



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST 2025

Nurturing Nembutsu: Cultivating Awareness



**JODO SHINSHU, Teaching of Pure Land
Amida Buddha's Vow #37, (12th Vow) 8/2025
Jeffrey Soga, Resident Minister**

The Obon service and Bon Dance have concluded safely. The hot days continue day after day. Although the sun now passes directly overhead, once summer passes, it will gradually begin to drift southward. With that thought—that cooler days will come—I go about each day. I hope this finds you all well.

This month as well, I will continue to reflect together on the Twelfth Vow – The Vow of Immeasurable Light. I'd like to quote the Vow:

“If when I attain Buddhahood, my light should be finite, not illuminating even a hundred thousand Kotis of nayutas of Buddha-lands, may I not attain the perfect enlightenment.”

(My Interpretation)

If, at the time I (Amida Buddha) attain enlightenment as a Buddha, the light of my wisdom – the radiance that is its working – has limits and is unable to illuminate the countless lands of Buddhas, then I shall not attain perfect enlightenment.

Last month, I wrote about how Amida Buddha's Light illuminates the world and allows us to clearly see things as they are—it is the light of wisdom. Have you been seeing things clearly in your daily life? Or have you been viewing the world through a self-centered lens, creating unnecessary suffering for yourself? If you've become aware of that, please recite the Nembutsu.

Now, this month, I would like to write about the nurturing power of light—its ability to foster growth.

To everyone living in Hawai'i—have you ever truly experienced the cold and harshness of winter? Here in Hawai'i, we are constantly blessed by the warm sunshine throughout the year, but has that become so natural that we've forgotten to feel grateful for it? In the remote mountains of Hiroshima, where I was born and raised, nearly three feet of snow would fall every winter. When the snow piles up, it becomes very cold. So during the winter, we stay indoors, keeping our rooms warm and spending our days quietly.

(Continued to Page 2)

(JODO SHINSHU, From Page 1)

But as the snow gradually melts and the sunlight begins to feel warmer, we go outside to search for sunny spots. There, we sit with our school friends and bask in the sunlight—what we call *hinatabokko*. It feels so warm and pleasant. The body, stiff from the cold, begins to soften. As the sunlight grows stronger, the *fukinoto* (butterbur sprouts) begin to poke through the melting snow. Then various flowers start to bloom, and before we know it, spring arrives, with cherry blossoms blooming all at once. Spring itself is not something we can see, but through the warmth of the sun and its power, new life begins to sprout.

Light has the power—the *working*—to nurture life. And through that working, we come to feel, “Ah, it’s spring,” and are reminded of the strength and preciousness of new life.

I came to Hawai‘i in 1985—exactly 40 years ago. After completing a two-month training at the Hawaii Betsuin in Honolulu, my first assignment was at Hilo Betsuin on the Big Island. Not long after my arrival, one of the temple members kindly took me on a drive to Kīlauea Volcano. At Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, there is a cave called the ‘Lava Tube’. It was formed when flowing lava hardened on the surface while the molten lava inside continued to move, creating a hollow tunnel. That person told me that, in the past, the cave was pitch dark, and people used to bring flashlights to explore it. But now, electricity has been installed and lights are placed throughout, so although it is still dark, we can manage to walk through it. Under one of those lights in the otherwise dark cave, I saw the roots of a tree firmly growing, and a sprout stretching upward toward the light. Even in such darkness, though the lights are not that bright, just that small light was enough to nurture life. It reminded me of a Dharma talk I once heard, about the compassionate light of Amida Buddha—the light that nurtures all life.

Your life did not grow on its own. It was nurtured. Your life is a precious treasure, lovingly raised through the wondrous power—the working—of light. When we hear Amida Buddha’s Twelfth Vow—the vow that Buddha’s immeasurable light shall illuminate all lands—we are reminded of the profound mystery of our own lives.

(To be continued)



Come and join our wonderful Ohana at the...

Waipahu Hongwanji Mission

ADULT DAY CARE CENTER

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* Music & Singing * Entertainment * Socializations & more
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Evan Watarida, President of Waipahu Hongwanji



Dear Waipahu Hongwanji Sangha,

I hope you all had the opportunity to attend our bon dance on July 5th. This year we moved the event earlier to take advantage of the long weekend and less temples competing for the same date. As expected, we had a larger attendance than last year, and we sold out most food by 9pm. It rained for a little bit, but it didn't dampen spirits as we mostly enjoyed nice weather the entire evening. In total, we made almost \$6,000 in sales and another \$16,700 in obon donations which will greatly help our temple.

I wish to thank all our members and hard-working volunteers that came out to help. Thank you to the Thursday volunteers and the planning committees who worked very hard for months prior to obon. Thank you to member family and friends who generously gave of their time, energy, and donations of supplies and money to make the event successful.

Thank you to the performers, including Ewa Fukushima Bon Dance Club, Hawaii Eisa Okinawa Shinyuu Kai, and Oahu District dancers. Thank you to all the vendors including the Family and Friends of Jon Tokuhara who for the past several years have donated their resources to operate a concession booth in honoring the memory and legacy of Jon Tokuhara. Most are not members, but they recognize Jon's history with the temple and community, and we appreciate their generosity. Thank you to Guy and Cindy Ujimori better known as Andagi Guy for their work and contribution each year. Thank you to Aloha Scoops dba Roselani Ice Cream. And thank you to Waipahu Adult Day Care for staffing the first aid station.

Our Bon Dance is not just a tradition for our temple families, but it is also a cherished cultural event that creates memories for our larger community. It's an opportunity to share our Buddhist values of compassion and aloha as part of a universal ohana. And we could not put this on each year without all your work and support.

Obon season continues with our upcoming Pet Obon on Sunday Aug. 24. If you have a late pet you'd like to honor, please contact the temple or Rev. Soga.

Finally, the Bishop announced that starting on Oct. 1, Rev. Soga will serve as minister of both Waipahu and Pearl City Hongwanji. Rev. Mari Nishiyama, who is currently at Pearl City, will be moving to Jikoen temple. And Waianae temple, which is scheduled to close-down at the end of 2025, will have their final service in November.

Rev. Soga will be leading the Sunday services at Pearl City on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, while performing services at Waipahu on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. We, at Waipahu will continue to have Sunday services each week. But we will be seeking lay member assistance for those willing to giving Sunday talks, flower donations for services, and temple service preparation. We hope to see you at our upcoming events.

In Gassho,

SPECIAL DONATION

Albert & Marian Au ... \$200
In memory of Sally Asato

Aloha Scoops LLC ... \$ 200
Obon Special

Andagi Guy ... \$700
Obon

Estate of Milton Doi .. \$200
Hatsubon

Shincho & Setsuko Hanazono ... \$300
Wedding

Ivan Igarashi ... \$300
In memory of Suyeji & Doris Igarashi

Lynette Kishimoto ... \$150
In memory of Kiyomi Kishimoto

Shirley & Charles Kon ... \$100
Hatsubon for Elaine Kanemoto

Edna Otsuka ... \$500
In memory of Katsuma Shizuko, Jane
Tanaka and clarence Otsuka

Kirana Soga ... \$500
Special

June & Gerald Takiguchi ... \$200
Obon

Doreen & Henry Tanoue ... \$100
Hatsubon for Yukiko Nakamura

Lilinoe Watanabe ... \$300
IMO Charles, Jean, Todd Watanabe

Gail & Patrick Bow ... \$200
In memory of Gene & Isami Inoshita

Lois Doi ... \$100
Special

Friends of Jon Tokuhara ... 1,452
Obon

Rochele Guthrie ... \$1,000
Hatsubon for Kirk Saiki

Doris Kakugawa ... \$400
In memory of Stanley Kakugawa

Ishitani Family ... \$500
In memory of Carl Ishitani

Adrian & Gail Koizumi ... \$1,000
Obon

Lynn Mizokawa ... \$200
In memory Donald Mizokawa

Winton & Laura Wong Saito ... \$1,000
Obon

Sano Family ... \$200
In memory of Donald Mizokawa

Peggy Tsukida ... \$100
In memory of Ronald Watarida

Lilly Tokuhara ... \$200
Obon

Mr. & Mrs. James Valdez ... \$400
In memory of Daryl Valdez

NEW MEMBER: Welcome Ms. Corinne Kazunaka to Waipahu Sangha

MEMBERSHIP: Corinne Kazunaga, Kimi Koizumi, Helen Yonashiro & Lynn Fujikawa

OBON

Adrienne & Ellen Ayakawa, Jason Cervantes, Natasha Dela Pena, Lois Doi, Enomoto Family (IMO Kenneth Enomoto), Stirling & Vivian Fujimoto, Milton Fujioka, Marjory & Henry Funasaki, Daniel & Lois Hanaoka, Hawaii Eisa, Shinyuu Kai, Carrie & James Hayashi, Roy & Dorothy Hirata, Steven & Jan Honda, Charlene Ikeda, Kathy Ikeda-Lee & Stephen Lee, Wesley Imaoka, Randy & Karen Itamoto, Rosemary Itamoto (IMO Richard, Elsie, Caroline Itamoto), Caran Iwata, Doris Kakugawa & Iris Tsuha, Lawrence Kanemoto, Thomas & Sachie Kaneshiro, Carrie & Dennis Kawamoto, Janet Kaya, J. Kimoto, Clyde & Lynette Kishimoto, Richard & Sueko Kodama, Chizuko Kono, Gary Maeda, Claire Masaki, Y. Matsui, Frances Matsumoto, Wilfred & Mae Matsushige, Kara Mendoza, Gilbert Mikami, Flora Minemoto, Lillian Miura, Sara Miyasaki, Mavis Morihara, Jasmine & Daniel Morrison, Masumi Murakami, Arthur & Irene Nakagawa, Lori Noborikawa, Jenny Nomura, Lisa Okada, Joyce Okahara, Melanie & Lillian Okazaki, Naomi & George Okino (IMO Gene Inoshita, Isami & Fusayo Inoshita), Jo Ann Oshiro, Joyce & Robert Oshita, Caroline & Anthony Otani, Brian Otsuka, Tsunako Sakata, S & D Sano, Ann Saruwatari, Thomas Sekine, Senwa Kai LLC, Thomas & Fay Shimizu, Emily, Shinsato, Vincent & Eunice Soeda, Wilma & Calvin Sumida, Mae Sunahara, Miles Tamura, Victor & Helene Tanimoto, Norman & Laurie Tochiki, Joyce Tome, Robert Tsumoto, Kuniomi & Akemi Uehara, Ellen Ujimori, Guy & Cindy Ujimori, Masao & Yukiko Uyeda, Francis Uyeno, Ruth Wakimura, Evan Watarida, Umeyo Yamashiro, Carol Yamauchi (IMO Henry & Gladys Oshiro), Sandra & Miles Yasui, Helen Yonashiro & Lynn Fujikawa, Arnold Yoshioka

PET OBON MEMORIAL SERVICE

August 24, 2025, 9:00 am, Sunday Family Service



Have you lost a family pet in the past and would like to remember and honor their life?

If so, please sign up and attend Waipahu Hongwanji Annual Pet Obon Memorial Service. The animals that have touched our lives are part of our Sangha family and should be recognized and remembered for the happiness they shared with us.

- If you would like your pet's name to be recognized, please contact Reverend Soga, at **(808) 677-4221**, or e-mail: **waipahuhongwanji@hawaii.rr.com**.
- There is no required cost, but donations can be made to Waipahu Hongwanji Mission.
- You may bring a SMALL memorable item (ex. picture, collar, toy, etc.) to be displayed at the altar during the service. Please bring the item on the morning of the service by 8:30 am.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2025

<p>1st (2024) August 2 Yoshio Yoshimoto</p> <p>3rd (2023) August 17 Satsue Yamaguchi</p> <p>7th (2019) August 11 Natsuno Matsuo August 14 Rikio Fukunaga</p> <p>13th (2013) August 1 Tamie Ikemoto August 7 Masako Kataoka August 23 Mildred Tsuneko Sasaki</p> <p>17th (2009) August 1 Noboru Kanda August 15 Kameji Shimabukuro</p> <p>25th (2001) None</p> <p>33th (1993) August 11 Harry Masao Murakami August 28 Chiyoko Monte August 30 Shizuo "Joe" Onaga</p> <p>50th (1976) None</p>	<p>1st (2024) None 3rd (2022) None</p> <p>7th (2019) September 23 Masao Fukeda September 30 Sadao Kawamoto</p> <p>13th (2013) September 11 Daniel Tsunezo Hanaoka September 23 Masami Kusunoki</p> <p>17th (2009) September 6 Richard Masamitsu Okita September 16 Jane Setsuko Higashiyama September 29 Ernie Masaji Matsuda</p> <p>25th (2001) September 8 Sueki Itagaki September 27 Teru Okita</p> <p>33rd (1993) September 4 Robert Arnold Edwards September 13 James Masato Miyamoto September 15 Takeshi Nishimura September 27 Masao Kaneshiro</p> <p>50th (1976) None</p>
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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!

浄土真宗の教え 2025年8月
「阿弥陀様の願いその37（第十二願） 光明無量の願 （その三）」
駐在開教使 曾我大円

おぼんほうよう ぶ じ おわ まいにちあつ つづ そら ま なか とお
お盆法要とダンスも無事終わりました。毎日暑い日が続きます。今は空の真ん中を
たいよう なつ す みなみ かたむ すず
通っている太陽も、この夏を過ぎると少しずつ南に傾いていきます。そしたら涼しくなるんだと思
みなさま か
いながら、毎日を過ごしております。皆様にはお変わりございませんか。

こしみょうむりょう がん
今月も「第十二願、光明無量の願」を皆さんと考えさせていただきます。

ふつ え こしみょう げんりょう しもひやくせんおくなゆた しょぶつ くに て
たとひわれ仏を得たらんに、光明よく限量ありて、下百千億那由他の諸仏の国を照
いた しょうがく と
らさざるに至らば、正覚を取らじ。 (浄土真宗聖典17ページ)

わたし いやく あみださま ぶつ さと え と き ち え はたら
(私の意識)もし私(阿弥陀様)が佛としての悟りを得る時に、私の智慧の働きと
こしみょう かぎ むすう ほとけさま くに て で き
しての光明に限りがあって、無数の仏様の国を照らすことが出来ないならば、私は
しょうがく
正覚の佛となることはできません。

せんげつ ものごと ち え
先月は阿弥陀様の光明は世を明るくする、しっかりと物事を見させていただく、その智慧
じぶんかって くる すご
の光ということを書かせていただきました。皆さんしっかりと物事を見て過ごしていますか。
ねんぶつ はぐく
自分勝手なものを見方をして、いらぬ苦しみを作って過していませんか。もしそれに気づか
か
されたならば、お念仏して下さい。さて、今月は光はものを育む力(はたらき)について
書かせていただきます。

ほんとう ふゆ さむ きび けいけん
ハワイに住んでおられる皆さんは、本当に冬の寒さ、厳しさ、というものを経験されたこ
とお あたたか たいよう て つね すば おんけい う
とがありますか。ハワイの一年を通して 温 なる太陽に照らされて、常に素晴らしい恩恵を受
ありがたい わす
けているのですが、それがあたりまえになって、有り難いと思うことを忘れていませんか？
そだ ひろしま やまおく ふゆ ゆき つ
私の生まれ育った広島(山奥)では、冬になると、いつも一メートル近くの雪が積もっていま
たいへん さむ へ や あたた はず
した。雪が積もると大変です。とても寒いのです。だから冬の間は部屋を暖かくして静か
ひ
に過ごします。でも、少しずつ雪がとけ、太陽の光が暖かくなってくると外に出て陽だまり
さが がっこう ともだち いっしょ すわ ひなた
を探します。そこに学校のお友達と一緒に座って、日向ぼっこというのをします。それが
あたた きもちよ さむ からだ やわら
とても暖かくて気持ち良く、寒さでこわばっていた体が柔らかくなってきます。そして
つよ ま ゆき
その光が少しずつ強くなってくると、先ず雪の下からふきのとうというのが目を出します。
いろいろ はな ざきはじめ はる さくら いっせい
そして色々な花が咲き始め、いつしか春になると桜が一斉に咲き出します。春というのは目
たいよう ぬく あたら いのち めば
に見えませんが、太陽の温もり、その力によって新しい命が芽生えてきます。光にはもの
(次のページへつづく)

(前のページより)

を育む力（はたらき）があります。その働きで「春だなあ」と新しい命の力強さ、また有り難さを思うことでした。

私は1985年にハワイに来ました。丁度40年前です。二ヶ月の研修をホノルルのハワイ別院で終え、最初の赴任地はハワイ島の本願寺ヒロ別院でした。着任して間もない頃、御門徒様がキラウエア火山へドライブに連れて行って下さいました。キラウエア火山公園にはラバチューブという洞窟があります。燃え盛る溶岩が流れ、その表面がかたまりドロドロの溶岩が流れ出てきた洞窟だそうです。その方が言われるには、昔はその洞窟は真っ暗で、懐中電灯を持って行ってたと言われました。でも今では電気が繋がり、明かりが灯り、暗いけれどもどうにか歩くことが出来ました。でも、その真っ暗な洞窟の電灯の下にはしっかりと木の根が張り、その光に向かって芽が伸びていました。真っ暗な洞窟の中で、そんなに明るいわけではないけど、小さな電灯の光でさえ、ものの命を育む力（はたらき）があるのだな一と、昔お説教で聞いた阿弥陀様の慈悲の光のお話を思い出しました。

皆さんの命は自分で育ってきたものではありません。育てられたものなのです。不思議な光のお力（はたらき）を頂いて、育てていただいた大事な宝物なのです。阿弥陀様のこの十二番目の願い、光明無量にして全ての国を照らすという願いを聞かせていただく時、私の命の不思議を思うことです。（つづく）

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!

OBON 2025



WAIANAE HONGWANJI BON DANCE JULY 19, 2025



**Happy Wedding
Congratulations!
Reverend Hanazono and
Setuko Tanaka on July 2, 2025**

Young International Cultural Study Exchange Program 2025



From left: Mrs. Soga, Reverend Mariko Nishiyama, Chad Ohkawa, Kana Suzuki, Mrs. Umitani and Bishop Umitani

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

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AUGUST 2025

Address Correction Requested

Condolence

Waipahu Hongwanji extends deepest
Sympathy to the family of :

Donald Mizokawa

*** ***** **

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Sunday: 9 a.m. Family Service
All are welcome.

Every Thursday: 9 a.m. Kokua Day
Help wanted

Every Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Hosha Day
Help wanted

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OBON SERVICE for
FAMILY PET**

Sunday, August 24, 2025
At Waipahu Hongwanji Temple
Please call Rev. Soga.

**ADULT DHARMA CLASS
Discussion Session**

August 24 , Sunday, 2025
Please attend and bring all your questions
about Buddhism and your life.

Project Dana Caregiver Support Program
Saturday, August 9, 2025, 10 a.m.
Social Hall & Zoom