



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

## **GOLDEN CHAIN**

Monthly Newsletter

**OCTOBER 2025**

Nurturing Nembutsu: Cultivating Awareness



**JODO SHINSHU, Teaching of Pure Land  
Amida Buddha's Vow #39, (12<sup>th</sup> Vow) 10/2025  
Jeffrey Soga, Resident Minister**

Dear Members of Waipahu and Waianae Hongwanji, I hope this message finds you well. It is already October, and the season of festivities is approaching—Halloween, followed by Thanksgiving. Time surely flies, doesn't it?

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.

In the larger sutra, Shakyamuni Buddha explained Amida Buddha's work as twelve lights, which I quote: “For this reason, the Buddha of Immeasurable Life is called “(1) Buddha of Immeasurable Light, (2) Buddha of Boundless Light, (3) Buddha of Unhindered Light, (4) Buddha of Incomparable Light, (5) Buddha of Light that is Lord of Blazing Light, (6) Buddha of the Light of Purity, (7) Buddha of the Light of Joy, (8) Buddha of the Light of Wisdom, (9) Buddha of Uninterrupted Light, (10) Buddha of Inconceivable Light, (11) Buddha of Inexpressible Light, and (12) Buddha of Light surpassing the Sun and Moon. “

Please attend the Sunday Services to listen about the meaning of the lights.

The sutra continues: “Sentient beings who encounter this light have the three defilements swept away, and they become soft and gentle in body and mind. They leap and dance with joy, and the good mind arises in them. When those suffering pain and travail in the three evil realms see this light, they all find respite and become free of afflictions. After their lives have ended, they will all gain emancipation.”

(Continued to Page 2)

I would like to share my personal thoughts.: When people are illuminated by these twelve lights, their bodies and minds become gentle and flexible . A joyful and wholesome heart arises within them. Then, together with all the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, they begin to praise Amida Buddha and one another. The Buddha Shakyamuni continues to express this heartfelt praise throughout the sutras.

It is truly important for our hearts and bodies to become flexible and gentle. This means letting go of rigid, fixed views and becoming able to see things from many different perspectives. When we do so, we naturally begin to praise and appreciate one another together with all people.

To everyone reading this — have you ever felt angry at your spouse, your children, your parents, or your friends, and felt like complaining to them? In such moments, please recite the Nembutsu. Amida Buddha is watching with a concerned expression. When you become aware of your own attitude, you may begin to realize, “Even though I am angry now, they are still my precious family and dear friends.” And gradually, you will find words of gratitude and praise for them.

So, to everyone reading this: Please reflect on the heart of Amida Buddha’s Twelve Vows and recite the Nembutsu while aspiring to be born in the Pure Land. When you do so, the darkness within your heart will surely fade away, and feelings of peace and gratitude will arise. And in that joy, you will be able to share it with others in your daily life.

Please recite the Nembutsu.

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### SPECIAL DONATION

Leslie Akiyama ... \$100  
In memory of Richard & Hisae Nomura

Karen Koizumi ... \$500  
In memory of Kimi Koizumi

Miyahara Family ... \$150  
In memory of Jean Miyahara

Charlotte Muraoka ... \$50  
Special

Terry Muraoka-Stamm ... \$500  
Funeral for Terumi Muraoka

Colleen Shigeta ... \$100  
Cremation Service for David Shigeta

Melanie Okazaki ... \$100  
Special

Kirana Soga ... \$500  
Special

Justin Tokuda ... \$00  
In memory of Keith Tokuda

Robin & Tomoko Walsh  
In memory of Mavis Walsh ... \$200  
Special ... \$500

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



Dear Waipahu Hongwanji Sangha,

September was filled with an array of events starting with Bishop Umitani's visit to Waipahu's Sunday service on the 7<sup>th</sup>. We were honored to have him visit as he stayed to chat with members afterward.

The Annual State Lay Convention was hosted by Jikoen on Sept. 12 and at Hawaii Betsuin on Sept. 13 with lay temple leaders from across the state. The purpose of the lay association has been condensed to now focus on providing temple leaders with the training and assistance that has been most requested. These areas include temple maintenance, finances, insurance, communication and outreach, and board member training. Because many temples are struggling with similar issues of declining members, it makes sense to work together collaboratively instead of in silos, and combining resources when possible.

Emi Hashi, Honpa's full-time youth coordinator, shared how she is enhancing the grade school youth groups including dharma school and Jr. YBA while also filling a void in programs for college aged and young adults with new fellowship groups. The future health of the sangha depends on reaching our youth. Evidence of this youth success was the presentation of new resolutions at the lay convention, encouraging leaders to assess and find ways to grow the Sangha.

Also in September, the statewide Choral Fest was held on Sept. 20 & 21 at Hawaii Betsuin. Several Waipahu members joined with others from across the state as a unified choir that performed Gathas and fellowshipped in the dharma. Monday, September 22 was recognized as Peace Day with the "Ring your bell for peace" virtual event featuring Jake Shimabukuro. Ever since COVID forced them to go virtual, participation has grown to include elementary school students and people from other states and countries.

As a reminder, starting in October, Rev. Soga will serve as minister of both Waipahu and Pearl City Hongwanji. Rev. Soga will be leading the Sunday services at Pearl City on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month, while performing services at Waipahu on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. Even without Rev. Soga's presence, our Waipahu temple will continue to have Sunday services each week officiated by our lay volunteers so please come and visit.

Just a reminder as the year nears a close, please mail in your 2025 membership dues if you haven't had the opportunity to do so yet. A letter will be sent soon if you'd like to still enjoy the benefits of membership and support the dharma.

Finally, November 9 will be the last Sunday service held at Waianae Temple before it permanently closes and the property will be put up for sale. It is such a beautiful campus with a long and colorful history and it is sad to see it come to an end. On behalf of Waipahu temple, we wish to extend a warm invitation to our fellow Waianae dharma travelers. Our doors are always open to welcome you at any time.

I hope to see you at our upcoming events.  
In Gassho,

(Special Donation, continued...)

**PET OBON:**

Lori Noborikawa ... In memory of Salt and Pepper

Okada Family ... In memory of Shira “Yuki”

Craig & Christi Tadaki ... In memory of Corey, CJ, and many others

**AUTUMN OHIGAN:** Adrienne & Ellen Ayakawa, Marjory & Henry Funasaki, Daniel & Lois Hanaoka, Steven & Jan Honda, Thomas & Sachie Kaneshiro, Frances Matsumoto, Masumi Murakami, Joyce & Robert Oshita, Thomas Sekine, Thomas & Fay Shimizu, Kuniomi & Akemi Uehara, Masao & Yukiko Uyeda, Helen Yonashiro & Lynn Fujikawa

**Project Dana Caregiver Support Program  
Join Project Dana’s Public Presentation Meetings!**



Upcoming Events:

**Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 10:00 am to 11:30 am**

**Topic:** “10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s” -

This course helps caregivers recognize common signs of the Disease in themselves and others and identify next steps to take, including how to talk to their doctor.

**Speaker:** Georgjeanna “Gina” Plummer, Program Manager, Alzheimer’s Association

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

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

**Topic:** “What do you do when you no longer can care for yourself?” -

This presentation focuses on the supports available for people who need help with decisions. It will cover the different definitions of capacity, advanced health care directives, powers of attorney, and guardianship. You will leave the session knowing how to prepare in case you or a loved one becomes incapacitated.

**Speaker:** Connie Liu, Senior Attorney, Elder Law Services, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii

**Location:** Zoom and Waipahu Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (94-821 Kuhaulua Street, Waipahu, HI 96797)

(Zoom links will be provided by inquiry)

**Please call or e-mail if you are interested on attending public presentations or need more information about the program:**

**Shelly Paet, C4C Program Specialist**  
(808) 945-3736      [cgsg@projectdana.org](mailto:cgsg@projectdana.org)

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2025

<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> (2024)</b> October 7     Raymond Kiyoto Takemoto</p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> (2023)</b> October 7     Fred Jiro Edamatsu October 12    Clarence Katsumi Otsuka October 27    Vanessa Tanouye</p> <p><b>7<sup>th</sup> (2019)</b> October 14    Teddy Tsuneo Taniguchi</p> <p><b>13<sup>th</sup> (2013)</b> October 15    Sadako Kaneshiro</p> <p><b>17<sup>th</sup> (2009)</b> October 16    Thelma Aiko Matsuo</p> <p><b>25<sup>th</sup> (2001)</b> October 10    Seiichi Miyashiro October 12    Kimiko Takamoto October 23    Shigeru Yamashiro October 23    Masao Larry Nishida October 30    Ayami Inoshita</p> <p><b>33<sup>rd</sup> (1993)</b> October 3     George Takeo Kanechika October 13    Michie Matsushige October 26    Tsutae Nishimura</p> <p><b>50<sup>th</sup> (1976)</b> October 31    Yasuo Oshiro</p>	<p><b>1 (2024)</b> November 19   Yukiko Nakamura November 24   Lionel Tsuyoshi Minemoto</p> <p><b>3 (2023)</b> November 29   Shigeo Toma</p> <p>7th (2019) November 6    Sally Toshiko Asato</p> <p>13th (2013) November 6    Deanna Kazue Tenma</p> <p>17th (2009)    None 25th (2001)    None</p> <p>33th (1993) November 8    Kaichi Sekioka</p> <p>50th (1976) November 14   Tokichi Fujiwara</p>
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*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](http://adultdaycarehawaii.org)

浄土真宗の教え 2025年10月  
「阿弥陀様の願いその39（第十二願） 光明無量の願（その5）」  
駐在開教使 曾我大円

ワイパフ、ワイアナエ本願寺の皆様お元気ですか？はや10月になります。これからハロウィーンそして感謝祭と行事が続く季節となってきました、早いものですね。

今月も「第十二願、光明無量の願」を皆さんと考えさせて頂きます。  
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らさざるに至らば、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、私の智慧の働きと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、私は正覚の佛となることはできません。

お経には阿弥陀様のお働きを十二通りの光の姿で説明してあります。

1. 無量光佛 2. 無辺光佛 3. 無礙光佛 4. 無対光佛 5. 焰王光佛 6. 清浄光佛  
7. 歡喜光佛 8. 智慧光佛 9. 不断光佛 10. 難思光佛 11. 無称光佛 12. 超日月光佛  
この光の意味はお寺に参って聞いて下さい。お経には次のように続きます。

「それ衆生ありて、この光に遇うものは、三垢消滅し、身意柔軟なり。歡喜踊躍して善心生ず。——中略—— 一切の諸仏、声聞、縁覚、もろもろの菩薩衆、ことごとくともに歎賞すること」と続きます。

私の思いで書いてみます。この十二の光に照らされる人は、身も心も柔らかくなります。そして喜びの心（善心）が生まれます。そして、すべての仏様、菩薩様、みんなで阿弥陀様とお互いを誉めたたえるようになります。そしてお釈迦様はこれに続いてお経にその讃嘆の思いをずっと語られてゆかれます。

この心と体が柔らかくなる、ということは大切なことですね。これは凝り固まった見方ではなく、色んな角度から物事を見れるようになるということです。すると、すべての人たちと共にお互いをほめ讃えあうことができるようになるのです。

これを読まれている皆さん、奥さんやご主人、子供さんやご両親、またお友達に腹が立って、文句を言いたくなることがありませんか？その時はお念仏して下さい。阿弥陀様が困った顔をして見えておられますよ。そして自分の姿に気がつかされますと、今は腹が立つ人だけど、私には大事な家族、お友達、と、どうにか感謝と誉める言葉を見つけるようになっていくのです。

どうぞこれを読まれている皆さん、阿弥陀様の十二願のお心を思い、お浄土に往きたいと思いながら、お念仏をして下さい。すると必ず心の中にある暗闇が逃げてゆき、安らかに、感謝の思いが湧いてきます。その喜びを皆にも分けることができる日暮らしをすることができるようになります。どうぞお念仏をして下さい。

合掌、称名

**Waipahu Hongwanji Mission**

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

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**OCTOBER 2025**

**Address Correction Requested**

**Condolence**

Waipahu Hongwanji extends deepest  
Sympathy to the family of :

Kimi Koizumi  
Jean Miyahara  
Terumi Muraoka  
David Shigeta  
Tetsuo Okata

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**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**

**United Oahu Jr. YBA  
Manju making for Month of Youth**  
Saturday, October 4, 2025  
Waipahu Hongwanji Kitchen

**ADULT DHARMA CLASS  
Discussion Session**  
October 26 , Sunday, 2025  
Please attend and bring all your questions  
about Buddhism and your life.

**Project Dana Caregiver Support Program**  
Saturday, October 11, 2025, 10 a.m.  
Social Hall & Zoom

**United Oahu BWA annual Conference**  
Saturday, October 18, 2025  
Aiea Hongwanji Mission