

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MAUI WILDFIRE MEMORIAL SERVICE

The State Ministers Association assisted by Maui District Ministers Association would like to host a memorial service for the Maui wildfires under the guidance of Bishop Umitani.

The following is the service date and time.

Date: Sunday, September 24th, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin

Platform: In-Person and Zoom

Dharma Talk: Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani

All donations from the service will go to the HHMH Maui Wildfire Relief Fund.

Everyone is invited to the service in-person and Zoom.

More details will be shared with you later.



How to Donate:

- 1) Shop at Foodland or Sack N Save.
- 2) Show your Maika'i card to the cashier at checkout.
- 3) Tell the cashier our code **79067** and the amount of your donation up to \$249.
- 4) Review your receipt to confirm Moiliili Hongwanji appears.

Thank you for your support!



The White Way

Mo'ili'ili Hongwanji is the center of Shin Buddhist spiritual growth, learning, and compassionate service to our Community.

Temple Office: (808) 949-1659 mhm@moililihongwanji.org www.moililihongwanji.org
Project Dana: (808) 945-3736 info@projectdana.org

Stories that lead to the Buddhist Teachings



Many of us have been diligently studying Buddhism for a number of years, trying to “get a handle” on this thing we call Jodo Shin Buddhism. We try and think we are failing in our effort. One merely has to look around you and you will see the essence of Buddhism, to know oneself.

It is not necessary to learn Buddhism through doctrines or other formal lectures, and there are many stories that will lead one to the Teachings as well. One that I would like to share with you, is the proverb, “A Frog in a tiny well does not know the huge ocean.”

A frog lived in a tiny well surrounded by a huge ocean. It has always been in the well, and did not know about the existence of the huge ocean. He also did not know that he lived in a tiny well.

One day, a bird flew over the well and said to the frog, “Mr. Frog, you are in a tiny well. Since you have always been there, you cannot see what’s outside your well. There is a huge ocean out there!” The frog replied, “What are you saying? There is a huge world in here. You stupid bird! Go away!” So the bird flew away.

Later, the frog started to think about what the bird had said. There were times when he heard the sound of splashing water outside his well. He thought, “Is it possible that the bird is right and I am wrong? Maybe there is something outside this well.”

The next time the bird flew over the well, the frog called out to him, “Mr. Bird, I am sorry for what I said, and you may be right. So please take me out of this well and show me the ocean you talked about. Complying with the frog’s request, the bird lifted him up and flew up in the air. When the bird reached a certain height, the frog shouted, “How tiny my well is! How huge the ocean is!” The frog’s insight into the huge ocean was inseparable. As soon as he awoke to the ocean’s hugeness, he also awoke to the well’s smallness. Just as the frog’s ignorance was two-fold, so was his awakening. The frog’s awakening did not make his “well” any greater or more significant. His home was still a tiny well. Only his perspective had changed. If the frog decided to jump into the ocean, he will immediately drown and die. No matter how small it may be, the “well” is the only place where he could live.

Prior to studying Buddhism, we are like the frog living in a tiny well. Although we do not know the real nature of the self (symbolized by the “well”) we think we know it. Like the frog who believes that his well is huge, we overestimate ourselves and think we are great. We blindly love ourselves and cannot see things objectively. Just as the bird challenged the frog to doubt his perceptions, a Buddhist teacher challenges us by telling us that we totally misunderstand our self.

Like the Kalo (taro) that Hawaiians relate this plant to spiritual development, spiritual growth is like a plant, requiring firm rooting in the earth, the ground of our human reality. Both humans and the kalo need constant nourishment from the life-giving source and nurturing caregivers. When we begin to deeply examine ourselves with the help of the Buddhist Teachings, we can finally say, “How small the self is! How great the Dharma is!” This is awakening, or Buddhahood, the goal of Buddhism.

CAMPAIGNING FOR OUR TEMPLE'S RENOVATION-UPDATE 7

Bodhi Tree

Levels of Support

Statement regarding the Disaster on Maui

I would like to express my deepest condolences to those who lost their lives as a result of the disaster in Maui, and my heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost their homes and are living as evacuees.

The fire that broke out on August 8, 2023, devastated the city of Lahaina. As of today, 93 people are confirmed to have died, and more than 2,000 buildings have been damaged or destroyed. The historic town of Lahaina, which was once the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom and a beautiful tourist destination visited by many people, was burnt to the ground.

Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, located in the center of the city, was not spared the destruction by the fire. The Resident Minister, Reverend Ai Hironaka, his family, and many of the temple members have safely evacuated and are currently living a life of inconvenience. As for the damage to the temple, it is expected to take some time to confirm its state, partly because the town is under lockdown.

The history of the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission began in 1904. Since then, the light of the Nembutsu Dharma has been successfully passed down through the dedication and contribution of the Resident Ministers, their families, temple members, and many people in the community. Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, along with other churches and temples, was the place of refuge for the people living in the area. I remember the sound of the Nembutsu reverberating in the Hondo on Sundays. It is truly sad for all of us that such a practice hall of the Nembutsu was destroyed by the disaster.

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii established the Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund. Since then, we have received much support not only from within the State of Hawaii but also from all over the world, including the mainland United States, Canada, and Japan. On behalf of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii ministers and members, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those who extended compassionate words and actions for those on Maui. I would like to humbly ask for your continued support.

Recovery on Maui could take years. Many people are living in anxiety about their uncertain future. As fellow travelers of the Nembutsu, let us stand in solidarity with those who are experiencing suffering and sorrow brought about by this unprecedented encounter.

Even though the temple buildings have been damaged, our sincere aspiration of listening to and sharing the Nembutsu teaching never disappears. This is not the end of 119 years of the history of Lahaina Hongwanji. We are all the more determined to dedicate ourselves to establishing a society where the sound of the Nembutsu prevails.

May the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha embrace us all. May the sound of the Nembutsu brings us peace and comfort, and gives us the courage to move forward. Namo Amida Butsu.

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani

Bishop

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

August 13, 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

by Joanne Kealoha, President

August 2023

Hope you're all enjoying the last days of summer. The Board of Directors has had a very busy summer so far!

Support for Maui

The wildfires that ravaged Maui and left Lahaina in rubble and ash were unimaginable. Residents lost their homes, all their belongings, and even their livelihood. Worse yet, at least 115 lives were lost, and about 1,000 remain unaccounted for. Lahaina Hongwanji burned to the ground—although, ironically, the columbarium remains intact. Lahaina will never be the same, but the people of Lahaina are resilient and determined to rebuild better and stronger. Upcountry Maui and Kihei also suffered losses, but Makawao Hongwanji continues to serve the needs of its members and community.

In our disbelief about the devastation and our immense sadness for the losses, our feeling of helplessness can be overwhelming. That's what led people immediately to donate food, clothing, and other goods that the people impacted by this disaster need. But monetary donations are also very much needed.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii acted swiftly to establish a fund ("Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief") to collect donations for Hongwanji members impacted by the fires and for community rebuilding efforts. You may have received the letter signed by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani, Kyodan President Warren Tamamoto, and Rev. Blayne Higa, chair of the Committee on Social Concerns, asking Hongwanji members to donate in one of three ways: (1) online at www.hongwanjihawaii.com; (2) through GoFundMe (<https://gofund.me/11771177a520>); and (3) by cash or check payable to "HHMH" (*memo line: "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief"*) and send to: Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813. Please donate to show your support for Maui!

On behalf of Moiliili Hongwanji, a donation of **\$20,000** was made to the Honpa Hongwanji Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief fund.

Rev. Umitani becomes Bishop Umitani!

In June, the temple held an Aloha Party for Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani and his family. Naho was back from college after accompanying Riho to a national speech competition. The whole family took photos with temple members in front of a beautiful backdrop created by Cheryl Yasunaga, Lynn & Ann Nakata. While we are sad the Umitanis have left Moiliili, we are so proud that Rev. Umitani has been appointed the 17th Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji, one of several Moiliili ministers to ascend to this high position. We look forward to working with Bishop Umitani in his new role.

Rev. Bert Sumikawa is back at Moiliili Hongwanji!

Rev. Bert is back with us for his third assignment to Moiliili Hongwanji. This time, he has been called out of retirement to serve our temple on a part-time basis until our new resident minister is assigned, which may not be until February 2024.

But Rev. Bert is hardly part-time! He is also assigned to Windward Buddhist Temple. He delivers dharma messages most Sundays, reflecting the depth of his knowledge of Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu as well as his many life experiences. He officiates at memorial services, funerals, and even weddings. He resumed in-person services at senior living facilities. He chants the Shoshinge every Saturday morning and invites others to join him. He reinstated "talk story" sessions after Sunday service and participates in meditation on Tuesday evenings. He attends all board and committee meetings he can. He is available for counseling. Rev. Bert is Moiliili Hongwanji's Superman—we are fortunate to have him back at Moiliili Hongwanji!

Moiliili Summer Fest/Bon Dance

On July 1, Moiliili Summer Fest and Bon Dance celebrated its 10th anniversary with the second post-COVID in-person bon dance at the old Varsity Theater parking lot. The turnout was even better than last year with an estimated 10,000 attendees enjoying the food (our concession and food trucks), retail booths (including ours), and children's activities. A new towel was introduced this year—teal color, modern design—and is still available at the Office. We even had a "sneak peek" the night before to give andagi lovers a chance to buy some without having to wait in long lines and to buy t-shirts and towels in advance.

Many, many thanks to Ryne Masuda, who co-chaired the Summer Fest with Cedric Duarte and chaired the temple's bon dance committee, and a slew of dedicated, reliable, hard-working temple volunteers like Arlyne Takiue, Emma Kie, Cynthia Ogasawara, Noriyo Morikubo, Melvin Takemoto, Ann Miyasaki, Rona Fukumoto, Iris Wasa Uehisa, Ann and Lynn Nakata, Cheryl and Reid Yasunaga, Lily and Roy Masuda, Bert Matsuoka, Lois Ohta, Donna Higashi, Ernie Morikubo, Raymond Takiue—the list goes on and on (*my sincere apologies for missing anyone*). We are also grateful for non-temple volunteers like the Hawaii Kai Jaycees, who have been invaluable partners with the temple. It may take a village to raise a child, but it also takes a village to put on a successful bon dance. Mahalo to everyone for a job well done!

The Summer Fest is a wonderful opportunity for visibility, to partner with others in the community, and, even more, to invite a diversity of people, young and old, to learn more about Buddhism. The future looks bright!

Kamehameha Schools development plans

Kamehameha Schools owns the site where the Moiliili Summer Fest was held and has been a major partner, providing the site at no charge and a hefty sponsorship donation. This year, Central Pacific Bank, soon to be another neighbor, was also a sponsor.

Kamehameha Schools will be “redeveloping” its properties in Moiliili soon—more a “refreshing” than a major redevelopment. Kamehameha is committed to making the parking lot available for community events like the Summer Fest. Kamehameha has asked for a meeting with temple members to share their plans. Stay tuned!

Neighboring property (902-C University Avenue)

We are sad to report that the property surrounded by the temple, which we have wanted to acquire for decades, has been sold by the Chung family trust to B7 Hawaii, a group of mainland and foreign investors planning to take advantage of a city ordinance (aka “Bill 7”) that incentivizes development of affordable rental housing with no requirements for parking, height limits, and even elevators. B7 Hawaii's plan was to develop a six-story, 30-unit apartment building on the University Avenue lot. Rev. Bert Sumikawa, Sidney Kanazawa, and I met with representatives of the new owners and will continue ongoing communications with B7 Hawaii. More information to follow.

Kie family donation

Rev. Soshin and Akiko Kie were both devout Shinshu followers and ministered to hundreds, if not thousands, of Jodo Shinshu members in Japan, Okinawa, and Hawaii. When the Kies passed away, they left commercial property in Kalihi, valued at nearly \$2 million, to the Honpa Hongwanji (40%), Moiliili Hongwanji (30%), and Pacific Buddhist Academy (30%). We are truly grateful to the entire Kie family for their enormous generosity and dedication to spreading the Dharma.

Digitizing White Way tapes

Weekly White Way radio broadcasts began in April 1975 with Hongwanji leaders and members sharing insights about life and Buddhist teachings. Donna Higashi found 1400 cassette tapes in the sound room and began digitizing the tapes in 2021. Roughly 25% of the tapes have been digitized. Donna will be pulling back from the project and hopes to interest someone else to take over. Any volunteers?

Temple rentals

Since the Preschool closed in May 2022, temple spaces in the social hall and annex have been rented to generate income. Current tenants are:

Moiliili Sewing School – Monday-Friday (9 am to 8 pm) plus one Sunday a month (3-9 pm).

Na Leo Lani (choral group) – Wednesday (6-9 pm).

Karate classes – Wednesday (6:30-9 pm).

United Self Help – weekly meetings (3-5 pm) plus a social gathering on the 4th Friday (5:30-8:30 pm).

Hula Halau – Saturday (9 am-1 pm).

The social hall and annex are also available for rent to members and others for parties, meetings, and other gatherings. Rental fees are quite reasonable but may be adjusted when renovations are completed. If you need a place for a family gathering, give the Office a call!

Any questions or comments?

We look forward to hearing from you so feel free to talk to me or anyone on the Board of Directors.

Mahalo!

MHM Open House & Bazaar

An Open House & Bazaar will be held at Moiliili Hongwanji on Sunday, October 1st from 9:00-1:00 pm. Entrance and exit will be through the makai side gate. The Open House & Bazaar will be featuring the following:

Rummage & Craft Sale

Rummage Sale will be in the social hall. Volunteers will be needed to help set up, man the tables & help customers, and assist as cashiers and security. All items will be new or gently used and sold at *bargain* prices. Please check the Krafte's section for one-of-a-kind fabric creations like bags, blankets and utensil/chopstick holders. There will also be a variety of handcrafted items including some new Buddhist themed jewelry & pillow boxes for gifts, wands and ornaments.

Plant Sale

Plants will be located just inside the side gate. Plant lovers are gathering plants to sell at reduced prices. Donated plants may be dropped off Thu, Fri, & Sat before the bazaar. Drop off will be inside the gated area, next to the annex.

Baked Goods

Baked goods will be located in the downstairs annex. We are asking for donations of baked goods, homemade or bought. Especially popular are breads, cookies, bars, mochi, pies, cakes, etc. All items must be individually wrapped, priced, and have an ingredient label. If there are any questions or if help is needed with labels, please contact the office. **(Drop off will be on Sunday morning after 7 am.)**

Food Sale

Food items in the planning are nachos, nachos deluxe, chili rice, chili dog, hot dog, vegetable pasta, spam musubi, chirashi by the BWA, shave ice by the Jr. YBA, and drinks, subject to change.

Dharma School

The Dharma School will be making Balloon Animals, Game Wheel, and Notebook Decorating.

“Ask Us Questions”

In addition to the above, there will be a “Ask Us Questions” Butsudan & Project Dana table. Rev. Bert Sumikawa, President Joanne Kealoha, and Project Dana Executive Director Cyndi Osajima, will be in the annex to field your questions, pass out brochures, and talk story with the public. There will also be a quick walk-thru of the temple Hondo at 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. It will be a good opportunity for people who have never been inside of a Buddhist temple to take a quick tour.

Crafters (Vendors)

A few crafters will be selling their crafts. There will be various handmade crafts for sale.

The public and everyone is welcome to attend the Bazaar on October 1st. Please help spread the word. Come on down for a fun filled day!

Update on White Way Radio Digitizing Project

Back in September 2021, the Sound Room on the third floor Moiliili Hongwanji office building was thoroughly inventoried. In it we found about 1400 cassette tape recordings of the weekly White Way radio broadcast which began in 1975. Since cassette tape recorders are not easily available, it was decided to digitize these tapes (1984-2011) and as of today, only 25% of them have been completed. It was a very time-consuming and slow process due to the age of the tapes and the equipment used often unreliable. One favorable aspect of this project has been the ability to hear the talks individually.

Imagine listening to our Dharma teachers' actual voices, some who have since passed away or moved far from Hawaii, talking about *The start of the Pacific Buddhist Academy* (Bishop Chikai Yosemite); *How Jikoen Hongwanji was kept open after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941* (Lily Horio); *My friend Kinji Kanazawa* (Rev. Shoji Matsumoto); *Thank You* (Lois Yasui); or *Engaged Buddhism* (Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani). A listing of these "old" and newly digitized tapes are available.

Since the 50th Anniversary of the White Way Radio Broadcast is coming up in April 2025, here is a complete history of the White Way Radio broadcasts.

April 1975 – began WW Radio program using 5 cassette tape recordings

1975 – 1984 – Talks recorded on Reel-to-Reel Tapes – no plans since no suitable equipment available

1984 – 2011 – Talks recorded on Cassette Tapes – 25% digitized

2011 – 2014 – Talks recorded on CD (all kept in Sound Room); accessible on computer

Since 2012 – Broadcasts also available on MHM website thanks to Robin Meade

2014 – present – Talks sent digitally directly to radio station; Recorded on Computer in Sound Room

Special thanks go to MHM staffer, Richard Oka, primary person in charge of the weekly broadcasts. The other announcers are Noriyo Morikubo, Karen Murakami, and Sharen Uyeunten. We also wish to thank the weekly speakers and sponsors. Presently there are no plans to digitize the remaining 75% of the cassette tapes which remain in the Sound Room. If you would like to share some thoughts about this project, please contact Donna Higashi by email or phone.

Kolohe Krafters



The Kolohe Krafters have started to meet regularly again, on Mondays at 10:00 am. Please join us to create items to sell at temple events, using donated supplies, with profits supporting temple activities. We have sewing machines and you may also work on hand sewing creations for example, completing felt ornament kits, completing fabric yoyos that may be used for trivets or decoration. Or use the supplies for other creative items to sell. Thank you very much to members and friends who helped sew happi this year. A special thank you to Noriyo for serging all the pieces making it easier to sew. During this year's

Obon season, over \$2000 of happi were sold. This amount is 100% profit for the temple due to the generous donations of fabric. We still have a few fabric to cut but are looking for new fabric to replenish the happi inventory for next year. Fabrics with oriental prints or solids would be helpful.

The Kolohe Krafters could also use a variety of fabrics for other projects like completing the patchworks started by the former quilters. If you or family and friends are thinking of downsizing your fabric supply, please consider a donation to the temple. Thank you

Our email address is KoloheKrafters@gmail.com

Submitted by Karen & Ruth



Join Project Dana's Public Presentation Meetings!

Meeting Date: Saturday, September 9, 2023

Time: 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Location: Zoom & Waipahu Hongwanji
(94-821 Kuhaulua St)

Topic: "Kupuna Fire and Fall Prevention"
Learn how to help prevent older adult deaths and injuries in your community by implementing fire and fall safety practices.

Speaker: Daniel Andrade, Honolulu Fire Dept.

Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Time: 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Location: Zoom & Hawaii Betsuin
(1727 Pali Hwy)

Topic: "Medicare Coverage of Ambulance Services" Learn about Medicare coverage of ambulance services, anticipated costs, what to do if your ambulance ride is denied, and helpful resources.

Speaker: Candace Young & Monica, Hawaii SHIP volunteer

*Zoom links will be provided by inquiry

Please call or e-mail if you are interested in attending public presentations or need more information about the program: Maria Morales, Program Coordinator (808) 945-3736
cgsg@projectdana.org

Capital Campaign Donation

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Bon Dance Donation

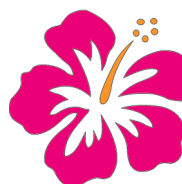
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Mahalo Temple Donations



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Contact the office for Zoom link

September 2023

- 3 9:00 AM** Remembrance Service
10 9:00 AM Sunday Service - Grandparents' Day
17 9:00 AM Sunday Service - Mr. Dennis Sekine
24 9:00 AM Autumn Ohigan Service -
 Rev. Alan Urasaki

October 2023

- 1 NO SERVICE - Open House & Bazaar**
8 9:00 AM Remembrance Service
15 9:00 AM Sunday Service
22 9:00 AM Sunday Service
29 9:00 AM Sunday Service - Dress up Day

November 2023

- 5 9:00 AM** BWA Hoonko Service
12 9:00 AM Remembrance Service - Veterans Day
19 9:00 AM Eitaikyo Service
26 NO SERVICE - Temple clean up

With Heartfelt
Sympathy

Moilili Hongwanji Mission extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of:

Richard Kazuichi Takamoto	79	4/15/2023
Jay Kunio Hamai*	80	5/12/2023
Kelly Naofumi Inasaki	54	5/18/2023
Masato Kanetani	96	5/20/2023
Paul Masaru Kudo	77	5/23/2023
Harriet Shigeko Kuroda	102	6/5/2023
Irwin Mitsugi Kurashige*	92	6/24/2023
Iku Nakajima Donnelly	98	7/1/2023
Patsy Yoshie Petersen	79	7/19/2023

May the Onembutsu provide solace to family members during this time of sorrow.

(* Indicates Temple Sustaining Gojikai Member)

WHITE WAY RADIO

Join us on Saturdays for White Way Radio on KZOO1210 at 7:45 a.m. for inspiring messages from a variety of speakers. We are truly grateful for our White Way sponsors who make it possible to share the Dharma on the air every week. If you missed it go to www.moililihongwanji.org, Buddhist Teachings.

September 2023

- 2** Rev. Tomo Hojo/ Mr. Alan Yokota
9 Rev. Mieko Majima/ The Hirai Family
16 Ms. Rene Mansho/ Mr. Reese Morikubo
23 Rev. Daido Baba/ The Kanazawa Family
30 Rev. Ai Hironaka/ The Miyasaki Family

October 2023

- 7** Rev. Kerry Kiyohara/ The Matsumoto Family
14 Ms. Carolyn Uchiyama/ The Horii Family
21 Rev. Shinkai Murakami/ Mr. Chris Kanazawa
28 Ms. Debbie Kubota/ Ms. Martha Samson

November 2023

- 4** Ms. Juliet Kono Lee/ Mr. Arnold Matsuura
11 Rev. Charlene Kihara/ Mrs. Jolene Nakamatsu
18 Rev. Alan Urasaki/ Mr. & Mrs. Roy Abe
25 Rev. Kazunori Takahashi/ Mr.&Mrs. Sorakubo

White Way Donations

Jo DesMarets
 Michie Hamao
 Brian Horii
 Joy Yoshimura

Nokotsudo Donations

Kiyoto Fujita
 IMO Joy Fujita for Obon
 Bert & Hazel Maedo
 IMO Maedo Family
 Honest Uyeno



Investiture of Reverend Toshiyuki Umitani as Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii



Umitani Family at Welcome Banquet



Ryukoku University Students



Evan Watarida



Francis Aoyama at Hale Kuike



Mahalo Party spread



Bon Dancing at Hale Kuike Pali



Windward Buddhist Temple visiting