

Dharma Wheel

4/2025

Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

VOLUME 79 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2025

Nurturing Nembutsu: Cultivating Awareness

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HANAMATSURI (BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY)

The text on this page comes from a pamphlet published by the Northwest Ministerial Association, Buddhist Churches of America.

[https://seattlebetsuin.org/special-services/](https://seattlebetsuin.org/special-services/hanamatsuri/)

hanamatsuri/

Hanamatsuri, literally flower festival, is celebrated on April 8, commemorating the birth of Siddhartha Gautama. Siddhartha became enlightened as Sakyamuni Buddha and this marks the release of sentient beings from suffering and sorrow.

According to our tradition, the historical Buddha, Sakyamuni, was born in Nepal on April 8, 566 B.C. He was born the son of King Suddodana and Queen Maya. There are many flowery descriptions of the scene at his birth, including celestial birds singing beautiful songs, beautiful flowers, and a sweet gentle rain bathing the baby Buddha. It is not necessarily the beauty of the flowers, the sounds of the celestial birds, nor the sweet gentle rain that fell, but the vibrant fact that on this day was born the greatest of sentient beings who became the Enlightened One, the Buddha.

Every year we celebrate our own birthday. In our youth we are anxious to reach "adulthood," and in our old age we attempt to cling to our "youth." What is the meaning and reason for celebrating our birth? Much of the meaning of our own birth is often lost in the gifts and the merriment. The celebration of our birth is an expression of gratitude. This gratitude is extended towards our friends, parents and to life itself. This gratitude grows from an understanding that our birth is the result of many people and that our lives are intertwined with all others.

Understanding the Buddha's teaching of interdependency of all things will make it clear that our birth is the result of many causes and conditions. Realizing this we can see that our

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Calendar of Events

APRIL 2024

Thur	3	7:00 PM	Bon Dance Practice
Sun	6	9:30 AM	Buddha Day Service (Hanamatsuri) Kauai Buddhist Council island wide service to be held at Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall Speaker: Rev. Blayne Higa, Kona Hongwanji
Thur	10	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	13	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
		10:00 AM	LHWA Meeting, after service
Thur	17	7:00 PM	Bon Dance Practice
Sun	20	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	27	9:30 AM	Eshinni-Kakushinni Service Service to be held at West Kauai Hongwanji, Hanapepe temple Speaker: Ms. Linda Nagai, Kona Hongwanji

MAY 2025

Thur	1	7:00 PM	Bon Dance Practice
Sun	4	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Thur	8	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	11	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Thur	15	7:00 PM	Bon Dance Practice
Sun	18	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	25	9:00 AM	Gotan-e Service Celebrating the birth of Shinran Shonin



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 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.

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birth is truly a rare and wonderful gift, and we have an obligation to live out this life in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha.

This obligation to live our lives out to the fullest becomes even more striking when we look at the symbolism and the significance of the flower. The flower, as with all human beings, has its moment of youth and beauty, but its beauty soon begins to fade and eventually it dies. Our birth is like the blossoming of a beautiful flower, but it is the seed of our own demise. When we can understand our own impermanent nature, then it becomes very clear how we should live our lives.

From the murky depths of this quagmire of life, there still are occasions when sentient beings may, out of sincerity of mind, effort and intelligence, produce pure thoughts which may bloom into the ultimate purity of the white lotus, enlightenment. Hanamatsuri represents one of these occasions. It is a time for us to show our gratitude and rededicate ourselves as we contemplate the importance the birth of our teacher, master, spiritual guide and friend, Sakyamuni Buddha.

Namo Amidabutsu

Ask A Question

“Everything You Ever Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask”

Email your questions to lihuehongwanjmission@gmail.com.

Q. What kind of sweet tea do we pour to Baby Buddha?

A. We pour sweet tea called ama-cha to Baby Buddha. Ama-cha means "sweet tea" in Japanese. It is made from hydrangea leaves, which become sweet when boiled.

We use ama-cha because it reminds us of the story that sweet rain fell from the sky when Baby Buddha was born. Pouring sweet tea over the Baby Buddha statue is a way to remember his birth and express our gratitude.

But you don't use hydrangea leaves tea in Hawaii, how come?

You're right! In Hawaii, we usually don't use hydrangea leaf tea (ama-cha) because it's not easy to find here. Instead, we often use a different kind of sweet tea, like mugicha (barley tea) with sugar or other sweetened tea.

The important thing is not the exact type of tea, but the meaning behind it. We pour sweet tea over Baby Buddha to remember the sweet rain that fell when he was born. No matter what kind of tea we use, the heart of the ceremony stays the same—celebrating Buddha's birth with gratitude and joy!



Celebrating the Birth of the Buddha

April is a time of renewal and reflection, a season when we celebrate the birth of Prince Siddhartha, who would later become Shakyamuni Buddha, the historical Buddha. His birth is surrounded by rich legends, including the story of Queen Maya giving birth in the beautiful Lumbini Garden. It is said that the newborn Prince took seven steps and declared, "I alone am the exalted one." While such stories captivate the imagination, as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, we look beyond the literal aspects of these accounts to appreciate the deeper message they convey.

As I write this article from Japan, I notice that the cherry blossoms are almost starting to bloom. It's a beautiful reminder of the impermanence of life—one of the key teachings of the Buddha. Just as these blossoms appear in their full splendor for only a brief time before falling, so too do all things in life arise and pass away. This fleeting beauty encourages us to cherish the present moment and reflect on the wisdom the Buddha shared with us.

In today's world, where science and reason shape much of our thinking, it is natural to question historical accuracy. Did these miraculous events truly happen? Did the Buddha even exist? Scholars and documentaries continue to explore these questions, searching for tangible evidence of the Buddha's life and teachings. While such inquiries can be fascinating, they may also lead us away from the heart of the matter—the wisdom that the Buddha shared with us.

Rather than focusing on whether every detail of these stories is factual, we should ask ourselves: What is the purpose of these teachings? Stories like the Buddha's birth are not merely about historical record-keeping; they are meant to inspire us, to guide us toward self-reflection, and to help us understand the nature of existence. Too often, we dismiss narratives that seem beyond our comprehension, believing ourselves to be more enlightened than those who came before us. Yet, despite the advances of the modern world, suffering persists. Wars rage on, sickness continues, and our societies remain deeply divided. The ego, the sense of self-importance and superiority, remains as strong today as it was in ancient times. Maybe the biggest miracle is not that the Buddha took seven steps at birth, but that he took a single step toward awakening—and then dedicated his life to teaching the rest of us how to follow.

Shakyamuni Buddha's teachings remain as relevant as ever. His profound insights into the nature of suffering and the path to liberation continue to offer us guidance and hope. The Buddha did not come to this world to impress us with miracles but to reveal the truth of existence and show us the way toward enlightenment. For this, we can feel deep gratitude that Prince Siddhartha was born into this world and embarked on his spiritual journey—not for his sake alone, but for all of us.

So, this April, as we pour sweet tea over the statue of baby Buddha, let's take a moment to reflect on our own journey. Sure, most of us didn't declare our own enlightenment at birth—some of us didn't even master walking until well into toddlerhood! But we all have the capacity to learn, to grow, and to awaken in our own way. Let's celebrate the Buddha's birth not just with ritual, but by taking a step—maybe even seven—toward kindness, mindfulness, and gratitude. After all, if the Buddha's journey teaches us anything, it's that the most profound steps we take are the ones that lead us toward wisdom and compassion.

Namo Amida Butsu.

Let Us Be Brave Together

This dharma message, from Rev. Blayne Higa, reflects on the power of imagination, bravery, and standing in solidarity with Episcopal Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde in speaking truth to power guided by our faith at the 39th Annual Ellison Onizuka and Space Shuttle Challenger Memorial Service held at Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on January 26, 2025.

Good morning! Mahalo to Colonel Fincke for joining us again this year. It's always good to see you. We are truly grateful to you for being so willing to share your experiences and insights into space exploration and the hope it offers our troubled world.

In our tradition, light is a symbol of wisdom which dispels the darkness of ignorance. In our sacred scriptures, the Pure Land of Enlightenment is described as the "Land of Immeasurable Light" and the "Land of all-knowing wisdom." Light and wisdom go hand-in-hand, and we need even more light and more wisdom in our world today as we face the creeping darkness of greed, anger, and ignorance which threatens to consume us all.

Shinran Shonin writes in the *Hymns of the Pure Land*,

*The light of wisdom exceeds all measure,
And every finite living being
Receives this illumination that is like the dawn,
So take refuge in Amida, the true and real light.*

Many spiritual traditions view light as a powerful symbol of hope and renewal. This is why in Winter, during the darkest season of the year, there are so many holidays celebrating light and the promise of new beginnings. We need this hope even more today.

When we look at the night sky, we see lights in the vast darkness of space. Through our imagination we have drawn connections between these stars to create constellations which resemble an object, animal, or person.

Cultures around the world have had different names and numbers of constellations depending on what people thought they saw. It is said that today, there are 88 officially recognized constellations.

There is great power and potential in the realm of the imagination. Every achievement or advancement begins with a simple idea which is inspired by a sense of wonder, curiosity, or a sense of responsibility for solving a problem. It takes imagination and bravery to see how profoundly connected we truly are.

In our world today, it has become difficult to see our connections to each other. The numerous wars and conflicts around the world and the deep political divides which have led to hatred, violence, and unjust policies here in our country are the result of this loss of imagination to see how we are connected in the vast constellation of life.

In the Buddhist tradition there is the spiritual concept of Indra's Net which describes our universe as a vast cosmic net, and at each knot of the net is a jewel which emits light and reflects light from all other jewels around it. This beautiful image is said to represent our interconnected lives where each of us is a jewel and what we do matters and affects the lives of those around us. I am a link in Amida's Golden Chain of Love. This also teaches us how we are responsible for cleaning and polishing our jewel so we can share light with others.

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I can't help but think about Ellison's words to future generations:

They are the adventurers, the explorers, the doers of this world.

When they see a wrong or problem, they do something about it.

When they see a vacant place in our knowledge, they work to fill that void.

Rather than leaning back and criticizing how things are,

They work to make things the way they should be.

They are the aggressive, the self-starter, the innovative,

And the imaginative of this world.

I also reflect on Lorna's commitment to promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education, and her dedication to advancing space exploration for the benefit of future generations.

Whether we journey to the stars, or into our own heart and mind, we should always strive to live with this sense of curiosity, awe, and responsibility. This is what Ellison Onizuka continues to teach us all these many years since his birth in the Pure Land. He is asking us to be brave, to speak our truths, and to imagine a world that should be.

Earlier this week, we witnessed an example of this kind of courage so needed in our world today. At the National Prayer Service at Washington National Cathedral, Episcopal Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde shared a message of mercy and love with our nation's leaders and the world. Guided by her faith, she spoke truth to power embodying her Christian values.

I am grateful for Bishop Budde's bravery and stand with her as a Buddhist priest, as an American, and as a person of faith. Her courageous and gentle words resonated with so many in our country and has inspired hope reminding us of our own agency to speak truth to unjust power guided by our own faith.

In her book, *How We Learn To Be Brave*, she writes,

The courage to be brave when it matters most requires a lifetime of small decisions that set us on a path of self-awareness, attentiveness, and willingness to risk failure for what we believe is right. It is also a profoundly spiritual experience, one in which we feel part of something larger than ourselves and guided, somehow, by a larger Spirit at work in the world and in us.

Like Bishop Budde, Ellison and Lorna Onizuka, can we be brave to see the connections between us like we do with the stars?

Brave to see the humanity in all people— regardless of national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic class, religious belief, political affiliation, each of us is worthy of dignity, compassion, and respect.

Brave to stand up for those who are being marginalized and hurt by unjust policies.

Brave to give voice to our values in the face of criticism and threats of violence.

Brave to live our innermost truths that no one can demean, diminish, or destroy for we are always embraced by Amida's light of all-inclusive wisdom and all-embracing compassion.

Brave to embody the vows of a bodhisattva saving all from suffering.

Guided by the Buddha's Teachings, let us be brave together, imagining and building a world that should be.

Please join me in Gassho to recite Amida's Name in gratitude, joy, and awareness.

Namo Amida Butsu.

Mahalo!



BISHOP'S MESSAGE

Spring is a season of transition, a time when nature reminds us of life's ever-changing flow. The blooming of the sakura trees signals the arrival of spring, offering beauty and renewal after the long winter. As the seasons shift, we are given the opportunity to reflect on where we have been, where we are now, and the path that lies ahead.

In my own family, this season of change feels especially close. As my second daughter prepares to graduate from Pacific Buddhist Academy in May, she continues to contemplate her path forward, considering which college she will attend this summer. This time of transition is filled with reflection—on past efforts, present opportunities, and future possibilities.

Similarly, many temples observe the Spring Higan Service, a moment to pause and reflect on our lives. Higan, meaning “the Other Shore,” reminds us to walk the path of the Nembutsu, illuminated by the Buddha's Vow. In the midst of impermanence and uncertainty, we find joy and assurance within the boundless compassion of Amida Buddha, who embraces us just as we are. - Namo Amida Butsu.

MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Rev. Blayne Higa, currently serving at Kona Hongwanji Mission as its Resident Minister, will be assigned to the Headquarters as the Part-Time Director of the Buddhist Study Center and the Office of Buddhist Education as of July 1, 2025. Rev. Higa will retain his role as the Resident Minister of the Kona Hongwanji Mission while taking on the new responsibilities as the Part-Time BSC/OBE Director.

Rev. Daido Baba, currently serving as the Executive Assistant to the Bishop at the Headquarters, will be assigned to Kamuela Hongwanji Mission as its Resident Minister as well as to Honokaa Hongwanji Mission, Kohala Hongwanji Mission, and Paauilo Hongwanji Mission as their Oversee Minister as of July 1, 2025. Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani will cover the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Assistant to the Bishop until the new minister is assigned to this position.

Rev. Sol Kalu, the Resident Minister of Windward Buddhist Temple, will be retiring from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of July 31, 2025. Rev. Kalu served Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for 12 years. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii expresses our deepest appreciation and gratitude to Rev. Sol Kalu for his dedication and effort of spreading the Nembutsu Dharma to our members and community.

YBICSE – YOUNG BUDDHIST INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL STUDY EXCHANGE

HQ distributed YBICSE applications to ministers, presidents and youth leaders on March 13, 2025. YBICSE is an educational trip to Japan, sponsored by the Jodo Shinshu International Office, Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, and Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Participants will join other young Buddhists from the continental U.S., Canada, and South America to learn and experience Japanese culture. The program will be held on July 1-9, 2025. During the program,

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participants visit Kyoto, Hiroshima, Nara and Tokyo. This time, high school students are eligible to participate, and five delegates will be selected. The chaperone is Rev. Tomioka of Puna, Pahala and Naalehu Hongwanji. The registration fee for the 2025 YBICSE is \$1,200. This includes lodging, meals, and travel from Honolulu International Airport to Japan but does not include inter-island travel to HNL. In addition to the online application form (<https://forms.gle/1D2vqMrSMjRHqbES8>), each applicant needs to submit a profile and reference letters from their resident minister and a fellow temple member to HHMH Headquarters, hqs@honpahi.org. All application materials must be received by April 25, 2025.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rev. Baba, hqs@honpahi.org.

OFFICERS, ADVISORS, AND DIRECTORS OF HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII FOR YEAR 2025

President:	Warren Tamamoto (O)		
Imm. Past President:	Pieper Toyama (H)		
Vice Presidents:	Alan Goto (H)	Rene Mansho (O)	Carol Valentine (K)
	Gary Murai (M)	Jason Hashimoto (HI)	
Secretary:	Boyd Marumoto (O)		
Assistant Secretary:	Myra Nohara (O)		
Treasurer:	John Toguchi (H)		
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Advisors:	Joel Determan (H)	Dexter Mar (H)	Russell Nonaka (O)
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	Ivan Nakano (HI)	Frederick S. Nonaka (HI)	
Honorary Advisors:	Roy Miyamoto (H)	Keiji Kukino (H)	
Directors:			
Honolulu (6)	Cynthia Alm	Alan Goto	John Toguchi
	Wayne Y. Yoshioka	Joanne Kealoha	Prudence Kusano
Oahu (6)	Boyd Marumoto	Rene Mansho	Clifford Togo
	Carolyn Uchiyama	Evan Watarida	Myra Nohara
Kauai (2)	Lynne Matsumura	Carol Valentine	
Maui (4)	Wayde Toyama	Aileen Cockett	Carol Yamamura Gary Murai
Hawaii (6)	Jill Atwal	Edwin Hara	Delbert Nishimoto
	Margie Kaiser	Joseph Gusman	Jason Hashimoto

To read the complete newsletter, learn about workshops, seminars, and opportunities and to see photos, please check on the Honpa Hongwanji website.

<https://hawaiibetsuin.org/>

Lihue Hongwanji Mission

125th anniversary celebration

November 2, 2025



Do You Remember?

Do you have a story from “small kid time” about your experiences with Dharma School or the temple? If you do, please contact LHM through our official church account: lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com and share your stories or photos with us. We would like to share the memories.

Small Kid Time stories. Growing up in the temple there are many stories and memories from services, dharma school and celebrations. Do you have more stories to share? Please let us know and we will publish more. Please share.

Anonymous:

- ⇒ My mother used to give me a dime for the offertory before I got on the church bus on Sunday mornings. Several of us would go to Naganuma Store below the church for candy. I would spend only a nickel so I would still have a nickel for the offertory.
- ⇒ I remember Mr. Shigeo Miyoshi for his stories. He had a wooden frame standing on wheels which held large story cards (kamishibai). He would tell stories using the story cards in sequence and we enjoyed his stories because we could understand him. (Note: kami = paper, shibai = a play)

From Lynne:

- ⇒ Seeing chocolate candy on the speaker's podium: When members had a memorial or something special, they would donate full size candy bars to be passed out to the kids after service. In those days, we didn't get candy often. When we saw the box of candy on the podium, we were so happy in anticipation of receiving it after the service.
- ⇒ Playing jan-ken-po on the temple steps: This was at the old temple. Two kids would start at the bottom, and jan-ken-po with the winner going up one step until one person reached the top.
- ⇒ Playing “box” in the old social hall: There were lines on the floor (for basketball?) and we'd play tag. I don't remember the rules but it was fun.
- ⇒ New Year's Day: Every New Year's Day, the kids would get a brown paper bag to take home. Inside was an apple, an orange, a pencil and a cellophane bag of Christmas hard candy.
- ⇒ Lotus Club: The Lotus Club was for pre-teens. We had gatherings and went camping. They held "initiation" for new members when they'd blindfold you and tell you that you were holding worms when it was actually spaghetti. Stuff like that.



Dressed for a Chigo parade



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.



HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for a chairperson for the Andagi booth for the LHM bon dance that will be held on June 20 & 21. Instructions and assistance will be provided. Please let us know that you would help with Andagi by emailing us at lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com. Thanks for volunteering!



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

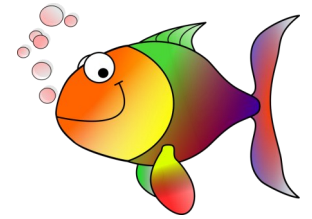
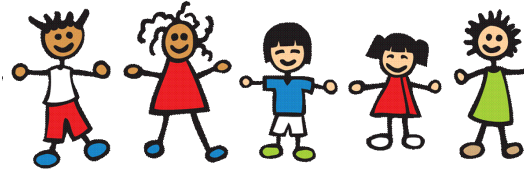
July 11-12: West Kauai Hongwanji Mission, Hanapepe Temple

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.





The Bunnies class has been studying Ocean Animals.

The Bear class has been going through the Alphabet... we just finished studying U so we're almost done. At the end of this unit they will have made themselves a song book which teaches the sounds each letter makes. It will teach them how to read. Yay!

We also celebrated Girls Day with a tea party. The boys were gentleman and helped the girls with their backpacks and allowed them to go first to wash their hands.... very sweet. And it will be reciprocated as Boys day will be coming up soon.

We would like to thank the members of The Lihue Hongwanji Mission for their kind and thoughtful donations for our keiki. Recently Lynnette Mizuo brought us some chairs her grandchildren have outgrown but so perfect for us to use. Thank you for thinking of us.

O is for Octopus.
P is for Penguin and Playdoh.



Coloring my Rainbow Fish





LHWA NEWS

New Members Welcome

2025

LHWA Meetings for 2025

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

April 13 (note a date change)

September 28

November 16

Save the Date

18th World Buddhist Women's Convention

In Honolulu

September 11 & 12, 2027



Kauai Buddhist Council

Buddha Day Service

April 6, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall

Guest Speaker: Rev. Blayne Higa,

Kona Hongwanji



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR PROCLAMATION Buddha Day 2025

WHEREAS, Buddha Day commemorates the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, founder of Buddhism, on the eighth day of the fourth month. He later became enlightened as Shakyamuni Buddha; and

WHEREAS, various rituals are observed during Buddha Day services, based on events surrounding the birth of Prince Siddhartha in Lumbini Garden; and

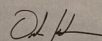
WHEREAS, constituting the highlight of the service, a shrine decorated with many flowers is set up in front of the altar as a symbol of Lumbini Garden. In this shrine, a statue of the infant Buddha, pointing his right hand toward the heavens and his left hand toward the Earth, is placed. Attendees pour sweet tea over the statue in the ritual known as "bathing the body of Buddha." This simplified reenactment of the Buddha's birth signifies the glory and joy that filled the world at this event; and

WHEREAS, the heart of the Buddha's teaching is contained in the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism, which guide followers to move beyond earthly limitations and reach Nirvana, a state of mind that is completely and permanently free of suffering; and

WHEREAS, meditation is at the heart of the Buddhist way of life, which, through a positive mind, develops love, compassion, wisdom, peace, and happiness, while embracing a worldwide perspective beyond religious denominations; and

WHEREAS, the Kauai Buddhist Council, in association with all Buddhist temples on the island, invites the public to an island-wide event that commemorates and celebrates the Buddha's birth on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall in Lihue, featuring guest speaker Reverend Blayne Higa, resident minister of Kona Hongwanji Mission of Kona, Hawaii.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR, COUNTY OF KAUAI, do hereby proclaim April 6, 2025, as Buddha Day throughout the County of Kauai, and encourage all residents to join in celebrating by reflecting on the teachings of the Buddha, participating in local events, and embracing practices of mindfulness, compassion, and peace in their daily lives.


Derek S.K. Kawakami
Mayor, County of Kauai
State of Hawaii



Sporting for a Cure



August 16, 2025
Vidinha Soccer Field
4 PM—10 PM

Join the Lihue Dharma Dragons team. Register online at relayforlife.org/kauaihi

Or call (808)245-6262 or email lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com



RELAY FOR LIFE OF KAUA'I 2025

Fighting cancer takes many things like research, free rides to chemo and lodging near hospitals, and our 24/7 helpline. But we can't do any of that without you. Join Relay For Life, the largest, most inspiring, and supportive cancer fundraising event on the planet.



LHM - COUNTRY STORE DONATION LIST

DONOR'S NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Quantity	Description

Clothing will be accepted, provided it is new or gently used, clean & without tears or holes. Household items & tools will be accepted if new or gently used & in working order with no missing parts. Small electronics will be accepted if they are in good working order. ♦ Small plants will be accepted on Wednesday June 18 and Thursday June 19.

NO large furniture or TVs will be accepted. Questions? Call Alton Amimoto, 808-639-1881.

Dear Members and Friends,



Once again, we are planning for our Bon Dance this year. Lihue Hongwanji will be observing the Bon/Hatsubon Family Service on Sunday June 15 at 9:00 am. Our Bon Dance will be the following Friday and Saturday, June 20 & 21.

Obon is a time to remember and honor all those who have passed on before us. It is to appreciate all they have done for us and to recognize the continuation of the



influence of their deeds upon our lives. Let us honor and remember them through "Honoring Ancestors" Lanterns.

The lanterns are a wonderful opportunity to express our gratitude to our ancestors. Lanterns will be displayed at the temple lanai prior to and during the Bon festival. The deadline is June 1, 2025. LHM will retain the lanterns. If you wish to have the ribbons, please make arrangements with the temple to pick them up, either by calling 808-245-6262 or emailing lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com.

If you would like to honor your ancestors with one or more lanterns, please fill out the form below and send it, along with your donation, to Lihue Hongwanji Mission; 3-3556 Kuhio Hwy.; Lihue, HI 96766. Make checks out to Lihue Hongwanji Mission and write "Lantern" on the memo line.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of Lanterns: _____

Total Amount Enclosed (\$50.00 per lantern): _____

In Loving Memory of (Family name or Family name plus two individual names; maximum of two individual names per ribbon):

Lantern #1 _____

Lantern #2 _____

Lantern #3 _____

Lantern #4 _____

Lantern #5 _____

Sample: Smith or Smith, Jay and Yuki

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE DONATION:

In memory of Tesuto Fujikawa (33 Yrs.)

Arlene Fujikawa

In memory of Ruth Lauterwald (25 Yrs.)

Gary Yamamoto

James Yamamoto

In memory of Mildred Yamauchi (7 Yrs.)

Glenn & Gail Shibuya

In memory of Kazuo Yamasaki

Morton & Carolyn Yamasaki

In memory of Tsutayo Saito

Morton & Carolyn Yamasaki

In memory of Teruichi Matsushima

Joyce Sasaki

In memory of Tsuyuko Kurashige

Hiroko Kurashige

In memory of Greg Naganuma

Joann Naganuma

Candice Kobayashi

Lauren Inouye

In memory of Sanji & Kimiko Fujii

David & Karen Fujii

COLUMBARIUM DONATION:

In memory of Misao Sasaki

Glen & Karen Takenouchi

In memory of Edward & Yaeko Fujimoto

Anne Uyehara & Carol Fujimoto

In memory of George & Elsie Toyofuku

Guy & Lori Toyofuku

In memory of Delbert Fujimoto (Dis-inurnment)

Ronda Wong

Natsue Onishi

Wayne & Aileen Nakai

SPRING HIGAN SERVICE DONATION:

Diane Fukuyama

Winston & Marian Ogata

Natsuko Daida

Arlene Fujikawa

Glenn & Gail Shibuya

Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine

Karen Nishimoto

Hiroko Kurashige

Robert & Alma Yotsuda

Roy & Carol Fujioka

NEW YEAR DONATION:

Itsue Okada

MAJOR PROJECT DONATION:

Lorraine Shimauchi (Kitchen Renovation)

*Thank
You*

Buddha Day

Join us for Kauai Buddhist Council Buddha Day Service on Sunday April 6 at 9:30 am. The service will be held at the Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall in Lihue. Come for the service, the message from the guest speaker, Rev. Blayne Higa from Kona Hongwanji, and stay for the refreshments, the prizes and the entertainment.





With Deepest Sympathy

Lihue Hongwanji extends its deepest sympathy to the family of::

(Error correction) The late Mr. Gilbert Fujimoto who passed away on February 21, 2025 at the age of 93 years.

MEMORIAL SERVICE (HOYO)

APRIL- MAY

The following is a list of members who passed away during the months of April and May. 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 May 8 Linda Uohara
2024 May 14 Yuriko Oshiro

3rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2023

2023 April 4 Carolyn Dobashi
2023 May 12 Henry Ishida

7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2019

2019 April 16 Janet Fujii
2019 April 21 Lillian Miyake
2019 May 10 Hideko Kurosaki
2019 May 11 Shigeno Kuboyama
2019 May 11 Laura Hirokawa

13th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2013

2013 April 9 Fumiko "Florence" Kato
2013 April 14 Yoichi Arita
2013 May 20 Shizuko Fujii
2013 May 27 Robert Fujikawa

17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2009

2009 April 9 Edith Ibe

25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2001

2001 April 11 "Spike" Isamu Kanja
2001 April 20 Kathryn Tokita
2001 May 29 Harue Tada

33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1993

1993 April 21 Kenneth Nishioka

50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1976

1976 April 24 George Shinno



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

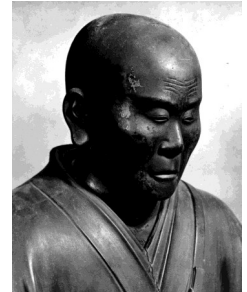
Speaker: Rev. Blayne Higa, Kona Hongwanji

Gotan-e Service

Celebrating the birth of Shinran Shonin

Sunday May 25 @ 9:00 am

at Lihue 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)



Address Label

Email: lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

lihuehongwanji.org
