Mission Social Hall

## Ticket Information

- Individual Tickets: \$80 per person
- Group Table: \$750 per table of eight

## What to Expect

Prepare your taste buds for a curated menu by our committee, complementing the unique profiles of each sake selection. Ryan Kadota, of Kadota Liquor, will guide you through the pairing process, offering insights into the artistry and traditions behind sake-making. Not to mention savoring local and unique-to-PHM delicious bites and camaraderie prepared by the extraordinary kitchen crew and volunteers. Whether you're a seasoned connoisseur or exploring sake for the first time, this event promises to be an enriching experience.

## Reserve Your Spot

Tickets go on sale July 1, 2025, so be sure to act fast! With limited seating available, this exclusive event ensures an intimate and engaging atmosphere for all attendees. Book your individual ticket or gather friends and family for a table of eight to share in the joy of this culinary adventure. Contact Jenn Kurohara [jklkurohara@gmail.com](mailto:jklkurohara@gmail.com) or Robin Sato [rob.f.sato@gmail.com](mailto:rob.f.sato@gmail.com).

## Stay Connected

Follow us on social media and check our website and social media platforms for updates on the menu, venue details, and additional surprises we have in store for this special evening. We can't wait to host you for an event that celebrates the heart of Puna Hongwanji Mission and its Sangha. Mahalo Nui Loa!

## INTERIM CHANGES

Thank you for your continued support for Puna Hongwanji. As you may or may not be aware, your generous donations and fundraisers help sustain the temple and ensures that our monthly bills, assessments, repairs, etc. are paid timely.

We currently do not have a Treasurer at Puna Hongwanji so if you are interested in helping out, please contact Richard Solie, President.

In the meantime, the officers have stepped up to the plate and ensuring that we keep moving forward. This is a team effort. Right now we have Jenn paying bills, Robin handling the donations, and Richard running the reports.

We would like to make a request that when you submit a check that you send a separate check for each category you are donating to so that on Treasurer's Night it is easier for accounting purposes. We have a group of volunteers that record and count the funds for different sections like you see in the hi-lites donation section. When you write a check for \$1,000 and indicate that you want it to go to Dues (\$300); Kinen Kifu (\$200); Hi-Lites (\$50); Minister's Discretionary Fund (\$150); Columbarium (\$200); and 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (\$100) we have to find \$1,000 in cash so that we can allocate the funds to the different categories as in this example fund will be allocated to three account numbers at two different financial institutions. If you write us separate checks for each category of your donation it makes it so much easier for all.

## BACKPACK DRIVE

An article was placed in the June 2025 Hi-Lites about our annual backpack drive. If you would like to participate the last day to donate your new and unused backpack will be Sunday, July 13, 2025. Bring it to the temple and we will schedule a visit to drop off the backpacks with the Hawaii Police Department. Thank you in advance for your support.

## Annual Puna District Interfaith Memorial Day Observance

Thank you to everyone who helped make this annual event a memorable one and a success. It is our time to share our appreciation and remember all Puna area residents that gave the ultimate sacrifice for all of us. This year marked the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the memorial monument that sits on the front lawn of Puna Hongwanji. Please mark your calendar to attend the event **next year on Saturday, May 23, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** If you know family members of those listed on the monument encourage them to attend as it's nice to see the families come to remember their loved ones. This is an interfaith event and we had participation from Puna Covenant Church, Puna Baptist Church, Holy Rosary Catholic Church, and our own Rev. Tomioka. If you haven't seen we have a new plaque so now we have all Puna area residents names on the monument.