



Hamakua Four-Temple



Honohina-Papaaloa, Honomu and Papaikou Hongwanji Missions

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude

March 2026

Awakening to Compassion in Turbulent Times

Dear Dharma Friends,

Today, I write to you with a heavy heart. Mourning the tragic events in Minnesota caused by state-sanctioned violence and fear, I grieve the lives lost and the pain families and communities are experiencing, and I send thoughts of loving kindness and healing to all who are suffering injustice and abuse from unchecked power.

When Japanese and Japanese-American families were targeted because of race, national origin, and religion, stripped of their dignity, imprisoned without due process guaranteed by our Constitution, many chose to be silent. Will we remain silent in the face of injustice today?

Our world feels more divided than ever, and many of us wonder: Where is compassion today? Relentless images of violence, exclusion, and suffering leave us drained and hopeless. Walls—both seen and unseen—divide us from one another. We tend to include only those who agree with us, benefit us, or fit within familiar boundaries, and ignore, dismiss, and abuse or even harm others as if their lives do not matter. I am left wondering whose dignity truly matters.

During challenging times, Shinran Shonin's teachings offer us a meaningful and grounding perspective on compassion. True compassion does not start with our own strength, goodness, or moral effort, but arises when we open ourselves to a compassion far greater than our own—the limitless compassion of Amida Buddha, the dynamic power of Awakening.

Realizing we are recipients of Great Compassion, our perspective shifts. Before experiencing this compassion, we may feel like we're walking alone on a dark, uncertain path. But upon awakening to Amida Buddha's compassion, we see that we are walking together with others, guided by a light that never abandons us.

Compassion is not something we are commanded to practice or compelled to produce—it naturally arises from gratitude. Saying Namo Amida Butsu is our way of showing appreciation—thank you for accepting me just as I am. Through true gratitude, we are gently guided to live with care, humility, and openness toward others. True gratitude forms the foundation for a more peaceful, humane, and just world.

When we look at our society today, we may feel discouraged by the lack of compassion we see around us. Yet Shinran Shonin's teaching invites us to transcend despair by awakening to the compassion that already sustains us. From that awakening, we are moved to see others' suffering as our own and to stand in solidarity with those in need.

Compassion is not a heroic act, but a way of being—rooted in gratitude, shaped by humility, and expressed through small, everyday encounters. Kind eyes, gentle words, a listening ear, a willingness to remain present with another's pain are the natural expressions of gratitude in a life embraced by Great Compassion.

Especially in uncertain and turbulent times, may we continue to immerse ourselves in the compassion that flows within and through us. And may that compassion quietly, steadily, and sincerely manifest in our words, actions, and relationships.

Compassion is our beacon of hope as we navigate this dark and chaotic time. May we always find comfort and courage in Amida Buddha's unwavering embrace.

Namo Amida Butsu,

Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

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

(Return service requested)



2026 Spring O-Higan



Chinese New Year 2026

Welcoming the Year of the Fire Horse: The Timeless Wisdom of the Chinese Zodiac and Five Elements

This year, on February 17, 2026, communities worldwide welcomed Chinese New Year—also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival—one of the most vibrant and colorful celebrations on Earth. Marking the start of the Year of the Fire Horse, it brings an energetic wave of passion, adventure, independence, and forward momentum, amplified by the dynamic pairing of the Horse animal with the Fire element.



At the heart of these festivities lies the Chinese zodiac, or Shengxiao, a repeating 12-year cycle in which each year is represented by an animal. The sequence stems from a beloved ancient legend: the Jade Emperor invited all creatures to a grand race across a river. The first 12 to cross earned a permanent place in the zodiac, in the exact order they finished.

Interestingly, Japan adopted this zodiac system centuries ago through Buddhist and cultural exchanges, calling it Eto (or the twelve branches). The animals remain nearly identical, but the final one is called Boar instead of Pig—emphasizing bravery, determination, and straightforward strength, with slightly nuanced cultural interpretations of each sign's traits.

The full Chinese list:		The full Japanese list:	
1. Rat	quick-witted, resourceful, clever	1. Rat (子)	clever, quick
2. Ox	diligent, dependable, strong	2. Ox (丑)	diligent, patient
3. Tiger	brave, confident, powerful	3. Tiger (寅)	brave, powerful
4. Rabbit	gentle, elegant, kind	4. Rabbit (卯)	gentle, elegant
5. Dragon	charismatic, intelligent, lucky	5. Dragon (辰)	lucky, charismatic
6. Snake	wise, intuitive, mysterious	6. Snake (巳)	wise, mysterious
7. Horse	energetic, independent, adventurous	7. Horse (午)	energetic, free-spirited
8. Goat	calm, creative, gentle	8. Sheep (未)	calm, artistic, kind
9. Monkey	smart, curious, playful	9. Monkey (申)	smart, playful
10. Rooster	observant, hardworking, courageous	10. Rooster (酉)	hardworking, observant
11. Dog	loyal, honest, protective	11. Dog (戌)	loyal, honest
12. Pig	generous, compassionate, easygoing	12. Boar (亥)	courageous, straightforward

The system becomes even richer with the five elements—Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal, and Water—known as Wu Xing. Rooted in ancient Chinese philosophy, these elements illustrate cycles of creation and transformation in nature (for example, wood feeds fire, fire produces ash that nourishes earth, and so on). Each year pairs one animal with one element, forming a complete 60-year cycle (12 animals × 5 elements = 60 unique combinations). The element subtly modifies the animal's qualities: a Fire Dragon may radiate extra passion and boldness, while a Water Dragon tends toward adaptability and depth. In 2026, the Fire element infuses the Horse with heightened vitality, courage, and transformative energy—encouraging bold steps and heartfelt action.

People usually use a simple shortcut: the last digit of your birth year gives a quick clue to your element.

0 or 1 → Metal	2 or 3 → Water	4 or 5 → Wood	6 or 7 → Fire	8 or 9 → Earth
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These traditions can be enjoyed as a meaningful and enriching expression of cultural heritage. At the same time, from the perspective of Jodo Shinshu, we are reminded that regardless of our birth year or zodiac sign, all of us are equally embraced by Amida Buddha's compassion. In that awareness, we live together in gratitude.

Wishing you all a healthy, prosperous and joyful New Year of the Fire Horse!

Leo PM (Papaikou HM)
With friendly help from Rimban Takahashi and Grok (xAI)

The Founding Fathers of America: 10 interesting facts

On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate 250 years of independence. With a single sheet of parchment and 56 signatures, America began the greatest political journey in human history.

Fact 2 - The origins

None of the Founding Fathers was born an American (for obvious reasons), but **most of them were born in the American colonies and had British origins**. Out of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 47 were born in what is now U.S. territory.

The other nine? **Eighth of them came from the British Isles**: Two were English-born (Button Gwinnett, Robert Morris), three were Irish (George Taylor, Matthew Thornton, and James Smith), two were Scottish (James Wilson, John Witherspoon), and one was Welsh (Francis Lewis). **The last one, Alexander Hamilton, was born in the British West Indies**, now St. Kitts and Nevis.

Next month: **"Fact 3 - A varied group of men"**

Peace in the world

If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbors.

If there is to be peace between neighbors, there must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart.

by Lao-Tse, 604 BC

*Lao-Tse, also known as **Laozi** or **Lao Tzu**, was an ancient Chinese philosopher traditionally regarded as the founder of **Taoism** (Daoism). He is best known as the reputed author of the **Tao Te Ching**, a foundational text of Taoist philosophy that emphasizes living in harmony with the **Tao** (the Way), a natural, ineffable force that underlies all existence.*

Four-Temple Council thanks **Joe and Violet Nishihira** for their generous donation to support Four-Temple Newsletter production



March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11:00 AM 4-Temple O-Higan (Spring Equinox) & Memorial Service Papaikou HM	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 9:30 AM 4-Temple Council Board Meeting Papaikou HM	12	13	14
15 1:30 PM Papaikou HM Kyodan Board Mtg	16	17	18 Newsletter publishing date	19	20	21
22 8:30 AM 4-Temple Highway Cleanup Pepeekeo Post Office	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 4:00 PM Guitar Class Papaikou HM	30	31				

All services

2026 – Four-Temple Hongwanji Council Officers

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

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

Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin	(808) 961-6677 (office)
Honohina-Papaaloa 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



The articles and opinions expressed by the editor and individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily represent those of Hamakua Four-Temple Hongwanji Missions.

Honohina – Papaaloa



Hongwanji A Jodo Shinshu Temple Newsletter



March 2026

P.O. Box 72, Ninole, HI 96773

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude

Contact Information: President, Harold Uyeno 808-959-9974 / 808-936-9052 (cell)

Church Cleaning Schedule:

- February 22, 2026: Kahuku Group
- March 8, 2026: Hilo Group
- March 22, 2026: Umauma

To all those who clean and maintain our beautiful Temple
Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

Family Memorial Service

In the Jodo Shinshu tradition, memorial services provide us with the opportunity to quietly meditate and reflect upon the cherished memories of the deceased and to remind us of the impermanence of life.

If your family would like to arrange a memorial service, please contact President, Harold Uyeno to make arrangements for ministerial coverage.

Memorial Services for March & April 2026

33 Years Memorial Service for 1994

Toshie Kitagawa	3/22/1994	age: 63
Otono Sugioka	4/06/1994	age: 95

25 Years memorial Service for 2002

Walter Toshio Abe	3/31/2002	age: 79
Hajime Tamamoto	4/12/2002	age: 85
Midori Takemoto	4/19/2002	age: 82

7 Years Memorial Service for 2020

Beatrice Toshiko Abe	4/22/2020	age: 97
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Honohina-Papaaloa Donations

Please excuse the delay in publishing the January donations.
Jerry and I are taking a quick trip to the mainland.
The Donations will be in the April newsletter.
As always, thank you for your support.

Honohina-Papaaloa Hongwanji Dues Reminder

Payable: \$150.00
Honohina-Papaaloa Hongwanji
P.O. Box 72
Ninole, Hi. 96773
Thank you for your continued support

Save the Date

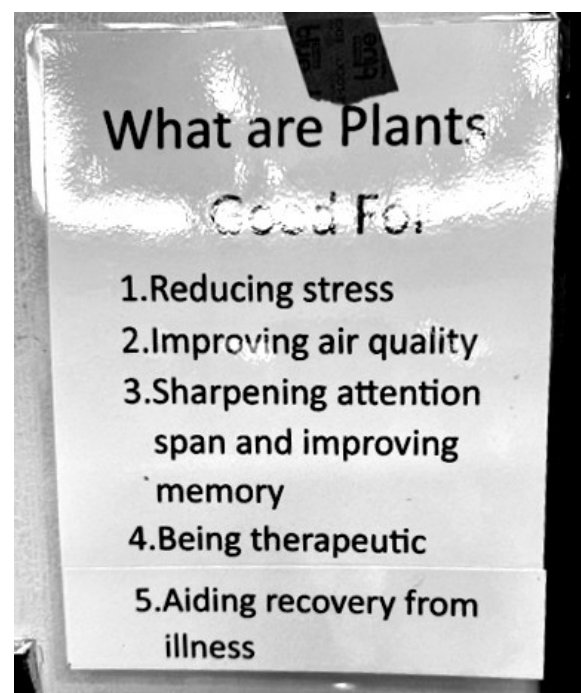
- 1 March 2026: Combined 4 Temple Spring O-Higan
11am @ Papaikou Hongwanji
- 11 March 2026: 4 Temple Council Board Meeting
9:30 @ Papaikou Hongwanji. All welcome
- 22 March 2026: 4 Temple Highway Cleanup
Meet at Pepeekeo Post Office @ 8:30 am
- 29 March 2026: Guitar Class 4 pm @ Papaikou Hongwanji YBA
Hall



Treasures of the Hongwanji
17 January 2026
Sangha Hall

Dear Members,
We had a great and well-coordinated event for us at the Treasures of Hongwanji.
I must say, Caroline did wonders in providing most of the plants and fruits. I didn't think there was any more plants left after we recently held a fundraiser as late as October. I was wrong. It seems that our sales did well. It was enjoyable. We did have a nice turnout too.
Thank you for those of you that helped her transport those plants and fruits. And to those of you for making the boxes and signs, cashiering, sales, etc. It turned out to be a great project. Mahalo!
In Gassho, Harold.

Treasures of the Hongwanji





THE HO-U

(Dharma Shower)

Honomu Hongwanji Mission



March 2026

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

Phone: (808) 657-9657

Presidents Message



ALOHA to you all,

Once again—Happy New Year 2026! Time truly flies; can you believe January has already slipped by and here we are at the end of February?

How are your New Year's resolutions holding up? Some of us might say, "I just don't

have the time," while others feel, "Life is too short to be so structured." Whatever path or goals you've set—or even if you haven't—give them a sincere try. Approach each day with a positive attitude. Whether the sun is shining or the rain is falling, make every day a beautiful one.

For our temple, my resolution is simple yet important: to accomplish the goals we've set together—especially spreading the true Dharma. Though our membership is small, we still have meaningful work to do. Staying united and "on the same page" keeps our ship sailing in the right direction. I see this same spirit of cooperation in other temples here on the island and across the state.

One exciting opportunity right now is the "Ministerial Lay Assistance" program our ministers are developing. The early response has been very positive, but we would love to see even more of our members get involved. This training will prepare lay members to confidently handle many of the daily responsibilities at the temple—assisting with services, preparing the altar, and supporting our minister in other ways as needed.

I recently spoke with Rimban Kazunori Takahashi and expressed my own interest in participating in the program. I'm confident this program will allow us to provide meaningful support and help lighten the load. Would you be interested in joining? Please feel free to give me a call—I'd love to hear from you.

In January, several of our members attended the Honohina/Papaaloa Hongwanji Hoonko service and Shinnenkai, as well as the New Year service and Shinnenkai party at Papaikou Hongwanji. Everyone had a wonderful time—delicious ono-licious food, great entertainment, and plenty of door prizes! A big thank you to our sister temples for their warm hospitality. If you have ideas or suggestions for our own Shinnenkai next year, please share them with me. I'd love to hear your thoughts.

On another note, the installation of Zoom capability at our temple is still in progress—it hasn't been forgotten, and I will keep you updated.

Lastly, our O-Bon will be here before we know it! Planning is underway, and we'll share more details through our monthly newsletter as things come together. It's shaping up to be a wonderful year for our temple community.

Wishing each of you excellent health, a positive outlook, and an active, fulfilling daily life in this new year.

With gratitude and aloha,

Wayne Nakanishi

President, Honomu Hongwanji Mission

A Special "Mahalo" To:

Our Project Manager **Russell Okura** for co-coordinating with HELCO in removing the utility pole in the back of the Temple. The area is now clear. No more walking into the pole in a dark night or having your auto damaged.

Thank you Mr. Okura.

Hoonko Service Donations:

Amy Tatsuno

Special Donations:

Shizue Ichinotsubo

IMO Asao Ichinotsubo

\$100.00

Donations at Monthly Service - 2/15/26

Sterling & Leslie Chow	Bob Mento	Russell & Penny Okura
Janice Hiyane	Roy & Yukie Mento	Edward & Toshie Shirota
Shizue Ichinotsubo	Wayne & Janet Nakanishi	Helen Shirota-Benevides
Annie Iwahashi	May Navarro	Roy Todoroki
Leo & Tilden Jio	Delbert Nishimoto	Harold Uyeno
Dorothy Kansako	Ronald & Lei Oishi	Raymond & Hisae Yamada
Lena Kishaba	Roy & Elsie Oka	Gary Yoshida
Sau Lin & Kenneth Kumasaki	Warren & Lorraine Okabayashi	Jerry Yoshida

Dues

Yoriko Ishii	Warren & Lorraine Okabayashi	Edward Shirota
Roy & Yukie Mento	Russell & Penny Okura	Paul Yaley
Ronald & Lei Oishi	Robert & Linda Otomo	Raymond & Hisae Yamada

Memorial (Nenki) Services

33 years service (1994)

Mitsuko Sakamoto	3/22/1994	age 84
Nao Ichinotsubo	3/27/1994	age 92
Tamae Kawasaki	4/4/1994	age 80

25 years service (2002)

Haruo Kawamoto	3/2/2002	age 81
Randolph Kazuto Oue	3/12/2002	age 58
Sunao Kurisu Saito	3/14/2002	age 102

17 years service (2010)

Yoshio Miyashiro	3/4/2010	age 89
James Shigemi Tanaka	4/10/2010	age 55

1 year service (2025)

Yuriko Omonaka	3/19/2025	age 94
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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.

Inspirational Readings

(HHM Newsletter-YouTube)

"Wake up every morning with the thought that something wonderful is going to happen".
"Cherish the people you care about, you never know when it'll be the last time you get to talk to them or see them".
"Believe in the journey even when the destination isn't clear".
"Life doesn't have to be perfect to be wonderful".
This is a hug from me to you to let you know I am thinking you and although I have nothing to say at this time, you know I have thought of you today".
"Be kind because you will never know how much the person beside you is suffering".
Never stop doing the little things for others. Sometimes those little things occupy the biggest part of their lives".
"I finally found my rhythm when I realized that even the steps backward were a part of the dance".

Simply Said

(HHM Newsletter—YouTube)

A frog decided to reach the top of the tree (must be one of those annoying coqui frogs ☺) . All the other frogs shouted "It's impossible", "It's impossible". Still the frog eventually reached the top.
How did it do it? Because it was **deaf**, and it thought, everyone was encouraging him to reach the top.
The lesson to this story is: "Be deaf to negative thoughts if your aim is to reach your goals".

Wishing you were here...

Honohina-Papaaloa Shinnenkai 2026



Papaikou Shinnenkai 2026



Honomu Nirvana Day Service



Honomu Hongwanji Points of Contact:

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

Please subscribe to our email version of this newsletter for more pictures and articles from other Temples. If you wish, you still can keep your paper copy subscription active. To subscribe please send your request to papaikouhm@gmail.com

Papaikou Hongwanji

Newsletter



Image by Kaori Ukaji - kaoriukaji.com

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

March 2026

Acknowledgements with Gratitude - Gojikai Dues & Donations Received

From January 18, 2025 till February 17, 2026

- ✿ **Gojikai Dues:**
Gerald Gushiken, Etsuko Hanamoto, Newton Inouye, Dorothy Kawamoto, Leslie Kawamoto, Mel & Diane Kunimoto, Richard & Dale Mitsutani, Pat Morimoto, Dennis Onishi, Ausaf & Gail Rahman, Kelly Saturnio, Helen Shiota-Benevides, Lucille Takemoto, Sally Tayama, Carol Yoshiyama, James Yoshiyama
- ✿ **Funeral Service:**
 - **In Memory of Jeff Saturnio**
Kelly Saturnio
- ✿ **January 2026 Joint Memorial Services:**
 - **In Memory of Kenneth “Doug” Benevides**
Helen Shiota-Benevides
- ✿ **February 2026 Joint Memorial Services:**
Kelly Saturnio
 - **In Memory of Ann Hinazumi**
Lucille Takemoto
 - **In Memory of Alex Inouye**
Patsy Adachi, Wayne & Kathryn Yanagisawa
 - **In Memory of Hajime Kunimoto**
Mel & Diane Kunimoto
 - **In Memory of Narako Kunimoto**
Mel & Diane Kunimoto
 - **In Memory of Alan Matsui**
Mel & Diane Kunimoto
 - **In Memory of Kunio Matsui**
Mel & Diane Kunimoto
 - **In Memory of Kameichi “Jimmy” Mento**
Alvin & Judy Yoshimoto
 - **In Memory of Isamu Shiota**
Kay Shiota
 - **In Memory of Atsushi & Hidefumi Takemoto**
Lucille Takemoto
 - **In Memory of Kiyoshi Tsuchiya**
Lucille Takemoto
- ✿ **March 2026 Joint Memorial Services:**
 - **In Memory of Hiroshi Inouye**
Newton Inouye
 - **In Memory of Mitsue Morigaki**
Richard & Dale Mitsutani, Alvin & Judy Yoshimoto
 - **In Memory of Marsha Miura**
Lucille Takemoto
 - **In Memory of Shigeru Roy Shiota**
Helen Shiota-Benevides
- ✿ **New Year Service:**
James Yoshiyama

- ✿ **Hoonko Service:**
Ivane Aoki, Leslie Kawamoto, Hiroko Nagamine, Kay Shiota, Sally Tayama, Myles & Cory Watanabe, James Yoshiyama
- ✿ **Gotan-E Service:**
Richard & Dale Mitsutani
- ✿ **Shinnenkai Donations:**
Patsy Adachi, Nick & Carol Ah Yo, Ivan Aoki, Harlan & Jan Asano, Reverend Daido & Aki Baba, Charolotte Branco, Leonard Chow, Susan Donahue, May Fukui, Joann Hale, Etsuko Hanamoto, Arlene Hashimoto, David & Gay Heaukulani, Gordon & Jane Heit, Diann Horita, Newton Inouye, Annie Iwahashi, Ron Iyo, Leo & Tilden Jio, Dorothy Kansako, Dorothy Kawamoto, Rodney Kawamoto, Jan Kealoha-Nakano, Francine Kekona, Lena Kishaba, Jerry & Betty Kosora, Mel & Diane Kunimoto, Richard & June Kunimoto, Lili Lambeth, Kaori Lang, Akiko Masuda, Richard & Dale Mitsutani, Laverne Miyazono, Aileen Nagamine, Hiroko Nagamine, Wayne & Janet Nakanishi, Delbert Nishimoto, Amy Nishiura, Wesley & Sharon Ogata, Esther Onaga, Robert & Linda Otomo, Le Pomaski, Ausaf & Gail Rahman, Florence Shibata, Lili Shimokawa, Helen Shiota-Benevides, Cary & Grace Suefuji, Linda Thompson & Faith Elarinoff, Sadako Tobara, Roy Todoroki, Harold Uyeno, Lee Watanabe, Wayne & Kathryn Yanagisawa, Gary Yoshida, Jerry Yoshida, Floyd Yoshimoto & Susan Mochizuki, James Yoshiyama
- ✿ **Special Temple, Kyodan Donations:**
 - **In Memory of Kimie & Seiji Aoki**
Ivane, Laurie & Kris Aoki
 - **In Memory of Robert Hayashikawa**
Mitsuo Murashige
 - **In Memory of Teruo & Mitsue Morigaki**
Mick & Aileen Lutz & Family
 - **In Memory of Yoshitaro Murashige**
Mitsuo Murashige
 - **In Memory of Jeff Saturnio**
Leo & Tilden Jio, Mel & Diane Kunimoto, Helen Shiota-Benevides, Lucille Takemoto, Alvin & Judy Yoshimoto
 - **In Memory of Lillie Tsuchiya**
Lucille Takemoto
 - **Special Temple Donation**
Mick & Aileen Lutz & Family
- ✿ **Year-End Donation:**
Ivan Aoki, Mel & Diane Kunimoto, James Yoshiyama
- ✿ **Mochi Project Donation:**
Dorothy Kawamoto

Papaikou Hongwanji Mission Kyodan Board Meeting

Sunday, January 18, 2026, 1:30 pm, YBA Hall & Virtual Zoom

Meeting was called to order by President Alvin Yoshimoto at 1:33 pm

Aspiration led by Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata: From CWS, Pg. 70: "...Beneath the clouds and mists there is brightness, not dark. When one realizes shinjin, seeing and revering and attaining great joy, One immediately leaps crosswise, closing off the five evil courses."

Attendance: Alvin Yoshimoto, Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata, Helen Shiota-Benevides, Tilden Jio, Lucille Takemoto, Diane Kunimoto, May Navarro, Lauren Kamei, Ken Okimoto, Judy Yoshimoto, Leo Pesin. Excused: Melvin Kunimoto

Minister's Report: None

Secretary's Minutes: Minutes of December 21, 2025 approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report: Income & Expense Reports for December 2025 approved by unanimous consent subject to audit.

- December had a net income of \$21,033.34 due to receiving insurance refund.
- Funds available as of Dec.31,2025 was \$72,956.07. Ended 2025 with net loss of \$14,263.88 due to major expenses: rental unit renovation, security system installation, and boiler repair.
- Giseikai – Papaikou's delegate via Zoom will be Ken Okimoto.

Buddhist Education: Motion to add Alvin Yoshimoto, Helen Shiota-Benevides, and Leo Pesin to Buddhist Education checking account at Onomea FCU. (Judy/motion/,Lucille/2nd/) Motion carried.

Try It Committee: Lauren & Judy will be applying for funds from Golden Chain Grant for supplies for the newly formed 4-H Cloverbuds Club "Onomea Kous" which is sponsored by Papaikou Hongwanji.

4 Temple Council (4TC): Gathafest 2026 will be held at Kona Hongwanji on Feb.22, 2026, from 9:30 am.

Maintenance:

- Installed "No Trespassing" signs on fence back of MPH.
- Changed lock on Classroom #1 for 4-H Cloverbuds Club & new keypad lock on Classroom restroom.
- Need to repair windows in Classroom #1.
- Pending – Storage doors replacement; railings along stairs & walkways.

Old Business:

- **T-shirt design – Motion to accept wisteria t-shirt design submitted by Sherry. (Lucille/motion/,Helen/2nd/) Discussion.** Tilden to order 165 purple, 100% cotton t-shirts. Also, order 175 transfers. Contact Lila Shimokawa of Hilo Daijingu to print the t-shirts @ \$2.00 donation per shirt. Motion carried.
- Residence Repair cost (Alvin) – Total cost-\$38,500 (\$20,000 paid, \$18,500 balance due)
- Mochi Project recap – Sold more this year (\$854.62) than 2024; still have komochi to sell.
- Treasures of Hongwanji recap – Collected total of \$289 (Donations-\$198, teru teru bozu-\$91)
- Pending – MPH contract (Ken will have final draft at next meeting); cash out investment
- ShinnenEnkai, Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026 – Judy prepared 130 gift bags, will need 30 more
- **Motion to increase pay to Crescent City Lions Club for MPH cleaning before & after ShinnenEnkai (\$1200) and before & after halau rents MPH in April (\$300). (Tilden/motion/,Lauren/2nd/) Discussion.** Lions Club had to clean up after mochi project, move tables & chairs, and sweep,mop,wax MPH which is more than they normally do. Motion carried.

New Business:

- 4-H Cloverbuds – Papaikou Hongwanji will be sponsoring Onomea Kous 4-H Club. First meeting will be in Classroom #1 on Feb. 15, 2026 & will meet every 3rd Sunday. Lauren Kamei & Judy Yoshimoto will be in charge.
- Discussion on putting up a Community Bulletin Board in front of temple.
- Discussion on automatic gates for temple driveways.
- Discussion on change of MPH manager.

Closing Aspiration led by Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata: Nembutsu

Next Board Meeting – Sunday, February 22, 2026, 1:30 pm (in-person or by Zoom)

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm

Submitted by May Navarro

Flowers for the Papaikou Hongwanji Temple



We are in need of fresh flowers and foliage each week to beautify our altar for worship and our Columbarium. If you would like to contribute, please bring your donated flowers (in a bucket with water) and leave them at the door at the top of the temple ramp on Wednesday or Thursday. Kindly write your name on the bucket so we can return it to you after use.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping to enhance our temple altar and columbarium.

In Gassho,
Papaikou Hongwanji Mission

Growing Older Is Mandatory, Growing Up Is Optional

By Anonymous

The first day of school our professor introduced himself and challenged us to get to know someone we didn't already know.

I stood up to look around when a gentle hand touched my shoulder. I turned around to find a wrinkled, little old lady beaming up at me with a Smile that lit up her entire being.

She said, "Hi, handsome! My name is Rose. I'm 87 years old. Can I give you a hug?"

I laughed and enthusiastically responded, "Of course you may!" and she gave me a giant squeeze.

"Why are you in college at such a young, innocent age?" I asked. She jokingly replied, "I'm here to meet a rich husband, get married, have a couple of children, and then retire and travel."

"No seriously," I asked. I was curious what may have motivated her to be taking on this challenge at her age.

"I always dreamed of having a college education and now I'm getting one!" she told me.

After class we walked to the student union building and shared a chocolate milkshake. We became instant friends. Every day for the next three months we would leave class together and talk nonstop.

I was always mesmerized listening to this "time machine" as she shared her wisdom and experience with me.

Over the course of the year, Rose became a campus icon and she easily made friends wherever she went. She loved to dress up and she reveled in the attention bestowed upon her from the other students. She was living it up.

At the end of the semester we invited Rose to speak at our football banquet. I'll never forget what she taught us. She was introduced and stepped up to the podium. As she began to deliver her prepared speech, she dropped her 3x5 cards on the floor.

Frustrated and a little embarrassed she leaned into the microphone and simply said, "I'm sorry I'm so jittery. I gave up beer for Lent and this whiskey is killing me! I'll never get my speech back in order, so let me just tell you what I know." As we laughed, she cleared her throat and began:

"We do not stop playing because we are old; we grow old because we stop playing. There are only four secrets to staying young, being happy, and achieving success. You have to laugh and find humor everyday. You've got to have a dream. When you lose your dreams, you die. We have so many people walking around who are dead, and they don't even know it!" she said.

"There is a huge difference between growing older and growing up. If you are nineteen years old and lie in bed for one full year and don't do one productive thing, you will turn 20 years old. If I am 87 years old, and stay in bed for a year, and never do anything, I will turn 88. Anybody can grow older. That doesn't take any talent or ability," she added.

"The idea is to grow up by always finding the opportunity in change. Have no regrets. The elderly usually don't have regrets for what we did, but rather for things we did not do. The only people who fear death are those with regrets."

... At the years end, Rose finished the college degree she had begun all those years ago. One week after graduation Rose died peacefully in her sleep. Over two thousand college students attended her funeral in tribute to the wonderful woman who taught by example that it's never too late to be all you can possibly be.

Upcoming Memorial Services (Nenki)

50 years Service – 1977

Yuji Earl Tanaka 3/17/1977 age 22

25 years Service – 2002

Satoshi Mori 4/7/2002 age 78

13 year Service – 2014

Takeshi "Blackie" Matsunaka 4/23/2014 age 94

1 year Service – 2025

Tamayo Yoshioka 3/5/2025 age 97
Sachiko Matsui 4/4/2025 age 91
Toyomi Nonaka 4/9/2025 age 99

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).

March (1975-2026)

Seiji Aoki
Chiyoko Ebesuno
Stanley Haruo Haraguchi
Tokiko Hiramoto
Hiroshi "Sonny" Inouye
Yoshino Isotani
Takeshi "Kawa" Kawamoto
Hiroko Matsumoto
Marsha Miura
Mitsue Morigaki
Kajyu Nagai
Yasukame Nagamine
Fujikusu Nakai
Miyako Nagaue
Kame Okano
Toshio Okimoto
Yasunoshin Onaga
Shigeru Roy Shirota

Satoshi Sumiki
Miyoko Takahashi
Gokichi Takeda
Takeo Takemura
Yuji Earl Tanaka
Matsuo "Dorothy" Tsuji
Ichiyo Yamamoto
Yuriko Yamamoto
Kiyo Yamashita
Tadashi Yamashita
Mitsuko Yokota
Tamayo Yoshioka
Stanley Satoru Yoshiyama

April (1976 -2026)

Mitsuo Asamoto
Harold Tetsuro Ashida
Hayano Haimoto
Michie Hayashida

Donald Haito Hirokane
Kiyoko Ishimoto
Kimiyo Kawamoto
Kinuko Kawamoto
Masae Kawamoto
Michiko Kunimoto
Dennis Matsui
Mitsuru Matsui
Norman Toshio Matsui
Toki Matsui
Eiko Matsumoto
Kiku Matsunaka
Takeshi Blackie Matsunaka
Oito Miki
Hideo Momohara
Satoshi Mori
Seki Nakai
Masato Nakao

Toyomi Nonaka
Sumie Ueda Onaga
Jon Shigeho Shibata
Herbert Suganuma
Nasafumi Sumie
Katsuki Sunada
Masae Sunada
Hitoshi Takemoto
Mitsuyo Vega Takemoto
Jean Tsumae Taketa
Sueko Tanaka
Masaru Taniguchi
Mumeyo Tatsuno
Doris Michiko Watanabe
Nancy Sachiko Watanabe
Mamoru Yamamoto
Ayano Yoshino
Nobuyoshi Yoshioka

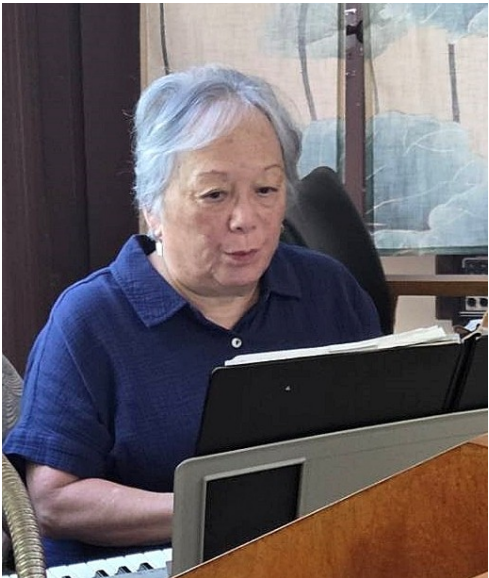
The Significance of Having Memorial Service is:

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

Latest Snapshots

Honohina-Papaaloa Hongwanji Shinnenkai (新年会) January 24, 2026



Papaikou Hongwanji Shinnenkai (新年会) January 31, 2026







