Dharma Wheel

11/2026

Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

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NOVEMBER, 2026

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude

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COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

November invites us to pause in gratitude. Through our Eitaikyo observance and the Thanksgiving holiday, we honor the countless causes and conditions that sustain our lives and awaken us to our deep connection with one another and the world. Inspired by this spirit of gratitude, we invite you to join our 2026-2027 Social Concerns Fund Drive.

Together, our generosity becomes a powerful expression of compassion. Your gift helps the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii support organizations and programs that strengthen our communities, provide relief and hope after disasters, and respond with care to challenges at home and around the world.

In 2026, that compassion reached people affected by numerous natural disasters, including the Kumamoto earthquake in Japan; wildfires in Spokane, Washington; the Kona Lows storm; and Hurricanes Lala and Nolo here at home. It also strengthened the vital work of community organizations, including Vibrant Hawaii on Hawaii Island, Roots Reborn on Maui, and food banks statewide.

This shared commitment continues through Golden Chain Grants, which empower Sangha-based compassionate action, and Dana Matching Grants, which amplify the charitable giving of organizations in the Hawaii Kyodan Ohana. We invite you to embrace these innovative programs and help carry our values of compassion, generosity, and service into the wider community.

The campaign runs from November 1, 2026, through August 31, 2027. Please act today: make your gift and submit it to your temple. Every contribution strengthens our collective ability to bring compassion, relief, and hope to communities in need. **Make all checks payable to Lihue Hongwanji.** LHM will then send a single combined check to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii by the end of September 2027. Join us in turning gratitude into compassionate action through the Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive.

Every gift, no matter the amount, brings relief, strengthens communities, and offers hope where it is needed most. Give today—and invite others to join you. Together, we can make a lasting difference through selfless giving. **Mahalo!**

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 2026

Sun	1	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Sun	8	9:30 AM	**KUHBWA Fall Conference** At West Kauai, Hanapepe **NO service at LHM**
Tues	10	8:00 AM	**Lonesome Grave, at Veterans Cemetery in Hanapepe, See pg. 11**
Thur	12	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	15	9:00 AM	**Eitaikyo Service**
		10:015 AM	**LHWA Meeting**
Sun	22	**8:00 AM**	**General Cleanup**
		10:30 AM	**General Membership Meeting, See Page 9**
Sun	29	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service

DECEMBER 2026

Sat	5	**4:00 pm—8:00 pm**	**Relay for Life Kauai Veterans Center See page 11**
Sun	6	**9:30 AM**	**Bodhi Day Service Soto Zen, Hanapepe**
Thur	10	7:00 PM	Board of directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	13	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	20	9:00 AM	**Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial**
Sun	27	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Thur	31	8:00 PM	New Year's Eve Service

For Members Only

Pickleball every Monday at 6:00 pm.
Wear tennis shoes and comfortable clothing.

Game Night on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Bring your own water & snacks if desired.

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.
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.



The Kitchen of Life and Entrusting Ourselves to Amida Buddha

November is the season when we gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving and share our gratitude for the blessings in our lives. At Lihue Hongwanji, November is also a special time when we observe **Eitaikyo, our Sangha Memorial Service**, expressing our gratitude to those who came before us and helping ensure that the Buddha Dharma continues to reach future generations.

This month, I would like to share a reflection inspired by something many of us enjoy watching: a cooking show!

On television, professional chefs create beautiful dishes that look absolutely delicious. We can watch them prepare every ingredient and admire the finished meal. But no matter how long we watch, our hunger is never satisfied. To nourish our bodies, we need more than a picture of food. We need the actual food right in front of us.

The same is true of the Buddha Dharma. We may learn many wonderful Buddhist teachings and think they are wise and inspiring. But simply knowing about Buddhism is not enough. The Dharma becomes meaningful when we listen to the teachings and begin to recognize the truth of our own lives through them.

Think about the kitchen of your own life. We may want to create a perfect life, carefully choosing the ingredients and following our own recipes. We hope everything will turn out just as planned. But life doesn't always cooperate! An unexpected illness, the loss of someone we love, a family difficulty, or an uncertain future may suddenly appear. These are ingredients we never wanted, and sometimes we feel that our carefully prepared lives have been ruined.

In Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, we learn about the boundless compassion of **Amida Buddha**. Amida sees us just as we are—not as the perfect people we wish we could become, but as ordinary human beings who struggle, worry, make mistakes, and sometimes feel overwhelmed by life.

Amida's compassion does not mean that every difficulty will disappear or that our lives will always turn out the way we want. Rather, we are assured that we are never abandoned, even in the midst of our struggles. Amida's Primal Vow embraces us just as we are and assures us of birth in the Pure Land.

This is the meaning of *entrusting ourselves to Amida Buddha*. We do not have to make ourselves perfect or earn the Buddha's compassion. We are invited to listen to the Dharma, receive this boundless compassion, and live our lives with a deeper sense of gratitude.

When we gather around the Thanksgiving table and put our hands together to say *itadakimasu*, we acknowledge that our food and our lives are supported by countless other lives and connections. The expression *okagesama*, or "thanks to the many conditions and people that sustain us," reminds us that we never live entirely on our own.

Our opportunity to hear the Nembutsu here on Kauai is also a precious gift. Generations before us worked hard, made sacrifices, and preserved the Buddha's teachings so that we could encounter the Dharma today. Eitaikyo is an opportunity to remember their kindness and renew our commitment to pass the Nembutsu on to those who will follow us.

As we welcome Thanksgiving and observe Eitaikyo this November, let us remember that we do not have to prepare a perfect recipe for life. We can live with humility, knowing that we are supported by countless connections and embraced by Amida Buddha's compassion.

And as we become more deeply aware of this great gift, the words *Namo Amida Butsu* naturally arise from our hearts and lips—not as a prayer to make everything go our way, but as an expression of gratitude for the compassion that never abandons us.

May we continue to listen to the Dharma, appreciate the kindness of those who came before us, and share the Nembutsu with future generations.

In Gassho



BISHOP UMITANI'S MESSAGE

Reflections at Dawn, 12,000 Meters *Above the Earth (Rev. Hiromi Kawaji) Floating in the vast and infinite universe is our beautiful green planet, Earth. Within the solar system, it rotates and revolves in perfect harmony, bringing day and night, the changing of the four seasons, and nurturing countless forms of life. Here and now, on this Earth, I have been given the precious gift of human life, living this eternal present moment that comes only once and never returns. How wondrous, how inconceivable, how truly beyond comprehension! My heart is filled with gratitude. Because this life is ours only once, because this human life can never be lived over again, this life, here and now, is precious, and this day is truly wonderful. Everything I see, everything I hear, everything I touch—I receive it all with gratitude as a precious gift given to me. I bow in gratitude before all the countless blessings that sustain and nurture my life.*

(English translation by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani)

This is one of the poems written by Rev. Hiromi Kawaji, who passed away on July 16, 2026. Whenever I read this poem, I picture Kawaji Sensei with his hands together in gassho, always expressing his gratitude to those around him. I feel that these words beautifully reflect how he lived his life—a life of joy and gratitude in the Nembutsu.

On October 10, 2026, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii held a Hawaii Kyodan Funeral Service to honor Rev. Kawaji and express our heartfelt appreciation for his many years of dedicated service. On behalf of the Hawaii Kyodan, I extend my deepest condolences to his family and all those who were touched by his life.

Rev. Kawaji was appointed as a Kaikyoshi minister in 1961 and served the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for more than forty years. His ministerial assignments included Hawaii Betsuin, Executive Secretary, Kapa`a, Kealia, Pearl City, Mililani, Wailuku, and Aiea Hongwanji Missions. From 1994 to 2002, he served as Rimban (Chief Minister) of Hawaii Betsuin. Even after his retirement in 2004, he continued to share the Dharma and support our temples and Sangha.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Honzan, the Worldwide Headquarters of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji -ha denomination, bestowed upon him the Posthumous Title (Ingō) of Ken-Toku-In (顕徳院). The characters Ken (顕) and Toku (徳) may be understood as "revealing the virtues" of Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion. I feel this title beautifully expresses Kawaji Sensei's life. Through his gentle words, warm smile, and kindness toward everyone, he revealed the Compassion of Amida Buddha through the way he lived.

I was fortunate to serve under Kawaji Sensei when I was a young and inexperienced Kaikyoshi minister at Hawaii Betsuin. I learned so much from his guidance and example. I can still picture him standing at the podium, smiling and sharing the heartwarming messages in words everyone could understand. He treated everyone equally and with kindness, often saying, "Arigato ne, arigato ne" "Thank you, thank you."

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

This reminded us that the Jodo Shinshu teaching has been passed down across generations and oceans through the dedication of countless individuals. Kawaji Sensei was one of those precious people who helped spread the Nembutsu teaching here in Hawaii. Through his life, many of us encountered the warmth of Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion.

Although we can no longer meet Kawaji Sensei in this world, the Jodo Shinshu teaching assures us that he has attained Enlightenment in the Pure Land and continues to guide us. He continues to live within our voice of Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu. As we remember his life, may we deepen our appreciation for this precious and irreplaceable life and continue to share the joy and gratitude of the Nembutsu with others.

Kawaji Sensei, Arigato Gozaimashita. Thank you for everything you have given us. We will continue to live a life of Nembutsu until the day we meet again in the Pure Land. Namo Amida Butsu.

RECORDINGS OF HAWAII GATHAS

Thirty-eight English gathas, written by Hawaii Hongwanji members and never before published in Hawaii's gatha book, Praises of the Buddha, are now included in the 5th edition (2024) and may be heard on recordings now available.

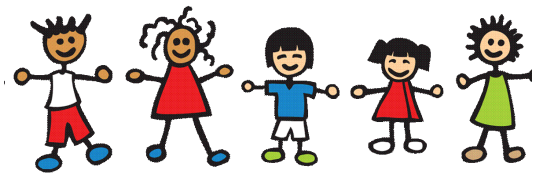
A generous Propagation Project Grant of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for the biennium 2025-2026 enabled the Hawaii Kyodan Music Committee to commission soprano Laurie Rubin and keyboardist Jennifer Taira to complete recording the set of 38 gathas.

Available to all temples, these recordings are intended as sing along aids to congregational singing, particularly in the absence of organist or choir. They also have multiple uses, including gatha familiarization and listening enjoyment.

To access the recordings: Visit hongwanjihawaii.com/music, then scroll down to "38 Gathas by Hongwanji Hawaii Composers — New to Praises of the Buddha 5th Edition (2024)." You'll see a button to access the audio files page.

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/


We've had a very busy October. We studied ways to be safe.

The fire fighters and officers from the Kauai Police Department visited us. We made home evacuation plans, learned to crawl under the smoke, practiced "stop, drop and roll." The police officers talked to us about being safe at Halloween.

We had our first official visit to the temple with Rev. Shawn. The children were invited to offer incense….and he taught us "Musunde", which we enjoyed especially when we did it faster and faster.

We also held a book fair to raise funds for new books and puzzles for our library. It was a very successful event for us. Thank you to Michael and Ellen Nakata for your generous monetary donation.

Thank you to John Ogle for refurbishing our sandbox… it looks brand new. Thank you also to our friends at Tanaka Store for helping us with the materials.

We are grateful for the kindness and generosity bestowed upon us by so many people.








2026

LHWA Meetings for 2026

Our LHWA meeting will take place after refreshments.
Please wear your purple shirt if you have one.

November 15
Please attend as we need to do important business and need a quorum. Thank you!

KUHBWA Fall Conference

Sunday November 8, 2026
9:30 am at West Kauai, Hanapepe
All are welcome!



Featured Speaker: Ms. Claire Tamamoto, Aiea Hongwanji, President of the Hawaii Federation BWA

2027

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.

Go to https://hawaiibwa.org/world-convention-2027/registration/ for information.

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

Grandma's Treasures & Lihue Hongwanji Preschool Book Fair

On October 10 Grandma's Treasures and the LHM Preschool Book fair had a successful sale in the LHM social hall. Many people came, browsed and bought treasures and books. Thank you to everyone who helped with pricing, organizing, set-up and cleanup.















We now have **new curtains** on the storage area and the windows behind the altar. Many thanks to Carol Ozaki and Carolyn Yamasaki for the curtains and Morton Yamasaki for installing them.











The end of the year is rapidly approaching. Please check if you've paid your dues for 2026. If you forgot, please send it before December 31. Mahalo!





General Cleanup
Sunday, November 22
8:00 AM - 11:30 AM
General meeting time: 10:30



Please come out to help with cleaning. Have lunch and stay for the General Membership Meeting.

If you would consider serving on the 2027 Board of Directors or as a committee chair, please call the office at 808-245-6262 or email the temple at lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com



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 the temple, 808-245-6262. He is always willing to help in any way that he can.

LIVING GRATITUDE

Fall 2026



Enhancing Funeral Services Through Gatha Videos

An application from The New Expressions Committee of HHMH chaired by Rev. Eric Matsumoto was received by the Living Gratitude Grant Committee. This application for a Funeral Gatha Video Project focuses on the creation of attractive, meaningful digital visuals for gathas used at funerals and other services, and are intended to offer families spiritual guidance.

The videos will pair natural and other meaningful scenes with gatha lyrics and broaden the selection of gathas available for funeral services. Featured gathas include "In Amida's Embrace", "Homeward I Go", "Like the Waves", and "Mihotoke Ni Idakarete" along with "Nembutsu" and "Ondokusan" in both Japanese and English. Since funerals are often the largest and most frequent gatherings, it is an opportunity to connect with others and to share the wisdom and compassion of the Buddha-Dharma. It will hopefully provide comfort, contentment, fulfillment, and calmness during this difficult time.

Through this project, the New Expressions Committee hopes to reshape perceptions of Buddhist funerals and encourage more people to consider the Buddhist way of life. After careful review, the committee approved the Funeral Gatha Videos Project. This is the second project to be funded by the Living Gratitude Committee.

If you have any questions, contact the HHMH office at 808.522.9200.

"The HHMH will continue to share the living Teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism so that all beings may enjoy lives of harmony, peace, and gratitude. Your continued and heartwarming support for the Living Gratitude Endowment will help us move forward."

To support Living Gratitude, please use the QR code to donate today!

In 2026, HHMH advanced the goals financed through your contributions.

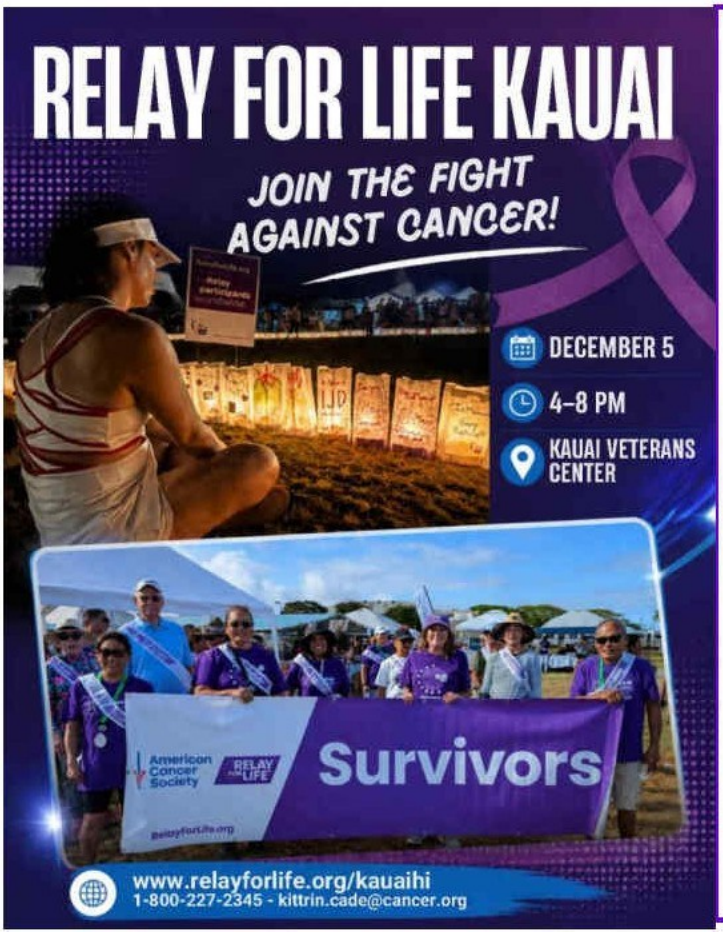
EDUCATE
- Approved the Funeral Gatha Video Project for $2,500.

INNOVATE
- Watch the video projects on Instagram YouTube Shorts.

SUSTAIN
- Living Gratitude Fund as of June 30, 2026 · $148,700.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your contribution.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii | 1727 Pali Highway | Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Due to Hurricane Lowell, Relay for Life Kauai was cancelled on September 12. It has been postponed to December 5 at the Kauai Veterans Center from 4 to 8 PM.

Attend the event for the survivors walk, luminaria ceremony, entertainment, and food and activities booths!

Thank you to all who helped the Dharma Dragons raise funds.

All to benefit the

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Custodian Wanted

LHM is looking for a custodian. If you know of someone who is looking for part-time work as a custodian/cleaner, please let us know. You can call the office at 808-245-6262 or email at lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com



LONESOME GRAVE PROJECT



Lonesome Grave Project of the Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association will be held at the Kauai Veterans Cemetery in Hanapepe on Tuesday November 10, beginning at 8:00 am . Your help and/or donation of flowers and greenery are welcome to help decorate all of the graves, so there are no "lonesome graves." Please trim flowers & greenery to "vase size."

Please join us if you are able on November 10 at 8:00 am at Kauai Veterans Cemetery.

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

MEMORIAL DONATION:
In memory of Roy Fujioka (1 Yr.)
Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine
In memory of Shizue Fujioka (7 Yrs.)
Gerald Miller & Avis Hirahara
In memory of Tama Sasaki (33 Yrs.)
Milton & Caroline Ozaki
Kerry & Mona Lee
Lynne Matsumura
In memory of Chieko Oda
Suzette Naito
In memory of Hide Oda
Suzette Naito
In memory of Bessie Sasaki
Warren & Colleen Nonaka
In memory of Annabelle Wertz
Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine

COLUMBARIUM DONATION:
In memory of Tama Sasaki (33 Yrs.)
Kerry & Mona Lee
In memory of George & Elsie Toyofuku
Guy & Lori Toyofuku
In memory of Masa & Jane Arita
Robert & Arleen Edgar
In memory of Takeuchi Family: Chieko, Minoru & Owen
Charlene Takeuchi & Jeanne White

AUTUMN HIGAN DONATION:
Karen Nishimoto
Winston & Marian Ogata
Morton & Carolyn Yamasaki
Diane Fukuyama
Hiroko Kurashige
Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine
Roy & Arleen Tanaka
Glenn & Gail Shibuya
Edith Ushio

SPECIAL DONATION:
In Honor of Florence Iwamoto
Iwamoto Family Foundation

HAPPINESS DONATION:
Gladys Fujiuchi (Birthday)

SOCIAL CONCERNS:
Janet Niitani





Thank you to the many volunteers who help set up the after-service drinks and refreshments and provide the goodies. We are most appreciative of those who give of their time to help us enjoy our talk story time.



MEMORIALS

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—2025

2025 NONE

3rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2024

2024 NONE

7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2020

2020 November 28 Shizue Fujioka

2020 December 13 Charles Kusaka

13th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2014

2014 November 13 Tokiko Tada

2014 December 8 Haruo Nakamoto

17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2010

2010 November 17 Yoshiko Hadama

25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2002

2002 November 5 Saburo Morinaka

2002 December 14 Tsuyoshi Sasaki

2002 December 30 Boyd Higashi

33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1994

1994 December 25 Kunie Arinaga

50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1977

1977 NONE

Kauai United Hongwanji BWA Fall Conference

Sunday November 8, 2026
at West Kauai Hongwanji, Hanapepe
All are Welcome
No Service at LHM
See page 7 for information





LONESOME GRAVE PROJECT

To be held at the Kauai Veterans Cemetery in Hanapepe on Tuesday November 10, beginning at 8:00 am . Please join us.
See page 11 for information.

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: lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

lihuehongwanji.org