



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude



**JODO SHINSHJU, Teaching of Pure Land
Amida Buddha's Vow #42, (13th Vow) 02/2026
Jeffrey Soga, Resident Minister**

Aloha. February has already arrived. How are you doing? These mornings have been quite cold, and it does not become bright very early. It also seems that the flu is going around. Please take good care of your health.

This month, I would like to reflect together with you on the **Thirteenth Vow, the Vow of Infinite Life**. Let us receive these words from the sutra:

*“If, when I attain Buddhahood, my life should be infinite, limited even to a hundred thousand kotis of nayutas of kalpas, may I not attain the perfect Enlightenment.”
(The Three Pure Land Sutras, Volume II, Page 21)*

(My own interpretation)

If, when I, Amida Buddha, attain awakening as a Buddha, my life is limited and I am unable to stay close to all beings forever, then I cannot become a fully awakened Buddha.

Let me share with you the origin of the name **Amida Buddha**. In the *Larger Sutra of Immeasurable Life*, Bodhisattva Dharmakara vowed, “When I become a Buddha, my light and my life shall be immeasurable. If this vow is not fulfilled, then I will not become an awakened Buddha.”

For this reason, Amida Buddha is known as:

A mita bha — Immeasurable Light, and **A mita yus** — Immeasurable Life.

As this word “Amita” passed through China, it came to be rendered as **Amida** in Japanese. Shinran Shonin praised this in his wasan (hymns):

*Seeing the sentient beings of the nembutsu
Throughout the worlds, countless as particles, in the ten quarters,
The Buddha grasps and never abandons them,
And therefore is named “Amida.”*

No matter where we are, no matter how old we become, Amida Buddha vows to embrace us and never abandon us, even in our confusion and suffering. It is this Buddha whom Shakyamuni Buddha, Shinran Shonin, and we ourselves call **Amida**, and whom we recite with gratitude as “**Namo Amida Butsu.**”
(To be continued)

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2025 - 2026

<p>1st (2025) February 16 Florence Setsuko Sugitaya February 21 Gilbert Tetsuo Fujimoto</p> <p>3rd (2024) February 8 Sumiko Hoshiyama Ando February 16 Stephen Hiroshi Nii</p> <p>7th (2020) None</p> <p>13th (2014) February 9 Kenneth Shizuo Okita February 26 Leonard Kazuo Ihori</p> <p>17th (2010) February 3 James Takeo Uyeno February 22 Gordon Soichi Serikaku</p> <p>25th (2002) None</p> <p>33th (1994) February 23 Isako Mizumoto February 18 Nobuyoshi Ohara</p> <p>50th (1977) None</p>	<p>1st (2025) March 27 Tetsuo Douglas Okata</p> <p>3rd (2024) none</p> <p>7th (2020) March 1 Paddy Harue Shigeta</p> <p>13th (2014) March 23 Jean Junko Higa March 29 Betty Tsurue Koizumi</p> <p>17th (2010) March 28 Clifford Shoji Araki March 30 Toshiko Yamamoto</p> <p>25th (2002) March 8 Margaret Masae Yoshihiro March 20 June Kiyoko Yamada March 22 Kiyoko Chinen March 30 Tadao Orita</p> <p>33rd (1993) March 16 Fred Masaru Yokota March 29 Yutaka Kimura March 31 James Shigeru Furumoto</p> <p>50th (1977) March 10 Mitama Takeuchi</p>
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WAIPAHU HONGWANJI MISSION ADULT DAY CARE CENTER

Waipahu Hongwanji Senior Day Care Center is open to anyone on the island. Please visit our website at www.adulthoodcarehawaii.org

**Reminder that Waipahu Hongwanji Members get a discounted rate.
94-821 Kuhaulua St. Waipahu, HI 96797**

Phone: 808-678-1770

E-mail: WHMADCC@hawaii.rr.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Evan Watarida, President of Waipahu Hongwanji



Dear Waipahu Sangha,

We are well on our way into 2026, a new year. The start of a new year signifies evolution and change. Change can sometimes feel difficult, sad, and undesirable. Change can sometimes feel fresh, wonderful and welcomed. And change can also feel both good and bad at the same time. But change is inherently neither good nor bad. Change just is. We can't stop change from happening. Even if I freeze myself or slipped into a coma, everything around me would still change.

We give emotions to changes in life based on our own personal experiences or view. Just like nature, our health changes as we age, relationships change as people come in and out of our lives, society and the world change constantly. I can complain or stress about it, or I can choose to do as the Hongwanji calendar motto was for years and "embrace change". When change is causing me stress or pain, I can pause and reflect on why change is making me feel that way. With a new awareness, I can step back, have a different view of it, and maybe change my emotions to peace. These are called nembutsu moments. I made a resolution to myself this year to catch myself in more nembutsu moments of awakening.

Our annual temple New Years' Party will be on Sunday, February 1. Cost is \$20 per person. We will have our annual membership meeting at 10am and the formal program begins at 11am. Thank you to our planning committee for putting everything together. And a special thank you to Sheree Tamura for organizing the entertainment and decorations. Sheree is an immeasurable help to our temple as well as to our Hawaii community. I am ecstatic that she will be formally recognized as a Honpa Hongwanji Mission Living Treasure of Hawaii on February 21 for her lifelong commitment to perpetuating the Japanese arts.

On Sunday March 1, Mililani Temple is hosting the Oahu District Sangha Day from 8:30am to 1pm. We will not be having service in Waipahu on that day. The guest speaker will be Gerald Oda, who took Hawaii to the Little League World Series in 2018 and 2022. The link to sign up and order bento is listed below or sign up in the social hall:

<https://forms.gle/hXrXG6W9Qi8F77EM7> / <https://bit.ly/SDBento2026>

On Saturday March 21, we will be holding our Bazaar and Rummage Sale. After the New Year's Party, we'll have a lot more room to store donated items. It's the perfect time for spring cleaning and you can donate any new or gently used clothes, household items, kitchen items, toys, bags, children's books, plants or other sellable items to the social hall. Please refrain from dropping off furniture or other large items. Bring your items no later than a week prior to the event to allow time for our volunteers to sort.

Finally, I would like to welcome Waianae temple members to our ohana. We were all saddened when the Waianae church closed. I believe it was the most scenic and beautiful campus on the island. We hope you can join us at services and events as fellow travelers along the dharma path.

In Gassho,

WAIPAHU HONGWANJI NEWS

BWA Visitation to ADCC—December 24, 2025

BWA members surprised ADCC with holiday gift bags for staff & snacks for clients.



Ms. Kaya and Rev. Jeff visited Ms. Janet Yoshida on 1/9/2026.

Waipahu Hongwanji Ohana enjoyed Mochitsuki 12/28/25



New Year's Day Service



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BAZAAR

Saturday, March 21, 2026

We need man and woman power.

Please bring your donation after the new year party, February 1.

SPECIAL DONATION

Kevin & Megumi Agena ... \$200
New Year's Donation

Darlene Fujimoto ... \$300
Special

Fujiwara Family ... \$100
In memory of Tokichi Fujiwara

Charlene Ikeda ... \$1,000
Special

Kathleen Ikeda-Lee ... \$1,000
Special

Patricia Miyasawa ... \$100
Special

Beverly & Art Nakayama ... \$1,000
Funeral for Clara Ishii

Toyoko Okita Family ... \$200
For BWA, In memory of Toyoko Okita

Serikaku Family ... \$500
Funeral for George Serikaku

June Shimabukuro
Funeral Toyoko & Richard Okita ... \$300
In memory of Richard Okita ... \$150

Mae Sunahara & Family ... \$100
In memory of Nancy Miyashita

Victor & Helen Tanimoto ... \$300
New Year's Donation

Sharon Toma ... 1,000
Special

Aileen Ueunten ... \$1,000
In memory of Katherine Namba

Watanabe Family ... \$500
Special

Lynne Yoshimura ... \$500
Special

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MEMBERSHIP: Clyde Fujii, Gail Fujimoto, Milton Fujioka, Roy & Dorothy Hirata, Lonnie Iwai, Roland Matsuda & Judy Nakasone, Frances Matsumoto, Flora Minemoto, Wendy Miyahara, Masumi Murakami, Emiko Onaga, Joyce & Robert Oshita, Edna Otsuka, Tsunako Sakata, Peter & June Shimabukuro, Beatrice Sonoda, Mae Sunahara, Sheree Tamura, Robert Tsumoto, Susan & Saiji Ushijima, Masao & Yukiko Uyeda, Lynne Yoshimura

HOONKO: Milton Fujioka, Marjory & Henry Funasaki, Daniel & Lois Hanaoka, Steven & Jan Honda, Doris Kakugawa & Iris Tsuha, Frances Matsumoto, Wilfred & Mae Matsushige, Flora Minemoto, Masumi Murakami, Lori Noborikawa, Jenny Nomura, Lisa Okada, Emiko Onaga, Edna Otsuka, Tsunako Sakata, Thomas Sekine, Harriet Sugimoto, Wilma & Calvin Sumida, Gail Tagashira, Sheree Tamura, Victor & Helene Tanimoto, Robert Tsumoto, Kuniomi & Akemi Uehara, Masao & Yukiko Uyeda, Francis Uyeno, Evan Watarida

ETAIKYO: Sheree Tamura

SOCIAL CONCERNS: Janet Kaya, Sheree Tamura

浄土真宗の教え 2026年1月
「阿弥陀様の願いその41（第十三願） 寿命無量の願」
駐在開教使 曾我大円

こんにちは。早2月となりました。いかがお過ごしでしょうか？毎朝寒いですね。朝もなかなか明るくなりません。フルーも流行っているようです。お体にはくれぐれも気をつけて下さい。

今月は「第十三願、寿命無量の願」を皆さんと考えさせて頂きます。お経の言葉をいただきます。

たとひわれ仏を得たらんに、寿命よく限量ありて、下百千億那由他劫に至らば、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、私の寿命に限りがあって、いつまでも寄り添う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。

阿弥陀仏という仏様の名前の由来をお話ししましょう。「大無量寿経」には法蔵菩薩様が「私が仏になったならば、光明と寿命が無量(計り知れない)である、もしそれが成就出来なければ、私は覚った仏とはならない」と願われたのです。これが

無量光(無量の光) アミターバ
無量寿(無量のいのち) アミターユス

の仏様だから、この「アミタ」という言葉が中国を通ってくる時阿弥陀と呼ばれるようになったのです。このことを親鸞聖人はご和讃に

十方微塵世界の 念仏の衆生をみそなはし
摂取してすてざれば 阿弥陀となづけたてまつる

と讃えられたのです。この迷い苦しむ私をどこにいようと、いくつになろうとも、摂取して、ほってはおかない、と願われた仏様をお釈迦様、親鸞聖人そして私が阿弥陀様と名づけ「なんまんだぶ」と呼ばせていただくのです。

(続く)

Waipahu Hongwanji Mission

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Resident Minister: Reverend Jeffrey D. Soga

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FEBRUARY 2026

Address Correction Requested

Condolence

**Waipahu Hongwanji extends deepest
Sympathy to the family of:**

Edwin Sakamoto
George Serikaku
Kenneth Omoto
Kimiko Kanno

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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

New Year Party
Sunday, February 1, 2026
Social Hall

Project Dana Caregiver Support Program
Saturday, February 14, 2026 at 10 a.m.
Social Hall & Zoom

BAZAAR

Saturday, March 21, 2026

We need your help.

Please call Waipahu

Hongwanji at 808 6774221