



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

JUNE 2026

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude



**JODO SHINSHU, Teaching of Pure Land
Amida Buddha's Vow #46, (14th Vow) 06/2026
Jeffrey Soga, Resident Minister**

I hope this message finds you well. It is already June, and the warm weather has begun to feel quite hot. Please be sure to stay hydrated and cherish each day as you go about your lives. Once again, I would like us to reflect together on Amida Buddha's Fourteenth Vow, the "Vow of Infinite Śrāvakas (Disciples)."

"If, when I attain Buddhahood, the number of śrāvakas in my land could be counted and known, even if all the śrāvakas and pratyekabuddhas in the triple-thousand great thousand worlds should spend at least a hundred thousand kalpas counting them, may I not attain the perfect enlightenment."

(Jodo Shinshu Seiten, p. 22)

(My interpretation)

If, when I (Amida Buddha) attain enlightenment, the number of śrāvakas in my land is countable, and if the number of śrāvakas and pratyekabuddhas throughout many worlds could be calculated, then I would not attain perfect enlightenment as a Buddha.

Let us briefly review this once again. "Śrāvakas" are those who seek awakening by listening to and following the Buddha's teachings. "Pratyekabuddhas" are those who strive toward enlightenment through the meaningful encounters and karmic connections they experience in life. Both are people who are deeply moved by precious encounters, who rejoice in meeting someone and thinking, "I wish to become a person like you," and who therefore live each day with gratitude and care.

Last month, I wrote about the idea of "heroes." Do you have such a hero in your life? In other words, is there someone you have encountered whom you felt was so wonderful that you thought, "I am truly grateful to have met this person," or "I hope to become someone like them"? More simply, is there someone in your life of whom you can sincerely say, "I am so glad that I met this person"? I myself have been blessed with many such people in my life.

Amida Buddha encountered the Buddha known as Sejizaio Butsu (Lokesvararaja Buddha), admired and praised him deeply, and made a great vow: "May I too become a Buddha like you, and guide those who suffer from spiritual ignorance and awakening."

(Continued to Page 5)

Memorial Service for May and June 2026

1st (2025)

June 12 Terumi Muraoka
 June 22 Jean Ichiko Miyahara
 June 23 Kimi Koizumi

3rd (2024)

June 15 Tadashi Ayabe
 June 24 Milton Yoshiaki Doi
 June 24 Stanley Hideo Hashiro
 June 27 Kirk Isao Saiki

7th (2020)

June 25 Masako Kawamoto

13th (2014)

June 4 Barbara Kiyoko Sasaki
 June 18 Kyoko Katahira

17th (2010)

June 19 Harriet Yaeko Asato
 June 22 Betsy Takayo Kochi

25th (2002)

June 18 Seiichi Oshiro

33rd (1994)

June 2 Muta Nakamura
 June 5 Tayo Matsuyama
 June 6 Asako Hirasuna
 June 10 Yayoi Yamada
 June 20 Amy Kamato Gibo
 June 27 Kamato Oshiro

50th (1977)

June 3 Mune Maeda
 June 5 Tomiichi Nanba
 June 17 Miyokichi Fujiwara

1st (2025)

July None

3rd (2024)

July 13 Edward Katsumi Edamatsu

7th (2020)

July 4 Faye Yasuko Sakihara
 July 13 Helen Mitsue Sasaki
 July 25 Masaaki Nii

13th (2014)

July 2 Hatsue Okata
 July 14 Masami Ohara

17th (2010)

July 29 Molly Kiyono Yamaguchi
 July 31 Ronald Hidemi Shimabukuro

25th (2002)

July 4 Kiyogi Inouye
 July 7 Tonose Hirata
 July 22 Sumiko Hashiro
 July 27 Keiko Tanaka

33rd (1994)

July 27 Kazuso Matsushima

50th (1977)

July None

WAIPAHU HONGWANJI MISSION ADULT DAY CARE CENTER

Waipahu Hongwanji Adult Day Care Center is open to anyone on the island. Please visit our website at www.aduldaycarehawaii.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,

Summer is here and this month, we will be recognizing our high school graduates of 2026 with a Baccalaureate Service on June 14. Please join us in congratulating our seniors Shayna Watarida and Elizabeth Murakami.

Summer is also Bon Dance season. This year, Waipahu's Obon will be on Saturday July 4th. We're hoping for a big crowd since it's a long weekend and we are one of only two bon dances on Oahu that week. Please note we moved up some of the start times. Hatsubon service will be at 4pm. The bon dance starts at 6:30pm and ends at 10pm. Here are obon related announcements:

.REQUEST FOR DONATED ITEMS:

Items can be dropped off in Social Hall prior to June 25.

Cases of Bottled Water, Bags of Rice, Spam (reduced sodium)

CHOCHIN LANTERN MEMORIAL MESSAGES – Contact Lori Noborikawa

For New Lantern Messages - \$20

Renewal of Lantern Messages - \$10

Payments along with family name can be mailed to our office by June 25.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Sunday, June 28 General Cleanup @ 9am. No Sunday Service

Friday, July 3 Chopping veggies and preparing food @ 9am to 1pm.

Saturday, July 4 Tents, Chairs Setup @ 9am
Kitchen Help @ 10am
Concession Help @ 4pm
Event Takedown @ 10pm

Sunday, July 5 Event Cleanup @ 9am. No Sunday Service

More details will be coming soon including volunteer times on our website at www.waipahuhongwanji.org. You may contact Rev. Soga at 808 987-1989 or email at waipahuhongwanji@hawaii.rr.com.

We hope to see you all there.
In Gassho,

WAIPAHU HONGWANJI NEWS

O - BON 2026

Date: Saturday, July 4, 2026

Time: 4:00 p.m. Hatsubon Family Service
5:00 p.m. Food Sale start
6:30 p.m. Bon Dance start
10:00 p.m. all pau and clean up

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Eshin ni sama and Kakushin ni sama Service

Sunday, April 26, 2026 Guest Speaker: Chad Chihiro Okawa

He shared IBCSE Program which was held in August 2025.

IBCSE: Internation Buddhist Cultural Student Exchange Program

SPECIAL DONATION

Fukunaga Family ... \$500
Funeral for Jane Fukunaga

Hilda Kunishige ... \$600
Funeral for Lawrence M. Kunishige

Okada Family ... \$300
Funeral for Roy Okada

Oshiro Family ... \$100
In memory of Kosei Kameko Oshiro

Tsunako Sakata ... \$150
In memory of James Sakata

Peggy Tsukida ... \$100
In memory of Ellen Serikaku Ujimori

Ujimori Family ... \$400
Funeral for Ellen Ujimori

Masami Murakami ... \$100
Special for Buddhist Women Association

Ujimori Family ... \$100 for BWA
In memory of Ellen Ujimori

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GOTANE: Milton Fujioka, Marjory & Henry Funasaki, Daniel & Lois Hanaoka, Roy & Dorothy Hirata, Steven & Jan Honda, Lawrence Kanemoto, Richard & Sueko Kodama, Jasmine & Daniel Morrison, Masumi Murakami, Jan Ro, Tsunako Sakata, Thomas Sekine, Victor Tanimoto, Lilly Tokuhara, Robert Tsumoto, Kuniomi & Akemi Uehara, Susan & Saiji Ushijima, Masao & Yukiko Uyeda, Craig & Megumi Uyeno

SPRING OHIGAN: Jasmine & Daniel Morrison

HOONKO: Jan Ro

MEMBERSHIP: Richard & Sueko Kodama, Craig & Christi Tadaki

(Jodo Shinshu, from Page 1)

The one who rejoiced in encountering Amida Buddha and shared those teachings with us was Śākyamuni Buddha.

Then, those who rejoiced in meeting Śākyamuni Buddha and aspired to attain the same awakening carried these teachings from India to China, and then to Japan. Hōnen Shōnin rejoiced in encountering the Vow of Amida Buddha, and the one who rejoiced in and praised his encounter with Hōnen Shōnin was Shinran Shōnin.

Shinran Shōnin then encouraged people by saying, “Please listen to this teaching of Great Compassion as well,” and the teaching was passed on to children and future generations, crossed the ocean to Hawai‘i, and has now become the Nembutsu — *Namu Amida Butsu* — that we recite together each day.

When we reflect upon this teaching that has been praised, cherished, and transmitted by so many people throughout history, we can understand Amida Buddha’s Fourteenth Vow in this way: that the Buddha wished for this Teaching of Great Compassion to continue forever, touching and inspiring countless “śrāvakas” and “pratyekabuddhas” through the ages.

I invite all of you to reflect upon your own lives as well. If there is someone whom you are grateful to have met, someone so wonderful that you feel, “I too would like to become a person like them,” I would be very happy if you would share that with me.

To be continued...

浄土真宗の教え 2026年6月
「阿弥陀様の願いその46(第十四願) 声聞無量の願」
駐在開教使 曾我大円

元気でお過ごしのことと思います。早六月です。暖かった気候が暑いと思うようになってきました。くれぐれも水分をとって、日々大切にお過ごし下さい。今回も阿弥陀様の十四番目の願い「声聞無量(しょうもんむりょう)の願」を考えさせていただきます。

たとひわれ仏を得たらんに、国中の声聞、よく計量ありて、下三千大千世界の声聞、縁覚、百千劫においてことごとくともに計校して、その数を知るに至らば、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、私の国の声聞の数が計算できるほどの数で、そして多くの世界の声聞、縁覚の方達は無数であるべきで、もし数えることができるならば、私は正覚の佛となることはできません。

もう一度復習させていただきます。「声聞」とは声に導かれて覚りを得ようとする人、「縁覚」とは出会い(ご縁)によって同じような仏になっていこうと修行する人です。どちらも素晴らしい出会いに感動し「あなたのような人になりたい」と出会えたことを喜び、日々を大切に生きる人たちのことです。

先月はヒーローのことを書きました。皆さんにはヒーローはいますか? 言い方を変えますと、皆さんの人生においてこんな素晴らしい人に出会うことができた、私もあの人のようにになりたい、と思う人はいますか。もっと言えば、皆さんの人生でこの人と出会えてよかった、と思う人はいますか? 私にはたくさんそんな人がいます。

阿弥陀様は世自在王仏という仏様と出会い、讃(ほめ)、称(たた)え、私もあなたのような仏になって、苦しむ人たちを迷いから覚りへ導いてあげたい、と大きな願いを建てられました。その阿弥陀様に出会えたことを喜び、私たちに教えてくださった方がお釈迦様です。そのお釈迦様に出会えたことを喜び、そしてお釈迦様のような覚りを得たいと願われた方々がインド、中国、そして日本へと伝えてくださり、法然聖人が「阿弥陀様の願いに出会えたことを喜ばれ」、そしてその法然様との出会いを喜び、讃えられたかたが親鸞聖人です。そしてその親鸞様がお示しくくださった「大慈悲の教え」を、あなたも聞いてみてごらん下さいよと子供たちに伝え、海を越えてハワイにやってきて、今私たちが毎日称えさせて頂くお念仏「南無阿弥陀仏」となっているのです。

そうやって多くの方達が讃嘆され、受け継いできたこの教えをいただくと、阿弥陀様の十四番目の願いは、このようにずっと「大慈悲の教え」が人々「声聞、縁覚」に感動を与え、ずっと続いていくようにと、阿弥陀様が願われたのだと頂くことができます。

皆さんもどうぞ人生を振り返ってみて、素晴らしい人に出会えたことを喜び、そのような人になりたいと思う人がいたら、私に教えてもらえませんか。

続く

Waipahu Hongwanji Mission

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E-mail: waipahuhongwanji@hawaii.rr.com
Resident Minister: Reverend Jeffrey D. Soga

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JUNE 2026

Address Correction Requested

Condolence

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

Roy Okada
Lawrence Kunishige
Colleen Hanabusa

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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. Hoshu Day
Help wanted

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

O BON 2026

Saturday, July 4, 2026

4 p.m. Hatsubon Service
5 p.m. Food sale begins
6:30 p.m. Bon Dance Starts

Project Dana Caregiver Support Program

Saturday, June 13, 2026 at 10 a.m.
Social Hall & Zoom

Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, June 14, 2026, 9 a.m.

Please let Waipahu Hongwanji know if your
children or grandchildren graduate high
school.