

## Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

VOLUME 79 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER, 2025

### Nurturing Nembutsu: Cultivating Awareness

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#### Social Concerns

November is a special time to reflect on gratitude. Our Eitaikyo observance and Thanksgiving holiday offer opportunities to acknowledge the many causes and conditions supporting our lives and how deeply connected we are to the world around us. In this spirit of thankfulness, we launch our **2025-2026 Social Concerns Fund Drive**.

Your generosity allows the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii to support deserving organizations and programs that foster positive change in our community. Your selfless giving also helps us provide compassionate aid during disasters and respond effectively to issues affecting our local and global communities.

In response to federal funding cuts, we increased our support for local food banks that fight food insecurity in our community, donated to Hawaii Public Radio and PBS Hawaii to ensure access to quality public media, and supported Spill the Tea Café and The Trevor Project, which provide services for LGBTQIA+ youth. We also supported relief efforts after the devastating wildfires in Southern California and the earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand.

We continue to award Golden Chain Grants to support Sangha-based compassionate actions and Dana Matching Grants to boost the impact of charitable giving by organizations in the Hawaii Kyodan Ohana. We hope you will take advantage of these innovative programs that help share our values with the wider community.

The fundraising campaign will run from November 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026, with checks accepted any time. **Please make all checks payable to Lihue Hongwanji, with a notation of "Social Concerns" on the memo line.** LHM will then send a single combined check to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

Your support for our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive is greatly appreciated. Mahalo!

In Gassho,

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani  
Bishop

Dr. Warren Tamamoto  
President

Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair  
Committee on Social Concerns

## Calendar of Events

### NOVEMBER 2025

Sun	2	10:00 AM	125th LHM Anniversary Commemoration Service
		11:00 am	125th Anniversary Luncheon Celebration
Sun	9	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Thur	13	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	16	9:00 AM	<b>Eitaikyo Service</b>
		10:15 AM	LHWA Meeting
Sun	23	8:00 AM	<b>LHM Annual Cleanup Day,</b> followed by lunch and the <b>General Membership Meeting.</b> See page 9 for info.
Sun	30	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service

### DECEMBER 2025

Sun	7	9:30 AM	<b>Bodhi Day</b> <b>To be held at Waimea Higashi Temple</b>
Thur	11	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	14	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Sun	21	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	28	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Wed	31	8:00 PM	New Year's Eve Service



### **Columbarium Hours**

Our Columbarium is locked 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.

### **Office Hours**

Rev. Yagi is the oversee minister for Kapa'a Hongwanji in addition to being the resident minister for LHM.

Office hours have changed as he will be in Kapa'a one day per week, on Wednesdays, and on the last Sunday of each month. All times are subject to change based on needs. If you would like to talk with Rev. Yagi, please call to make an appointment.

Mondays and Fridays will be Rev. Yagi's days off, the additional day off per Honpa guideline changes.

Please remember to call ahead of time if you wish to see Rev. Yagi.



### True Safety in Amida's Compassion

Recently, I had the joy of visiting our Preschoolers to share a short lesson about **Safety**. Together with the children, we talked about how to stay safe at home, at school, and outside. The students eagerly shared their ideas — “Don’t touch fire!” “Don’t talk to strangers!” “Tell an adult if you get hurt!”

Their smiles and bright voices reminded me that the wish to live safely is something we all share. Whether young or old, we all want to be free from fear, harm, and danger.

But as we grow older, we begin to realize that no matter how careful we are, the world around us is full of change and uncertainty. We can follow every safety rule, yet we cannot avoid all suffering, loss, or sadness. So, what does *true safety* really mean?

### The Light of Amida — Our Ultimate Shelter

Shinran Shonin described Amida Buddha as “**Hikkyo-e**” (畢竟依) — *the ultimate reliance* or *final refuge*.

He wrote:

“The light of purity is without compare. When a person encounters this light, all bonds of karma fall away; So take refuge in Amida, the ultimate shelter.” (Jodo Wasan)

Amida’s light offers a safety beyond this world — not the safety of strong walls or protection from all harm, but the deep assurance that we are **never abandoned**.

When we awaken to Amida’s great compassion, we see that even in uncertain times, we are embraced. We are known completely — our fears, mistakes, and imperfections — and still loved unconditionally. This is the true meaning of **Namo Amida Butsu**: entrusting ourselves to the boundless compassion that always reaches us.

### The Buddha's Safety Is Not Escape — It Is Embrace

Spiritual safety does not mean that nothing bad will ever happen. The Buddha does not promise a life free of challenges. Rather, Amida’s light gives us the courage to face life as it is — with calm, compassion, and gratitude. Even in difficulty, we can say:

“Thank you for this life, just as it is, that allows me to hear the Dharma.”

That is the deep, unshakable safety of **shinjin** — the heart of true entrusting.

### From Outer Safety to Inner Safety

As the preschoolers learned about avoiding outer dangers — fire, sharp objects, and strangers — we adults continue learning to notice the *fires within us*: anger, greed, and ignorance.

The Buddha’s wisdom helps us see these inner dangers clearly, and through the Nembutsu, they cool in the light of compassion.

The Dharma becomes our **safe harbor** — not by shielding us from life, but by helping us live within it more peacefully and kindly.

### Living in Amida's Safe Harbor

True safety is not a place we go; it is the experience of being embraced by infinite compassion.

When we say *Namo Amida Butsu*, we are saying:

“I take refuge in the unchanging compassion that never abandons me.”

That same wish to be safe — which I saw shining in the preschool children — is fulfilled completely in Amida’s embrace.

May we live each day with gratitude, knowing that while the world changes, Amida’s light never fades.

**Namo Amida Butsu.**



### MESSAGE FROM BISHOP TOSHIYUKI UMITANI

***\* Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani wrote the following message for the convention booklet of the Hawaii State Lay Association's 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention, which was held on September 12-13, 2025.***

On behalf of the Ministers and Members of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the Hawaii State Lay Association's 62nd Annual Convention. I would also like to acknowledge the HSLA President, Mr. Russell Nonaka, for his leadership, and the Convention Co-Chairs, Ms. Rene Mansho and Mr. Rick Tabor, for organizing this year's convention.

The theme of this year's convention, ***"Let's be the authors of our future!"*** brings to mind the famous analogy of a man pointing at the moon. When he appreciates the moon's beauty and wishes others to see it too, he lifts his finger to direct their gaze, helping them recognize the brilliance of the moon shining in the night sky. Although his finger does not shine like the moon, it serves as a guide, enabling others to discover comfort and joy in its light.

All of us, at some point in our lives, were guided by someone who pointed us toward the light of the Dharma. It may have been a minister, a parent, a grandparent, or a fellow temple member. Because of their gentle guidance, we were able to encounter the Nembutsu teaching and experience the joy and comfort that it brings. Now, as we think about being the "authors of our future," we are also invited to take on that role ourselves — to be the ones who point out the moon for others. Whether through our words, our actions, or simply our presence, we can help those around us turn

their attention toward Amida Buddha's Boundless Compassion.

The history of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is a collection of life stories from individuals who have experienced the warmth of Amida Buddha's Compassion and have lived with joy and gratitude in the Dharma. As the "authors," we all have wonderful life stories to share with others — especially the memorable experiences you have had at your respective temples. By sharing those stories, I encourage you to spread the joy and richness of life that the Buddha-Dharma provides, so that future generations, too, may be guided to look up and see the radiant Light of Amida Buddha's Compassion.

In closing, I would like to express my deep appreciation to each of you for being an integral part of the Honpa Hongwanji Sangha. Please enjoy the Lay Convention!

### **Namo Amida Butsu**

***\*Bishop Umitani also delivered a message at the convention, and his full message is available on the HHMH website.***

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/messages/bishop-message-2025-lay-convention/>

### **TOKUDO**

The Tokudo Shurai (training) took place from September 30 to October 10, 2025, at the Tokudo Training Center next to Nishiyama Betsuin in Kyoto. It is an intensive program covering aspects such as the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha's doctrine, history, bylaws, and rituals, preparing participants to receive *Docho*, a certificate confirming their priesthood. Participants from overseas included Dexter Mar (Hawaii Betsuin), Raymond Takiue Jr. (Moiliili Hongwanji), and Rodney Moriyama (Wahiawa Hongwanji) from Hawaii, along with five members from the Buddhist Churches of America, one from the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, and four from Europe. Continued on page 5

From page 4

They completed the rigorous training and participated in the solemn Tokudo Ordination Ceremony led by Monshu Kojun Ohtani at Hongwanji on October 9, 2025.

### GISEIKAI 2026

The 114<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly (hybrid – online & in-person) is scheduled for **February 20-21, 2026**.

This notice is to inform you of the planning and coordination you should be doing within your temple, district, committee, or organization. The table below lists the various items which will be requested from you in the coming months. This notice and other documents will be posted on the HHMH Intranet.

### ARCHIVES WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS: SUNDAY NOV. 16 @ BSC AND ONLINE

Archiving: We all know it's important but, without expert guidance, deciding how to go about it can feel like guesswork. That's where an upcoming archives workshop for the Hongwanji community comes in.

On Sunday, **November 16, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**, UH Mānoa Archivist Helen Wong Smith will be the expert speaker at a workshop entitled "**Essentials of Managing an Archival Collection**" at the Buddhist Study Center and on Zoom. The workshop is organized by Hongwanji Hawaii's Archives Committee, with committee member Ken Okimoto of Papaiko Hongwanji as point person.

The workshop is geared to beginners and will cover how to properly preserve and organize temple records as well as family and individual histories as found in text, photos, electronic files, and artifacts. A follow-up workshop is anticipated. The goal is for participants to gain a basic understanding of how to develop archival systems at their temples.

We are very fortunate to have Helen Wong Smith as the presenter. She brings over 35 years of experience preserving Hawai'i's cultural and historical collections. A past president of multiple

archival organizations and a Distinguished Fellow of the Society of American Archivists, Helen is widely recognized for advancing cultural competency in the archival field.

The Archives Committee urges you to take advantage of this offering in whatever way works best for you, in person or online. To register, visit [honpahi.link/archives1116](https://honpahi.link/archives1116) or email [archiveschair@honpahi.org](mailto:archiveschair@honpahi.org).

⇒ *David Atcheson, Chair, Archives Committee*

### BWA STATE MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 15th State Membership Conference of the HHMH Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations will be held on March 28-29, 2026, at the Ala Moana Hotel. The conference theme is "Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude," and the keynote speaker will be Ms. Michiko Miyaji Inanaga, the Director of the Endowment Foundation of the Buddhist Churches of America. Attendees can look forward to some unique and inspiring workshops, along with a Panel Presentation titled "The Role of Women in Society 2026," featuring Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke, Supreme Court Justice Sabrina McKenna, Ms. Kehaulani Lum, and Ms. Lori Teranishi, with Ms. Caroline Otani serving as moderator.

REGISTER HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/15thbwa>

Registration Deadline: December 1, 2025

Fee: \$200 (Does not include Hotel Fee)

Registration after that date will be done on a space-available basis, and the cost will be \$225.00.

Hotel Reservation: <https://book.passkey.com/e/51110143>.

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

[October 2025 Headquarters Update](#)



### Do You Remember?



We wish to express our gratitude to the many people throughout this year who were our resources for this column. It was interesting and often surprising to learn of the history of Lihue Hongwanji Mission through the years. So often history is lost so we are most grateful for archives and memories. Mahalo!

Throughout this year we have covered the following topics:

- ⇒ Lihue Hongwanji Mission Past Presidents and their many family connections
- ⇒ New Year's Parties through the years.
- ⇒ Lihue Hongwanji Mission Past Ministers, from the beginning
- ⇒ Small Kid Time Stories
- ⇒ Lihue Hongwanji Mission archives photographs
- ⇒ The many changes to Bon Dance over the years including dress and food
- ⇒ The many changes for all things large and small at Lihue Hongwanji Mission, indicating that even our church is subject to Impermanence.
- ⇒ Landmarks on the grounds of Lihue Hongwanji Mission . . . Did you know about them already?
- ⇒ Lihue Hongwanji Preschool history of people and locations
- ⇒ The many faces of our bulletin / newsletter through the years.

These stories have shown the concept of Impermanence in action. Nothing ever stays the same; everything is in motion.

**Happy Anniversary**  
**125 Years of Jodo Shinshu**  
**LHM**



## LHWA NEWS

## New Members Welcome

2025

**LHWA Meetings for 2025**

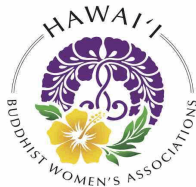
Note that all meetings will begin at 10:15 am following Sunday service.

**November 16**

(note, this meeting will follow Etaisyo Service)

See the next page for information about the BWA World Convention in Honolulu in 2027.

**Save the Date!**



**Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations  
15th BWA State Membership Conference  
March 28-29, 2026  
Ala Moana Hotel**

A BWA Federation state membership conference is held every four years, in the year preceding the world convention. The location is rotated among the Hawaii districts. Oahu district will host in 2026.

Join LHWA for the opportunity to meet some amazing people from across the state who are helping their temples by:

*Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude*

**REGISTER HERE:**

<https://tinyurl.com/15thbwa>

Registration Deadline:  
December 1, 2025

Fee: \$200 (Does not include Hotel Fee)



**18th WORLD  
BUDDHIST WOMEN'S  
CONVENTION**

**September 11-12, 2027  
Hilton Hawaiian Village**

The World BWA Convention is held every four years, rotating among the world districts. Hawaii has the privilege of hosting the convention in 2027. We last traveled to Kyoto, Japan in 2023 and combined it with the Joint Celebration of the 850th birthday of Shinran Shonin and the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Hongwanji at Honzan.

Join the LHWA for the opportunity to attend the World Convention, meet fellow Buddhist followers from Japan, Canada, the US mainland and Brazil, participate in educational workshops, and enjoy the fun and excitement of the event.

*Live Peace, Live Aloha, Live as One in the Nembutsu*



**Yikes! Time flies  
when you're having  
a great time! We  
know.**

**The year is almost over.  
Please check if you've paid  
your dues for 2025. If you  
forgot, please send it before  
December 31. Mahalo!**



***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.





Meeting time: 10:30 AM

**General Cleanup**  
**Sunday, November 23**  
**8:00 AM-11:30 AM**

Please come out to help with cleaning, Have lunch and stay for the annual membership meeting. If you would consider serving on the 2026 Board of Directors or as a committee chair, please call the office or email the temple Gmail at

[lihuehongwanjmission@gmail.com](mailto:lihuehongwanjmission@gmail.com).



#### **Newsletter notification deadline**

If you have something that should go in The Dharma Wheel, please note that articles and/or photos are due by the 20th of each month.

Please submit articles, photos and/or information via email to [lhnews@yahoo.com](mailto:lhnews@yahoo.com)

#### **Eitaikyo Service** **November 16, 2025**



“Eitaikyo” literally it means “perpetually chanting Buddhist sutras.”

Our lives are created by many causes and conditions, such as our environment, education, nature and society. Probably the most meaningful connection we have is to our family and friends, especially those people who have lived before us, such as our parents, grandparents and others. Without them, we would not exist.

Eitaikyo is a memorial service, which honors those people and helps remind us of our connection to them. By thinking of these connections, we can see our lives as part of a greater whole, rather than standing alone. Thus, we feel a sense of gratitude and appreciation for those lives.

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

**MEMORIAL DONATION:**

In memory of Toyoki Urakawa (50 Yrs.)

Alvin, Jean & Joan Kurosaki

In memory of Flora Fujii (13 Yrs.)

Edith Ushio

Winston & Marian Ogata

In memory of Nobu Yamauchi (13 Yrs.)

Winston & Marian Ogata

In memory of Irene Shimokawa (7 Yrs.)

Jean & Joan Kurosaki

In memory of Gene Oshiro ( 1 Yr.)

Winston & Marian Ogata

In memory of Stanley Kono

Gladys Fujiuchi

Winston & Marian Ogata

In memory of Misao Sasaki

Gladys Fujiuchi

In memory of James Uemura

Winston & Marian Ogata

In memory of Setsuo Ushio

Jean & Joan Kurosaki

Winston & Marian Ogata

In memory of Annabelle Wertz

Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine

**COLUMBARIUM DONATION:**

In memory of George & Elsie Toyofuku

Guy & Lori Toyofuku

**125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DONATION:**

Kemi Nakabayashi & Jim Norton

Edith Ushio

Grace Ishida

Karen Nishimoto

Shirley Hashimoto

Rev. Yukiko Motoyoshi

**GOTAN-E DONATION:**

Michiko Yamamoto

**OBON DONATION:**

Michiko Yamamoto

**AUTUMN HIGAN DONATION:**

Edith Ushio

Karen Nishimoto

Hiroko Kurashige

Natsuko Daida

Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine

Arlene Fujikawa

Glenn & Gail Shibuya

Michiko Yamamoto

**EITAI-KYO DONATION:**

Michiko Yamamoto

**HAPPINESS DONATION:**

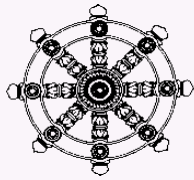
Gladys Fujiuchi (Birthday)

**SOCIAL CONCERNS:**

Michiko Yamamoto

*Thank  
You*





One is not wise  
Only because one speaks a lot.  
One who is peaceful, without hate, and fearless  
Is said to be wise.

The Dhammapada

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE (HOYO)**

#### **NOVEMBER - DECEMBER**

The following is a list of members who passed away during the months of November and December. 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 November 9 Ronald Uyesono  
2019 November 11 Irene Shimokawa  
2019 November 24 Carolyn Nii  
2019 December 18 Judy Segawa

#### **13th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2013**

2013 NONE

#### **17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2009**

2009 November 30 Paul Miyamoto  
2009 December 2 Gary Iida  
2009 December 29 Sue Koga

#### **25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2001**

2001 November 28 Tamotsu Nishio  
2001 December 5 Michie Miyoshi  
2001 December 9 Mildred Watanabe  
2001 December 21 Shigeichi Matsushima

#### **33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1993**

1993 November 20 Shirley Nakae  
1993 December 7 Sadako Higuchi

#### **50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1976**

1976 December 18 Cheryl Nakamoto

**Eitaikyo Service**  
Perpetual Memorial Service,  
expressing gratitude to those who have passed  
Sunday November 16 @ 9:00 am



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**LHM Annual Cleanup Day**  
Sunday November 23 beginning at 8:00 am  
followed by lunch and the **General Membership Meeting**  
Please come to help and attend the short meeting.



**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](mailto:lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com)

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[lihuehongwanji.org](http://lihuehongwanji.org)

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