



Hamakua Four-Temple



Honohina-Papaaloa, Honomu and Papaikou Hongwanji Missions

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude

January 2026

New Year's Greetings

2026 New Year's Greetings From His Eminence Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani

As we welcome the arrival of the New Year, I extend my sincere greetings.

In recent years, natural disasters—including typhoons, torrential rains, earthquakes, and large-scale wildfires—have occurred with increasing frequency both in Japan and around the world, causing devastating damage and casualties. I offer my heartfelt condolences for those who lost their lives, and I express my deepest sympathy to all who have been affected. I fervently hope that you may all regain normalcy in your daily lives as soon as possible.

Last year marked a significant milestone, the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. In July, I had the honor of attending memorial services in Okinawa, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki—places that suffered destruction beyond words—and had the precious opportunity to listen to the accounts of those who lived through the war. I once again engraved in my heart the words of Sokunyo Monshu who said at the 1995 “50th Anniversary of the End of World War II Memorial Service for All the War Dead”: “We cannot help but feel deep remorse before the Buddhas and Spiritual Leaders for the fact that we were unfaithful to the

teachings of our Founder and actively cooperated with the war in the name of Buddhism.” With renewed recognition of our organization’s wartime responsibility, I reaffirmed my resolve as we continue forward on this path.

In the postwar years, our organization began its journey by refusing to avert its eyes from the fact of its active cooperation and involvement in the war, and by striving to build a peaceful society in which all people may live in spiritual fulfillment. We must continue to confront these truths with sincerity and ensure that such errors are never repeated. Even now, around the world, wars and conflicts persist, and countless precious lives remain at risk. In such times, let us hold close to our hearts Shinran Shonin’s aspiration—“May there be peace in the world, and may the Buddha’s teaching spread!”—and walk each day in harmony with this wish.

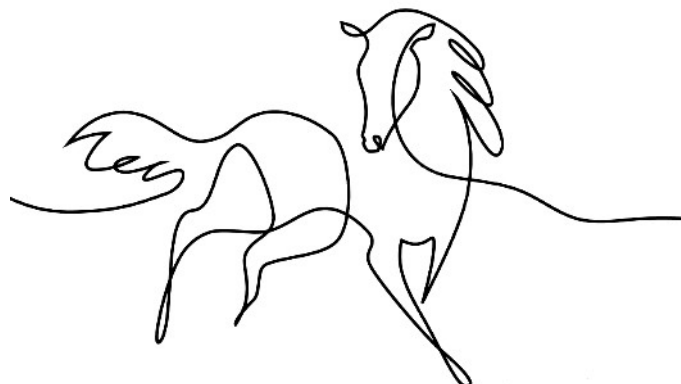
January 1, 2026

OHTANI Kojun,

Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

Papaikou Hongwanji Mission
4-Temple Newsletter
P.O. Box 20
Papaikou, Hawaii 96781

(Return service requested)



Happy New Year!



Happy New Year!

As we welcome another year, let us once again be mindful that we are all embraced by Amida Buddha’s boundless Compassion. With deep gratitude, I look forward to walking the path of the Nembutsu together with all of you in the coming year. I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation for your continued understanding and support of the various activities of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

In October of last year, I had an opportunity to visit Ryukoku University in Kyoto. While there, a framed calligraphy on the wall caught my eye. It read, “共結来縁” (“Let us together form the karmic bond to come”). This particular work was written by Rev. Shunkai Matsuura, the former Chief Priest of Mibu Temple in Kyoto and a graduate of Ryukoku University. With his calligraphy, he expressed the wish that “people from various backgrounds come together, cherish the bond they share, and move forward toward a common goal.”

I found these words truly inspiring. Upon returning to Hawaii, I learned that this phrase originally comes from an ancient Chinese poem: “Mountains and rivers may divide us, but the wind and moon share the same sky. Sending this robe to my fellow disciples (of the Buddha), may we together form a karmic bond.” Over 1,300 years ago, Prince Nagaya of Japan had these words embroidered on a thousand robes sent to the Tang dynasty, wishing that, even though we are different, our shared goal is to spread the teachings of Buddha. It is said that the great Chinese master Ganjin was deeply moved by this message, which inspired him to cross the sea to Japan to transmit the Buddhist precepts.

In our Hongwanji Sangha, too, people of many backgrounds come together. Each of us carries our own karmic conditions - unique and irreplaceable by others. There are moments when we may wish that someone could take our place, or when we long to carry another’s burden, but ultimately, we each must walk our own path. At times, this journey makes you feel lonely or uncertain.



Yet, Amida Buddha never abandons us. Out of immeasurable Compassion, Amida Buddha fulfilled the Vow to bring every being to the Pure Land. That compassionate calling - “Namo Amida Butsu” - reaches each one of us, here and now. Through the Nembutsu, we come to realize that the path we once thought we walked alone is in fact illuminated by Amida’s Light and is shared with many fellow travelers. From that awareness arises a heart of gratitude and joy.

Let us make this year another opportunity to listen deeply to Amida Buddha’s compassionate calling. In keeping with our 2026 theme, “**Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude**,” may we live each day with appreciation and share the joy of a life of gratitude with others. May this year be filled with the warmth of Amida’s Compassionate Light, peace of mind, and the joy of the Nembutsu for you and your loved ones.

In Gassho,

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
Bishop, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Hawaii Kyodan President’s New Year’s Letter for 2026



Happy New Year! Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu! Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

Aloha kākou! I hope that you and your loved ones are in good spirits as we enter the New Year – 2026!

Yes, another year has gone by quickly. I can look back at the past year and I’m happy that the year has gone well for my family. At the same time, I am aware that we are all a year older. I am sure that each one of us can recall losing a dear friend, colleague or family member this past year. Let us take a moment to be grateful for the connection that we enjoyed and still do enjoy with that person or persons.

It has occurred to me more than once in the past year that I won’t be here forever. This realization often happens when I first get up in the morning. I think to myself, “Hey, I’m over 70!” Maybe it is because I must stretch out the stiffness in my fingers in the morning (“welcome to the land of osteoarthritis” says my friend the rheumatologist). I stretch muscles in my low back and legs before I can “bounce” out of bed. Realizing the truth of the impermanence of life makes me try to make the most of every day.

Our theme and slogan for 2026 is, “Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude”. Shinran Shonin taught that the Nembutsu, the name of Amida Buddha, verbalized as Namo Amida Butsu is an expression of gratitude. The Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu, is our grateful response to Amida Buddha’s Calling Voice. Nurturing Nembutsu:

Sharing Gratitude reminds us that every moment of our lives, Amida Buddha embraces us with immeasurable Wisdom and Compassion. We respond to Amida’s compassionate calling voice with profound gratitude.

This is my last New Year’s Greeting to you as President of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Our Hawaii Kyodan Bylaws specifies term limits for the office of President and the last of my three terms will end with the close of our Legislative Assembly in February 2026. I plan to remain active on the HK Board of Directors as Immediate Past President and I look forward to seeing many of you in the future via Zoom or in person at various activities.

Serving as your president has been a wonderful life experience for me. I have made Dharma friends across our state, nationally and internationally. I have experienced many “Nembutsu Moments” learning about and living Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. I would like to express

my deep appreciation to all of you for assisting in our mission to “share the living teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism so that all people can have lives of harmony, peace and gratitude”. Your dedication, creativity and determination in sharing the Nembutsu teachings makes a difference in our world.

I hope that you will enjoy peace and happiness in the New Year!

*“As one little candle lights another,
so the light of Buddha’s compassion
will pass from one mind to another
mind endlessly”.*

(The Teaching of Buddha)

With Gassho,

Warren Tamamoto
President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

2026 Theme and Slogan “Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude”

Living with the Nembutsu gently guides our hearts toward gratitude, humility, and connection. Nurturing the Nembutsu becomes not only a journey of personal transformation but also a shared joy that goes beyond our individual lives. The Nembutsu is a living reminder of our interconnectedness and a celebration of the many blessings we receive. It is a heartfelt acknowledgement that our life is only possible through countless causes and conditions.

Gratitude is the foundation from which spiritual growth begins. When nurtured, gratitude changes our perceptions, allowing us to see the extraordinary in everything around us. In the practice of Nembutsu, gratitude isn’t just reserved for big gestures or rare moments — it is woven into every fleeting moment of our daily life.

To nurture Nembutsu is to cultivate a grateful awareness of life as it is. Sharing gratitude with others enhances its transformative power, building bonds of empathy and mutual understanding, breaking down barriers, and reminding us of our shared humanity. As Gomonsu Kojun Ohtani writes, “Rather than to simply live day in and day out as if we are just ‘going through the motions,’ in the teaching’s illuminating light we can find clarity and meaning in our lives. Not separating ourselves from society, it is important that we live within the priceless interconnections that we have with one another and support each other.”

Living the Nembutsu means training our heart and mind to return to gratitude repeatedly. Over time, we become more open, more compassionate, and less quick to judge others. Our burdens feel lighter, and our joy grows even greater, as our founder Shinran Shonin reflects in his sacred writings. Nurturing the Nembutsu is not about perfection but about perseverance. The willingness to start again and to remember gratitude, especially during challenging times, is an act of courage and trust in Amida Buddha’s compassionate Vow.

Nurturing Nembutsu is a continuous, dynamic journey of self-discovery and spiritual transformation, an invitation to cultivate gratitude deep within our hearts. The essence of Nembutsu is gratitude: for life, connection, and the Buddha’s boundless compassion that sustains and nurtures us. May we always remember to give thanks—for every breath, every lesson, and every act of kindness—and may our gratitude shine as a beacon of hope in a troubled world.

Namo Amida Butsu,

Rev. Blayne Higa
Director, Buddhist Study Center
Office of Buddhist Education

January 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Happy New Year! 				1 New Year's Day 11:00 AM Four-Temple New Year Service (Shusho-E) Papaikou HM	2	3
4 11:00 AM Monthly Memorial Service Papaikou HM	5	6	7	8	9	10 9:00 AM Pinwheel Making Practice Papaikou HM YBA Hall
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 10:00 – 2:00 PM Treasurers of the Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin
18 1:30 PM Papaikou HM Kyodan Board Mtg Newsletter publishing date	19 Martin Luther King	20	21	22	23	24 10:00 AM Four-Temple Shinran Memorial Service (Hoonko) & New Year Party (Shinnenkai) Honohina-Papaalooa
25 4:00 PM Guitar Class Papaikou HM	26	27	28	29	30	31 10:00 AM Four-Temple New Year Party (Shinnenkai) Papaikou HM

All services

2026 – Four-Temple Hongwanji Council Officers

President:	Alvin Yoshimoto	(Papaikou)	Treasurer:	Rose Broughton	(Honohina-Papaalooa)
Vice-Pres.:	Wayne Nakanishi	(Honomu)	Auditors:	Tilden Jio	(Papaikou)
Secretary:	Gail Maesato	(Honohina-Papaalooa)		Bob Mento	(Honomu)
				Bob Nishimoto	(Honohina-Papaalooa)

To arrange bedside, pre-cremation, funeral, memorial services please contact your temple President.

Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin	(808) 961-6677 (office)
Honohina-Papaalooa Hongwanji	Harold Uyeno , President (808) 959-9974 or (808) 936-9052 (cell)
Honomu Hongwanji	Wayne Nakanishi , President (808) 339-7849 or (808) 657-9657 (cell/text)
Papaikou Hongwanji	Alvin Yoshimoto , President (808) 9381842 (cell/text)

Newsletter Publisher	
Email: PapaikouHM@gmail.com.	Address: Papaikou Hongwanji, P.O. Box 20, Papaikou, HI 96781

A photograph of a traditional green and white wooden house with a red roof. The house has a central entrance with a porch and a small balcony. The house is surrounded by a green lawn and trees.



P.O. Box 72, Ninole, HI 96773

Hisashi Bobby Hamada **1/19/2002** **age: 84**

13 Years Memorial Service for 2014

Hatsuko Kishaba	2/1/2014	age: 95
Shuji Fujimoto	2/28/2014	age: 80

1 Year Memorial Service for 2025

Hiroshi Shima	2/8/2025	age: 94
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November 2025 Donations

Special Donation
Ken Kiyoshi Fujimoto

Monthly Donation
M/M Kenneth Kumasaki

Save the Date

- 1 January 2026: Four-Temple New Year Service (Shusho-E)
11 am at Papaikou Hongwanji
- 17 January 2026: Treasures of the Hongwanji Plant Sale.
10 am till 2 pm at Sangha Hall, Hilo Betsuin
- 24 January 2026: Four-Temple Hoonko Service beginning at 10 am.
Honohina-Papaaloo followed by Shinnen Enkai.
Zoom available.
- 25 January 2026: Guitar Class 4 pm at Papaikou Hongwanji YBA Hall
- 31 January 2026: Papaikou Hongwanji Shinenkai
10 am at Papaikou Hongwanji

Honohina-Papaaloo Hongwanji Meeting Minutes
November15, 2025

17 Attendees: Doris and George Araki, Jerry and Rose Broughton, Caroline Doi, May Fukui, Kiyoshi Fujimoto, Lin Kumasaki, Carrie Luke-Knotts, Debbie Kuntz, Bob Mento, Bob Nishimoto, Mitsuko Takasaki, Glenn Takemoto, Gary Yoshida, Jerry Yoshida, Harold Uyeno

- Called to Order: 10:10 AM
- Aspiration: Harold
- Secretary's Report: Carrie, distributed, 2 corrections by Rose
Thank you to Lin Kumasaki for mailing stamps donation
- Treasurer's Report: Glenn, balance: \$73,633.46.
 - a. Total income \$2,900 (\$1392.00 from Papaikou produce sale)
 - b. \$230,000 from Tooru Iwahashi Estate, investment options, long or short term investment, 2-4%, CD.
 - c. Bob Nishimoto suggested we buy a new laser printer/computer for Harold.

We all agreed.
- Minister's Report: Minister not present due to prior commitment

Business items:

1. **graveyard care** –

- a. George says grass is okay, but pigs are digging up yard
- b. Bob Nishimoto suggested scheduling quarterly graveyard work. Last time was Oct. Next: **Jan. 9, 2026, Friday.**
- c. There have been tourists visiting. Suggest: Install a new sign. Bob Nishimoto suggested a website for information.
Will pursue this; protect its care after we are all gone.

2. **Social Concerns donations** – Glenn to send \$500.00

3. **Curtains and ministers' chairs** – Jerry, Rose. Curtains have been installed w/ help from Yoshida brothers. Jerry and Rose will look into replacing the ministers' chairs.

4. **Election of Officers** – (Recommended Slate rec'd from, Chair, Delbert. Some changes made due to some declining of positions)

- a. President – Harold Uyeno
- b. 1st vice president – Delbert Nishimoto
- c. 2nd vice president – Bob Nishimoto
- d. Secretary – Carrie Luke-Knotts
- e. Treasurer – Glenn Takemoto (Carrie will do the thank-you notes)
- f. Auditors: Doris Araki, Lin Kumasaki
- g. Advisors: Mitsuko Takasaki, Delbert Nishimoto, Ken Fujimoto, Bob Mento

SLATE APPROVED

5. **Display banner** – Jerry, it's ready to order

6. **Archiving** – **11/16/2025** 3-5 PM via Zoom. Register online. Carrie took the class; she supplied us w/entire recording of her Power Point.

7. **Plant sale**, Treasures of Hongwanji – **1/17/2026, 10 AM – 2 PM** - Caroline Doi in charge, Sangha Hall

8. Shinnen Enkai/Hoonko Svc. 10:00 am, **January 24, 2026.** Lena agreed to do the prizes again

9. **Gathafest**, Kona Buddhist Temple, **February 22, 2026.** Lena and Annie agree to play ukuleles but will not compose song.

10. **Lunch w/ Rev. Kevin:** so far: Jerry, Rose, May, Lynn, Gary, Jerry, Ken F., Bob M., Lena, Harold, December 13th, 12:00 PM, at *Poly Feng Yuan Restaurant*. Cost \$28.00.

11. **Year-end lunch** – **Dec. 20, 2026, 11 AM, Poly Feng Rest.**

12. **4TC meeting** – Jerry Dec. 8th, 9:30 AM Zoom Papaikou is next President; Bob N. will be Auditor representing Hono-Papa.

13. **New Year's morning service** – To be decided by 4TC meeting

14. It was agreed that **Tomo Izumi Mohideen** be asked to be our guest speaker for the next Tsunami memorial, at Laupahoehoe Point, on **April 4, 2026**, at 10 AM. Air fare and lodging to be provided if she accepts. **Approved.**

15. New Year's party will be **January 24, 2026.** There was a sign-in list for New Year's Food donations.

The Lists of the Memorial Services for 2026

Honohina-Papaaloa Hongwanji Mission

• 50 years Memorial service for 1977

Okie Sugiyama	1/15/1977	age 75
Kichisuke Sugikawa	5/4/1977	age 92
Yoshiichi George Fujimoto	6/22/1977	age 71
Kimito Matsumura	7/23/1977	age 73
Ichiji Ihira	9/14/1977	age 74
Hiroshi Tanaka	10/7/1977	age 56

• 33 years Memorial service for 1994

Kentaro Shikuma	1/16/1994	age 71
Toshie Kitagawa	3/22/1994	age 63
Otono Sugioka	4/6/1994	age 95
Omatsu Gusukuma	7/30/1994	age 89
Takiyo Uyeno	10/5/1994	age 92
Kiwa Nonaka	12/15/1994	age 90

• 25 years Memorial service for 2002

Hisashi Bobby Hamada	1/19/2002	age 84
Walter Toshio Abe	3/31/2002	age 79
Hajime Tamamoto	4/12/2002	age 85
Midori Takemoto	4/19/2002	age 82
Tutomu Sugi Sugiyama	5/4/2002	age 81
Kama Momohara	7/9/2002	age 103
Kanao Koga	8/17/2002	age 85
Hatsuno Alice Higuchi	8/17/2002	age 79
Ekio Nishimoto	9/15/2002	age 86
Tomiko Beatrice Koji	10/18/2002	age 80

• 17 years Memorial service for 2010

Hiroshi Hiramoto	7/28/2010	age 95
Mieko Une	11/7/2010	age 97

• 13 years Memorial service for 2014

Hatsuko Kishaba	2/1/2014	age 95
Shuji Fujimoto	2/28/2014	age 80
Takeyoshi “Shine” Fujimoto	6/19/2014	age 85
Colin Hiroshi Naito	9/4/2014	age 51
Kamekichi “Steve” Tanoue	10/3/2014	age 91
Mitsuo Une	12/14/2014	age 80

• 7 years Memorial service for 2020

Beatrice Toshiko Abe	4/22/2020	age 97
Sadao Fujimoto	10/25/2020	age 78
Emiko Sugikawa	12/14/2020	age 97

• 3 years Memorial service for 2024

Mary Ann Kagawa Pyun	12/26/2024	age 86
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• 1 year Memorial Service for 2025

Hiroshi Shima	2/8/2025	age 97
Tooru Iwahashi	5/27/2025	age 94



THE HO-U

(Dharma Shower)

Honomu Hongwanji Mission



January 2026

Honomu Hongwanji Mission, P.O. Box 38, Honomu, HI 96728

Phone: (808) 657-9657

Presidents Message



ALOHA to you all.

It's been a long year for all of us but, we made it. Now as we close this year and look forward to 2026, let us not forget our goals and strides that we took in getting to this point. I urge all of you to look back and see

what has been accomplished.

Did we accomplish what we planned? This is the time to reflect and see what we can do in the new year. All of us have ideas that can benefit our church. By placing our priorities as one, we will continue to grow and have a temple where we can worship, be proud of and our own.

One night, I read (Kai Léo Kahea Dec 2025) edition. I came across Dr. Warren Tamamoto's message "Walk In Amida's Light". (Dr. Tamamoto is president of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, graduate of Laupahoehoe High School and former member of Papaaloa Hongwanji). His message for 2026: "Try something new! A

new activity, a new destination or perhaps a new skill. Whatever you do, wherever you are, trust that you will walk in Amida's Light". Very inspiring and humbling.

Once again, I would like to thank you in behalf of our Board of Directors and supporters for all that you do in keeping our church door open.

Keep up with our monthly newsletter for it will be a very prosperous year ahead.

Support our sister churches also, as we reach any into our communities to spread the true Sangha.

I Take care of yourselves and families. Don't party too much during the New Year and live Aloha. Spread the true Dharma.

I do HOPE and WISH to see you as we welcome 2026. Wishing to all of you a **Safe, Continued, Excellent Health & Happiness.**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In Gassho,

Wayne Nakanishi

President, Honomu Hongwanji Mission

Aloha Members,

As the year winds down, we wanted to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude for continued dedication. Your commitment truly makes Honomu Hongwanji Mission special, and we're so thankful for you.

Wishing you and your families a Christmas filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished moments. May your holidays be restful and bright, bringing you joy and peace.

Looking ahead, we're excited for what the New Year holds and appreciate you being such a vital part of our journey.

Warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

In Gassho,

Wayne Nakanishi, President
Penny Okura, Secretary
Lorraine Okabayashi, Treasurer
Dorothy Kansako, 2nd Treasurer
Bob Mento, Senior Advisor

Raymond Yamada, Board of Director
Warren Okabayashi, Board of Director
Elsie Oka, Board of Director
Russell Okura, Board of Director
Paul Yaley, Board of Director

Memorial (Nenki) Services

50 years service (1977)

Takaichi Richard Tanimoto 2/26/1977 age 72

33 years service (1994)

Asao Ichinotsubo 2/15/1994 age 69

25 years service (2002)

Terry Tamio Sakamoto 1/12/2002 age 58
Katsuji Matsuoka 2/25/2002 age 80

17 years service (2010)

Robert Tokuichi Koga 1/28/2010 age 86

13 years service (2014)

Masao Gusukuma 1/10/2014 age 80
Matsuo Yamashita 1/17/2014 age 84

7 years service (2020)

Norman Hideo Irie 2/11/2020 age 69
Donald Yukio Enoki 2/19/2020 age 94

Buddhist consider the memorial service a significant occasion to remember the deceased with feelings of gratefulness and love. The importance of the service is not for appeasing the spirits of the deceased, but rather, an opportunity to pay tribute and recall cherished memories of the departed, while listening to the Buddha Dharma. The service is not for the sake of the deceased, but for the sake of the living. In remembering the deceased we acknowledge their influence on our lives, and also realize the importance of living the Buddha Dharma.

If you plan on having a memorial service for your family member, please call or text Wayne Nakanishi, at (808) 339-7849 to make arrangements. Service may be held at the temple, your home, or at the cemetery.

Additional Eitaikyo Service Donations

George Hanashiro	Karen Irie	Tsutomu Tanaka
Janice Hiyane	Ronald & Lei Oishii	
Shizue Ichinotsubo	Ruth Ouye	

Other Special Donations

Honomu Rockets Softball Team		\$200.00
Karen Irie	IMO Seiyu Toguchi	\$300.00
Marvalee Nishihira	IMO Soko Nishihira (13 years)	\$200.00
Yoriko Ishii, Brian Ishii and } Chandra Namumnart, } Gordon Ishii & family, and } Roxanne Yamamoto & family }	IMO Masayuki Ishii	\$100.00
Jill & Jonathan Ross	Donation	\$200.00

Social Concerns Fund

George Hanashiro	N. & Shirley Nishioka	Amy Tatsuno
Janice Hiyane	Ellen Oshiro (for Mildred Nakanishi)	Satoru Une
Shizue Ichinotsubo	Ruth Ouye	
Robert Mento	Ryan Sueyoshi	

Quotes For Daily Living

(Adapted from "The Teaching of Buddha" by Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai)

1. The working of Buddhahood is as everlasting as human ignorance is endless and as the depth of ignorance is bottomless, so is Buddha's compassion is boundless.
2. To utter pleasant words without practicing them is like a fine flower without fragrance.
3. A true friend, the one with whom a person may safely associate, will always stick closely to the right way, will worry secretly about one’s friend’s welfare, will console the friend in misfortune, will offer him a helping hand when he needs it, will keep his secrets, and will always give him good advice.

That's Not My Job!

This is a story about four people named: *Everybody*, *Somebody*, *Anybody* and *Nobody*. There was an important job to be done and *Everybody* was sure that *Somebody* would do it. *Anybody* could have done it, but *Nobody* did it. *Somebody* got angry about that, because it was *Everybody's* job. *Everybody* thought *Anybody* could do it, but *Nobody* realized that *Everybody* wouldn't do it.

It ended up *Everybody* blamed *Somebody* when *Nobody* did what *Anybody* could have done.

The Power of Little Words

(by Adriana Carrig)

How one kind word can change everything.

Create — If there isn't a path for you,create your own path.

Confidence — Let the haters hate you. Keep doing you.

Include — Stand up for the underdog. Always make others’ feel INCLUDED.

Keep Going — Whether you're feeling stuck in the ground, or you're on the verge of walking away, keep going. You will get there (Where that is)and the perspective you'll gain when you arrive will make all the difference.

Patience — Let things take their time. Success is not an overnight phenomenon.

Gratitude — Gratitude is a practice. It doesn't always come naturally. But when you prioritize it again and again, you will find yourself blissfully aware how lucky you are.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the Gang at HONOMU HONGWANJI



Honomu Hongwanji Points of Contact:

Wayne Nakanishi, President (808) 339-7849 (cell/text)
Russell Okura, Project Manager

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Papaikou Hongwanji

Newsletter



Image by Kaori Ukaji - kaoriukaji.com

P.O. Box 20, Papaikou, HI 96781 | Email: papaikouhm@gmail.com

January 2026

President's New Year Address

Happy 2026



Dear Members, Friends and Family,

Do you sing the most popular new year song at the stroke of a new year? Auld Lang Syne – (I had to look up how to spell it). Of course, you know the song – everyone's singing it with a drink in their hand, everyone hugs each other, wishing each other a Happy New Year. At

our new year's eve family parties – we sing the song, but I don't really know the words, I don't even know the meaning of the song, I just follow along. Do you do that too?

This 18th century Scottish song emphasizes friendship and parting with the past. Auld Lang Syne – literally translates to "old long since", essentially means "times gone by" or "old times". It also looks forward to the future and wishes well to others – "...a cup of kindness..." raises a toast to loved ones, kindness and overall good vibes.

We Jodo Shinshu Buddhist – honor/memorialize our past members and family, but we are mindful of not living in the past. We should be grateful for what we have – not necessary what we can get/or what we deserve. We should toast our families and friends, spread kindness to everyone (not only the people who are good to us) and be at peace with our imperfect selves, so we can spread peace thought out the community and world.

With that being said – let's review 2025.

1. Rental Renovation: Our major project was the renovation of the rental residence. It has been a few years since any major work has been done, it really needed a facelift. The house was hot, the double hung windows were in disrepair, the floors were damaged, there was only one shower for 5 bedrooms, the fixtures were outdated and the electrical needed upgrading. The board felt that since the cottage brings in a steady income stream, it would be prudent to renovate now – because the tenants had just left (July 2025). Some \$35K spent and almost 6 months later, we are about finished and preparing for new tenants. Thank you to everyone who helped with the renovations, cleaning and prep.

2. Talk Story with Rimban Takahashi - We have just wrapped up another adult education session. We are so fortunate to have Rimban enthusiastically lead us in these open-ended rap sessions. There is no formal curriculum, we just talk about whatever questions or thoughts anyone has on anything and everything – from death & dying, bodhisattvas, services, suffering, how to live, being grateful,

what do we do now? etc... It is a great opportunity to ask questions – to learn about our religion and get to know our reverend. It is so important for us Jodo Shinshu seekers to understand what it's "all about". With knowledge, appreciation and gratitude will follow. Thank You Rimban for giving up your personal time to come out during our evening sessions. We plan to continue these classes in the near future. Hope to see you there!

3. Rummage Sale – Thrift Store. Thank you to everyone for helping and participating in our rummage sale (special Kudos to May Navarro). The project is meant to satisfy several objectives. The main being – an income producing event. Another is to reduce, reuse, recycle - we want to reduce landfill waste. We also wanted to provide the community an opportunity to get a great bargain. And lastly, it's an awesome way for our sanghas to work together for a common cause. Was also fun! Who doesn't like shopping for a good deal!

2026 Whats up!

Four-Temple New Years Service (Shusho-e) Jan. 1, at 11:00 AM at Papaikou Hongwanji will include both Rimban Kazunori Takahashi and Rev. Blayne Nakasone-Sakata. Let's start the New Year right by listening to the Dharma and having some sake. We will not have any fellowship (or food) after the service. So, you can go back home quickly and start on your New Years Resolutions! Zoom will also be available.

Treasurers of Hawaii – An event by Hilo Hongwanji, showcases the Hongwanji temples. **Jan 17, Saturday** from 10-2 PM at the Sangha Hall. We were going to make mochi, but decided to do something MORE FUN! In continuing our "Pinwheel for Peace Mission" from Peace Day in September, we plan to do a "Make and Take" event for the kids and adults. Anyone can learn how to make a pinwheel – donations will be graciously accepted. All proceeds will benefit the Food Bank. We felt that spreading Peace and Fun builds a positive experience for the community. Please let any board member know if you can help!

January 4, 2026 11:00 AM – Monthly Memorial, at Papaikou Hongwanji. Our first monthly memorial has a special theme for our fellowship after the service: Instead of regular pot luck style food, we want to encourage you to bring either a fruit, vegetable or bread dish. Please no desserts or rice. We want to start our new year with a healthy meal. Don't worry, this is only for January 4. We will provide ozoni for your enjoyment.

Here's wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year! Let's raise our glass and endeavor to be a little more kind in 2026. Thank you for your continued support and understanding. And as always, if you have any ideas or

concerns about what the future would look like at Papaikou Hongwanji, please feel free to talk to me or any board member.

In Gassho,
Alvin Yoshimoto
Kyodan President
Papaikou Hongwanji Mission

Acknowledgements with Gratitude - Gojikai Dues & Donations Received

From October 18, 2025 till November 17, 2025

❁ Gojikai Dues: Harold Mimaki, Wesley & Sharon Ogata, Esther Onaga, Abel Wakida ❁ October 2025 Joint Memorial Services: In Memory of Yukie Sunada Dorothy Kawamoto ❁ November 2025 Joint Memorial Services: In Memory of Kenji Kawamoto Dorothy Kawamoto ❁ December 2025 Joint Memorial Services: Ken & Lin Kumasaki, Kelly Saturnio In Memory of Masao Kobayashi Mel & Diane Kunimoto In Memory of Shizuko Matsui Mel & Diane Kunimoto In Memory of Dianne Neff Mel & Diane Kunimoto In Memory of Nobuyoshi “Charlie” Yokota Mel & Diane Kunimoto ❁ January 2026 Joint Memorial Services: In Memory of Tsuneo Adachi Newton Inouye In Memory of Hisao Inouye Newton Inouye ❁ Eitaikyo: Helen Shirota-Benevides, Hazel Takemoto ❁ Bodhi Day: Lynn Arisumi, Audrey Asato, Kiyoshi Fujimoto, May Fukui, Etsuko Hanamoto, Kent & Cynthia Inouye, Newton Inouye, Lembi James, Leo & Tilden Jio, Dorothy Kansako, Dorothy Kawamoto, Ken & Lin Kumasaki, Mel & Diane Kunimoto, Carrie Luke-Knotts, Bob Mento, Richard & Dale Mitsutani, Wayne & Janet Nakanishi, Mildred Nakanishi, Greg & May Navarro, Roy & Elsie Oka, Warren & Lorraine Okabayashi, Esther Onaga, Grace Onaga, Ausaf & Gail Rahman, Kelly Saturnio, Kay Shirota, Sally Tayama, Lucille Takemoto, Gail Tsuha-Maesato, Harold Uyeno, Raymond & Hisae Yamada, Gary Yoshida, Jerry Yoshida, James Yoshiyama, Anonymous ❁ Special Temple, Kyodan Donations: In Memory of Gail Kawamoto Richard & Dale Mitsutani In Memory of Akira Oshiro Betty Tanaka In Memory of Evelyn Inouye Newton Inouye, Mel & Diane Kunimoto, Richard & Dale Mitsutani, Hazel Takemoto In Memory of George Shigenaga Leslie Kawamoto In Memory of Sadayo & George Shigenaga Connie & Janna Watanabe In Memory of Mildred Shinbo Connie & Janna Watanabe In Memory of Yukimi Yoshimoto Newton Inouye, Dorothy Kawamoto, Rodney Kawamoto, Richard & Dale Mitsutani, Mitsuo Murashige, Alvin Oyadomari, Monty & Lille Rogue Special Temple Donation Anonymous ❁ Year-End Donation: Leslie Kawamoto, Mitsuru Ozaki, Lucille Takemoto ❁ Mochi Project Donations: Amy Aoyagi, Karen Hamada, Zachary Higa, Colleen Iwata, Warren & Lorraine Okabayashi, Sally Tayama, Wayne & Kathryn Yanagisawa ❁ Shinnenkai Donation: Edward Higa ❁ Buddhist Education Donation: Craig Inouye ❁ Social Concerns: Helen Shirota-Benevides, Hazel Takemoto

Papaikou Hongwanji Mission Kyodan Board Meeting

Sunday, November 16, 2025, 1:30 pm, YBA Hall & Virtual Zoom

Meeting was called to order by President Alvin Yoshimoto at 1:35 pm	Takemoto, Diane Kunimoto, May Navarro, Lembi James, Amy, Ken Okimoto, Judy Yoshimoto, Lauren Kamei Excused: Melvin Kunimoto
Aspiration led by Rimban Kazunori Takahashi: Shinshu Pledge, 1st 2 passages	Minister’s Report: (Rimban Takahashi)
Attendance: Alvin Yoshimoto, Rimban Kazunori Takahashi, Helen Shirota-Benevides, Tilden Jio, Lucille	• 4TC Bodhi Day Service 12/14/25, 11:00am at Papaikou, Guest Speaker: Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki

- 4TC New Year Day Service, 1/1/26, 11:00am at Papaikou, Rimban Takahashi & Rev. Blayne
- Monthly Memorial Service, 1/4/26, 11:00am at Papaikou, Fruit & Vegetable Pot Luck
- Giseikai (Legislative Assembly), 2/20-2/21/26, In person or Zoom
- Gathafest, 2/22/26, Kona Hongwanji

Secretary’s Minutes: Minutes of 10/19/25 approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer’s Report: Income & Expense Reports for Oct. 2025, approved by unanimous consent subject to audit.

- October had a net loss of \$20,352.71 due to large expenses of boiler repair and Rental Unit repair.
- Funds available as of Oct. 31, 2025 is \$13, 419.41. \$30,000 was deposited from redemption of Janus Henderson shares into the money market account which will be reflected in the November statement. We are able to meet our expenses.
- Boiler is working and ready for the mochi project. Need to get the anti-rusting chemical for the boiler by next summer.

Correspondence: Thank you received from Honohina-Papaaloo Hongwanji along with \$300 donation.

Buddhist Education: Luncheon with Rev. Kevin & Dayle Kuniyuki on 12/13/25 around 12 noon, Cost-\$28.00. RSVP to Alvin by Dec. 1. Ministers’ lunches will be paid by 4TC.

Project Dana: No report.

Social Concerns: State meeting held on 11/8/25. Rough draft for emergency plan for State, District, Temple being developed. Educational material on due process and civil rights being prepared.

Try It Committee:

- Papaikou will participate in Treasures of Hongwanji at Sangha Hall on 1/17/26. Volunteers will help with “Make & Take pinwheels”. There will be teru teru bozu (made by Lembi) for sale. All proceeds will be donated to the Food Basket, who will provide a banner.
- Reminder from Lembi- Movie night 2011 documentary “Aloha Buddha” needs to be planned.

4 Temple Council (4TC):
2026 slate of officers: Alvin Yoshimoto-President; Wayne Nakanishi-Vice President; Gail Maesato-Secretary; Rose Broughton-Treasurer. Auditors are: Bob Mento, Bob Nishimoto, Tilden Jio.

- Maintenance:** (Alvin)
- Columbarium- Combination lock set will be phased in by end of December.
 - Men’s toilet in garage - Urinal needs to be fixed.
 - Gas water heater- waiting for plumber.
 - Pending- Storage doors replacement.

- Old Business:**
- Insurance update- waiting for refund
 - Residence- estimated \$15,000 more needed to complete renovations.
 - Mochi Project- mochi rice will be picked up on Friday, 12/19; Golden Crane new brand of mochi rice
 - Shinnenkai- Jan. 31, 2026; letters will be sent out by end of November.
 - Pending – MPH contract, t-shirt

- New Business:**
- Lauren Kamei presented 3 new ideas: 1) Cloverbuds 4H- needs a place to meet once a month, possibly on Sundays after monthly service in the classroom. 2) Ceramics- possible donation of a kiln, need storage space, could offer classes in ceramics for a fee 3) Rummage sale involving community. All proposals will need board approval.

Closing Aspiration led by Rimban Takahashi-Nembutsu

Announcements: Next Board Meeting – Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025, 1:30 pm (in-person or by Zoom)
12/14/25, 11:00am – 4TC Bodhi Day Service Papaikou
1/1/26, 11:00am – 4TC New Year Service at Papaikou
1/4/26, 11:00am – Papaikou Monthly Memorial Service
1/17/26, Treasures of Hongwanji
1/24/26, Honohina Shinnenkai
1/31/26, Papaikou Shinnenkai

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm
Submitted by May Navarro

ATTENTION: New Keypad Lock on Columbarium Door

A new keypad lock has been installed on the Columbarium door. The Board has made this decision to enhance security and prevent unauthorized access.

We recognize that the door has traditionally been left unlocked to provide convenient access for family members and friends, and we are unaware of any past incidents. However, the Board believes it is prudent to implement these precautions proactively rather than waiting for a potential issue to arise.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this transition.

To obtain the access code, please contact any Board member. Thank you.

Upcoming Memorial Services (Nenki)

50 years Service – 1977

Shin Takemoto	1/27/1977	age 90
Hajime Kunimoto	2/13/1977	age 70

33 years Service – 1994

Kazumi Inoue	2/3/1994	age 56
Kimiko Oshiro	2/12/1994	age 77
Masato Oda	2/27/1994	age 88

13 year Service – 2014

Narako Kunimoto	2/11/2014	age 95
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NOTE: Family members may contact President Alvin Yoshimoto to arrange for this special memorial service. If a Memorial Service for your family member has inadvertently been missed in our newsletter and you would like to schedule a service, please contact our president Alvin Yoshimoto at (808) 9381842 (cell/text) "Arigato!"

Monthly Memorial Service List

A Joint Monthly Memorial Service is held as part of the regular Sunday Service, for everyone who passed away during that month. Look at the calendar in this newsletter to know when is the Joint Monthly Service for a particular month; usually on the first Sunday. All affected families and friends are welcome to offer incense at that service.

This is not the same as the Memorial Nenki Service, such as 1st yr., 3rd yr., 7th yr., 13th yr., 17th yr., 25th yr., 33rd yr. or 50th yr., that a family arranges for an individual person, who passed away. To schedule your individual person's memorial service, please contact our president Alvin Yoshimoto at (808) 9381842 (cell/text).

January (1975-2026)

Tsuneo Adachi
Clara O. Ashida
Yone Fujinaka
Tomoi Hirokane
Hisao Inouye
Yae Ishimoto
Sylvester Kiliwelio Kainoa
Robert Taro Kaneta
Shigeno Shirley
Kawamoto
Fumie Kobata
James "Jimmy" Keloha
Masaru
James "Jimmy" Yasunori
Matsuda
Seiichi Matsuo
Buntaro Minamoto
Takako Miura
Tsutomu Nekoba
Jim Nishimura
Yoshiko Okimoto

Shigeru Omori
Fumie Ono
Mitsuo Ozaki
Kazunori Shiota
Etsuko Shishido
Yuriko Sugino
Hajime Takaki
Harue Takaki
Shin Takemoto
Katsumi Taniguchi
Kimi Taniguchi
Shizu Takemoto
Takuichi Takemoto
Shigeo Tayama
Stanley Hideo Tsuji
Misao Watanabe
Velma Yukue Yanagida

February (1975-2026)

Sui Abe
Kimie Aoki

Namio Haraguchi
Shigenori Hashimoto
Tadami "Soup" Higuchi
Ann Hinazumi
Ryoichi Hirokane
Toshika Hiura
Yoshiwo Robert Horimoto
Kazumi Inoue
Alex Takeo Inouye
Wai Kitayama
Hajime Kunimoto
Narako Kunimoto
Susumu Masaki
Alan Shigeo Matsui
Kunio Matsui
Shizuko Matsunaka
Kameichi "Jimmy" Mento
Haruyo Mihara
Niichi Miki
Itsumi Mori
Sumie Mori
Richard Kaneo Nishimura

Tsuyako Nishizaki
Masato Oda
Sukeo Okamoto
Kimiko Oshiro
Sally Yukie Seikaku
Yoshio Seikaku
Isamu Shiota
Kazumi Shiota
Roy H. Takaki
Atsushi Takemoto
Hidefumi Takemoto
Kazue Takemoto
Roy Tanaka
Kiyoshi Tsuchiya
Sueo Watanabe
Noboru Richard Yamada
Konomu Yamashita
Tatsuo Yanagida
Umeko Yoshida
Kazuyoshi Yoshizawa

The Significance of Having Memorial Service is:

1. Not to forget the gratitude of Amida Buddha and the life of Nembutsu.
2. Members of the family, relatives and friends to get together under the name of the departed person to express thankfulness to him/her and to share his/her memory.
3. To realize the impermanence of this world and the importance of the faith in Amida Buddha in everyday life, since human beings are apt to forget that they are mortal and how important it is to have strong faith.

In Gassho

Snapshots of the Month

Four-Temple Bodhi Day Service with Guest Speaker Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki

