

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude

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Calendar	2
Rev. Yagi Dharma Message	3
Headquarter's Update	5-6
Announcements & Information	4, 7 - 16
Scholarship information	16
Acknowledgments	17
Memorials	18

The Meaning of Gotan-e



In May, we celebrate Gotan-E, the birth of the founder of Jodo Shinshu, Shinran Shonin, who was born on May 21, 1173. Shinran never saw himself as a founder of anything and was just trying to spread the nembutsu teaching that he learned from his teacher, Honen.

He famously said in the Record in Lament of Divergences (a collection of sayings that his student, Yuien-bo, compiled): "For myself, I do not have even a single disciple. For if I brought people to say the nembutsu through my own efforts, then they might be my disciples. But it is indeed preposterous to call persons 'my disciples' when they say the nembutsu having received the working of Amida."

This is Shinran's understanding of the working of Amida — that anyone who decided to listen to him, follow him, or found something meaningful in what he did, only did so because of external factors, not from his own efforts.

Ironically, this attitude is what set him apart from Honen's other students' interpretation of the teaching. Shinran emphasized absolute entrusting to Amida Buddha over the constant recitation of Namu Amida Butsu.

In other words, he stressed the importance of humility over discipline as a practice. What that means for us as Jodo Shinshu followers is that rather than trying to find a rigid practice that takes physical and mental fortitude, we should be looking for ways to locate and lessen our vanity, our arrogance, our conceit.


This is the way laid out for us to find a life with less suffering. And in the month of May, we express our gratitude to Shinran Shonin for showing us the path.

Rev. Matt Hamasaki
Buddhist Church of Sacramento

<https://www.buddhistchurch.org/news/meaning-of-gotane>

Calendar of Events

MAY 2026

Sun	3	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
		10:15 AM	LHWA meeting (note the date change)
Sun	10	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Mother's Day 
Thur	14	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	17	9:00 AM	Baccalaureate Service
Sun	24	9:00 AM	Gotan-e Service Celebrating the life of Shinran Shonin
Sun	31	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service

JUNE 2026

Sat	6	8:00 AM	Yagura Construction & Omigaki
Sun	7	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Thur	11	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sat	13	8:00 AM	Food Booth Construction
Sun	14	9:00 AM	Bon / Hatsubon Service
Sun	14	1:30 PM	Bon Cemetery Service at Kauai Memorial Gardens
Sun	14	2:30 PM	Bon Cemetery Service at Lihue Cemetery
Fri	19		Bon Dance at LHM
Sat	20		Bon Dance at LHM
Sun	21	8:00 AM	Bon Dance Cleanup Service Cancelled
			Father's Day 
Sun	28	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service

Office Hours

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

Rev. Yagi 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 are 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.

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.



**Shinran Shonin's birthday is May 21, 1173,
and thus this year marks the 853rd anniversary of his birth.**

In the introduction to the "*Kyōmonrui*" ("Teachings and Practices") section of his main work, *Ken Jōdo Shinjitsu Kyōgyō Shōmonrui*, Shinran Shonin describes the characteristics of the Jōdo Shinshū teaching as follows:

"Reverently contemplating the true essence of the Pure Land way, I see that Amida's directing of virtue to sentient beings has two aspects: the aspect of going forth to the Pure Land and the aspect of returning to this world. In the aspect of going forth, there are the true teaching, practice, shinjin, and realization."

Being born into the Pure Land of enlightenment from this deluded world—where things do not always go as planned—is called *going forth*. Not remaining in the Pure Land, but instead returning to this world as an enlightened being to guide those still in delusion, is called *returning*. Both this going forth and returning arise from the great working of Amida Buddha's Primal Vow.

In the "*Gorinmatsu no Go Sho: Last Letter*," said to have been written by Shinran Shonin at the age of ninety, he wrote:

"Even though I have reached the end of my life and will return to the Pure Land of Amida,
it will be like the waves of Waka Bay, coming and going.
If you rejoice alone, know that there are two.
If two people rejoice, consider it three.
One of them is Shinran.
Even without me, the Dharma will not cease in Waka Bay.
As long as there are people..." *Kocho 2* (1257), November; *Gutoku Shinran*, age 90

Professor Nakanishi Chikai interprets this passage in a poetic and accessible way:

Even if a person departs, their smile remains.
Even if a person departs, their words remain.
Even if a person departs, their warmth remains.
Even when people leave, they return to the hands that remember and entrust.

This interpretation expresses, in a simple and gentle way, the spirit of Shinran Shonin's words.

One Dharma saying asks:

"Do you live by profit and loss, or by virtue?"

Minister's message continued from page 3

Do we measure our lives by gain or loss—by whether something is profitable or convenient for ourselves? Are we living only with our own benefit in mind?

Or do we live by valuing virtue—seeking to draw even a little closer to the compassion of Amida Buddha? Do we strive to respect one another, and to consider not only our own concerns, but also the circumstances and perspectives of others?

Let us, together with Amida Buddha, receive the compassion of those who came before us, who continue to guide us through the working of merit-transference. May we cherish each day—not by calculating profit and loss, but by living with gratitude and respect for virtue.

Namo Amida Bustu



Assistant Director

Do you know of anyone seeking a position in an educational setting? Lihue Hongwanji Preschool is seeking an Assistant Director. Join Sandie Fujimoto's team of teachers at an established preschool that has served Kauai for 58 years.

Qualifications include: Bachelors degree from an accredited College/University or 2 years College (60 credits) from an accredited College/University.

Good hours, good benefits and excellent working conditions!

Submit a resume to us at LHPreschoolAdm@gmail.com



MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Minister's Assistant.

Currently, 20 ministers serve the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as its active Kaikyoshi Ministers. **Kaikyoshi** are ministers who have completed the two levels of ordination, Tokudo and Kyoshi, and have officially received Kaikyoshi status from the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha (Honzan) as Overseas District ministers. These Kaikyoshi are assigned to various temples or positions within the HHMH and faithfully and compassionately share the teachings of the Other-Power Nembutsu with their temple members and the community. Kaikyoshi serve as Dharma seekers, educators, officiants, and administrators, provide pastoral care, and engage in community involvement and outreach. They have a wide range of roles and responsibilities and endeavor to build a more compassionate sangha and harmonious society rooted in the Nembutsu teaching.

The uniqueness of the Hongwanji tradition is that both ministers and lay members play a vital role in spreading the Nembutsu teachings. Yes, it is the Kaikyoshi Ministers' responsibility to convey the messages and teachings of Shinran Shonin, but lay members also become part of the ministry by sharing the spiritual joy and gratitude they have cultivated over years of listening. And it is only through the people that the teaching would spread. With that understanding, and to assist the Kaikyoshi Ministers, the HHMH developed the Lay Assistant program several years ago. Currently, there are three categories under **Minister's Lay Assistants**: 1) Minister's Lay Assistant, 2) Certified Minister's Lay Assistant, and 3) Tokudo

A **Minister's Lay Assistant** is someone who, under the guidance of the Resident Minister, begins learning and helping at the temple—supporting services, assisting behind the scenes, and gradually deepening their understanding of the teachings.

After some years of training, they may become a **Certified Minister's Lay Assistant**. At this stage, they take on a more active role. They may help lead Sunday services or facilitate Dharma discussions, while continuing to learn and grow under the minister's supervision. Currently, there are 22 Certified MLAs officially recognized by the Bishop.

Some may then take a further step by receiving Tokudo ordination, becoming a **Tokudo Minister's Assistant**. Since this category was recently established by the State Minister's Association, I have designated six individuals as Tokudo Minister's Assistants (including one as a Kyoshi Minister's Assistant). This designation was made in recognition of their dedication to the Dharma and with the expectation that they will mature as ordained individuals and assist the Kaikyoshi Ministers in sharing the Nembutsu teaching within the HHMH community.

On our journey along the Nembutsu path, we are continually reminded that none of us walks alone. Each of us is supported, embraced, and guided by countless causes and conditions. Among these, the presence of those who step forward to serve—our Kaikyoshi Ministers and

Continued on page 6

From page 5

Minister's Lay Assistants—is a precious gift to our organization. **Eligibility:**

I would like to take a moment to express my deep appreciation for their dedication. Each of them, in their own way, has responded to the call of the Dharma—offering their time, their sincerity, and their willingness to serve others. This is not something we can take for granted. It is a manifestation of the working of Amida Buddha's Great Compassion in our midst.

May we continue to walk together as fellow travelers on the Nembutsu path—supporting one another, learning from one another, and sharing the light of the Dharma with all whom we encounter. In this way, may our Sangha continue to grow as a place of harmony, gratitude, and compassion for all.

Namo Amida Butsu,

MUSICAL NOTES

The Music Committee released the April 2026 edition of the Musical Notes Newsletter. It is available on this HHMH web page: <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2026/03/31/musical-notes-2026-04/>

KAHUKU HONGWANJI SCHOLARSHIP

The Kahuku Hongwanji Mission closed its doors in February 2013 after serving its membership for 111 years. To maintain the legacy of the Kahuku Hongwanji Mission and to develop the future generations of the Hongwanji, Kahuku Hongwanji Mission established a scholarship to support students at the college level. A \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to two students.

The applicant must be a student attending or registered for enrollment in an accredited university, college, or post-high school program in the State of Hawaii.

The applicant must show interest in Buddhism and be active in a Hongwanji program, either at the Hawaii Kyodan level or at a branch temple.

The applicant must be a full-time student and registered for a minimum of 12 college credits per semester.

The applicant, at the time of the application, must have a required minimum high school, college, or university in Hawaii GPA of 2.5. (*Those who registered for enrollment and not yet received Hawaii college/university GPA must submit their GPA after the first semester.)

The applicant must submit the application form with an essay on “Dharma and My Life”.

The application form is available at honpahi.link/kahuku2k. The application deadline is July 31, 2026. For more information on this scholarship, please contact the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters at (808) 522-9200 or email hqs@honpahi.org.

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

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/news/newsletter/>

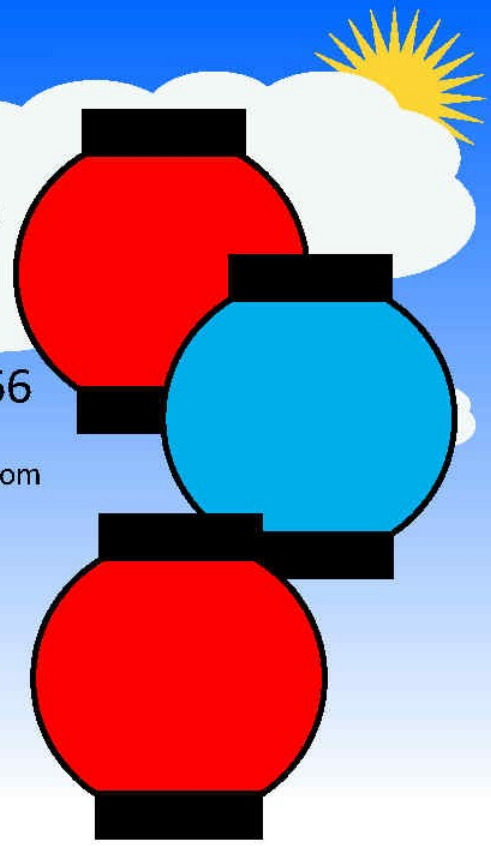
Lihue Hongwanji Mission

OBON FESTIVAL 2026

Friday and Saturday, June 19 & 20

3-3556 Kuhio Highway, Lihue, HI 96766

Phone: (808)245-6262 Email: lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com



Temple Bon Service 6:45 PM

Food Booth Open 6:00 PM

● Dinner Plate Open 6:00 PM

● Country Store Open 6:00 PM

● Dancing Begins 7:30 PM

Parking within temple grounds for handicap with placard and permits only.

● Please follow signs and heed the parking attendants.

- ◆ Flying Saucers
- ◆ Pronto Pups
- ◆ Andagi
- ◆ Bento
- ◆ Dinner Plates
- ◆ Shave Ice

While supply lasts

PLEASE

CASH ONLY
NO OUTSIDE FOOD
NO POP-UP TENTS

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.
Open to everyone.

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 only be 18 dances in the 2026 program. Come join us to learn or refresh your dance moves.



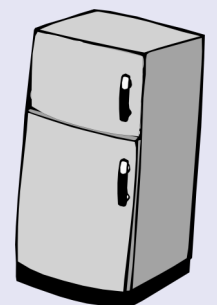
Lihue Hongwanji Mission's Bon Dance will be held on June 19 and 20. Everyone's help is needed to make it a success! Please volunteer by calling the office at (808)245-6262 or email lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com.

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	Kapa'a Hongwanji Mission
July 24-25	West Kauai Hongwanji—Hanapepe Temple



In preparation for the 2026 Bon Dance, if you have a used refrigerator or freezer in working condition, please consider donating it to LHM. If you have one to donate, please contact the office at (808)245-6262 or email lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com.



Mahalo!

Dear Members and Friends,



Once again, we are planning for our Bon Dance..

Lihue Hongwanji will be observing the Bon/Hatsubon Family Service on Sunday June 14 at 9:00 am. Our Bon Dance will be the following Friday and Saturday, June 19 & 20.

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 on the temple lanai prior to and during the Bon festival and will remain through the bon season. The deadline is June 1, 2026. 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

Request for donations for bon dance ingredients:

- > Rice (15-20 lb. bags only) – 15 bags

Note: packaging size of rice specified for easy handling

Please inform Lynette Mizuo or email lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com to let us know if you wish to donate any of the above. Monetary donations are being accepted to help defray the costs of purchasing baking ingredients.

Thank you for your generous response.



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 17 and Thursday June 18.

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

Buddha Day Proclamation

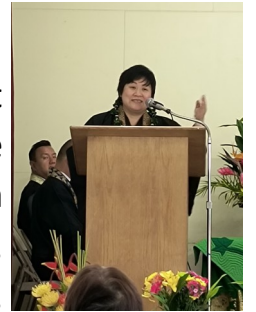
On March 23, members of the Kauai Buddhist Council met with Mayor Derek S. K. Kawakami to accept a proclamation announcing Buddha Day / Hanamatsuri on Kauai. Each temple received a copy of the Proclamation.



Photo from The Garden Island, by Dennis Fujimoto

Buddha Day Service

The Kauai Buddhist Council Buddha Day Service was held on April 12, 2026 at West Kauai Hongwanji, Hanapepe. There was a good crowd to celebrate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, The Buddha, in Lumbini Garden. There was a light rain during the service, as there was on the day The Buddha was born. The Hanamido was beautifully decorated with tropical flowers and greenery. The LHM members in charge of the Hanamido decoration were Karen Nishimoto, Gail Shibuya, Diane Fukuyama, Carlina Muffly and Dennis Muffly.

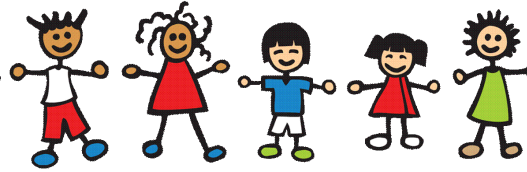
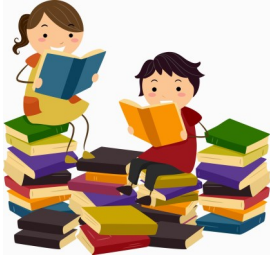


The special speaker was Rimban Yuika Hasebe, from Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin on Oahu. Her message was both entertaining, heartfelt and relatable.



Delicious food and lucky number drawing followed the service.

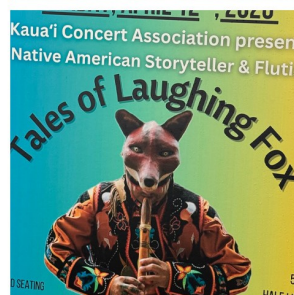




On March 4, Mayor Derek Kawakami visited us and read stories to the children. He played the ukulele and sang songs. We played Simon Says. He even did a magic trick for us. A good time was had by all.

On April 4th, a Chippewa tribesman named Laughing Fox visited us and played flutes and told the children stories about animals and families. The Chippewa are the largest Indian indigenous people. He shared a book about his people as well as a recording of his music. Laughing Fox came to us through The Kauai Concert Association

On May 28 we will have 28 students graduating and going on to kindergarten in the fall





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.

Wear your purple shirt if you have one.

May 3 (change)

August 9
November 15

BWA State Conference

March 28-29, 2026 at the Ala Moana Hotel



Grove Farm Tour

A fun tour of the Grove Farm Museum is scheduled for May 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The hour-long event will be followed by lunch (Place TBA). The cost is \$10 per member plus the price of lunch. An email was sent out in April with this information. Directors, please inform your members without email so everyone is aware of this fun excursion. Email the names of those attending to Lynette Mizuo, lymizuo@gmail.com by May 1, 2026. Members wishing to participate in only the tour or only for lunch may be accommodated.



Eshinni - Kakushinni Service
Sponsored by Kauai United Hongwanji BWA



Mrs. Tamayo Matsumoto, former Honorary President of the State Federation of BWA, presented a wonderful, personal video and a song from YouTube for the KUHBWA special service held at LHM. We were also treated to an AI created video which celebrated all of the BWA members who have come before us to sustain our organization.



During oshoko by representatives from the three Kauai Hongwanji temples, changes in generational and gender membership were present. Changes are happening.

DHARMA DRAGONS

are fighting Cancer

You can help by:

Joining our team

Register online at
www.relayforlife.org/kauaihi

Our team name is "Dharma Dragons"

Contact Lynne by email:
lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com

Supporting our team

Send a check payable to:
 American Cancer Society
 c/o Dharma Dragons @ LHM
 3-3556 Kuhio Hwy.
 Lihue, HI 96766

Relay For Life

Register Below



www.relayforlife.org/kauaihi



"Passport To A Cure"

Kauai Philippine Cultural Center
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th 4:00PM - 9:00PM

KUHBWA Scholarship, 2026

Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association (KUHBWA) has a scholarship program available for graduating high school seniors planning to attend an accredited college, university or community college in the United States. Scholarships are **\$1000** each and will be awarded to qualified seniors from a Hongwanji temple on Kauai.

Application forms will be available on March 1 from the temple minister or temple BWA president (Carol Valentine) which will include all of the necessary information. Please contact the temple for additional information (808-245-6262) or lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com.

Applications must be postmarked by: May 11, 2026

KAHUKU HONGWANJI SCHOLARSHIP

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The applicant must show interest in Buddhism and be active in a Hongwanji program, either at the Hawaii Kyodan level or at a branch temple.

The applicant must be a full-time student and registered for a minimum of 12 college credits per semester.

The applicant, at the time of the application, must have a required minimum high school, college, or university in Hawaii GPA of 2.5. (*Those who registered for enrollment and not yet received Hawaii college/university GPA must submit their GPA after the first semester.)

The applicant must submit the application form with an essay on "Dharma and My Life".

The application form is available at honpahi.link/kahuku2k. **The application deadline is July 31, 2026.** For more information on this scholarship, please contact the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters at (808) 522-9200 or email hqs@honpahi.org.

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

MEMORIAL DONATION:

In memory of Setsuo Ushio (1 Yr.)

Edith Ushio

Shirley Hashimoto

Alvin & Maizie Akimoto

In memory of Jiro Yamamoto

James Yamamoto

Suzette Naito

In memory of Mitsuko Higuchi

Warren & Colleen Nonaka

In memory of Haruno Sanoo

Diane Fukuyama

COLUMBARIUM DONATION:

In memory of Edward & Yaeko Fujimoto

Anne Uyehara & Carol Fujimoto

In memory of George & Elsie Toyofuku

Guy & Lori Toyofuku

In memory of Taichi Kurashige

Hiroko Kurashige

SPRING HIGAN DONATION:

Robert & Alma Yotsuda

*Thank
You*



“Do not believe in anything simply because you have heard it.

Do not believe in anything simply because it is spoken and rumored by many.

Do not believe in anything simply because it is found written in your religious books.

Do not believe in anything merely on the authority of your teachers and elders.

Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations.

But after observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it and live up to it.”



“The way is not in the sky. The way is in the heart.”

MEMORIAL SERVICE (HOYO)

MAY - JUNE

The following is a list of members who passed away during the months of May and June. 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 May 17 Stanley Kono

3rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2024

2024 May 8 Linda Uohara

2024 May 14 Yuriko Oshiro

2024 June 8 Lillian Amimoto

7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2020

2020 NONE

13th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2014

2014 June 1 Eiji Kreighton Kondo

2014 June 24 Yuichi “Harold” Tanaka

17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2010

2010 May 22 Matsuyo Tamura

2010 June 1 Charlie Sasaki

25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2002

2002 May 5 Katherine Matsuda

2002 May 8 Fusayo Fujii

2002 May 15 Agnes Miyamoto

2002 May 28 Harumi Yoshida

33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1994

1994 May 30 Takeshi Ota

1994 June 5 Yoichi Watada

50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1977

1977 May 17 Shizuka Kuraoka

1977 May 25 Yasuyo Yokota

Baccalaureate Service
Sunday May 17
Lihue Hongwanji Mission



Gotan-e Service
Sunday May 24
Celebrating the birth of Shinran Shonin
Lihue Hongwanji Mission

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