



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

## **GOLDEN CHAIN**

Monthly Newsletter

**MAY 2025**

Nurturing Nembutsu: Cultivating Awareness



### **JODO SHINSHU, Teaching of Pure Land Amida Buddha's Vow #34, (11<sup>th</sup> Vow) 4/2025 Jeffrey Soga, Resident Minister**

Aloha Dharma friends of Waipahu and Waianae Hongwanji. I hope you are doing well. I took a break from April 1st and traveled to Japan. The cherry blossoms were blooming, and Mt. Fuji was covered with snow. Both of them were so beautiful. I enjoyed spring in Japan.

Shortly before this trip, there were major earthquakes in Myanmar and Thailand. Broken buildings and roads were shown on the TV news. When I went to Japan, I was worried about what I would do if an earthquake occurred there. In addition, during this trip I would use various vehicles such as airplanes, trains, bullet trains, and highway bus. I was worried about what I would do if I fell or if there was an accident. However, I thought to myself about seeing my friends and family and enjoying spring in Japan, so I told myself, 'if things happen, I just accept it.'

OKAGESAMADE, I was able to safely and happily finish the trip and return to Waipahu. I was grateful. When I got off the vehicles, I thanked the people who worked hard, so everything went well. With that feeling of gratitude and "thank you", I repeat the nembutsu "Namo Amida Butsu".

Now, with that grateful feeling, I would like to think about the "Eleventh Vow, the Vow of Certain Liberation and Extinction or Vow of necessary attainment of nirvana."

I quote the 11<sup>th</sup> Vow:

If, when I attain Buddhahood, the humans and devas in my land should not dwell in the stage of the truly settled and necessarily attain nirvana, may I not attain the perfect enlightenment.

(The Sutra on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life, Page 21)

(My interpretation): If I, Amida, should attain enlightenment as a Buddha, but all the people in my land do not dwell in the stage of the truly settled, and if they do not reach a state where great suffering, such as birth, aging, illness, and death, is eradicated and they are no longer subjected to this suffering, then I cannot become a Buddha of Enlightenment.

(From Page 1, Teaching of Pure Land)

I want to share the words I heard many years ago. I forgot the master's name, but he said as follows:

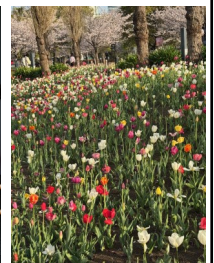
"I'm at peace with the idea of death, so I can embrace life fully, for however long it lasts."

These words always cheer me up. This is because I am living my life which is surrounded by Amida Buddha's Vow, "Amida will prepare for nirvana for all people, so I want you to keep your feet firmly on the ground and live this day in peace and cherish every day, no matter what happens," so I will live each day to the fullest as Buddha says.

If you get in any vehicle, you talk to yourself, "if something happen, that's ok, I try to accept it." Then, if everything go smooth and no problem to reach your destination, then you can say, "How thankful and grateful I was." For example, when you board an airplane, you may go through gate and take your seat, then you may tell yourself, "the things human being make is not perfect. It's ok no matter what happen with this airplane, I accept it." At the time you reach the destination, you can thank all, pilot who drove the airplane and deliver it safely, the flight attendant who welcome and gave me kind hospitality with their smile, and mechanic who maintained the machine in an best condition. Not only them, but so many other people in an invisible place working so hard, with the thinking, I bow my head and say "thank you" to all people for my flight. In Japanese, this is called "OKAGE SAMA." You can't see but surely they are working hard. The embodiment of that joy is my Nembutsu.

Please cherish the life you only have once and live every day. Amida Buddha is wishing you to "live well and spend your days in peace." I would like to ask you to listen carefully to Amida Buddha's Vow and accept it firmly. For that reason, please recite the nembutsu, "Namo Amida Butsu".

I am working to organize Waipahu Hongwanji Tour group to visit Japan in March and April next year. Let's go see the cherry blossoms and spring of Japan together.



Left photo: Mt. Fuji over the Kawaguchi Lake

Center photo: (from left; Assistant priest, Rev. Okamoto's parents and niece, Tomoko, and Reverend Jay Okamoto

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
**Evan Watarida, President of Waipahu Hongwanji**



Dear Waipahu Hongwanji Sangha,

On April 13<sup>th</sup> we held our Hanamatsuri service to commemorate the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. A big mahalo to the volunteers who donated beautiful flowers and came Saturday morning to decorate the hanamido shrine so festively for the service.

On April 27<sup>th</sup> the BWA hosted our Eshinni – Kakushinni service honoring Shinran Shonin's wife and daughter who were vital in preserving and continuing the Jodo Shinshu religion after his passing. We should be mindful of the contributions by great women in our history in perpetuating the dharma for us to hear today. Thank you to June Asato from Mililani Hongwanji who was our guest speaker.

This year, Waipahu's Bon Dance will be held on the first weekend of July on Saturday the 5th. Hatsubon service will begin at 5pm and the Bon Dance will begin at 7pm. We're expecting a larger crowd than usual and we're busy making preparations. We are expanding the dance ring around the yagura and securing more parking options. Ewa Fukushima has new dances to unveil so bring everyone for an exciting time.

A notice will be going out next month for donations for new or renewals for memorial chochin lanterns honoring ancestors. The deadline will be June 29. This year, in order to engage with our visitors, we will offer the opportunity for people to create their own memorial cards with personal messages that will be displayed in the temple.



And finally, I want to hear from you, our members. So please scan the QR Code and take a few minutes to give us your comments in the survey. We'd like to know what you enjoy about coming to the temple or what keeps you from coming more often, what activities you'd like to see, and any comments you'd want us to know About.

If you can volunteer for the Bon Dance in the areas of cooking, concessions, donation table, or setup and take down, please include your email and contact info on the survey as well. Printed surveys can be made available at the temple if you can't access it online.

In Gassho,

## Shirlie's corner

Many organizations and individuals are credited with advocating for setting aside a special day in honor of mothers everywhere. One woman's campaign is especially endearing. Her name was Anna Jarvis, who was born on May 1, 1864 in Webster, West Virginia. She was inspired by her mother, Ann Jarvis.

When Anna was 12 years old, her mother delivered a prayer to her Sunday school students. "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mothers day, commemorating her for the matchless service she renders to humanity in every field of life," her mother said. "She is entitled to it." Anna Jarvis never forgot her mother's prayer.

In 1907, Anna began a letter-writing, and public speaking campaign to generate support for a holiday to honor mothers for their selfless devotion in caring for their families. The first Mother's Day celebration took place in May 1908. President Woodrow Wilson signed an official proclamation in 1914 making Mother's Day a national holiday in the United States.

### TRI-BERRY TRIFLE

2 c heavy whipping cream	2 c strawberries, sliced
Zest of 1 lemon, for garnish	Mint sprig, for garnish
1 c crème fraiche	1 c blueberries
1 c cold milk	1 c blackberries
One 3.4 oz package instant vanilla pudding	
One store-bought pound cake, cut into cubes (6 cups)	

In a stand mixer, whip the cream until soft peaks form, then set aside. In a large bowl, beat the crème fraiche, milk, and pudding mix until thickened. Fold in the whipped cream and set aside.

Place half of the cube pound cake in the bottom of the clear glass bowl. Arrange a third of the strawberries, blackberries, and blueberries over the cake. Top with half of the pudding mixture. Repeat with the remaining pound cake, another third of berries, and the remaining pudding. Top the final layer of pudding with the remaining berries.

Refrigerate for 2 hours.

Just before serving, garnish with lemon zest and a sprig of mint.



### Reminder—Membership Dues

For those of you who have already submitted your membership dues for 2025, "Thank you very much for your support.

If you have not yet done so, please help us by submitting your dues at your earliest convenience. As a reminder, the membership dues are collected at the beginning of each year and remains unchanged at \$300 per year.

Thank you very much for your help and continued support!

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2025

<b>1 (2024)</b> May           none	<b>1<sup>st</sup> (2024)</b> June 15       Tadashi Ayabe June 24       Milton Yoshiaki Doi June 24       Stanley Hideo Hashiro June 27       Kirk Isao Saiki
<b>3 (2023)</b> May 14       Yachiyo Yasuda Kono	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> (2022)</b> June 1         Sachiko Tsutsui June 1         Wallace Ikuo Yasui
<b>7<sup>th</sup> (2019)</b> May 26       Jean Mitsue Uyeno	<b>7<sup>th</sup> (2019)</b> June 20       Stanley Masaru Kakugawa June 28       Hatsue Saiki
<b>13<sup>th</sup> (2013)</b> May 8         Yoshie Oda May 12        Robert Hachiro Tanabe	<b>13<sup>th</sup> (2013)</b> June 20       Carl Fumio Ishitani
<b>17<sup>th</sup> (2009)</b> May 1         Linda Kazuko Shinozawa May 1         Kurt Yoshinori Sonoda May 4         Charles Hideo Sawa May 5         Kikuyo "Peggy" Nakagawa May 5         Nancy Shizue Ige May 24        Ruth Aiko Kimura	<b>17<sup>th</sup> (2009)</b> June 2         Yukiko Takemoto June 3         Masao Tsukida June 27        Kiyomi Kishimoto June 28        Sadao Ishii
<b>25<sup>th</sup> (2001)</b> May 22        Howard Isao Uchida May 26        Warren Genichi Adachi	<b>25<sup>th</sup> (2001)</b> None
<b>33<sup>th</sup> (1993)</b> May 4         Shizuko Shimabukuro	<b>33<sup>rd</sup> (1993)</b> June 19       Shizuko Matsuo June 29       Yoneko Ishii
<b>50<sup>th</sup> (1976)</b> May 1         Julie Kayo Nakamura May 16        Kameichi Saito	<b>50<sup>th</sup> (1976)</b> June 15       Mamoru Fujita June 18       Osaye Okura June 22       Hatsuye Saiki

### Please "Kokua"

Although, the Waipahu Hongwanji Mission was established in 1902, the current temple building and its supporting infrastructure was constructed in 1952. As you can imagine, being over 70 years old, upkeep of the temple is a constant and never-ending endeavor.

To help accomplish this monumental task, a small group of volunteers, referred to as the "Kokua Gang", meet almost every Thursday to perform maintenance and repairs on whatever needs fixing at the time. Although, this group of volunteers have been able to perform these tasks up to now, the lack of younger, abled bodied members are rare, if not non-existent. This may soon require us to contract out some of the work, which will also require a lot of money. Therefore, we would prefer to avoid having to get to that point.

Therefore, we would like to ask anyone that is willing and able to join our Kokua Gang, to come out and lend a helping hand. As mentioned earlier, the Kokua Gang meets on Thursday mornings, usually around 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. and works until around noon, at which time, we normally enjoy a small lunch and talk story.

So, if you are sitting at home and have some free time or just want to lend a helping hand to maintain our wonderful temple, feel free to come by and join our Kokua Gang. Mahalo!

## SPECIAL DONATION

Amaral Family ... \$300  
In memory of Meuki Amaral

Milton & Sharon Higuchi ... \$500  
Special

Kanemoto Family ... \$1,000  
Funeral for Elaine Kanemoto

Nakamura Family ... \$500  
Funeral for Yukiko Nakamura

Kirana Soga ... \$500  
Special

Yoshimura Family ... \$50  
In memory of Elaine Yoshimura

Albert Au ... \$100  
Special

Charles & Shirley Kon ... \$100  
Building Maintenance Fund

Flora Minemoto ... \$700  
Funeral for Lionel Minemoto

Tsunako Sakata ... \$50  
Use of Conference room

Peggy Tsukida  
In memory of Masao Tsukida ... \$300  
In memory of Taka Shinozawa ... \$200

**SPRING OHIGAN:** Adrian & Gale Koizumi, Jasmine & Daniel Morrison, Jan Ro, Tsunako Sakata, Wilma & Calvin Sumida, Victor & Helene Tanimoto, Kuniomi & Akemi Uehara, Guy & Cindy Ujimori, Yukiko & Masao Uyeda

**2025 Membership Dues:** Janet Asamoto, Albert & Marian Au, Jane Fukunaga, Doreen & Melvin Harada, Milton & Sharon Higuchi, Allan & Lila Kanda, Shirley & Charles Kon, Gary Maeda, Fumiko & Calvin Nii, Jan Ro, Norman & Laurie Tochiki

## Project Dana Caregiver Support Program

**Saturday, May 10, 2025, 10:00 am to 11:30 am**

- Topic: "Medicare Coverage of Ambulance Services"  
The goal of the session is for caregivers to learn about Medicare coverage of ambulance services, anticipated costs, what to do if your *ambulance* ride is denied, and helpful resources. It is also an opportunity to learn about the Hawaii State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and the services they offer to Medicare beneficiaries.
- Speaker: Candace Nakamoto, Jazlyn Wandasan and Hawaii SHIP Volunteers  
Location: Zoom and Waipahu Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (94-821 Kuhaulua Street, Waipahu, HI 96797)

**Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 10:00 am to 11:30 am**

Topic: "Elder Abuse"

Speaker: Connie Liu, Senior Attorney, Elder Law Services, Legal Aid Hawaii, Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)

Location: Zoom and Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813)



Please call or email if you are interested in attending or need more information:  
Maria Morales, Program Coordinator (808) 945-3736 [cgs@projectdana.org](mailto:cgs@projectdana.org)

浄土真宗の教え 2025年5月  
「阿弥陀様の願いその34（第十一願） 必至滅度の願（その4）」  
駐在開教使 曾我大円

ワイパフ、ワイアナエ本願寺の皆様、元気でお過ごしのことと思います。私は4月1日からお休みをいただいて、日本を旅行して来ました。丁度桜が綺麗に咲き、富士山には美しい雪が降っていて、サンフランシスコから来ていた長女の家族と日本の春を満喫してきました。

この旅行へ行く少し前、ミャンマーとタイでは大きな地震がありました。壊れた建物や道路がテレビのニュースに映し出されていました。もし日本にいる時あんな地震が起こったらどうしよう、と心配になりました。またこの度は飛行機、電車、新幹線、高速バスと色々と乗り物を使います。落ちるかもしれない、事故があったらどうしよう、とか色々と不安がありました。友達や家族に会えること、日本の春を楽しむことを考えて、まあ何かあったらあった時、と乗り物に乗る前に自分に言い聞かせて、腹をすえていました。

お陰様で無事に楽しい旅を終え、ワイパフに帰ってこれることができました。有り難いことでした。一日一日、また乗り物から降りる時、多くの方のお陰で無事でした。と、その感謝の思い「ありがとうございます」と言う思いで、口にお念仏「なもあみだぶつ」と称えながらの旅でした。さて、もう一度その思いから「第十一願、必至滅度の願」を皆さんと考えさせていただきます。

先ず御文を頂きます。

たとひわれ仏を得たらんに、国中の入天、定聚に住し、かならず滅度に至らずは、  
正覚を取らじ  
(浄土真宗聖典17ページ)

(私の意識)もし私(阿弥陀様)が佛としての悟りを得る時に、私の国のすべての人々が、  
正定聚の位に住し、生老病死などの大きなわずらいが滅び、その苦しみから解放されること  
となくなる境地に至らなければ、私は聖覚の佛となることは出来ません。  
(次のページへ)

正定聚についてあるご講師が次のように言われた言葉が、私の心に残っています。それは  
「いつ死んでもいい、だからいつまで生きてもいい。」  
そのご講師の名前は覚えていないのですが、この言葉はいつも私に元気をくれます。これは、「阿弥陀様が滅度を用意しておくから、しっかりと地面に足をつけて、何が起ころうとも、心安らかに今日一日を大切に生きて欲しい」と阿弥陀様の願いに包まれているから、その言われるままに、一日を大切に生きさせてもらいます、と元気をもらえます。

「いつ死んでもいい、だからいつまで生きてもいい。」そう思って飛行機に乗ったり、電車やバス、車に乗ったならば、無事に目的地に辿り着いた時、飛行機を操縦して下さったパイロット、笑顔でおもてなし

(8ページより つづく)

をして下さったフライトアテンダント、目に見えない所でしっかりと機械きかいを整備せいびし、最高の状態さいこう じょうたいで飛べるようにして下さった整備士せいびしの皆さんほかに、他にも気がつかない所で仕事しごとをして下さっている多くの方々に、「ありがとうございます」と頭かたを下かげることが出来ます。これを日本語ではお陰かげさまと表現ひょうげんします。その喜びよろこを形かたちにしたものが私のお念仏ねんぶつです。

皆さんどうぞ、一度しかない人生たいせつを大切に毎まい日にちの日暮ひぐらしらしをして下さい。阿弥陀様あみださまが「しっかりと生きて、心安こころやすらかに日々を過ほごして欲しい」、と願ねがっていて下さっています。その願ねがいをしっかりと聞いて、しっかりと受け取うけとって欲しい、と私からも皆さんねがにお願ねがいしたいです。どうぞそのためにもお念仏「なもあみだぶつ」と口となに称なえながらお過すごし下さい。

来年りょこうの3月けいかくから4月ごろにかけて、ワイパフ本願寺で旅行を計画します。一緒に桜と日本の春を見に行きましょう。



*Come and join our wonderful Ohana at the...*  
**Waipahu Hongwanji Mission**  
**ADULT DAY CARE CENTER**  
*"Caring for our Elders with Love and Compassion"*

\* Music & Singing \* Entertainment \* Socializations & more  
\* Games & Memory Joggers \* Exercise \* Arts & Crafts

Full and Part-time Programs available with lunch and snacks

94-821 Kuhaulua Street, Waipahu \* Phone: 808-678-1770  
Email: whmadcc@hawaii.rr.com \* Website: adultdaycarehawaii.org

**Waipahu Hongwanji Mission**

94-821 Kuhaulua Street  
Waipahu, HI 96797  
Phone: 808 677-4221  
E-mail: waipahuhongwanji@hawaii.rr.com  
Resident Minister: Reverend Jeffrey D. Soga

Non Profit Organization  
U. S. POSTAGE  
P A I D  
Permit No. 5  
Waipahu, Hawaii

**MAY 2025**

**Address Correction Requested**

**Condolence**

Waipahu Hongwanji extends deepest  
Sympathy to the family of :

Florence Sugitaya  
Elaine Kanemoto  
Lionel Minemoto  
Yukiko Nakamura

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Every Sunday:** 9 a.m. Family Service

**Every Thursday:** 9 a.m. Kokua Day

**Every Saturday, 8:30 a.m.** Hosha Day

**1st and 3rd Thursday: 12:30 p.m.**  
Karaoke Club Everyone welcome

**Every Sunday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.**  
Ewa Fukushima Taiko Practice

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GOTAN-E Service**  
**(Shinran Shonin’s Birthday)**  
May 18, 2025, 9 a.m.

**ADULT DHARMA CLASS**  
**Discussion Session**  
May 25, Sunday , 2025  
Please attend and bring all your questions  
about Buddhism and your life.

**Project Dana Caregiver Support Program**  
Saturday, May 10, 2025, 10 a.m.  
Topic:  
“Medicare Coverage of Ambulance Service”  
Social Hall & Zoom