

Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

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FEBRUARY, 2026

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude

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Calendar	2
Rev. Yagi Dharma Message	4
Announcements & Information	3, 5-7, 9
Acknowledgments	8
Memorials	10



The Living Treasures of Hawai'i was inspired by the Living National Treasures (Ningen Kokuho) of Japan. In 1976, Bishop Yoshiaki Fujitani instituted the program within the Hongwanji at the suggestion of Paul Yamanaka, a local insurance executive. Initially established to honor those involved in the perpetuation of the island's distinctive cultural and artistic heritage, the recognition has been expanded to include contributions by individuals in all areas of endeavor. A **complete list of honorees** since Living Treasures was established in 1976 is available.

2026 Honorees

Abbreviated bios are below. [More complete bios](#) are also available.

Dr. Billy Bergin, Keeper of the Paniolo Spirit: From the misty hills of Waimea to the rugged pastures of Parker Ranch, few names resonate more deeply in Hawai'i's ranching legacy than Dr. Billy Bergin, D.V.M. Dr. Bergin, as a 2026 Living Treasure of Hawai'i, is being honored for his lifetime of service, leadership, and cultural preservation.

Dr. B. Ka'imiloa Chrisman, Reviving the Lost Arts of Hawai'i: For more than five decades, Dr. B. Ka'imiloa Chrisman, M.D. — physician, artisan, and cultural historian — has been one of Hawai'i's most dedicated champions of traditional knowledge. Known affectionately as *Kumu Ka'imiloa*, meaning "the one who seeks endlessly," he has devoted his life to researching, reviving, and teaching the traditional arts of Hawai'i.

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	1	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Sun	8	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Dana Day Service See page 6 for information regarding a Food Drive
Thur	12	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	15	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service (installation of LHWA 2026 Board)
		10:30 AM	LHWA meeting & luncheon following refreshments See page 7
Fri & Sat	20- 21		Legislative Assembly (to be held on Oahu)
Sun	22	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service

MARCH 2026

Sun	1	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Sun	8	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Thur	12	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	15	9:00 AM	Spring Higan Service
Sun	22	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sat. & Sun	28 - 29		State BWA Conference, held at the Ala Moana Hotel on Oahu.
Sun	29	9:00 AM	No service today as Rev. Yagi and several members will be attending the State BWA Conference on Oahu



Important Notice

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.

Continued from Front Page

Māpuana de Silva, A Lifetime of Hula, Healing, and Leadership: For nearly 50 years, Kumu Hula Māpuana de Silva has devoted her life to preserving, teaching, and sharing the art of hula. As the founder and kumu hula of *Hālau Mōhala ‘Ilima*, she has trained generations of dancers and cultural practitioners who embody the values of *ha‘aha‘a*, *mālama*, and *pono* — humility, care, and integrity.

Jim and Vickie Kennedy, Making the Invisible Visible: James “Jim” Kennedy, Jr. and Victoria “Vickie” Reiko Kennedy embody the quiet power of service. For years they have championed communities too often overlooked—especially blind and low-vision residents and legitimate service-dog teams—building access, dignity, and understanding across Hawai‘i.

Sheree Tamura, Dancing Tradition Forward: For over sixty years, Sheree Tamura (Hanayagi Mitsusumi Sensei) has been a guiding light in Japanese classical dance, shamisen music, and cultural education in Hawai‘i. Founder of the Hanayagi Mitsusumi Dance Studio, she has trained generations of students in *nihon buyō* while fostering respect, discipline, and appreciation for Japanese values.



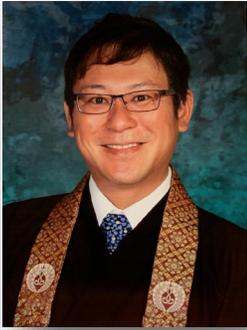
Please help us welcome our newest members

Doris Owyang

Krieg & Skye Medeiros and family

Shea & Mia Shimabukuro and family

When you see them, welcome them to LHM.



Seeing the Sentient Beings of the Nembutsu

Throughout the worlds, countless as particles, in the ten quarters,
The Buddha grasps and never abandons them,
And therefore is named “Amida.” (Hymns on the Amida Sutra)

February is a special month for our Lihue Hongwanji Women’s Association as we observe Dana Day. Again this year we will be holding a canned food and non-perishable food drive, offering help and care to those in our community who are in need.

In Buddhism, *Dana* means giving. It is the first of the Six Paramitas, the practices that guide us on the Buddhist path. We give in many ways every day—by supporting our families, helping at the temple, participating in the Women’s Association, and offering our time, energy, and resources for the benefit of others.

At the same time, when we look honestly at ourselves, we may notice that our giving is not always completely selfless. Sometimes we help because it makes us feel good. Sometimes we hope to be thanked, noticed, or appreciated. Sometimes we feel disappointed when our efforts go unseen.

This is not something to feel ashamed of. Shinran Shonin reminds us that we are *bonbu*—ordinary beings filled with blind passions and limitations.

And yet, even with our imperfections, giving still matters.

There are moments when we help quietly—when no one knows what we did, when no one says thank you, when we may never meet the person who benefits from our kindness. A donated can of food, a small act of care, or a thoughtful gesture may seem simple, but for someone else, it can mean comfort, relief, or hope.

The Paramita of Dana is called a “perfection,” not because we do it perfectly, but because it is something we continue to practice throughout our lives. We give, we reflect, we learn, and we try again—slowly becoming less focused on ourselves and more open to others.

Amida Buddha’s giving is different from ours. It is completely selfless and without condition.

Through the fulfillment of the Paramita of Dana, Amida Buddha shares even the enlightenment attained through countless kalpas of practice—freely offered to all beings, just as they are. That is why we can entrust ourselves to Amida’s compassion and live our lives supported by it.

As we observe Dana Day this February, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Lihue Hongwanji Women’s Association. Thank you for your generosity, your dedication, and your continued spirit of caring. Through your actions, the compassion of Amida Buddha is made visible in our community.

May this month be an opportunity for all of us to reflect on giving—not as something we must do perfectly, but as something we are grateful to practice together.

Namo Amida Butsu.



New Members Welcome

2026

LHWA Meetings for 2026

All of the LHWA meetings will take place after refreshments. Dates are subject to change. Please check here & page 2 for updates.

February 15
(Including Installation and luncheon)

May 17
August 9
November 15

LHWA - February 15

We will have the installation of the 2026 officers for LHWA on Sunday February 15 during the Sunday service.

After refreshments there will be a short LHWA meeting (approximately 10:15/10:30)

Following the meeting we will head over to Puakea Grill for a luncheon. Each person will pay for their own meal and we will be able to have conversation and enjoy good food.

You should have received an email or phone call regarding the menu selections and the payment method.



**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



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 experiencing food insecurity. With your gift of dana (selfless giving), you will be sharing kindness and compassion with others. Share Dana Day Service with us on February 8 and help the Hawaii Food Bank, Kauai reach out to our Kauai neighbors. 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, through programs including Disaster Relief, Farm to Families, Food 4 Keiki, Kupuna Nutrition & Fresh Food Programs. If you are unable to bring non-perishables to our temple, monetary donations will be accepted and are always appreciated. 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 Vegetables |
| ◇ Canned Meals (soup, stew, chili and pasta) | ◇ Canned Beans |
| ◇ Canned Meats (tuna, chicken, and other lean meats) | ◇ Crackers |
| ◇ Canned Fruits, including fruits in a jar or cup | ◇ Pasta |
| | ◇ Cereal |
| | ◇ Shelf stable milk |

Bon Dance Practice Schedules

Lihue Hongwanji: 1st and 3rd Thursdays from March 5 through May 21, 7:00 pm in the Social Hall. Everyone welcome.

West Kauai Hongwanji, Hanapepe: Every Thursday beginning February 5, 6:00 pm.
Beginners Only.

Kapa'a Hongwanji: Mondays from March 9 through July 13, 6:00 pm.

No new dances will be added this year. Two dances have been eliminated so there will be 18 dances in the 2026 program. Come join us to learn or refresh your dance moves.



Lihue Hongwanji Mission's Bon Dance will be held on June 19 and 20. Everyone's help is needed to make it a success! Please volunteer by calling the office at (808) 245-6262 or email lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com.

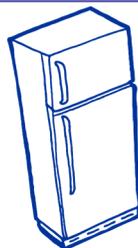
2026 Kauai Bon Dance Schedule

June 12-13	Waimea Higashi Hongwanji Mission
June 19-20	Lihue Hongwanji Mission
June 26-27	Waimea Shingon Mission
July 3-4	No Bon Dance
July 10-11	Kauai Soto Zen Temple
July 17-18	Kapaa Hongwanji Mission
July 24-25	West Kauai Hongwanji—Hanapepe Temple



Did you receive your 2026 Honpa Calendar with your membership renewal?

If not, please contact LHM at lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com to let us know.



2026 Bon Dance. If you have a used refrigerator or freezer in working condition, please consider donating. If you have one to donate, please contact the office at (808)245-6262 or email lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com. Mahalo!

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

MEMORIAL DONATION:

In memory of Tamako Mickamy (50 Yrs.)

Bruce & Grace Inouye

In memory of Murae Inouye (25 Yrs.)

Bruce & Grace Inouye

In memory of Chimako Miyoshi (7 Yrs.)

Florence Nishioka & Alison Koga

Fay Vea & Alison Koga

In memory of Arleen Marugame (1 Yr.)

Natsuko Daida

Lynne Matsumura

Caroline Ozaki

In memory of Misao Higashi

Lauretta Hadama

In memory of Stanely Sato

Daniel Yotsuda

In memory of Henry Ishida

Daniel Yotsuda

In memory of Charles Niitani

Janet Niitani & Family

In memory of Helen Harada

Morton & Carolyn Yamasaki

In memory of Sadao Tanabe

Morton & Carolyn Yamasaki

In memory of Setsuo Ushio

Mark & Linda Naea

In memory of Kiyoshi & Chiyo Kato

Norman Kato

In memory of Takako & Charles Mizutani

Gordon & Dale Hirata

In memory of Sueko Yamasaki

Morton & Carolyn Yamasaki

In memory of Tetsu Sasaki

Blaine Sasaki

In memory of Seichi Higuchi

Blaine Sasaki

Warren & Colleen Nonaka

In memory of Sally Higuchi

Blaine Sasaki

In memory of Adoree Sueko Isobe

Roy & Margo Iwami

In memory of Chimako Miyoshi Family

Fay Vea & Alison Koga

COLUMBARIUM DONATION:

In memory of Charles Niitani

Janet Niitani & Family

In memory of Shigeru Kurashige

Hiroko Kurashige

In memory of George & Elsie Toyofuku

Guy & Lori Toyofuku

HOONKO SERVICE DONATION:

Malcolm & Marsha Ikeda

Michiko Yamamoto

Robert & Alma Yotsuda

GOTAN-E SERVICE DONATION:

Malcolm & Marsha Ikeda

Michiko Yamamoto

SPRING HIGAN SERVICE DONATION:

Malcolm & Marsha Ikeda

Michiko Yamamoto

OBON SERVICE DONATION:

Malcolm & Marsha Ikeda

125th ANNIVERSARY DONATION:

Roy & Arleen Tanaka

YEAR END 2025 DONATION:

Roy & Arleen Tanaka

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE DONATION:

Glenn & Gail Shibuya

Winston & Marian Ogata

NEW YEAR SERVICE DONATION:

Karen Nishimoto

Glenn & Gail Shibuya

Lynne Matsumura

Shirley Hashimoto

Morton & Carolyn Yamasaki

Continued on page 12

Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine
 Gladys Fujiuchi
 Natsuko Daida
 Edith Ushio
 Diane Fukuyama
 Thomas Oi
 Winston & Marian Ogata
 Arlene Fujikawa

*Thank
 You*

HAPPINESS DONATION:

Gail Shibuya (Birthday)

SOCIAL CONCERNS:

Glenn & Gail Shibuya
 Ann Ogata



**Kauai Buddhist Council
 Buddha Day Service**

What: Buddha Day, celebrating the birth of Siddhartha Gautama in Lumbini Garden

When: Sunday April 12, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Where: West Kauai Hongwanji, Hanapepe, Service in the Social Hall

Guest Speaker: Rimban Yuika Hasebe, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Why: To celebrate the joy of the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, who became The Buddha. Join us for the service, pour sweet tea over the statue of The Infant Buddha, in honor of the sweet rain that fell in Lumbini Garden, and stay for good food and Lucky Number drawing.





With Deepest Sympathy

Lihue Hongwanji extends its deepest sympathy to the family of:

The late Akiye Higashi who passed away on December 26, 2025 at the age of 97 years.

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—2025

2025 March 23 James Uemura

3rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2024

2024 NONE

7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2020

2020 February 2 Matsuyo Seki

2020 February 6 Yoshiko Hayashi

13th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2014

2014 NONE

17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2010

2010 February 3 Adoree Isobe

2010 February 6 Michiko Higashi

25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2002

2002 February 25 Isao Yoshishige

2002 February 27 Murae Inouye

2002 March 24 Masae Kanemoto

33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1994

1994 February 6 Mitsuru Sasaki

1994 February 13 Hisashi Hadama

1994 March 30 Jiro Yamamoto

50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1977

1977 February 16 Tamako Mickamy

1977 March 21 Tome Yamamoto

1977 March 25 Nobuo Miyaji

Dana Day Service

Sunday February 8 at 9:00

(See page 6 for a February Food Drive Activity)



Spring Higan Service

Sunday March 15, 2026

9:00 am

Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

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

Return Service Requested

Nurturing Nembutsu

(Sharing Gratitude)



Address Label

Email: lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

lihuehongwanji.org