

Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

VOLUME 79 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2025

Nurturing Nembutsu: Cultivating Awareness

Contact Information:

- * Minister:
Rev. Shawn Yagi
- * 3-3556 Kuhio Hwy
Lihue, HI 96766
- * Office Phone:
808-245-6262
- * Minister's Residence:
808-245-4543
- * Minister's email
svyagi@honpahi.org
- * Emergency:
1-808-364-2825
- * Preschool:
808-245-7857

Office email:
lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com

Calendar	2
Rev. Yagi Dharma Message	4
Headquarters Update	5-6
Announcements & Information	7-13
Acknowledgments	14
Memorials	15

2025 LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAII

50th Annual Program, February 8, 2025



The Living Treasures of Hawaii is a program which was created by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii in 1976 by Bishop Yoshiaki Fujitani to recognize and honor individuals for their sustained contributions toward enriching our society. The Living Treasures program is designed to "Preserve and perpetuate the islands' cultural and artistic heritage." "Honorees represent Hawaii's rich cultural heritage and are devoted to preserving the spirit, traditions and values of our island home for now and for future generations." Since the program's inception, over 240 people have been bestowed with the honor of "Living Treasure of Hawaii, including educators, dancers, artists, clergy, business leaders, and community volunteers.

Recognition:

There are three necessary criteria for selection: "First, the designee must demonstrate continuous growth in his or her field; second, the potential Living Treasure must have made significant contributions toward a more humane and fraternal society (and this perhaps is the most important criteria); and finally, he or she must have shown an on-going striving for excellence and a high level of accomplishment."

Compassion:

There is no requirement that any honoree belong to the Buddhist faith. However, the fundamental principle of Buddhist ethics is simple and clear in the selections-that all people should develop an attitude of compassion. An extension of this attitude is the concept of service to others.

The following individuals have been chosen as the **2025 Living Treasurers of Hawaii:**

Dennis Sueo Agena has spent over five decades mentoring thousands of young athletes, teaching not only basketball fundamentals but also life lessons in respect, teamwork, and integrity as the

Continued on page 3

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 2024 **Food Drive Month**

Sun	2	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial Installation of LHWA Officers for 2025
		10:00 AM	LHWA Meeting following the service
Fri & Sat	7-8		HMH Legislative Assembly In person on Oahu and via Zoom
Sun	9	9:30 AM	Family Dharma Service Dana Day
Thur	12	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	16	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	23	9:30 AM	Family Dharma Service

MARCH 2025

Sun	2	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Sun	9	9:00 AM	Spring Ohigan Service
Thur	13	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	16	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	23	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	30	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service



REQUESTS FOR HOME OR HOSPITAL VISITATION

If you would like Rev. Yagi to visit a family member or friend who is homebound or hospitalized for any length of time, please call him at 808-245-6262. He is always willing to help in any way that he can.

Office Hours

Office hours for Rev. Yagi are as follows:

Monday: Day off

Tuesday - Sunday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Closed for lunch: 12 noon - 1:00 pm

If you wish to speak with Rev. Yagi, it is suggested that you call ahead for an appointment, as he may be away from the office on temple business.

The temple must be locked when Rev. Yagi is not available. Thank you for your understanding.

Columbarium Hours



Due to recent thefts in the area, we are forced to lock our precious Columbarium 24/7.

If you wish to visit the Columbarium, please call the temple, (808) 245-6262, to make arrangements with Rev. Yagi during office hours. Thank you for your understanding.

Continued from Front Page

founder of the Kalakaua Basketball Clinic in Kalihi. Revered for his humility and dedication, Coach Agena's influence extends far beyond the court, inspiring countless youth to pursue higher education and become impactful members of the community.

William Wallace Char, Jr. (Bill Char) is a master lei-maker and cultural steward who, over the past 50 years, has been revitalizing and innovating the traditional Hawaiian art of lei-making, blending ancestral wisdom with modern artistry. Renowned for his humility and dedication, Bill has mentored countless students, enriched iconic community events, and elevated the cultural significance of lei-making in Hawai'i and beyond.

Neil Jacob Kaho'okele Hannahs is a visionary leader in cultural and natural resource stewardship, renowned for his transformative approach to 'āina-based education and sustainable land management across Hawai'i. As founder of Ho'okele Strategies and the First Nations Futures Program, his work empowers communities, fosters indigenous leadership, and ensures the preservation of Hawaiian culture and environmental sustainability for generations to come.

Victoria Holt Takamine is a celebrated kumu hula, cultural advocate, teacher and mentor who is propelled by a deep love of the Hawaiian people and culture and by her desire to foster an inclusive, culturally grounded society. A tireless leader, she champions cultural preservation, environmental stewardship, and social justice, with initiatives like the PA'I Foundation and groundbreaking projects such as Ola Ka 'Ilima, an affordable housing and workspace for artists in Kaka'ako.

Dr. George Joji Tanabe, Jr. is a distinguished scholar and leader whose lifelong work in Buddhist studies and interfaith understanding has profoundly enriched Hawai'i and the global community. As a former Chair of the University of Hawai'i's Department of Religion and President of BDK Hawai'i, he champions the preservation and promotion of Buddhist teachings and cultural heritage, fostering harmony and mutual respect worldwide.

For more information, including photos, please check out <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/living-treasures/>



There is no Headquarters Update in this month's newsletter. To read the complete newsletter when it is published online, please check on the Honpa Hongwanji website.

<https://hawaiibetsuin.org/>



Lessons from the Chinese Zodiac: A Personal Buddhist Interpretation

As we welcome the Chinese New Year, I would like to share a Dharma message inspired by the story behind the naming of the Chinese zodiac years. This tale, which I recently shared through Kamishibai storytelling with our preschool children, highlights the qualities of the zodiac animals and offers meaningful lessons when viewed through the lens of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

The story begins with a hermit who, at the request of a king, gathers 12 animals to name each year after them. A race is held to determine the order. Each animal participates with its own unique traits—some bold, some clever, some persistent. Ultimately, the smallest of them, the rat, wins by riding on the cow’s tail and leaping ahead at the last moment.

While the story may seem simple, it contains profound lessons for our spiritual journey. Allow me to share three key insights inspired by this tale.

The Spirit of Interdependence

The rat’s victory came not from its own strength but from relying on the cow. This illustrates interdependence, a fundamental teaching in Buddhism. None of us can navigate life alone; we rely on countless beings and conditions to support us. In Hawaii, we often use the term ‘ohana’ to describe the interconnectedness of our community. From laulima (working together) to potlucks at the temple, we embody interdependence in our daily lives.

As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, we express this reliance through the Nembutsu. When we say “Namo Amida Butsu,” we acknowledge our dependence on Amida Buddha’s boundless wisdom and compassion, knowing we cannot reach the Pure Land on our own.

Embracing Our Unique Nature

Each animal in the zodiac story had its own nature—the tiger was bold, the ox steady, the rabbit swift, and the sheep gentle. Rather than trying to change themselves, they used their natural strengths to complete the race.

This reflects the Buddhist teaching of dharma nature. Just as no two animals are the same, no two people are the same. In Jodo Shinshu, we are encouraged to embrace ourselves as we are, with all our imperfections. We are reminded that we are bonbu—ordinary, foolish beings with blind passions. Rather than striving for perfection, we entrust ourselves to Amida’s compassion, which accepts us just as we are.

Everyone Has a Place in the Light of Amida Buddha

Although the rat finished first, all 12 animals were honored and given a place in the zodiac. This reminds us that life is not a competition but a shared journey where everyone has value and purpose.

Jodo Shinshu teaches us that Amida Buddha’s compassion is universal and unconditional. Whether we feel like we are “first” or “last” in life, we are all equally embraced by the Buddha’s light. This message of inclusivity aligns with the spirit of aloha in our communities, reminding us of the inherent worth of every individual.

May we live with gratitude for the interdependence that connects us, acceptance of our true selves, and joy in knowing we are all embraced by Amida Buddha’s light.

Namo Amida Butsu.

Lihue Hongwanji Mission

125th anniversary celebration

November 2, 2025



Do You Remember?

As a lead-up to our 125h Anniversary Celebration in November, we will be featuring an article every month regarding little-known facts, memories and thoughts about LHM through the years. Come back every month for more information! If you have anything you would like to share, whether information or photos, please contact LHM through our official church account: lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com

New Year's Parties have changed over the years. Do you remember when

- ⇒ the New Year's Parties were always on Saturday night and the Social Hall was packed with people, with everyone dressed in their "party clothes", ready to party? We still come ready to party but getting "dressed up" is not a part of the plan and we have the party during the day so people can drive home safely in the daylight.
- ⇒ only members and their guests were at the parties? Inviting "friends of the church" to celebrate with us came later.
- ⇒ individuals who knew how to cook were in the kitchen all day to prepare the food? The kitchen was busy and filled with people chopping, prepping, baking and cooking. Even turkeys were roasted in the kitchen. Now we cater the food so people can relax and enjoy themselves.
- ⇒ there was an entertainment program after the dinner service, with Dharma School and even Preschool singing, dancing and doing skits? Entertainment was also provided by organizations such as Sr. YBA, Jr. YBA, Fujinkai and Asoka clubs (now LHWA). When Rev. and Mrs. Muneto were at LHM, there was a dance group of 8 or 9 women dancers who also performed at the party. The parties lasted into the night.
- ⇒ we had lucky numbers with enough prizes for everyone? Everyone was happy to take home something--even a box of Kleenex.
- ⇒ members who were 70 and above were free? Then it was raised to 80 and above. Now, because we are all aging, the age has been raised to 90 and above.

125TH Anniversary Projects



To celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Lihue Hongwanji, the following projects are being completed:

- ◇ Audio/Visual upgrade in the temple & social hall (already fully funded)
- ◇ Replacement of altar Tocho and scrolls of Shinran Shonin and Renyo Shonin
- ◇ Celebration on November 2 – service and luncheon
- ◇ Kitchen Renovation – replacement of cabinets and flooring

If you would like to make a special donation of any amount, contributions to these anniversary projects are appreciated.

Refreshments After Sunday Service



Refreshments and talk story in the Social Hall will be cancelled for several weeks while the Kitchen Renovation is on-going. We will resume refreshments and talk-story as soon as possible once the renovations are completed and the kitchen is in working shape again. We will make an announcement when refreshments will resume. Be sure to keep reading the newsletter for more information.

Bon Dance 2025, Save the Date



The Kauai Buddhist Council has finalized their Bon Dance plans for 2025 and LHM will be holding our Bon Dance Festival on **June 20-21, 2025**. Save the date! We can always use volunteers to help make it successful.

The complete schedule will be:

June 13-14: Waimea Shingon Mission

June 20-21: Lihue Hongwanji Mission

June 27-28: Kauai Soto Zenshuji

July 4-5: No Bon Dance

July 11-12: West Kauai Hongwanji Mission, Hanapepe Temple

July 18-19: Kapa'a Hongwanji Mission

July 25-26: Waimea Higashi Hongwanji Mission

LHM Bon Dance practice will run from March through May on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the social hall beginning on March 6. Everyone is invited.



Food Drive



In honor of love and gratitude in the month of February, we are, again, sponsoring a food drive at Lihue Hongwanji. Bring your non-perishables or a monetary donation to Sunday Services in February or leave your donations in the Food Drive box that will be located in the Minister's office. We continue to have keiki, kupuna and families across our island experience food insecurity. With your gift of dana (selfless giving), you will be sharing kindness and compassion with others.

Dana Day will be celebrated on February 9

Dana Day is celebrated in February throughout the Hongwanji world. Dana, one of the Six Paramitas, is one of the most important practices in Mahayana Buddhism. It is selfless giving, with no thought of reciprocity.

With Gratitude

Hawaii Food Bank, Kauai

All non-perishable and cash donations will go to the Hawaii Food Bank, Kauai. All goods and monies received stay on Kauai to help our neighbors. If you are unable to bring non-perishables to our temple, monetary donations will be accepted. Please make any check out to **Hawaii Foodbank, Kauai**. Just a \$10 donation can provide someone with meals for an entire week.

Hawaii Foodbank, Kauai Branch

(808) 482-2224

4241 Hanahao Pl, Suite 101, Lihue, HI 96766

<https://hawaiifoodbank.org/kauai/>



Hawaii Foodbank, Kauai most needed foods (unopened and undamaged packaging)

- ◇ Rice (in 2-5 lb. bags)
- ◇ Canned Meals (soup, stew, chili and pasta)
- ◇ Canned Meats (tuna, chicken, and other lean meats)
- ◇ Canned Fruits, including fruits in a jar or cup
- ◇ Canned Vegetables
- ◇ Canned Beans
- ◇ Crackers
- ◇ Pasta
- ◇ Cereal
- ◇ Shelf stable milk



Happy New Year to everyone.

The children came back to school with renewed energy. They missed their friends and all of our activities.

They missed their

Reverend Yagi invited us to the temple for a visit. It was so nice to sit in that peaceful space. Rev. Yagi read us a story about the animals of the Chinese Zodiac. We found out why the rat is first in the order and why the pig is the last. We enjoyed our visit .

We also had a three day "My Body is Special" workshop presented by the YWCA of Kauai

The Bear class also celebrated being in school for 100 days.

We would like to thank the following people for helping us with our school projects and donations:

Carol Ozaki, Carol Valentine, Lynne Matsumura, Rev. Yagi, Morton Yamasaki, and Eric Kato. We appreciate your help

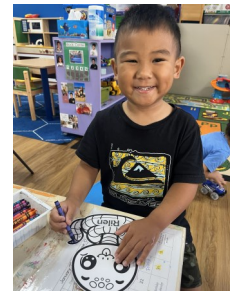
Happy Chinese New Year!



Oshoko in the temple With Rev. Yagi



100 Days of School

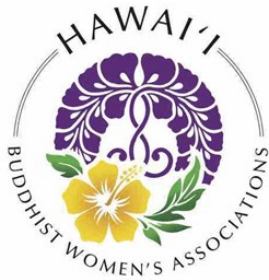


Having fun in preschool



YWCA came to talk with us





LHWA NEWS

New Members Welcome

2025

LHWA Meetings for 2025

Note that all meetings will begin at 10:00 am following Sunday service.

February 2

April 27

September 28

November 16

Save the Date

18th World Buddhist Women's Convention

In Honolulu

September 11 & 12, 2027



For members

Tour of Kauai Museum
 (LHWA to cover the cost of admission)
 Luncheon to follow at Kiibo's
 (Luncheon cost on your own)
 Thursday February 13, 2025

On Monday December 23, members and spouses of LHWA were treated to a personal tour of the new Kauai High School Gymnasium complex. Not only were we able to see the gymnasium, we were able to see the behind-the-scenes facilities, such as the locker rooms and training rooms.

A delicious lunch at Gaylords followed our tour. Thank you to Lynette Mizuo for coordinating the tour and luncheon.



Ronald K. Hanaoka Memorial Scholarship

LHM member Ronald Hanaoka, deceased, left \$50,000 to LHM to be used for scholarships of \$1000 per year for LHM members pursuing a post-secondary education. The general criteria for awarding the scholarship are:



- ⇒ The applicant must be a member of Lihue Hongwanji Mission for at least 2 years.
- ⇒ The applicant must be or plan to be enrolled in any accredited college, university, community college or vocational school in the United States.
- ⇒ The applicant must be a senior in high school, or already enrolled in a qualified school.
- ⇒ One scholarship will be awarded each year. If there is no qualified applicant in a year, an additional scholarship may be awarded in succeeding years.
- ⇒ A student may be awarded the scholarship multiple times if there is no other qualified applicant.
- ⇒ Application forms and complete requirements will be available from the resident minister or temple president beginning on February 1, and will be due by April 15 each year.
- ⇒ A committee of three LHM members and the resident minister will serve as the judging committee.
- ⇒
- ⇒ The first scholarship was awarded in 2024.

Choralfest is Back!

The Honpa Hongwanji Choralfest is back after a multi-year hiatus. Mark your calendars and make arrangements!

What: Choral Fest 2025

When: September 20-21, 2025

Where: Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin

Cost: Registration fee is \$35 per person with registration due by April 30, 2025

Honpa Hongwanji has made arrangements with the Pagoda Hotel for a block of rooms with special rates under the group name "HHMH-Choralfest".

Singers will receive music booklets and access to practice MP3 (or CD) recordings for required learning.

More information? Email LHM at lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com for additional information and a flyer.



Looking for a few energetic people

We are looking for people to assist in the upkeep of the Church grounds. Some of the men doing this work are in their 80's. Can you help by taking care of one of the areas? It would really help keep the church looking neat and trim.

The other areas you see that are trimmed are being cared for already.

Please call the office at (808)245-6262 or email lihuehongwanjmission@gmail.com to volunteer or for more information.



The areas where we still need help are:

- Weed whacking and weed management around the stone monument at the entrance to the church parking lot
- Weed whacking in the front of the church and trimming shrubbery
- Weed whacking along the sides of the church
- Weed whacking around the rubbish bin
- Weed whacking the small grassy area outside the kitchen
- Take care of the backyard of the parsonage
- Take care of the area in back of the church below the Aikido Hall (two areas)
- Take care of the area in back of the church below the outside kitchen and the parsonage



Two people needed

to help with light cleaning of the temple.

The "Hoshakai" group meets on Friday mornings at 7:00 AM. Most of these hard-working people are in their 80's. Mahalo for their dedication!

If you can join the group or help out on your own schedule, please call the temple at (808) 245-6262 or email lihuehongwanjmission@gmail.com.

YESS Camp 41 will be held on April 18-20, 2025 at the YMCA Camp Erdman, situated on the North Shore of Oahu! YESS Camp, otherwise known as "Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers" is open to campers ages 13-23. Registration is open online at yesscamp.com and is priced and scheduled as follows:

\$50 early bird registration by February 1, 2025

\$75 regular registration by March 15, 2025

\$90 last call registration by April 8, 2025

Neighbor island flight subsidies are available.

For questions/more information, please contact yesscamp@honpahi.org.

If you are on Instagram, please check out the YESS Camp Instagram account (@yess_camp)

If there are errors please email us at: lihuehongwanjmission@gmail.com or call the office at 808-245-6262.

FUNERAL DONATION:

In memory of Gene Oshiro
Susan Y. Oshiro-Taogoshi

7 DAY & 49 DAY SERVICE DONATION:

In memory of Gene Oshiro
Susan Y. Oshiro-Taogoshi

INURNMENT SERVICE DONATION:

In memory of Gene Oshiro
Susan Y Oshiro-Taogoshi

MEMORIAL SERVICE DONATION:

In memory of Frances Fujioka (1 Yr.)
Roy & Carol Fujioka
Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine
In memory of Yoshio Fujioka (33 Yrs.)
Roy & Carol Fujioka
Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine

In memory of Hazel Kashima Kurasaki
Paul & Alice Kudo

In memory of Gordon Kashima
Paul & Alice Kudo

In memory of Kyoshi & Chiyo Kato
Norman Kato

In memory of Seichi Higuchi
Warren & Colleen Nonaka
Blaine Sasaki

In memory of Tetsu Sasaki
Blaine Sasaki

In memory of Sally Higuchi
Blaine Sasaki

In memory of Tatsuko Yamasaki
Morton & Carolyn Yamasaki

In memory of Sueko Yamasaki
Morton & Carolyn Yamasaki

In memory of Gene Oshiro
Natsuko Daida

COLUMBARIUM DONATION:

In memory of Sunao & Chisuka Iwamoto
Irene Iwamoto Kawabata

In memory of Tokutaro & Owari Mamura
Gail Mamura Rombaoa

In memory of Misuku & Fujiko Mamura
Gail Mamura Rombaoa

In memory of George & Elsie Toyofuku
Guy & Lori Toyofuku

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE DONATION:

Diane Fukuyama
Winston & Marian Ogata
Betsy Sakoda
Glenn & Gail Shibuya

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE DONATION:

Gladys Fujiuchi
Winston & Marian Ogata
Grace Ishida
Arlene Fujikawa
Morton & Carolyn Yamasaki
Shirley Hashimoto
Diane Fukuyama
Karen Nishimoto
Lynne Matsumura
Glenn & Gail Shibuya
Daniel Yotsuda

*Thank
You*

**HOONKO SERVICE
DONATION:**

Michiko Yamamoto
Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine
Glenn & Gail Shibuya
Setsuo & Edith Ushio
Natsuko Daida
Hiroko Kurashige
Diane Fukuyama
Karen Nishimoto
Arlene Fujikawa
Robert & Alma Yotsuda
Roy & Arleen Tanaka

SPRING HIGAN SERVICE DONATION:

Roy & Arleen Tanaka

HAPPINESS DONATION:

Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine (Birthday)

SPECIAL DONATION:

Hideko Uemura
Gilbert & Helen Fujimoto
Roy & Arleen Tanaka
Setsuo & Edith Ushio (Happy New Year)
Hanalei Nihonjin Kai



Say Namō Amida Butsu
as if you were saying “Hello” to the Buddha.

Monshu Koshin Ohtani
“The Buddha’s Wish for the World” (pg. 117)

MEMORIAL SERVICE (HOYO)

FEBRUARY–MARCH

The following is a list of members who passed away during the months of February and March. In Jodo Shin Buddhism, memorial services are observed to remind the family members of the compassion of Amida Buddha in memory of the deceased. Lihue Hongwanji Mission recommends that the families and relatives of the deceased members listed below contact the temple office at (808) 245-6262 for an appointment.

1st YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2024

2024 NONE

3rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2023

2023 NONE

7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2019

2019 March 13 Mildred Yamauchi

13th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2013

2013 March 16 Satoyo “Betty” Kurihara

17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2009

2009 March 3 Noboru “Wilber” Shimizu

25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2001

2001 March 19 Shiro Nakamura
2001 March 27 Ruth Lauterwald
2001 March 30 Walter Ishii

33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1993

1993 February 4 Takeo Yoshinaka
1993 February 12 Kiyoshi Kato
1993 February 17 Yoshio Fujioka
1993 February 23 Shoji Tomita
1993 March 2 Teruto Fujikawa
1993 March 31 Sonoye Miyake

50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1976

1976 February 10 Terry Morishige



Spring Ohigan Service
Sunday March 9, 2025, 9:00 am
Lihue Hongwanji

Buddha Day (Hanamatsuri)

Sunday April 6, 2025 at 9:30 am

Island wide service to be held at the Kauai War
Memorial Convention Hall in Lihue

Speaker: Rev. Blayne Higa, Kona Hongwanji



Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

Lihue Hongwanji Mission
3-3556 Kuhio Highway
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

Return Service Requested

Nurturing Nembutsu
(Cultivating Awareness)



Email: lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

lihuehongwanji.org
