

PUNA HONGWANJI MISSION



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‘Please make a meeting appointment so he can ensure he is available for you.

Thursday - day off

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Temple Toban, Nenki	Page	2
Calendar of Events		3
Minister’s Message		4-5
President’s Message / Year end Statements		6
Project Dana / Sr. YBA		7-8
Cook book / BWA		8-10
Puna Taiko / Columbarium Project		11-12
Donations Acknowledgements		13-15
Announcements		15-16

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February 2026 Hi-Lites

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Youtube:

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



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• **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/punahongwanji1902/



• **Online donation:**

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



2026 Honpa Hongwanji Theme & Slogan

**Nurturing Nembutsu,
Sharing Gratitude**

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.

FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Scout Sunday 9 am Shinen Enkai	2 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	3 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	4 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm Sr, YBA Mtg. 7 pm	5 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	6 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	7 Sr YBA Year End Gathering Lam's Garden 5:30 p
8 Dana Day Service 9 a BWA Meeting Taiko 2 -6:30 pm	9 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	10 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	11 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	12 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm D Rm Renta; 5-7p	13 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	14 Hall Rental
15 Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial Service 9 am Judo 12 – 2:30 pm Taiko 2:30 -6:30 pm	16 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm <u>Presidents' Day</u>	17 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	18 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm BOD Meeting 7 pm	19 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	20 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	21
22 No Service @ Puna Gathafest 9:30 am Kona Hongwanji Taiko 2 -6:30 pm	23 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	24 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	25 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	26 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	27 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	28 Appreciation Party 5:00 pm

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Brace for the Impact in the Embrace

It is said that when we open our eyes, the Dharma is everywhere. The teachings are not limited to Sunday service; every day and every place becomes a point of connection where compassion and wisdom quietly resonate. The Dharma is always reaching out to us—whether or not we are paying attention.

Even an airplane ride is full of Dharma. How many of us truly listen to the flight attendant's emergency instructions? They explain the seat belt, oxygen mask, evacuation procedures—important information. Yet in my observation, only about half of the passengers pay attention. Others look at their phones, flip through magazines, stare out the window. And I, who am watching them, am also not fully paying attention, even though I hear the announcement. In a real emergency, of course, everyone would listen with full attention. But when there is no immediate danger, we easily ignore what is essential. This shows how teachings do not fully enter our hearts until we are placed in a situation where we *need* them. In Buddhism, this is impermanence. When we or someone close to us faces the end of life, fear, worry, and resistance arise—even though the teaching of change has always been before us. When we are young, healthy, and assume our loved ones are fine, the truth of impermanence may not resonate deeply. But the Dharma reminds us: not later, but right here, right now is the time to listen. We are guided not to wait until we are free or retired or “have time,” but to make time to hear the teachings that reveal the truth of life.

One announcement says: “*Secure your own oxygen mask before assisting others.*” At first this may sound selfish, but it points to the importance of self-care. If we are exhausted, unhappy, or unsettled, even our wish to help others can become strained. Helping others may bring joy, but without caring for ourselves, that joy cannot last. The Dharma is for me. Sometimes people say, “I wish my spouse or my children could hear this message.” But the proper attitude is: *this message is for me.* Every encounter with Amida Buddha's compassion and wisdom is for the sake of my own awakening. When I am made to see my biased perceptions, when I realize the Great Life that sustains me, a joy arises as my life is cared for. From that joy, sharing naturally flows. We cannot give what we do not have. Faith/awakening happen within oneself.

Finally, in an emergency landing, we are instructed to place our heads down and brace for impact. No matter how much we prepare, the impact still comes—but with proper preparation, the force is softened. In the same way, no matter how much we listen to the teachings or live a life of faith, the impacts of life—loss, illness, mental struggle, the ups and downs of human existence—still affect us. But bracing means listening deeply to the teachings and entrusting ourselves to the embrace of Namu Amida Butsu, who accepts all just as they are—weak or strong, healthy or sick, young or old. This embrace becomes our brace. Like an oxygen mask offered to a child, Amida Buddha—whose life is peace, harmony, kindness, wisdom, and truth—cannot help but extend compassion to me. When I am running out of the oxygen of truth—when anger, ignorance, selfishness, loneliness, emptiness, frustration, and struggle fill my heart—the voice of Namu Amida Butsu reaches out, calling: “**Come into my embrace.**” Touched by that warmth, a connection arises. What overflows is the recitation of Namu Amida Butsu, accompanied by self-reflection, assurance of never being abandoned, and the gentle guidance of compassion and wisdom. Even in moments when I want to give up on myself—when life feels heavy, unfair, and confusing—Amida Buddha's wisdom and compassion never give up on me. It is for my sake that Amida Buddha is Namu Amida Butsu.

Let us listen to the teachings, and let us live the teachings—not only on Sunday, but every day, every moment. In this embrace, we are never alone.

こんな小話があります。家族の一人が、いつものように食後の皿洗いをしていました。ある日、キッチンの小窓から見える隣の家が、ひどく汚れていることに気がつきました。隣の家のことですし、特に何かできるわけでもありませんが、どうしても目に入ってしまう。「掃除した方がいいですよ」と言えるわけでもなく、「まあ仕方がないよな」と思いながら、皿洗いのたびにその汚れが気になっていました。ところがある日、皿洗いを始めると、隣の家がとてもきれいになっているではありませんか。「まさか私の心を読んだのでは…」と驚きつつ、家族に声をかけました。「ちょっと来てごらん！隣の家がきれいになったよ」。呼ばれた家族が小窓をのぞいて一言。「さっき、その小窓を掃除したのよ」。そうなのです。汚れていたのは隣の家ではなく、自分のキッチンの小窓だったのです。

この話から思うことは、私たちは他人や外の出来事にはよく目が向きますが、自分のことはなかなか見えないということです。汚れた小窓を通して見えるものは、すべて汚れて見えてしまうように、仏教では人間の見方を「都合のよい目」、つまり煩惱と説きます。自分の好き嫌い、良し悪し、望み通りかどうか——そうしたレンズを通して物事を判断してしまいます。このレンズから生まれるのが、思い通りにならないことによる苦しみです。好きだと思っていた人でも、少し都合が悪くなると距離を置いたり、家族や健康に対しても「こうあってほしい」というレンズで見て、思い通りにならずにため息が出ます。恐ろしいことに、自分がどんなレンズを持っているかを見るのはとても難しいのです。なぜなら、誰も自分がそんなレンズを持っているとは思わないし、「自分は大丈夫、分かっている」と信じているからです。

ある方がこう言いました。「涙は真実へと導く窓だよ」と。涙が流れるとき、レンズについていた汚れ——煩惱が少し溶け、真実が入り込んできます。大切な人との別れの涙、身心の苦しみから生じる涙、「どうして」と腹が立つ涙。その涙が、私が見ていた世界——「ずっと一緒にいられるはず」「ずっと健康で大丈夫」「思い通りにしたい私の人生」——そうしたレンズの世界から、真実の世界へと私を導きます。本来なら涙を通さずに真実に気づくのがよいのですが、それほど私のレンズは強いのです。その私のために、涙を流してくださる仏さまがいます。それが南無阿弥陀仏です。私の苦悩、私のレンズの姿をご覧になり、「放っておけない。どうしても救わずにはおかない」と立ち上がり、修行を成し遂げ、「私にまかせよ」と導いてくださる仏さまです。阿弥陀さまの智慧と慈悲、あたたかい教えに触れるとき、その教えが涙となって私のいのちに降り注ぎ、私のレンズを知らせてくれます。そして、どんなことがあっても、どんな私になっても、「そばにいるよ」と、私のいのちを丸ごと抱いてくださるのです。阿弥陀さまは、私の涙に宿ってくださる仏さまです。転んだ子どもに親が「痛い痛いのとんでけー」と言うとき、子どもが救われるのは、その言葉そのものではありません。

「誰かが私の痛みを知ってくれている」「胸に抱いてくれている」「大丈夫、ここにいるよ」というぬくもりに安心するのです。同じように、阿弥陀さまがそばにいてくださる、共にいてくださるというぬくもりに触れることが、南無阿弥陀仏との出会いです。そのぬくもりが声となって私の口からこぼれ、耳に届き、また私を包んでくださいます。阿弥陀さまの涙は、私の涙とご一緒です。そして、いつも、いつでも、いつまでもご一緒です。

President's Message

As we come to the start of another year at Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, I would like to take a moment to reflect with gratitude on all that our sangha has shared and accomplished together. Our temple continues to be more than a place of worship. It is a living center of compassion, service, and connection. Throughout the year, we have reached beyond our walls to support the wider community, including our ongoing commitment to the Hawai'i Food Basket, helping ensure that our neighbors facing food insecurity are not forgotten. This spirit of dana and caring action lies at the heart of our Buddhist practice.

We are also deeply proud of the many programs that bring life, learning, and energy to our temple grounds. Judo, karate, taiko, and scouting not only teach discipline and skill, but also foster respect, confidence, and community across generations. Our services and outreach for kupuna remind us of the importance of honoring elders with compassion, dignity, and gratitude. None of this would be possible without the dedication and efforts of our volunteers and affiliates. From behind-the-scenes work to visible leadership, your generosity of time, talent, and heart sustains this temple and keeps our sangha strong. On behalf of the Board and the entire temple community, I offer my deepest thanks.

As we welcome the New Year, may we move forward together with renewed purpose, kindness, and hope. I wish you and your loved ones a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year.
In gassho and with gratitude,



Richard Solie
President
Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple



Year End Statements

Year end statements with your donations should have gone out by the end of January 2026. Please review them for accuracy. Please note that Robin Sato has taken over the recording of donations from May 2025. Robin has been trying to gather all records and to ensure that all the donations are posted to the new system we are utilizing.

Project Dana



As Project Coordinator for Project Dana, I want to offer my deepest thanks to each of our volunteers for the compassion, time, and dedication you share with our kupuna. Your service reflects the very heart of our community, where care for one another is not just a value, but a responsibility embraced with aloha.

Through your weekly delivery of bento meals, you provide more than nourishment. You bring consistency, comfort, and the reassuring knowledge that someone cares.

Your hospice visits offer presence and dignity at moments when kindness matters most. The cards you write, the phone calls you make, and the simple act of checking in remind our kupuna that they are remembered, valued, and not alone.

By providing transportation for medical visits, you help remove barriers and ensure that our kupuna can access the care they need safely and with confidence. These acts, while they may seem small individually, collectively make a profound difference in the quality of life for those we serve.

Project Dana exists because of volunteers like you. Your generosity of spirit strengthens families, supports independence, and honors the wisdom and lives of our elders. On behalf of Project Dana and the kupuna whose lives you touch every day, thank you for your service, your commitment, and your unwavering compassion.

Richard Solie

Puna Hongwanji February Calendar 2026

February 1	Scout Sunday, New Year's Party
February 8	Dana Day
February 15	Nirvana Day (with Animal/Pet Appreciation Remembrance Day)
February 20-21	Giseikai/Legislative Assembly (Honolulu)
February 22	Gatha Fest at Kona, 9:30 a.m.
February 28	Appreciation Party

Sr. YBA

President, Jenn Kurohara

Mahalo nui loa to everyone who came out and supported this year's *Treasures of Hongwanji!* From donations and volunteering to cheering us on and sharing good times together, we truly felt the aloha from our temple community.

Shoutout to Robin Sato for making huge batches of her famous Peanut Butter Party Mix that sold out in no time! Thanks to Craig Shimoda for assisting us in keeping organized! And Haruka Tomioka for donating her fabulous earrings and hair clips to sell.

Because of your kindness and generosity, our Senior YBA was able to hold a successful fundraiser that helps support our activities, service projects, and opportunities to learn and grow together in the Dharma.

A big mahalo to all the volunteers and organizers of Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin! We will definitely participate next year.

Domo arigatou gozaimasu to those who attended, thank you for spending your time with us and making the day feel so full of connection and joy.

Our Sr. YBA is truly thankful to be part of the Puna Hongwanji 'ohana. Your support encourages us to stay involved, give back, and continue carrying forward the teachings in our own way.



PUNA HONGWANJI 125TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

The deadline for our recipes is approaching fast. We thought February 28, 2026 is a long time more, but it's right around the corner. Please submit your recipes using the form, typing it yourself, or providing it to us for us to type. We are FAR from the goal of 500 recipes. If each person adds 2-3 recipes and asks their family and friends for 2-3 recipes we could meet our targeted goal. Share your recipes so that generations down the road can enjoy your delicious home cooked meal.

Use this link if you can type in your recipes. Click on "post recipes" and start entering your recipes.
<https://fundcraft.com/fundraising-cookbooks/member.asp?webid=5436-251B>

Puna Hongwanji 125th Anniversary Cookbook

**SUBMIT YOUR RECIPES BY
FEBRUARY 28, 2026**

**SUBMIT ONLINE AT:
[HTTPS://FUNDRAFT.COM/FUND
RAISING-
COOKBOOKS/INDEX.ASP](https://fundcraft.com/fundraising-cookbooks/index.asp)**

**Entering recipe online use
Login ID: 5436-251B**

**You may also manually write your
recipes and submit it Puna Hongwanji**

**Any questions, please contact
Marilyn Sato at msato09@yahoo.com or
Robin Sato at robsato@yahoo.com**

BWA

At our January meeting, we began making plans for the year. Speaker for Dana Day will be Maria Morales of Project Dana who will elucidate us on recent changes to the statewide program. The calabash from Dana Day (Sunday, February 8) will be given to Friends of Lili`uokalani Gardens. Plans were finalized for the BWA year end/year beginning party to be held at 11 a.m. at Kenichi Restaurant in Hilo. Sign up sheet will be available at the back of temple.

Carol Tsunezumi headed up sekihan preparation for Treasures of Hongwanji. The BWA tables at Sangha Hall featured sekihan according to Rev. Ikeda's recipe, sturdy reversible cloth bags by Janet Watarida, and photograph cards by K.T.

We are working to gather door prizes for Puna Hongwanji's Shinnen Enkai on Sunday, February 1 after family services.



Announcements

Next meeting: Sunday, February 8, 2026

March 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



Dana Day speaker



Dana is the first of the six paramitas and the concept means generosity, unselfish giving. Project Dana was founded at Mo‘ili‘ili Hongwanji Mission in 1989 by Shimeju Kanazawa and Rose Nakamura, who first hired Maria Morales. Today, Project Dana is an "interfaith coalition" that has trained hundreds of volunteers across churches statewide to care for the elderly. Maria Morales is the new statewide executive director. She has worked for Project Dana for more than 10 years.

Within the last year, Project Dana has implemented a new data system called [Mon Ami](#), to make finding social and support services for kūpuna easier. “We did have initially invest in this and are continuing to pay for a monthly subscription,” Morales told Aloha State Daily.

She said this online service assists with the backend work, so that volunteers on the ground across various communities can register new volunteers and recipients and match them with services, while also running reports and collecting data. About 50 volunteers are active on Mon Ami so far as the rollout continues across O‘ahu and Hawai‘i Island, she noted.

Project Dana’s services include fall prevention, visitation and events, home services, transportation, meal deliveries and grocery shopping. The organization currently employs one part time and four full-time staff members, Morales said.

Another aspect of her vision is to ensure kūpuna can age in place with dignity and maintain their independence.

“A quarter of the state’s population 65 years and older, and with the current trends in population growth, the aging population is going to increase,” she said. “And for the younger generation, no matter what industry you go to in the future, you will work with kūpuna. Being able to learn the skills, have the understanding of how to work with kūpuna now is going to be good for your future, as well as improve your own relationships around you.”

As a new leader, Morales says communication and connection will be her focuses this year. Some key partners are Kāhala Nui, the Honolulu Waikīkī 2000 Lions Club, Girl Scouts of Hawai‘i and the University of Hawai‘i, among other organizations.

Project Dana’s programs are funded through federal and city and county grants, as well as other private foundations and donors, she said, including the Mo‘ili‘ili Hongwanji Mission.

PUNA TAIKO

We are excited and honored to be helping out with the Hilo stop of San Jose Taiko's Swingposium Hawaii Tour!

Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 PM
Aunty Sally Kaleohano's Luau Hale

San Jose Taiko's highly-acclaimed Swingposium employs the power of performance to teach about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. Swingposium is an immersive production that combines taiko, jazz, swing dance, and theatre to tell a hidden history of one way Japanese Americans maintained morale in WWII "internment camps" - through swing dances with live big band music. The audience is surrounded with the sights and sounds in a fictional mess hall serving as a dance hall behind barbed wire. Active participation pulls them deeply into the emotional trajectory of the story: the fear and loss of being incarcerated without due process, the struggle to maintain dignity and hope, and the perseverance of the human spirit. Swingposium is presented by San Jose Taiko and Isemoto Contracting Co. Ltd. Thank you to our sponsors, Jan & Roland Higashi, Japanese Community Association of Hawaii and KTA Super Stores.

For more informations and ticket sales, click over to the link in our bio or head to www.taiko.org/swingposium-hilo.



The poster for 'Swingposium' features a purple background. At the top, the title 'SWINGPOSIUM' is written in large, white, stylized letters, with 'A SAN JOSE TAIKO PRODUCTION' underneath. Below the title, it says 'A tribute to swing music & dance during Japanese American incarceration'. A photo of a performer in a red top and black skirt is shown in the middle. To the right, the event details are listed: 'Wednesday, February 18 6:30PM', 'AUNTY SALLY KALEOHANO'S LUAU HALE', '799 Piilani St., Hilo'. A QR code is provided for tickets and more information, along with the URL 'https://taiko.org/swingposium-hilo'. At the bottom, it states 'Swingposium in Hilo is presented by San Jose Taiko & Isemoto Contracting Co. Ltd.'.



Puna Hongwanji Mission's 125th Anniversary Columbarium Project

As Puna Hongwanji Mission prepares to celebrate its 125th anniversary, we reflect with gratitude on generations of members who built, sustained, and cherished our temple as a spiritual home in Ola'a / Kea'au. To honor this remarkable milestone, we are undertaking a special 125th Anniversary Columbarium Project—an effort rooted in remembrance, compassion, and continuity.

The columbarium provides a dignified and peaceful resting place for our loved ones, allowing families to remain connected to the temple community across generations. More than a structure, it represents our deep respect for ancestors, our commitment to Buddhist values, and our intention to care for future members of our sangha.

Our first phase is repairing and refurbishing the original altar, whose home is in the columbarium, to start in March 2026. We have hired the skilled folks from Wakabayashi Butsugu Mfg. Co., Ltd. to dismantle, carefully pack, and ship our precious altar to Japan. There, it will receive a much needed repair and refurbishment before returning to us in February 2027.

The Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin will also be utilizing the expertise of Wakabayashi Butsugu Mfg. while they plan the care of accessories at their main altar. They have asked us to share the cost of shipping equally (50/50) and we have agreed. Sharing a container to ship everything across the Pacific Ocean is vital to keep everything safe and evenly splitting the cost creates a sense of camaraderie and teamwork.

As we look ahead, the 125th Anniversary Columbarium Project stands as a meaningful expression of gratitude, reverence, and enduring connection at the heart of Puna Hongwanji Mission. We intend on repairing various areas of the columbarium and showing it the respect it deserves. All expenses will be paid out of the columbarium funds and we will be sure to keep everyone abreast of each planned or completed phase.

We invite our community to join us in supporting and celebrating this important endeavor.



Hawaii District Ministers Association

Rev. Daido Baba,
Kamuela/Honokaa/Kohala/Pauuilo Hongwanji

Rev. Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka, Puna/
Naalehu/Pahala Hongwanji

Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, Hilo/Papaikou/
Honomu/Honohina-Papaaloa Hongwanji

Rev. Blayne Higa, Kona Hongwanji and Director
of Buddhist Study Center

Rev. Blayne Nakasone, Hilo/Papaikou/
Honomu/Honohina-Papaaloa Hongwanji

