

# PUNA HONGWANJI MISSION

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# May 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 Furukado.

## With Deepest Sympathy



orePuna Hongwanji Mission extends its sincerest sympathy and condolences to the family and relatives of the following member(s) who recently passed away

*Patsy Kina*

*Chiyoko Yokomizo*

## 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.

## May 2025 & June 2025

|                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| <b>1 yr.</b>   | Kenji Oshita<br>Tei Schrey<br>Gilbert Uyeda   | May 11, 2024<br>May 21, 2024<br>June 29, 2024                                |
| <b>3 yrs.</b>  | Kay Kawazoe<br>None   | May 15, 2023<br>June 2023  |
| <b>7 yrs.</b>  | None<br>Rex Shimizu<br>Jinsei Nako  | May 2019<br>June 4, 2019<br>June 24, 2019                                    |
| <b>13 yrs.</b> | June Matsushita<br>Betsy Miyashiro<br>Choki Toma<br>Haruo Kajiyama<br>Loren Mochida | May 1, 2013<br>May 23, 2013<br>May 23, 2013<br>June 8, 2013<br>June 14, 2013 |
| <b>17 yrs.</b> | Tsugie Tsutsui<br>Takashi Shinchi<br>Charles Tonda                                  | May 1, 2009<br>June 4, 2009<br>June 9, 2009                                  |
| <b>25 yrs.</b> | Masayuki Sumiki<br>Minoru Tagawa<br>Shizuko Itagaki                                 | May 11, 2001<br>May 16, 2001<br>June 16, 2001                                |
| <b>33 yrs.</b> | None<br>Hisashi Uchida<br>Noboru Kobashigawa  | May 1993<br>June 16, 1993<br>June 20, 1993                                   |
| <b>50 yrs.</b> | None<br>Russell Imai<br>Masaji Sako<br>Eizen Gusukuma                               | May 1976<br>June 4, 1976<br>June 5, 1976<br>June 25, 1976                    |

# MAY 2025

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

### **“Reflection on the 80th Anniversary of the Kamikaze Attack and Burial on the USS Missouri”**

On April 11, 2025, I had the honor of attending and offering the Invocation and Benediction at the 80th Anniversary of the Kamikaze Attack and Burial on the USS *Missouri*. This solemn event, hosted by the USS Missouri Memorial Association, served as a time of remembrance and reconciliation, marking eight decades since a significant moment in the Battle of Okinawa.

In April 1945, a kamikaze aircraft struck the *Missouri*, causing damage and loss. Amidst the wreckage, part of the plane and the body of the young Japanese pilot landed on the main deck. In a remarkable act of compassion, then-Captain William Callaghan ordered that the pilot be given a proper burial at sea in accordance with naval tradition. Despite being an enemy combatant, the pilot was treated with dignity and respect—an extraordinary gesture that has continued to resonate through generations.

At the anniversary ceremony, we were joined by the descendants of Captain Callaghan, including his grandson, Mr. Carey Callaghan, who shared: “My grandfather’s decision – controversial at the time, and maybe even today – was a humble one rooted in empathy, a sense of dignity, and a vision of the future that was a part of who he was every day.”

Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi also offered his reflections, stating: “This moment of remembrance stands as a testament to the power of reconciliation and the strength of peace. Captain Callaghan chose to respond not with hatred, but with honor and respect. That act of compassion continues to teach us that dignity and respect are not weakened by war; they are strengthened through understanding and forgiveness.”

As part of my Invocation and Benediction, I shared these thoughts: “Despite the extreme conditions of the battlefield, there existed profound respect and compassion for an individual who sacrificed his life. This compassionate act transcended national borders, ideologies, and conflicting emotions. All lives are equally embraced by the Light of the Buddha’s Great Compassion. While conflicts rage globally, people tend to alienate those with differing values, and I feel an urgent concern as divisions and isolation continue to grow. I sincerely hope that everyone gathered here today, both young and old, reflects on the power of compassion that enfolds all lives, nurtures a sense of oneness of all lives within our hearts, and walks together toward the realization of a society in which everyone can live a life of spiritual fulfillment. May we each return to our communities with a renewed commitment to practice compassion, uphold dignity, and foster mutual understanding and peace.”

The ceremony concluded with a wreath-laying, followed by the scattering of flower petals by all participants—a quiet yet powerful act of tribute, memory, and hope for peace.

Toshiyuki Umitani  
Bishop, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

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## Minister's Message



One saying that resonates with me is “*necessity is the mother of invention.*” It highlights how pressing needs inspire solutions, from automobiles for transportation to cell phones for communication. Each invention holds a story and purpose. For instance, the bitter taste added to battery packages arose from tragic incidents of children accidentally swallowing batteries, leading to severe health issues. This innovation reflects the tears, concerns, and efforts of families and engineers striving to prevent harm.

In a similar vein, the Jodo Shinshu tradition has its origin, story, and necessity. It was established by Shinran Shonin, born on May 21, 1173, in Kyoto, Japan. Though from an aristocratic lineage, Shinran Shonin faced hardships caused by war, pandemics, and natural disasters. At 9, he entered monastic life at Mt. Hiei, dedicating 20 years to Buddhist practices. Yet, he realized enlightenment couldn't be achieved through self-effort due to deep human desires. His life changed upon hearing the teachings of Honen Shonin, who introduced him to the Nembutsu path—the recitation of *Namo Amida Butsu*, which assured enlightenment through Amida Buddha's vow. This vow, expressed in the Larger Sutra, promised to save all beings regardless of their circumstances or ability to practice. Shinran Shonin embraced this teaching wholeheartedly and dedicated himself to sharing its profound joy and transformative power with others until his passing at the age of 90 on January 16, 1263.

Here we can see a parallel to the saying “*necessity is the mother of invention.*” For many individuals, the pursuit of enlightenment through rigorous self-effort proved unattainable. Despite years spent trying to control emotions, suppress greed, anger, and ignorance, and maintain pure thoughts, words, and deeds, the goal remained out of reach for many. Their necessity—their inability to save themselves—gave rise to the “invention” of Amida Buddha's vow: a compassionate promise to save all beings as they are, without requiring perfection or extraordinary achievements. *Namo Amida Butsu* represents more than a chant; it embodies the virtues, merits, and all necessary elements practiced by Amida Buddha, and *Namo Amida Butsu* is the compassionate embrace of Amida Buddha—a profound acknowledgment of the pain that I endure and cause, and limitations of life, especially my own, and a determination to transform me into enlightenment. Just as the bitter taste on batteries was born from a need to prevent harm, Amida Buddha's vow emerged from an understanding of humanity's struggles. Reciting *Namo Amida Butsu* serves as both a proof to the Buddha's compassion and a reminder of our own imperfections. It assures that we are never abandoned, no matter how flawed we may feel, and that we are continually nurtured by wisdom and compassion. As we commemorate Shinran Shonin's birthday during Gotane, it is a time not only to honor his legacy but also to reflect on our lives within the embrace of Amida Buddha. His teachings remind us that even in the face of life's challenges and uncertainties, there is a path illuminated by compassion—a path that leads us to acknowledge our own limitations, aspire to be kind, and awaken to the interconnection of all beings.

「必要は発明の母」という。発明の裏には理由と物語がある。最近の電池には「苦い」味という表記がある。子供による電池の誤飲で心配と苦痛を味わった家族の涙と、その防止を目指す研究者の努力がある。電池の苦さの裏に涙と努力があるように、南無阿弥陀仏には我々人間の苦悩と共に涙し、苦悩から必ず救い取るという阿弥陀様のお姿がある。お念仏を称えることは、私が苦悩を自他に与える存在であることを知らせ、そんな私をこそ孤独にさせず必ず救うという願いが届いていること。



## President's Message

It has been an interesting month. I have been working on the renewal of our insurance policies. Filling out their questionnaires raised some issues that need to be addressed. One of these is fire safety. Stan Mason is reviewing our smoke detectors and fire extinguishers

I also participated in the Children's Day event. It was a great success thanks to the efforts of all of the many volunteers. In particular, I would like to thank Robin Sato and Jenn Kurohara

for their efforts in planning and organizing this event. It went very well and was lots of fun.

Speaking of volunteers, I want to make mention of the tobans. There are four groups that take turns doing the weekly cleaning of the temple, arranging the flowers, and providing refreshments. The tobans are a big part of what makes this sangha work. I encourage any new members to think about joining one of these groups, be a part of our community.

In gassho,

Richard Solie  
[richardsolie@protonmail.com](mailto:richardsolie@protonmail.com)  
phone: 808-426-6256

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## 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.

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## UKULELE CLASS

Reverend is leading ukulele classes every Friday at 10:30 a.m.

Join the fun learning new and classic ukulele tunes!

There will be a special class performance during the June 22<sup>nd</sup> bon service.



## **Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights**

May Day is Lei Day in Hawaii

May 1st is a special date celebrated around the world, and in Hawaii, it takes on a unique twist. While many recognize May Day as a celebration of spring or labor rights, Lei Day in Hawaii honors the islands' rich cultural heritage, but despite their different roots, these two holidays are more common than you might think.

May Day and Lei Day celebrate renewal, beauty, and connection. In Europe and other parts of the world, May Day has long been a spring festival, filled with flowers, dancing, and music to welcome the new season. People weave flower crowns, decorate maypoles, and celebrate the blossoming of nature.

Similarly, Lei Day, first celebrated in 1928, honors the Hawaiian tradition of giving and wearing leis—garlands made of flowers, leaves, shells, or feathers—as symbols of love, respect, and aloha. Like May Day, it is a celebration of beauty, nature, and togetherness.

Similarly to Jodo Shinshu teachings, May Day and Lei Day share a spirit of celebration, nature, and unity, reminding us that no matter where we are, there's always beauty to be found in tradition and in the people around us.

We slowly continue to grow as a sangha, welcoming everyone to hear the weekly Dharma Messages during our Sunday Family Services. Giving everyone an opportunity to learn about interdependence, empathy, and belonging. Mahalo nui loa to the Kyodan for creating an inclusive environment!

### ***Here's what's happening in May:***

4<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 a.m. Sunday Service with Guest Speaker

9<sup>th</sup>: 10:30 a.m. Cybersecurity Class Online

11<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 a.m. Sunday Service with Mother's Day brunch to follow

15<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 p.m. Kyodan Board of Directors meeting

18<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 a.m. Gotan-e Service

18<sup>th</sup>: 10:30 -12:00 p.m. Sr. YBA Bake Sale

24<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 a.m. Interfaith Memorial Service

25<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 a.m. Sunday Service

## **CHILDREN'S DAY 2025**

Another Children's Day is in the memory books for Puna Hongwanji. Thank you to everyone that helped and anticipated in this event to make it successful. Seeing all the happy faces were the highlight of the event. This is truly a community event aimed at giving our children a safe and fun place to be.

We had a variety of food, games, informational booths, and activities for the children and children at heart to participate in. We are glad to hear positive comments from those in attendance.

As the children entered the social hall they could get a free passport and buy a \$5 game card. With the passport they were to visit the different stations and could collect a stamp. If they collected 9 of the 12 stamps they could turn in their information to be entered into a prize drawing. Congratulations to Sophia Rodrigues for winning the family photo session at Reed Takaaze Photography. With the game cards they could play the different games and win tickets. With the tickets they could turn them into prizes.

Mahalo to our passport participants: Mālama Hāloa Hui Ku'i Kalo; Hawaii Police Department, CU Hawaii FCU; Hawaii Fire Department; Ben Franklin Crafts; Hilo High School Japan Club; Hilo Intermediate School Intramural Club; Big Island Active; INPEACE; Maika'i Health; E.M. Awareness; Kabuto, koi, and kokeshi doll station (Kabuto and Koi were folded by the Hilo Hongwanji Preschool Teachers).

Mahalo to our prize donors and those contributing to our monetary donation: Reed Takaaze Photography; Daiso Hawaii; Warren Tanigawa; Paul & Jenny Sakamoto; Bryon & Jade Toma; Mel & Della Yamanaka; Rev. Tomioka & Haruka Tomioka; Tricia Sunada-Brazil; Ann Toma; Allan and Janie Karimoto; Jenn Kurohara; and Robin Sato.

Also participating in the event was the Puna Hongwanji Judo Club, Puna Taiko; Puna Hongwanji BWA, Puna Hongwanji Scouts, and Pahala Hongwanji Taiko.

We are grateful to all that came out to set-up, clean-up and handled the parking lot area. Together we made this event a success for the children. If we inadvertently missed anyone, please accept our apologies.

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## **Preparing for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Puna Hongwanji**

We are in the planning stages to prepare for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Puna Hongwanji. We are looking for a theme idea from YOU! What themes come to mind when you think of this milestone? What do you envision for Puna Hongwanji in 2027 and beyond? Submit your ideas by May 4, 2025 to [mpunahongwanji@twc.com](mailto:mpunahongwanji@twc.com) with the subject "125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Theme". Original due date was May 1, 2025, but since we haven't really gotten any responses, we are extending the due date to May 4, 2025. Please submit your ideas.

Committee chairs for the event are Jason Hashimoto, Jenn Kurohara, and Robin Sato, along with other committee members. If you have ideas or would like to help with the planning, please notify anyone of the committee chairs.

We are looking to make this a two-day event on October 16 – 17, 2027.

## **ANNUAL INTERFAITH MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE 2025**

Our guest speaker for the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Memorial Day Observance will be LTC David Hosea. Please join us on Saturday, May 24, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. on the front lawn of the temple. If you are able to, please come out at 7:00 a.m. that morning to set up the tents and chairs.

On Friday, May 23, 2025 we would appreciate floral and/or greenery to set up all the floral bouquets. Please drop off on Friday, May 23 from 8:00 a.m. as bouquets will be made. If you are able to help that would be appreciated.

Please come to support our fallen heroes of the Puna District that gave their lives so that we can enjoy our freedom today.



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## **FRIENDS OF THE GARDEN**

At Lili`uokalani Gardens, the annual koinobori display will remain in place through Children's Day which is Monday, May 5.

The display will be taken down Monday afternoon starting at 3:30 p.m. If you are able to help, please come to Mokuola parking lot at that time.

Mahalo,  
K.T.



photo by Jay Takaaze 2022

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## PROJECT DANA



On April 5th, volunteers Lei Kakugawa, Carol Tsunozumi, and Stella Miyashiro made a special home visit in Mt. View. They wished Fumie Yanaga a very “Happy 100th Birthday”. Fumie was presented with a red lei, a flowering potted plant, a box of shortbread cookies and a birthday cupcake.



Fumie’s daughter, grandsons, and a great granddaughter sang the birthday song with the volunteers. It took three attempts before the flame on the candle stayed lit for Fumie to make a wish and blow it out. Pictures were taken to remember the day. The volunteers spent a pleasant afternoon with the Yanaga family.

Carol had a reunion with Yanaga’s grandson Kip, who lives on the mainland. Kip was a Dharma School student at Puna Hongwanji Mission, when Carol was a teacher.

Fumie shared that she enjoyed gardening. She had a bed of string bean vines, which had beans ready for picking. She had recently harvested lima beans. Carol, who likes to grow vegetables, asked for some lima beans. Fumie gladly shared a bag of lima beans with Carol and Lei. An invitation was



extended to the volunteers to return for a visit again. Project Dana volunteers now make monthly visitations to Life Care Center, Legacy, Hale Anuenue, and a private care home. Please continue to notify Project Dana when a family member transitions into a care facility.

Mahalo to temple members and friends for their generous donations.

In gassho,  
Stella Miyashiro  
Site coordinator

Lei, Carol, and Stella brought birthday wishes to Mrs. Yanaga.

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## BWA

Puna Hongwanji BWA participated in the Children's Day Festival held on the grounds Saturday, April 19. The event was well attended. Food and beverage sales were a success.



The next April event for BWA happens after deadline for this report. BWA will host the annual Lady Eshinni and Lady Kakushinni Day service with Gail Takaki as speaker.

Puna Hongwanji BWA is participating with Hawaii Island United Hongwanji BWA in supporting the AIDS Walk on Saturday, May 3, from 7 a.m. to noon at Lili'uokalani Gardens. Some will help at the registration table and

hand out tee shirts. Some will walk as the BWA team. If you are walking, please wear a purple Hongwanji tee or polo shirt. All funds raised at the AIDS Walk stay here on this island. BWA has participated in every AIDS Walk since they started in 2012. Donations may be made by check to Kumukahi Health + Wellness with BWA team in the memo line or online.

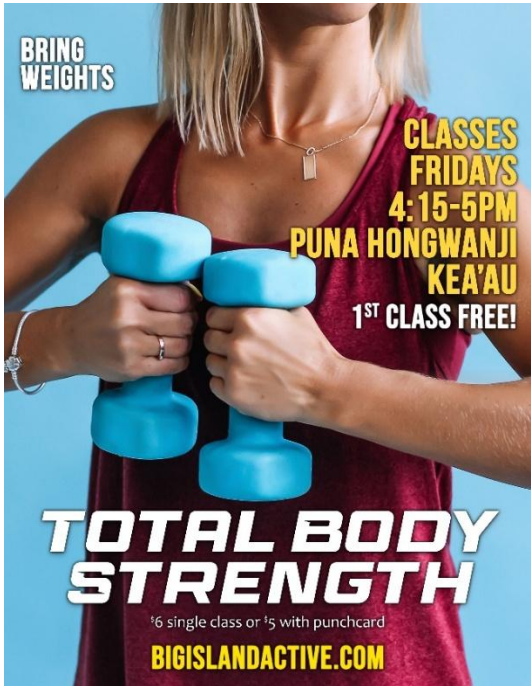


Kumukahi Health + Wellness with BWA team on the memo line of a check. Or online through this link:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/event/kumukahihealthwellnessp2p/team/990675/>

Thank you,  
K.T. Cannon-Eger

## Weekly Group Fitness Classes at the Puna Hongwanji



Join Big Island Active's strength focused group fitness classes at the Puna Hongwanji Fridays 4-4:45pm. Enjoy movement, music and motivation at weekly classes taught by Sara Krosch. Bring your own mat or towel, dumbbell weights, and water. All other equipment provided. Your first class is free and all abilities welcome. Single classes \$7 or \$6 each with a punch card. Class descriptions can be found at <https://www.bigislandactive.com/>

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### Mother's Day Brunch

We will be having our Annual Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup> after Service. Tickets are being sold after Sunday Services for \$15 and children under 7 are free. The money raised will go to our Scholarship Fund. If you are unable to attend service, but would like to purchase tickets, either email [mpunahongwanji@twc.com](mailto:mpunahongwanji@twc.com) with the subject "Mother's Day Brunch" or contact Robin Sato at [rob.f.sato@gmail.com](mailto:rob.f.sato@gmail.com) or call/text (808) 936-7179 to reserve your ticket. If any men of Puna Hongwanji are available to help with the food preparation that morning, please call Clifford Furukado at (808)938-3177.

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### Welcome Sarah Kay

It was early on December 31, 2023, at Foodland in Kea'au that I asked a customer service clerk "What is that paper people are picking up here?" She responded "That's the Japanese good luck paper."

What? How do I not know about a Japanese good luck paper? I grew up with friends who were Japanese.

I decided to walk over to the temple and see if someone there could explain about the paper. When I arrived, I saw fresh tangerines with leaves, and people. Little did I know as I was greeted at the door that a service was about to start. I stayed for that New Year's Eve service, to close out 2023.

And I returned the next day to ring in 2024. And I came next Sunday, and the next, and the next. The openness and friendliness of the service goes matched what sensei talked about. And if Dora and Warren's sincere greetings were Buddhism in action, I wanted "in."

Sarah Kay



## **Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA Bake Sale Sunday, May 18, 2025**

At our February membership meeting, we voted to hold special fundraisers throughout 2025 and 2026 to support much-needed repairs to the temple. This could include showing some love to the main altar. Our first fundraiser is a bake sale, co-chaired by Misaki Saito, Robin Sato, and Jenn Kurohara. If you would like to join in on the fun, please contact Jenn – [jklkurohara@gmail.com](mailto:jklkurohara@gmail.com) as soon as possible. A menu and order form will be made available very soon! Mahalo for your support!

### **In Gassho**

- Thank you to all for the incredible support for our Kyodan events! Our members always show up and you could not be more appreciated. Children's Day was a success thanks to your selfless giving of time, resources, and manpower. Looking forward to Bon Dance in June!
- T-shirts and polos are still available for purchase. If you need a specific size, we can easily place single orders.
- Next meeting is on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Mahalo to VP Jason Hashimoto for taking the lead that evening.

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## **Obon Concession Donation Request**

Obon is scheduled for June 28 and is one of our major fundraisers to help sustain our temple. We would greatly appreciate your help to make our Obon Concession a success and are asking for donations of the following items:

Rice  
Spam  
Nori  
Shoyu  
Sugar, white and brown  
Flour  
Bottled Water  
Coke or Pepsi, regular and diet  
7 up or Sprite, regular and diet  
Small cash donations would also be greatly appreciated.

We will also need more manpower to help prepare and to work in the food booth so if you are able to help in the concession or with food prep prior to or during the event, please contact Clifford Furukado at (808) 938-3177 or [cfurukado@yahoo.com](mailto:cfurukado@yahoo.com). Thank you very much.

**2025 Obon Memorial Ribbon Order Form**

Memorial Ribbons are available to honor your loved ones and decorate lanterns around the bon dance stage. This refers to a significant connection within Amida Buddha's embrace. Send your form and a \$20 donation per ribbon by **June 8**. Make copies of this sheet if needed.

Payable to: Puna Hongwanji Mission  
PO Box 100, Keaau, HI 96749  
Attn: Ribbon



Scan to submit

In Memory of

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Total number of Ribbons \_\_\_ Total Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 per ribbon)

**Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_