



Hamakua Four-Temple



Honohina-Papaaloa, Honomu and Papaikou Hongwanji Missions

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude

May 2026

Message From The Bishop

Nurturing What Is Unseen

I would like to share a part of my Giseikai closing message. This reflection was inspired by The Purpose-Driven Church, written by Pastor Rick Warren. Pastor Warren, an American Christian minister and founder of Saddleback Church in California, writes about his love of gardening and the lessons it offers.

He describes a particular type of bamboo tree. When it is first planted, there is no visible growth for four or even five years. You water it and fertilize it, then water it and fertilize it again. You repeat this over and over, yet there is no visible growth. None at all. But around the fifth year, everything begins to change. In just about six weeks, the bamboo suddenly begins to grow, reaching as tall as 30 meters (100 feet). It may seem unbelievable that a plant which appeared to lie hidden underground for years would suddenly shoot up like a rocket.

Pastor Warren introduced this bamboo story and reflected that we should not worry too much about whether the church is growing. Instead, he admonished that we focus on whether the church is aligned with its God-given purpose. He wrote that we should faithfully continue to water, fertilize, cultivate the soil, pull out the weeds, and prune the branches. There may be years of service without visible results. Yet, beneath the surface, unseen by human eyes, something is happening. Deep underground, roots are spreading and being prepared.

This image of the bamboo offers us a meaningful perspective as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists.

In many ways, our own lives are like that of bamboo. Before we became aware of Amida Buddha's Compassionate work, before we awakened to the Nembutsu, there were countless causes and conditions supporting us. There were people who gently and patiently nurtured us—family members, ministers, and fellow Sangha—who helped prepare the ground for our awakening. They prepared the conditions for us to rise and grow.

Just as we have been nurtured through countless causes and conditions, now it is our turn to “water the soil” with sincerity and gratitude, staying aligned with our purpose as a Jodo Shinshu organization in Hawaii, so that others, too, may awaken to the joy of the Nembutsu. I firmly believe that every action we take today, no matter how large or small, creates the conditions for someone to discover true meaning in the Dharma. Even if the results are not yet visible, beneath the surface, something magnificent is unfolding.

Namo Amida Butsu

Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani

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

(Return service requested)



Shinran's Birthday



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 4. A lawyer for the enemy

The Boston Massacre of 1770 was part of the incidents that prompted the start of the Revolutionary movement in the colonies. British soldiers stationed in Massachusetts to support the implementation of the Townshend Acts were confronted by an angry crowd. Overwhelmed, the soldiers opened fire without authorization, resulting in five deaths and six wounded.

During the subsequent trial, Founding Father John Adams worked as a defense lawyer for the British soldiers charged, a decision that prompted public criticism. However, he was a firm believer in the right to a fair trial for everyone, and argued that most soldiers had acted in self-defense. In the end, only two soldiers were convicted of manslaughter, a verdict Adams agreed with.

Next month: “Fact 5. 4th of July deaths”

Celebrating Kodomo no Hi (子供の日) - Japan’s Joyful Children’s Day



Every year on **May 5th**, Japan comes alive with color, hope, and heartfelt wishes for its youngest generation. This special national holiday, known as Kodomo no Hi (子供の日), is dedicated to celebrating children’s unique personalities, honoring their happiness, and wishing them a bright and healthy future. It also serves as a beautiful opportunity

to express gratitude to mothers for their endless love and care.

子供の日 marks the final day of Japan’s lively Golden Week holiday period. Its origins trace back centuries to Tango no Sekku (端午の節句), traditionally known as Boys’ Day - a time when families prayed for the strength and success of young boys. After World War II, in 1948, the holiday was thoughtfully renamed 子供の日 to include all children, boys and girls alike, promoting values of peace, equality, and family unity.

One of the most beloved and eye-catching traditions is the display of *koinobori* - vibrant carp-shaped windsocks that

flutter proudly in the spring breeze. Families hang them outside their homes in a special order: a large black carp for the father, a red or pink carp for the mother, and smaller colorful ones for each child. The carp symbolizes strength, perseverance, and determination. Just like the legendary *koi* that swims upstream against powerful currents and transforms into a dragon, parents hope their children will overcome challenges and achieve great things in life.

Inside Japanese homes, you’ll often find *kabuto* (miniature samurai helmets) and warrior dolls carefully displayed. These represent courage, protection, and the wish for children to grow up resilient and brave. Families also enjoy traditional treats such as *kashiwa mochi* - soft, sticky rice cakes filled with sweet red bean paste and wrapped in oak leaves, symbolizing family prosperity and continuity.

This celebration is all about cherishing our children and nurturing their dreams.

Let’s embrace the colorful, hopeful energy of 子供の日 together! We hope this celebration brings smiles, inspiration, and wonderful memories to every family.

Happy 子供の日!

Memories of Ellison Onizuka

Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, HHMH Retired Minister

Human memory fades with time. But certain memories remain vivid despite the passage of time, and add meaning to life. My memory of meeting with Hawai’i’s own Ellison Onizuka, is one such memory that has not faded with time; rather, it has only enriched my life.

January 28 of this year marked 40 years since the tragedy of the Challenger, NASA’s space shuttle, that broke apart in the sky over Cape Canaveral, Florida. Those of you who read the front page article of the recent January 28 Star Advertiser must have recalled this sad event. We were all devastated when television reported that the space shuttle exploded 73 seconds

after liftoff on the morning of January 28, 1986, taking seven astronauts' lives, including that of Ellison Onizuka. And our grief lasted for months.

Upon the Onizuka family's return to Kona from Florida, community leaders organized a big memorial service at Kona Surf Hotel in honor of Ellison. During the service, those who attended expressed their deep sympathies and condolences to the family. All who gathered remembered Ellison as a hometown hero, from his successful first flight on the shuttle Columbia in 1985. The press widely publicized his background and his stories of success as the first Asian-American astronaut of Buddhist faith.

Ellison was a Buddhist not only in religious identity, but also in his way of thinking. May I explain? After the shuttle Columbia's successful mission, when Ellison and his family came back to Hawai'i, the people of Kona were excited with his homecoming. A big welcome reception was held in a hotel in Keauhou that was attended by about five hundred people, which I attended as the minister of Kona Hongwanji.

What was most impressive at the reception was Ellison's remarks. After relating his experience as a flight specialist, he told the audience how the Earth looked to him. He said, and I paraphrase:

*The Earth we saw from space was beautiful and one.
There were no lines or borders separating countries.
Earth looked fragile and precious, something to be protected.*

What a beautiful observation! There are definitely political borders on earth that separate countries. The world itself is divided into continents and subdivided

into countries that have their own races, histories and laws. Most surely, the world is divided by lines and borders. The world is not one.

But Ellison, from the space shuttle, saw the Earth as one, in a very special way. For it is through the eyes of wisdom that Ellison saw Earth as one. The Buddha's eyes of wisdom see all beings, animate or inanimate as one. Although people on Earth are different in ethnicity, country and Way of life, and borders are needed for us to survive, the Buddha's eyes of wisdom allow people to love and respect each other as precious neighbors and friends.

People constantly fight one another to gain territory and political-economic power. Due to our weaknesses of blind passions — anger, greed and ignorance, we are creating lines and borders separating us all. When Amida's light of wisdom reaches the dark recesses of the human mind, and liberates us from the suffering and sorrow of human existence, then, we are guided to Work for peace and happiness for all.

Looking at Earth from space, Ellison was awakened to the Buddha's eyes of Wisdom. For this reason, I say that Ellison was a Buddhist, not only in religious identity, but also in his own way of thinking. And his Way of thinking was nurtured in the rich soil of Kona. This rich soil raised numerous members of Kona Hongwanji Sangha in the past and present.

It is already 40 years since Ellison passed away. His physical being is gone, but his heart, mind and spirit are alive. They are with us within the Infinite Light and the Immeasurable Life of Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu.

Reminder

Four-Temple Talk Story Sessions with Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata

Papaikou Hongwanji Mission is happy to continue our very successful, relaxed adult educational gatherings, this time facilitated by Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata. These "Talk Story" sessions offer a welcoming space for Shinshu seekers to come together — no formal lectures, just open discussion. Bring your questions, life experiences, or topics you would like to explore, and we will reflect together on how the Dharma can guide us in our daily lives.

Sessions are held at the Papaikou Hongwanji YBA Hall **from 7:00–8:30 pm** on Wednesdays:

- **April 22, 2026**
- **May 20, 2026**
- **June 24, 2026**

All are warmly welcome - invite family, friends, or anyone curious. No prior knowledge of Buddhism is required. Come as you are and join the conversation.

PS. We will broadcast these discussions on ZOOM. If you cannot join us in person, please request ZOOM link by addressing your email request to papaikouhm@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you there!

Namo Amida Butsu

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Dharma School Teachers Retreat
3 11:00 AM Monthly Memorial Service Papaikou HM	4	5	6	7	8	9 10:00 Chuckwagon Benefit Breakfast Papaikou Hongwanji Onomea KOU 4-H Club Tickets: 808-936-8955
10 Mother's Day 11:00 AM 4-Temple Shinran's B-Day (Gotan-E) Service Honomu HM	11	12	13	14	15	16 11:00 AM Monthly Memorial Service Honohina HM
17 10:00-12:00 PM 4-H Club Papaikou HM 1:30 PM Papaikou HM Kyodan Board Mtg	18	19 Newsletter publishing date	20 7:00-8:30 PM 4-Temple Talk Story Session with Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata In Papaikou HM -Live and ZOOM-	21	22	23
24 4:00 PM Guitar Class Papaikou HM	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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) 959-8950 or (808) 657-9657 (cell/text)
Papaikou Hongwanji	Alvin Yoshimoto, President (808) 9381842 (cell/text)

Newsletter Publisher

Do you have a story, a comment, photos with captions, or a suggestion, please submit it to

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



May 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:

May 3, 2026: Hilo Group

May 17, 2026: Umauma Group

May 31, 2026: Papaaloa Group

June 14, 2026: Kahuku Group

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 May and June 2026

50 Years Memorial Service for 1977

Kichisuke Sugikawa	5/4/1977	age: 92
Yoshiichi George Fujimoto	6/22/1977	age: 71

25 Years memorial Service for 2002

Tutomu Sugi Sugiyama	5/4/2002	age: 81
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13 Years Memorial Service for 2014

Takeyoshi “Shine” Fujimoto	6/19/2014	age: 85
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1 Year Memorial Service for 2025

Tooru Iwahashi	5/27/2025	age: 94
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Honohina-Papaaloa March 2026 Donations

O-Higan Donations

Delbert Nishimoto
M/M Ken Kumasaki

Save the Date

May 10, 2026 Sunday: Four Temple Combined Gotan-e Service
11 am at Honomu Hongwanji

May 16, 2026 Sunday: Honohina-Papaaloa Monthly Memorial Service
11 am at Honohina-Papaaloa Hongwanji

May 31, 2026 Sunday: Guitar Class
Papaikou Hongwanji YBA Hall 4 pm

Four Temple Hanamatsuri Service

11 April 2026



Officiated by Reverend Blayne Nakasone-Sakata
Flowers by the Takasaki Family

80th Anniversary Tsunami Memorial Service

Laupahoehoe Point Pavillion

April 4, 2026, Saturday

It was a beautiful day with a great turnout for this special memorial. Rimban Kazunori Takahashi officiated the service.

All the guests came up to the altar to offer incense. The beautiful altar is an heirloom of Tomo Izumi Mohideen's family.

Among the speakers were three tsunami survivors – Kawaihona Poy, Lucille Chung and Jeanne Johnston. There was a special memorial for Frankie DeCaires, a 1946 tsunami survivor who passed away earlier this year in January. There was a "place setting" with his photo surrounded by lei's, including a blue and gold lei from the alma mater Laupahoehoe High School. Once a seasher, always a seasher Frankie. You will be missed.

Also sharing the common theme of compassion were: Cindi Preller, director of the Pacific Tsunami Museum, Derek Kurisu, longtime community leader sharing "neighbors-helping-neighbors during the tsunami disaster." Tomo Izumi Mohideen, author of "Laupahoehoe 1946 Tsunami Memorial Monument," was the keynote speaker. Later, Dr. Ronald Yamioka, Laupahoehoe school classmates and tsunami survivor, shared his stories. Jeanne Johnson, Cofounder of the Pacific Tsunami Museum, shared her story as a 6-year-old survivor of the 1946 tsunami hitting Keaukaha.

Thank you to all the many survivors who attended this special gathering. Many of the Laupahoehoe school classmates that attended are well into their 90's.

Tsunami Memorial Service

During the lunch provided by Honohina-Papaaloa Hongwanji, people came up to the microphone to share their stories and answer questions. After lunch, we walked over to the memorial near the beach to offer flowers and reflection. Nearby, is the Gold tree, donated to Laupahoehoe Beach Park by the Laupahoehoe High school class of 1952. The class of 1952 was the last senior class to graduate when the school was still down at the point. It was so wonderful to see so many classmates gathered together for the day, sharing their stories, wisdom and aloha.

In gratitude for all who gathered for the very, very special day.







THE HO-U

(Dharma Shower)

Honomu Hongwanji Mission



May 2026

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

Phone: (808) 657-9657

President's Message



Aloha Kakou,

I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits.

As we enter the second quarter of the year, I have been deeply inspired by the strong dedication and outpouring of faith and love shown by

our members toward our temple. The goals we have established are actively being addressed and advanced. We are especially grateful for the warm and heartfelt support we have received from our sister Temples.

Although we are limited in able-bodied manpower, the Dharma resides within each of us as we strive to uphold the true teachings of the Buddha. Our collective efforts remind me of assembling a family puzzle on the living room table. At first, the task may seem overwhelming and unlikely to be completed. Yet, by each person contributing a piece here and there, the puzzle is eventually finished. What makes the accomplishment even more meaningful is that everyone worked together. When friends and relatives visited, they would often compliment how beautiful the finished puzzle looked.

In much the same way, the spirit of planning, dedication, and personal sacrifice is clearly evident in our devotion to Honomu Hongwanji Mission and its surroundings. I extend my sincere gratitude to each of you for your continued commitment and support.

Looking ahead to April and the months that follow, our temple activities will become increasingly busy. In April, we celebrated Hanamatsuri. I had the pleasure of attending the Big Island Buddhist Federation (BIBF) Hanamatsuri Service held at Sangha Hall, where Rev. Tatsuo Muneto served as the guest speaker. The service was beautifully organized by the member churches of the BIBF, including Hilo Higashi Hongwanji, Hilo Meishoin, Puna Hongwanji, Taishoji Soto Mission, Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin, and the BIBF leadership. A well-attended service was followed by warm fellowship and refreshments. Four-Temple churches were also invited to participate.

In May, we will celebrate Gotan-E at Honomu Hongwanji. The months of June and beyond mark the *Hatsubon/O-Bon* season. **Please note that Honomu Hongwanji's *Hatsubon/O-Bon* service will be held on Saturday, July 18.** As you can see, many meaningful events are planned. In preparation, we will be conducting *Hosha* clean-up days. All members and friends are warmly welcome to join and lend a hand.

I encourage everyone to stay informed about our temple activities. Should you need any information, please feel free to contact me or any member of the Board.

With deep appreciation, I close this message.

In Gassho,

Wayne Nakanishi

President, Honomu Hongwanji Mission

Hosha (3/28/26)

On a rainy day, under the leadership of our Project Manager Russell Okura and his assistant (and wife) Penny, more than 20 non-members came out to help with the removal of unwanted plants and the trimming of overhanging tree (mango) branches along the Hilo side boundary.

Other jobs completed included:

- Cutting the tree alongside the outside storage area
- Removing and replacing the weather-beaten meeting room door
- Stripping the old paint from the temple steps (now ready for painting)



Spirit of Hosha Lives

Other Completed Projects

Russell (with support from the Gas Co.) removed the old gas tank, performed plumbing work for the upstairs basin and kitchen, replaced and repaired the women's toilets, removed the termite-eaten container, and removed the old commercial refrigerator (a new refrigerator has been purchased).

Mahalo to Russell for all your hard work and dedication. We look forward to tackling many more projects together!

A special Mahalo to Penny for supporting Russell and helping him remain such a dedicated and helpful member of our temple.

A very belated Mahalo to Warren Okabayashi for removing the 75-year-old carpet at the temple entrance and replacing it with a bright new "green" carpet.

Both Russell and Warren are incredibly talented members. You name it — they can do it!

Dharma Name (Homyo)

(Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha)

The Dharma Name or Himyo was originally given to a True Pure Land (Jodo Shinshu) priest on the occasion of his or her initial ordination. This is continued to the present.

A lay-person can receive a Dharma name at a Confirmation Ceremony or Kikyoshiki. At the Confirmation Ceremony the lay-person affirms himself or herself to the Buddha Dharma and is given a Dharma Name.

This name can also be given at the time of death.

The Dharma Name consists of two Chinese characters (Kanji) that are preceded by the title "Shaka" (also in Kanji) which means "Disciple of Sakyamuni Buddha". The two Chinese characters used for the Dharma name are taken from the Buddhist teachings.

The Dharma Name is translated into English so the family will understand its meaning and how it relates to the deceased.

Inspirations

- "The Buddha is gracious and full of compassion"*
- "A single bowl of rice contains the whole of life,eat with gratitude."*
- "Avery great achievement starts with the decision to try and the confidence to act."*
- "Anowledge has no value unless you out it into practice."*
- "Be the type of person who can be happy for others, even when you're struggling."*

Honomu Hongwanji Points of Contact:

Wayne Nakanishi
President
Honomu Hongwanji Mission
(808) 339-7849 (cell/text)

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Papaikou Hongwanji

Newsletter



Image by Kaori Ukaji - kaoriukaji.com

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

May 2026

Acknowledgements with Gratitude - Gojikai Dues & Donations Received

From March 18, 2025 till April 17, 2026

✿ **Gojikai Dues:**

Anne Gordon, Nicole Gordon, Lembi James, Hiroko Nagamine, George & Karen Nekoba, Florence Shibota, Hazel Takemoto

✿ **Memorial Service:**

- ***1 Year Memorial Service: In Memory of Toyomi Nonaka***
Anne Gordon, Nicole Gordon
- ***1 Year Memorial Service: In Memory of George Shigenaga***
Greg & May Navarro
- ***13 Year Memorial Service: In Memory of Narako Kunimoto***
Mel & Diane Kunimoto, Sid & Pearl Yanabu

✿ **April 2026 Joint Memorial Services:**

- Kelly Saturnio
- ***In Memory of Michiko Kunimoto***
Mel & Diane Kunimoto
 - ***In Memory of Dennis Matsui***
Mel & Diane Kunimoto
 - ***In Memory of Mitsuru Matsui***
Mel & Diane Kunimoto
 - ***In Memory of Norman Toshio Matsui***
Mel & Diane Kunimoto
 - ***In Memory of Toki Matsui***
Mel & Diane Kunimoto
 - ***In Memory of Toyomi Nonaka***
Leo & Tilden Jio, Mel & Diane Kunimoto
 - ***In Memory of Sumie Onaga***
Esther, Christine & Grace Onaga
 - ***In Memory of Oito Miki***
Mitsuo Murashige
 - ***In Memory of Herbert Sukanuma***
Leo & Tilden Jio, Greg & May Navarro
 - ***In Memory of Katsuki Sunada***
Dorothy Kawamoto
 - ***In Memory of Masae Sunada***

Dorothy Kawamoto

- ***In Memory of Nancy Sachiko Watanabe***
Leo & Tilden Jio, Greg & May Navarro
- ✿ **May 2026 Joint Memorial Services:**
- ***In Memory of Asayo Inouye***
Newton Inouye
 - ***In Memory of Misae Matsuzaki***
Greg & May Navarro, Alvin & Judy Yoshimoto
 - ***In Memory of Satoru Okimoto***
Newton Inouye
 - ***Memory of Mitsue Takemoto***
Lucille Takemoto
 - ***Memory of Yoshihiro Takemoto***
Lucille Takemoto
- ✿ **Hoonko Donation:**
- Lembi James
- ✿ **Spring Ohigan Donation:**
- Dorothy Kawamoto
- ✿ **Hanamatsuri Service Donations:**
- Lembi James, Leo & Tilden Jio, Mel & Diane Kunimoto, Greg & May Navarro, Esther Onaga, Kelly Saturnio, Kay Shiota, Lucille Takemoto, Sally Tayama, James Yoshiyama
- ✿ **Special Temple, Kyodan Donations:**
- ***In Memory of Tomoko Matsuda***
Leo & Tilden Jio, Dorothy Kawamoto, Rodney Kawamoto, Mick & Aileen Lutz, Lucille Takemoto, Alvin & Judy Yoshimoto
 - ***In Memory of Lillie Tsuchiya***
Greg & May Navarro
 - ***In Memory of Nancy & Cabby Watanabe***
Connie & Janna Watanabe
 - ***Donation for the Storage/Shipping Container***
Lucille Takemoto
- ✿ **4-H Donation:**
- Pauline Fukunaga

Papaikou Hongwanji Mission Kyodan Board Meeting

Sunday, March 15, 2026, 1:30 pm, YBA Hall & Virtual Zoom

Meeting was called to order by President Alvin Yoshimoto at 1:35 pm

Aspiration led by Alvin Yoshimoto - The Three Treasures

Attendance: Alvin Yoshimoto, Lucille Takemoto, Diane Kunimoto, May Navarro, Ken Okimoto, Judy Yoshimoto, Lauren Kamei, Lembi James. By Zoom: Helen Shiota-Benevides.

Excused: Melvin Kunimoto, Tilden Jio, Rimban Takahashi, Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata

Minister’s Report (Alvin):

Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata on vacation 3/23 – 4/4, 2026
Rimban Kazunori Takahashi on vacation 4/6 – 4/17, 2026

Secretary’s Minutes: Minutes of 2/22, 2026 approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer’s Report: Income & Expense Reports for February 2026 approved by unanimous consent subject to audit.

- February resulted in a net income of \$6,975.16 mainly due to Gojikai dues received, major service donations, ShinnenEnkai donations and MPH rental income.
- Funds available as of Feb. 28, 2026 was \$69, 434.83. We have sufficient funds to pay our monthly bills.
- Rental Unit: Rent (\$2500) received for March 2026.
- MPH Rentals: 6 reservations from March – July 2026

Correspondence: None

Social Concerns: Let Ken know if any temple member has damage or loss from the current storm.

Buddhist Education (Judy): Alvin, Helen, & Leo have been added to Buddhist Education checking account.

- Goeden grant for \$2000 was approved. Will be utilized for scanning 4 scrolls, copies saved on jump drive, cost of mailing to all temples, supplies.
- Welcome packets & nenju are being distributed to new members. If you would like a packet or nenju, call Alvin.
- Talk story with Rev. Blayne will begin Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm; April 22, May 20, June 24.

Try It Committee (May, Lembi): Archives needs to purchase 4 legal size hanging file folder frames.

- There will be a movie matinee showing of “Aloha Buddha” on Saturday, April 18, 2:00 pm in the Papaikou Hongwanji YBA Hall. The movie is 72 minutes long and tells the story of Japanese Buddhism in Hawaii. The event is free & refreshments will be provided.
- Per Ken, another possible activity could be gateball. Contact Ken if interested in learning the game.
- **Motion to provide space on Papaikou Hongwanji premises to park a food truck (not owned by the church). The food truck will be used for Temple activities. (Judy/Lucille) Motion carried.**

MPH (Lauren): Lauren needs to know which dates need to be blacked out for Papaikou Hongwanji activities.

- A community indoor roller-skating event is being planned for Saturday, May 16, 2026; there will be a \$5.00 fee

charge; a DJ will be on stage & a couple of food trucks are planned.

- Also planned for after April 15 – Pickleball lines will be put down; stay tuned for more information.

4-H (Lauren): The second meeting was attended by 10 children & 3 parents. The activities included making a 4-H banner, an Easter egg hunt, & making summer rolls. Future activities include camping excursion, studying bees. A 4-H fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 9, 10:00 am in the MPH. Tickets are being sold for \$8.00 each; contacts are Lauren Kamei or Judy Yoshimoto.

Maintenance (Alvin):

- MPH - Men’s sink drain repaired; replaced jalousie handles and glued jalousie glass to hardware.
- Temple ceiling light bulb changed.
- Classroom 3 still leaking, will need to purchase roof.
- Pending – Storage doors replacement; railings along stairs & walkways.

Old Business:

- Alvin & Helen checking on prices of 40 foot containers through their resources.
- Pending – MPH contract, Community bulletin board, Security gates

New Business:

- **Motion to add Helen Shirota-Benevides to the Papaikou Hongwanji Kyodan Board as a Director effective 3/15/26. (Judy/Lucille) Motion carried.**
- County 4-H Grant – A signed resolution regarding nepotism & conflict of interest is required.
- MPH contract – Ken is having a lawyer review it.
- Pending – Community Bulletin Board, Security gates, Web page

Closing Aspiration led by Alvin Yoshimoto– Nembutsu

Announcements:

Next Board Meeting – Sunday, April 19, 2026, 1:30 pm (in-person or by Zoom)

Sunday, March 29, 4:00 pm – Guitar class

Sunday, April 5, 11:00 am – Monthly Memorial Service & Hanamatsuri, Alvin-MC

Saturday, April 11, 11:00 am – 4TC Hanamatsuri Service at Honohina

April 8 – April 13 – Alvin & Judy away

Meeting adjourned at 2:46 pm

Submitted by May Navarro

We Need Your Help !

Please join us on the Work Day on Saturday, April 26th from 9:00^{AM} till around noon. This is a wonderful opportunity to roll up our sleeves, connect with one another, and take care of our cherished temple grounds. Together, we’ll be:

- Painting the Yagura
- Trimming trees
- Power washing around the MPH

Every pair of hands makes a big difference! Your help is truly appreciated and will make a visible impact. Let’s show our aloha and community spirit - come join the fun and fellowship! The more the merrier!

Thank you in advance for your support!



Meet Lauren - New MPH Manager

We are excited to introduce Lauren Kamei - our new Multi Purpose Hall (MPH) Manager.

Please refer to our monthly newsletter calendar and announcements for information on upcoming activities, including pickleball, chair tai chi, and ping pong.

To reserve the hall private event or for any other inquiries, please contact Lauren at 808-936-8955.

Things to Remember on Memorial Day

Jessica Toomer

As we observe Memorial Day, here are some fun facts and interesting history behind the holiday.

Memorial Day is a day often reserved for enjoying the beginnings of summer. We barbecue, spend time outdoors, hang out with friends and catch up with family, but the real reason for the holiday is much more important. Memorial Day is the day dedicated to honoring all of those who have sacrificed their lives in service of this great nation. As we commemorate them this Memorial Day weekend, let's not forget the history behind our celebrations. Here are 7 things to remember on Memorial Day.

1. Memorial Day Used to Have a Different Name

Before the 1880s, mentioning Memorial Day would've probably gotten you a confused look. That's because the holiday was originally known as Decoration Day. It was a day when family and friends would honor those who died serving the country by decorating their graves with flowers (poppies are still the flora of choice). It would take almost a century for the celebration to officially be renamed by the government.

2. It's a "Young" Holiday

Though we've been honoring our fallen soldiers since the 1800s, Memorial Day didn't become a federal holiday until 1971. When the day was first observed as Decoration Day, it was only used to recognize those killed in the Civil War, not in any other American conflict. World War I prompted the country to expand the meaning of the holiday, recognizing members of the military killed in any war. *In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday.*

3. We Have Someone to Thank for the Holiday

Unbelievably, one person can claim credit for coming up with the idea of a Memorial Day. In May 1868, General John A. Logan, the commander-in-chief of the Union veterans' group known as the Grand Army of the Republic, decreed that May 30 should become a nationwide day of commemoration for the soldiers killed in the recently ended Civil War. He reportedly chose May 30th because it was a rare day that didn't fall on the anniversary of a Civil War battle. It also helps that by May 30th, flowers are sure to be in full bloom.

4. One of the Earliest Memorial Day Celebrations was Held by Recently Freed Slaves

As the Civil War neared its end, Union soldiers being held as prisoners by the Confederates were taken to camps in Charleston, South Carolina. One such camp happened to be a former race track in the city and the conditions there were so bad that more than 250 prisoners died from disease and exposure. A few weeks after the Confederates surrendered to the North, 1000 recently freed slaves along with members of the U.S. Colored Troops and some of the city's civilians, gathered to properly bury the soldiers, sing hymns, give readings and honor the "Martyrs of the Race Course."

5. The Official Birthplace of the Holiday Is a Hot Topic

A handful of towns claim to be the official birthplace of Memorial Day. If you were to travel to Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, you'd hear that a group of women were the first celebrants of the holiday in 1864 when they gathered to mourn those recently fallen at Gettysburg. Carbondale, Illinois claims the holiday thanks to a parade held in 1866 and led by founder John Logan. But only one town holds the official seal of approval from the government: Waterloo, New York. President Lyndon Johnson recognized the tiny village as the birthplace of the holiday after more than 100 years of community-wide celebrations were held there.

6. Celebrate Memorial Day - It's the Law

Not that we need any other reason to honor those who've sacrificed their lives in the name of freedom, but Congress has given us one anyway. Lawmakers on Capitol Hill created the National Moment of Remembrance to be observed every Memorial Day at 3 p.m. local time. It's one minute we should all take to pay tribute to those who have given so much to protect and defend our nation.

7. The Flag Flies at Half Staff

In case you have a flag pole in your front yard, it's a good thing to remember that because this holiday honors fallen soldiers, your flag should be flying at half-staff until noon.

Upcoming Memorial Services (Nenki)

50 years Service – 1977

Seiryō Hirokane 5/21/1977 age 59

25 years Service – 2002

Masao Ogata 5/6/2002 age 88

17 year Service – 2010

Masae Wakida 6/25/2010 age 84

1 year Service – 2025

George Joji Shigenaga 5/18/2025 age 91

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).

May (1975-2026)

Mitsuko Haraguchi
Seiryō Hirokane
Ume Hironaka
Satomi Hiura
Asayo Inouye
Fujino Matsui
Shizuo Matsui
Misae Matsuzaki
Noboru "Curly" Mento
Yoshitaka "Starch" Mikami
Sumiyo Nakano
Masao Ogata
Satoru Okimoto
Mitsue Okino
Kamato Oshiro
Ellen Leiko Ozaki

George Santos Jr.
George Joji Shigenaga
Edna Akiko Shirota
Asami Shirota
Mitsue Takemoto
Yoshihiro Takemoto
Mitsuyo Watanabe
Hayano Yamaoka
Morito Larry Yamasato
Jyunichi Yoshida
Yoshio Yoshimura

June (1976 -)

Chiyoza Aoki
Satsuki Furutani
Hisayo Hiramoto
Niichi Hirano

Itaru Inoue
Matsue Inoue
Toyozo Masu
Rihachi Mihara
Yoshimatsu Mihara
Haruyo Minamoto
Teruko Mori
Isamu Muramoto
Toshiko Muronaka
Ritsuko Nakao
Tsuya Omori
Satoru Onaga
Satoru Ota
Fusae Rokunohe
Gary Kiyoshi Shirota
Mitsuko Shirota
Ichiro Takahashi

Misue Takaki
Fuji Takeda
Hideko "Lynette"
Takemoto
Tsuru Takemoto
Wakamatsu Takemoto
Yuichi Takemoto
Shinichi Tanaka
Noboru Wakida
Masae Wakida
Kokichi Watanabe
Tona Yamashita
Teruyuki "Teru" Yoshida
Kakuto "Glenn" Yoshimoto
Ethel Shigeko Yoshiyama

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

80th Anniversary Tsunami Memorial Service in Laupahoehoe



