

PUNA HONGWANJI MISSION



December 2025 Hi-Lites

Stay connected with
Puna Hongwanji Mission by:



Youtube:

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



• Facebook:

www.facebook.com/PunaHongwanji



• Instagram:

www.instagram.com/punahongwanji1902/



• Online donation:

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

Location: 16-492 Old Volcano Road, Keaau, HI
Mailing address: P.O. Box 100
Keaau, HI 96749-0100
Tel: (808) 966-9981 Fax: (808) 966-7732

Website:
punahongwanji.org



Resident Minister: Reverend Satoshi Tomioka
Cell: (808) 285-0275
Email: stomioka@honpahi.org
Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri– 9 AM to 12PM*
*unless called away by other duties
Thursday - day off

Kyodan President: Richard Solie
Cell: (808) 426-6256
Email: richardsolie@protonmail.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Temple Toban, Nenki	Page	2
Calendar of Events		3
Minister's Message / Membership		4-5
Project Dana / BWA		6-7
Sangha Activities		8
Liliuokalani Gardens News / Winter craft fair		8-9
Announcements		10
Donations Acknowledgements		10-12

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.

DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	2 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	3 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm Sr. YBA Mtg. 7 pm	4 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	5 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Ukulele Session 9:00 a Karate 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 am	6 Buddhism Class 10 – 11 am
7 BIBF Bodhi Day @ Higashi Hongwanji 9 am Taiko 2 -6:30 pm	8 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	9 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	10 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	11 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm D. Rm. Rental 5-7p	12 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Ukulele Session 9:00 a Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	13 Keaau Christmas Parade
14 Family Service 9 am BWA Meeting Taiko 2 -6:30 pm	15 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	16 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	17 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm BOD Meeting 7 pm	18 Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	19 Chair Yoga 9 – 10:30 am Ukulele Session 9:00 a Total Body Fitness 4 p Karate 6:00 pm	20 Scouts Hall, 6 – 9 pm
21 General Clean up 8 am General Membership Meeting to Follow Judo Year End Shiai/Party	22 Judo Kangeiko 5:30-7am Yoga 9- 10:30 am Karate 7:00 pm	23 Judo Kangeiko 5:30-7am Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm	24 Judo Kangeiko 5:30-7am Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p	25 Christmas	26 Judo Kangeiko 5:30-7am Yoga 9- 10:30 am	27 Judo Kangeiko 5:30-7am
28 Family Service 9 am Taiko 2 -6:30 pm	29 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	30 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 – 6 pm Judo 6:30 – 8 pm	31 New Year's Eve Service 9 am and 11 pm Yoga 9- 10:30 am Farm to Car 3-6 p	1 New Year's Service 9 am		

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



All humans receive the same amount of time each day—24 hours, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Though the amount is equal, how it is spent and with what attitude varies: some devote it to work, study, hobbies, eating, driving, or conversation; some experience joy and laughter, while others feel sadness, anger, or dullness. Each month brings change, yet the end of the year often feels especially busy with holidays and the sense of closure before welcoming the new year. It is remarkable that humans created calendars to mark seasons and years, while universal time itself simply flows moment by moment, without division. In truth, only the present moment exists—like the tick of a clock. Yet because we live by the concept of time, the year's end naturally brings both busyness and reflection.

This year has carried conflict, tension, politics, and suffering, but also joy, discovery, faith, and laughter. Human life has always been this way, from ancient times: emotions of like and dislike, reality as it is vs what we wish it to be, attachment and ignorance, creating struggles for ourselves and others. Each of us has faced ups and downs—sometimes silently, within family, work, or personal life. Yet life is balance: light and darkness, high and low, joy and pain. Pain is always met by compassion, which heals, or is eased in the embrace of caring, or learned to be lived with as part of life's journey. Universal kindness exists because human suffering exists. As we say, "No rain, no rainbow; no Dharma without human pain."

Shinran Shonin, founder of Jodo Shinshu, deeply lamented his limited human nature and inability to rid himself of desires. Yet in that lament he heard Amida's compassionate call: "Entrust yourself to me." In entrusting, he realized enlightenment is assured—not by his own effort, but by Amida's vow. His limitations were embraced, his desires understood, his struggles transformed. With Amida's boundless compassion and wisdom, no one is left behind. Shinran Shonin realized: without himself, there is no Amida; without Amida, there is no self. In hearing *Namo Amida Butsu*, he experienced the warmth that melts coldness, the embrace that never abandons. The sound of Nembutsu became proof of compassion and wisdom alive in his life. The life of gratefulness, humility, reflection, joy, and assurance was his life in the mirror of Amida Buddha.

As we reflect on this year, let us not measure it only by success or failure, happiness or sorrow, wealth or health. Rather, let us ask: how often did I recite *Namo Amida Butsu*? Actually, the number does not matter—for even when we do not realize it, we are embraced by Amida Buddha. Life is uncertain, and hardships come to anyone, anytime. Yet Amida, with infinite light and life, is always present, guiding and supporting us.

Indeed, life is hard. Yet life is beautiful when we hear *Namo Amida Butsu* flowing from our lips. Let us recite, and let us listen. That voice is the call of one who cares for you: "You are never alone. I am here with you. Let us walk together. Leave it to me—this Amida!"

一年が経つのは早いもので、もうすぐ終わりを迎え、新しい年が始まります。私たちは時間やカレンダーの概念によって時の移り変わりを感じ、年末には忙しさや一区切りを覚えます。しかし、時そのものは時計の針が刻むように、ただただ流れていくのです。一年の振り返り時、私たちは苦楽の量、健康か病気か、事故か安全か、笑いや涙などの出来事を基準に一年の良し悪しを考えるのではないのでしょうか。紛争や政治、事件や事故は今年も変わらずありました。むしろ人間の歴史はずっとそうでした。人がいるところには感情があり、都合によって行動が生じ、争いが起こるからです。しかし、人間の苦悩があるところにこそ癒しと救いがあります。

仏教の教えは人間の悲しみを抜きには存在しません。煙のないところに火は立たないように、コインの裏表のように、仏様の慈悲は人間の涙と共にあります。人間の苦悩なくして阿弥陀様は存在せず、阿弥陀様がいることは人間の悲しみが知られ、癒される教えがあることを意味します。生老病死、愛別離苦、怨憎会苦、求不得苦（求めるものが手に入らない苦）、そして体と心から生じる悩みは尽きません。その根本は、この世に生を受けたことにあり、命の始まりは苦悩の始まりでもあります。その原因は、自分の都合だけで命や人生を見てしまう煩悩にあります。煩悩とは、好きなものを求め、嫌いなものを遠ざける心です。しかし人生は好き嫌いの通りにはいかず、それでも好き嫌いのレンズで見てしまうのが私なのです。一言「うん、ごめんね」と妻の遥に言えば済むのに、素直になれず怒りが問題を複雑にします。この私の姿を悲しまれ、必ず穏やかな命へ導くと誓われた慈悲と智慧が、私に届くのが「南無阿弥陀仏」です。自分で自分を救えないこの私を必ず救うと誓われたのです。救いとは、どんなことがあっても、どんな私であってもそばにいてくださり、仏教の最高位である悟りをその願いによって果たしてくださることです。私の努力や信じる力で救われるものではありません。必ず愛し、大事にし、育み、見捨てない阿弥陀様の願いを聞き、共に生きる心が生まれることが救いです。ちょうど親の願いが子に届き、子がその願いと共に生きるように、阿弥陀様の願いが届いた人の心には、常に自分を振り返る鏡の智慧があります。そして「わかっちゃいるけどやめられない」苦悩の私のそばに、いつもいてくださる存在を感じながら、その喜び、内省、そして確かな寄りかかれる大きな存在から「南無阿弥陀仏」という声が口から出てくださいます。その声を自分の耳が聞きます。その声は「あなたは独りじゃない、ここにいるよ、ともに生きよう、任せよこの弥陀に」という阿弥陀様のお声の現れです。

人生は辛いです。人生は美しいです。阿弥陀様とご一緒の人生です。一年の振り返りは、「阿弥陀様と共に歩んだ一年だった。そして今も」とお念仏を申しませう。

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all temple members who have paid their membership dues. Your support of our temple is greatly appreciated and helps to run the day-to-day operations of the temple. A reminder to those who have not yet completed their current year dues payment, we would appreciate your payment as soon as possible.

PROJECT DANA



At Puna Hongwanji Mission, there are many members , who provide acts of kindness. Their unselfish deeds may go unnoticed by some but we should be grateful for their Dana. The following are three individuals, who showed Dana in action.

The first member takes pride in the appearance of the temple's ground. He keeps the front area free of leaves and litter whenever he comes to temple. It is not a toban chore but a personal undertaking for him. He feel that the temple should be presentable for visitors as well as its members.

The second member shares her special side dish when lunch is served after a major service. Even if it is not her toban's turn to prepare the food, she generously brings a dish. She will share the recipe of her side dish with anyone who ask for it. Sometimes, she will bring a popular dessert at temple gatherings. Her cooking skills are greatly appreciated by all.

The third member is responsible for keeping the altar adorned with beautiful flowers. Actually there are several members, who provide long stemmed flowers for the large altar vases. The flowers are washed well and brought insect free.

These members raise flowering plants with care so that the blooms will be available throughout the year. Thanks to them, our altar is bright with a variety of floral bouquets. The Sangha is blessed to have members, who naturally give of their time and skills. Can you guess who they are?

In gassho,
Stella Miyashiro,
Puna Project Dana Site-Coordinator



Happy Birthday Carol!

BWA

At our November meeting, we began making plans for next year. Speakers for special services on Dana Day and Lady Eshinni/Lady Kakushinni Day were suggested. Initial plans for a year end party were mentioned.

Rev. Tomioka announced Rimban Takahashi will present special chanting and videos for Ho-onko January 10 and 11, 2026.

We recognized new member Jeri Kunzer with a gift from HIUHBWA, which vice president Carol Tsunezumi brought back from the Fall Board Meeting. Immediate past president Stella Miyashiro brought back a plaque for our centenarian Fumie Yanaga which will be delivered to her.

Stella, Eileen, Ilene, Carol, Naomi, Marilyn, and K.T. will attend the BWA state convention next year in Honolulu in March.

Announcements

Dec. 14, 2025: Next meeting

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

In Gassho,
K.T. Cannon-Eger



New member Jeri Kunzer

Foodland's Give Aloha

Thank you to all who donated to Puna Hongwanji through the Foodland's Give Aloha Program during the month of September. The donations directly to Puna Hongwanji amounted to \$1969.00 and the matching gift from Foodland was \$749.97 for a total of \$2718.97. Although the amount of direct donations was down from previous years, our share of the matching gift was considerably higher. Again, Thank You all for your generous donations.

In Gassho,
Clifford Furukado

KEAAU CHRISTMAS PARADE

The 22nd Annual Keaau Lighted Christmas parade will be held on Saturday, Dec 13 at 6 pm starting from Keaau High School thru Keaau village and ending at Shipman Gym (but we'll continue to the church). This year's theme is "*Aloha Christmas*". The grand marshal will be Kahu Kimo Awai. Special guests include Mayor Kimo Alameda, other elected officials and HSTA Teacher of the Year Elise Hannigan from Keaau High School.

We will be following Puna Taiko, joined with the cub scouts and judo club. A shuttle will be available for drop off starting from 4 to 5 pm. If you'll be dropped off or walking, look for the Puna Taiko float. Thanks for participating.

Plan to park at the church by 5:30 pm after that the community will be allowed to park here too.

Lili'uokalani Gardens

Two events are coming up that may interest Puna Hongwanji members.

1) The 9th annual Garden Enchantment -- an illumination of the entire park -- will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday 12/23 and Wednesday 12/24. Community organizations light the park including Lions Clubs, astronomers, Volkswagen Club of Hilo along with Friends of Lili'uokalani Gardens. There will be a photo booth both nights along with carolers. Additional lights and exhibits will be held at Hilo Hawaiian Hotel and Grand Niloloa Resort.





2) The 6th Banyan Drive Art Stroll will be held Saturday, January 10, from noon until 6 p.m. Events, displays and demonstrations will take place at venues from Suisan Fish Market to Naniloa Resort including mokuhanga, gyotaku, craft booths, demonstrations of origami and futon making, plein air painting, art exhibits, and silent auction. Puna Taiko kicks off the afternoon event at Banyan Gallery at noon.

WINTER CRAFT FAIR

Thank you to everyone that helped prepare and those that came out to assist at the Winter Craft Fair. Also thank you to those that came out to support the different vendors. On the day of the set-up and prior to that we had non-stop rain. On the day of the Winter Craft Fair we were very fortunate to have beautiful weather and not a drop of rain. The parking lot and the yard next to the columbarium were lined with vendors tents. In the hall and in the breezeway we also had additional vendors.



Thank you to Ronnie Kitayama for organizing the event. This event takes a lot of coordination and organizing. Thank you to Ronnie's family and friends that also come out to help her make this event a success.