



Hamakua Four-Temple



Honohina-Papaaloa, Honomu and Papaikou Hongwanji Missions

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude

July 2026

Buddhists Celebrate 250 Years of American Independence

As the United States prepares to mark its 250th

anniversary on July 4, 2026, Buddhist communities are adding their spirit of peace, compassion, and mindfulness to the national celebrations — beautifully illustrating America's religious and cultural diversity.

Buddhist Blessing at the White House

In a notable show of inclusion, the White House hosted a Buddhist blessing ceremony on May 7, 2026, as part of the America250 commemorations. Led by the International Buddhist Association of America and Most Venerable Katugasthota Uparathana Nayaka Thera, the event highlighted Buddhism's growing presence and the nation's commitment to religious pluralism.

Buddhism and American Values: Harmony in Diversity

Core Buddhist teachings — mindfulness, non-violence, ethical conduct, interdependence, and compassion — resonate strongly with American ideals of liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and *e pluribus unum* (out of many, one).

Buddhist communities nationwide are participating through special observances, interfaith gatherings, and educational programs that honor religious freedom and highlight Asian American and convert contributions to the nation.

Looking Ahead

From the White House blessing to local block parties, Buddhists are helping weave their heritage into America's story as the country turns 250. Their message is clear: true freedom includes the liberty to practice one's faith, the compassion to uplift others, and the wisdom to build a better future together.

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

(Return service requested)

AMERICA



Call for Submissions

2027 HONGWANJI CALENDAR

Five-Year Theme (2025-2029): NURTURING NEMBUTSU

2027 Slogan: LIVING ALOHA

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH) Calendar Committee invites members, Dharma friends, and affiliates to provide photos for the 2027 Hongwanji Calendar that shows,

“NURTURING NEMBUTSU: LIVING ALOHA.”



- You may submit several photos for consideration by the Calendar Committee for the 2027 Hongwanji Calendar.
- We welcome cell phone photos. Photos need to be able to be clearly enlarged.
- Preferably, please submit pictures in landscape format (horizontal), like this flyer.
- For **EACH photo**, please include a brief caption expressing the 2027 slogan and your name and temple (or affiliation) for photo credit.
- If you have questions, please leave a message for Yumi Suzuki at HHMH Headquarters Office at (808)522-9200 or email: hqs@honpahi.org.
- Please submit photos and captions to Alan Kubota at lenscapeshawaii@gmail.com. He will respond directly to any technical questions. Thank you.

Deadline: Monday, September 14, 2026



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 6. The first signature

Have you ever wondered **why people ask for a ‘John Hancock’ when they need a signature?** It is all because of Founding Father John Hancock. One of the wealthiest men in the Thirteen Colonies, Hancock was a merchant (and smuggler) by trade, served as president of the Continental Congress, and as Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts after the Revolution.

Why is he associated with a signature? John Hancock was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence, and his signature stands out because it is visibly larger than the rest. According to a legend, he claimed to have made it big so King George would be able to read it.

Next month: “Fact 7. The anti-slavery clause that wasn’t”

A Kind Heart

By Rose Broughton

The following article is a story about someone who is very dear to all of us in the Four Temple Sangha. Many may not be aware of this part of her long journey of caring and giving to the community. This wonderful lady is our own Helen Shirota-Benevides, and this is the story of her more than 55 years of active participation in the Boy Scouts of America.

Helen served in many positions, starting as Assistant Den Mother at Waiakea Elementary School and rising to the state level as a Council Executive Board Member with Aloha Council, BSA #104.

I have to interrupt this story for just a brief moment to answer the question: Why am I writing about this? Well, I recently found myself at a meeting of the Laupahoehoe Train Museum. They had Boy Scout participation when the museum first opened and are looking to restart the program. The question came up, “Does anyone know anyone involved in Boy Scouts?”

I had a fond memory of an afternoon service at Papaaloha Hongwanji years ago. Helen came for the service but could not stay for dinner because she had to meet up with her Scouts that evening. She was wearing her Scout uniform at the time. So yes — I knew someone involved in Boy Scouts. Now, back to the story.

Helen and I recently met up for an interview over lunch. My first question was: “How did you get involved in Boy Scouts?” Helen explained that she was at a point in her life where she wanted to become more involved in her community. When she shared her thoughts with a friend, “working with the Girl Scouts” was suggested. Helen wondered, “What about Boy Scouts?”

Helen went to a meeting at Waiakea Elementary School just to “check it out.” The Scoutmaster, who was teaching a class, asked Helen to come up and assist. She tried to explain that she was only there to observe, but... well, she ended up becoming the Assistant Den Mother. Two takeaways for me at this point:

- 1. Helen smiled and said that was where she learned: “Never take another assistant job — better to be in charge.”
- 2. Helen noted that at that time only men could be Scoutmasters. That familiar smile appeared again as she added, “That changed.”

I remembered I was sitting across the table from the maverick who was the first female Kyodan President!

Helen shared warm memories of holding scouting meetings with 20 eight-year-olds at her home, taking Pack 19 from Waiakea Elementary up Mauna Kea to see snow for the first time, and still enjoying seeing her former Scouts around town — including Alvin and Judy Yoshimoto’s son!

She also told the story of organizing a fundraiser so the kids could fly to Honolulu for the day to see the Ice Capades. For most of them, it was their first flight ever. Helen worked with the UH Ag department to have the children pick guava on one of their fields. The guava was then taken to a local guava jelly producer. She remembered it was a lot of work, but totally worth the effort. I can only imagine what great memories those 8-year-olds must still carry from that trip. Many would never have been able to afford such an experience without the kind and generous Scout leaders.

I asked Helen if she had any pictures of her scouting activities. Tucked into the back of an album filled with photos of all the cute little 8-year-olds was a card that perfectly sums up the kindness and generosity of Helen Shirota-Benevides.

The card featured a little cat holding a sign saying “Thanks.” Inside it read: “You sure know how to make a kid smile.”

Thank you, Helen, for your many years of volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America. And for the record — you make us grown-ups smile too!



In Loving Memory

We are saddened to share that **Melvin "Mel" Kunimoto** passed away on May 30, 2026.

As a longtime member and dear friend of the Papaikou Hongwanji ohana, he will be remembered fondly for his kindness, generosity, and active engagement in Temple life. Please keep his family in your prayers and offer them your support during this time of grief.

The public funeral service will be held on Saturday, July 25 at 3:00 pm at Dodo Mortuary.



July 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					3 9-10:15 4-T Chair Tai Chi Papaikou HM - MPH	4 Independence Day 
5 11:00 AM Monthly Memorial Service Papaikou HM					10 9-10:15 Chair Tai Chi Papaikou HM - MPH	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 9-10:15 4-T Chair Tai Chi Papaikou HM - MPH	18 1:00 PM Hatsubon Srvc 2:00 PM Bon Dance at Honomu HM Newsletter publishing date
19 10:00-12:00 PM 4-H Club at Papaikou HM 1:30 PM Papaikou HM Kyodan Board Mtg	20	21	22	23	24 9-10:15 4-T Chair Tai Chi Papaikou HM - MPH	25
26 4:00 PM Guitar Class Papaikou HM	27	28	29	30	31 9-10:15 4-T Chair Tai Chi Papaikou HM - MPH	

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)

From 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



July 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:

- July 12, 2026: Umauma Group
- July 26, 2026: Papaaloa Group
- August 9, 2026: Kahuku Group
- August 23, 2026: Hilo 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 July and August 2026

50 Years Memorial Service for 1977

Kimito Matsumura	7/23/1977	age: 73
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33 Years Memorial Service in 1994

Omatsu Gushukuma	7/30/1994	age: 89
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25 Years memorial Service for 2002

Kama Momohara	7/9/2002	age: 103
Kanao Koga	8/17/2002	age: 85
Hatsuno Alice Higuchi	8/17/2002	age: 79

17 Years memorial Service in 2010

Hiroshi Hiramoto	7/28/2010	age: 95
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Honohina-Papaaloa May 2026 Donations

IMO Yeishun & Akiko Gushukuma

Janet Gusukuma

IMO Roy Mento

Bob Mento

IMO Tooru Iwahashi

Annie Iwahashi

May Monthly Donations

Delbert Nishimoto

M/M Ken Kumasaki

Harold Uyeno

Bob Mento

Glenn Takemoto

M/M George Araki

Gary Yoshida

Jerry Yoshida

M/M Hideaki Doi

Lynn Arisumi

Ken Fujimoto

Mitsuko Takasaki

Save the Date

11 July 2026, Saturday: Honohina-Papaaloa Hongwanji Memorial Service at 10 am

18 July 2026, Saturday: Honomu Hongwanji Hatsubon Service 1 pm

Bon Dance to follow at 2 pm

26 July 2026, Sunday: Guitar class at Papaikou Hongwanji at 4 pm

22 August, 2026, Saturday: Honohina-Papaaloa Hongwanji Hatsubon Service at 1 pm. Bon Dance to follow 2:00-4:00 pm

23 August, 2026, Sunday: Guitar class at Papaikou Hongwanji at 4 pm

Honohina-Papaaloa Hongwanji Meeting

16 May 2026

Members Present:

Rimban Takahashi, Noriko Takahashi, Hiro Nori Takahashi, Harold Uyeno, George/Doris Araki, Lynn Arisumi, Jerry/Rose Broughton, Roy Todoroki, May Fukui, Bob Mento, Glenn Takemoto, Harold Uyeno, Gary Yoshida, Jerry Yoshida, Delbert Nishimoto, Bob Nishimoto, Ken Fujimoto

Aspiration: Rimban Takahashi

Secretary's minutes: Carrie Luke-Knotts: 14 February 2026 minutes approved

Treasurer's report: Glenn Takemoto

Minister's Report: Rimban Takahashi:

Scheduled Hono-Papa Monthly memorial Services.

Please note time change

June 27, 2026 10 am

July 11, 2026 10 am

New Business:

Graveyard Maintenance: George- Next Clean-up of graveyard scheduled for Friday, July 24, 2026 at 8:30. Please attend if you are able.

1. **Tsunami memorial Service:** Jerry/Rose- Next year date 3 April 2027, Saturday. Time TBD. Bob N. suggests establishing committee for future planning of event cautioning to keep size from getting too large. Request received from Tomo to add World Peace to the program next year. After discussion, all agreed not to deviate from focus of the Tsunami Memorial. Harold to reply to Tomo.
Suggestion of working with Honokaa Hongwanji with their peace Day event in Aug or September.
2. **Tooru Iwahashi Investments:** Harold- Edward Jones investments by Tara Rowlette. She had been assisting Tooru with his investment. Quarterly reports will be sent. Suggestion made to include family members in process.
3. **Gutter Repair:** Jerry- gutters and roof leak have been repaired. Electrical panel & grounding issues have been completed.
4. **Storage shed:** Jerry, Glenn- Larger 8-10 shed be built to replace existing lawnmower storage. It would house lawnmower, chair rack, ladders, paint. Will be painted to match Temple colors. Two quotes obtained.
 - a. \$6000 quote from same person who did repair of gutters for material and labor. He needs assist of carpenter friend to complete work and slow in response time.
 - b. \$3500 quote for labor only. Jerry has plans and parts list. Will get quotes for material and delivery.
 - c. Size less than 140 square foot and portable so permit not required. Unanimous vote for \$3500 option.
5. **Rusty chairs:** Jerry- Replacement of rusty chairs. Option found on Amazon 4 chairs with cushion for \$60.00 Suggestion to look at Hilo Betsuin chairs as option. Rimban had picture of chairs Jerry to check with Hilo Betsuin. Also discussed purchase of AED for the Temple. Locate in down stairs hall. Training for members will need to be scheduled. Cost apx. \$1600. Motion passed to purchase AED. Jerry to follow up.
6. **Bon dance:** Harold, Jerry- Concerns raised about tent being too hot vs uncovered and direct sun being hot and also protection in case of rain. Approved Tent reservation
7. **Finance Factors:** Harold, Glenn Withdrawal and closure of Dormant CD account completed. Thank you Sterling and Leslie Chow for assist is the difficult process!
8. **Living in Gratitude Program:** Harold- Flyers were distributed to members.
10. **Video Presentation:** Bob Nishimoto- Wonderful video presentation created by Bob, included historical pictures of Laupahoehoe point 1946 Tsunami, graphics displays of locations of teacher's cabins, light house, identified location of areas where students and teachers were swept out to sea. Bob shared information of a dissertation written in 2002 by Warren Nishimoto (no relation). A copy of the complete copy of the dissertation entitled "An oral history of the April 1, 1946 Tsunami at Laupahoehoe, Hi: A case study in the educative value of constructing history from memory and narrative". Thank you Bob for an excellent presentation. Bob presented a gift of Dr. Ron Yamaoka's recently published book "The story of two survivors of the 1946 Tsunami to a very appreciative Jerry and Rose.

11. **Giseikai Update:** Del-

- a. New statewide president Mr. Michael Munekiyo was welcomed. Mr. Munekiyo has been active in Wailuku Hongwanji, serving as president. He has been active at state level committees as well as past Director of HHMH board.
- b. Waianae Hongwanji closed permanently in 2025. Building has been sold
- c. Currently there are only 20 Honpa Hongwanji Ministers in Hawaii.
- d. Bishop selection to take place this year.

Closing Nembutsu: Rimban Takahashi

Respectfully submitted:
Rose Broughton

Temple Project Update



Construction of the new Honohina-Papaalooa Hongwanji is underway. The shed will be 8x10 with additional ramp for riding lawnmower access.

Beside the mowers, the shed will also store the additional chairs used in the dining hall. This will free up valuable space and allow for easier walkways around the dining tables, especially near the back wall.

Groundbreaking done by George with his trusty tractor. The very large croton plant/tree was removed by a group effort of George, Glenn, Gary,

Jerry Y and Jerry B. The group leveled the area and spread gravel.

Seen in above picture is our construction team, Robert Ho'omaluu.

The old shed was temporarily moved to the side to continue to store the mowers. George found matching red metal to fill in the missing wall. That old shed looks pretty good, but also looks like it shrank a little bit.

Other projects in the works include new fans for the Temple and replacement of rusty chairs in the hall.

Thank you to Jerry and Gary Yoshida for replacing missing Ti plants and filling in areas where someone drove thru to the highway. A huge thank you to Glenn Takemoto for keeping the Church lawn always looking so good and to George Araki for maintaining the lawn at the graveyard.



THE HO-U

(Dharma Shower)

Honumu Hongwanji Mission



July 2026

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

Phone: (808) 657-9657

President's Message



Aloha Kakou,

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

As I reflect on this past year since first taking office as president of Honumu Hongwanji, I am pleased by how much we have accomplished together. From painting the front entrance of the temple to installing new green turf, and now adding Wi-Fi — we are steadily modernizing our facilities. Zoom capability will soon be available as well. What a difference a year has made!

While we have reached several important goals, we cannot rest on our laurels. There are more goals ahead, and we now know we can meet them head-on.

As summer approaches, O-Bon season is also drawing near. I am happy to announce that Honumu Hongwanji will bring back its Bon dance this year after an absence of several years. Please check the monthly newsletters for the dates of our Hatsubon/O-Bon services and other temples' events as we support one another during this special season — a time to reflect, remember, and rejoice in Amida Buddha's wisdom and compassion. You are all warmly welcome to join us!

Although the year is not yet over, many meaningful events still await: Ohigan, Bodhi Day, New Year's Services, the ringing of the temple bell, and our own lively Shinnenkai New Year's Party. There is much to look forward to!

Please stay informed and remain active in Amida Buddha's work. Thank you deeply for your continued support and encouragement, which have kept our temple strong and open for all these years.

In Gassho,

Wayne Nakanishi

President,

Honumu Hongwanji Mission

Minutes of meeting May 3, 2026

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am

Attendees: Wayne Nakanishi, Bob Mento, Lorraine and Warren Okabayashi, Penny and Russell Okura, Elsie Oka, Raymond Yamada, Paul Yaley

Aspiration: Wayne

Secretary minutes: hand out all in favor Aye

Treasurers report: hand out Motion to accept report by Bob Mento, 2nd by Warren Okabayashi

Asst. Treasurer's report: None

Correspondence: email received from Harold Uyeno regarding Kupuna Pride menu for Bon Dance read by Penny

Unfinished Business:

- Residential tenant agreement - Booklet bought by Penny — On hold

- Spectrum installed modem on 4/29/26

New Business:

- Invite: Kupuna Pride to next meeting to discuss Bon Dance, Leonard & dancers to next board meeting to discuss bon dance agenda
- Flyer to be made to welcome new members
- Bentos for the families only who has lost loved one since the previous year's festival
- Towels can be purchased at bon dance for \$3.00
- Donation for the use of PA system to be discussed
- Motion to purchase Wi Fi and wire from Amazon by Warren Okabayashi, 2nd by Elsie Oka. Penny to place order
- To present Leis, made by Penny Okura, gift bags made by Lorraine Okabayashi and Elsie Oka at Gotan-E service on Mother’s Day
- Discussed food to bring at Gotan-E service

Announcements:

- Gotan-E service set up, May 9, @ 10:00 am
- 4-Temple Gotan E service, May 10, @ 11:00 am
- Living Waters – Sundays, 7:30 am - 9:00 am - Pavilion
- Discussed having monthly services at Honomu Hongwanji
- Paul announced Visitor Rev. Rikishi from Japan on 'old temples tour' visited Honomu
- Next HHM meeting June 7, @ 10:00 am

Closing prayer Namu Amida Busto 3X

Meeting Adjourned @ 12:07 pm

Special Donations

Bert & Nancy Motonaga	Donation	\$100.00
Mrs. Yukie Mento	Funeral Offering IMO Roy Mento	\$400.00
Robert Mento	IMO Brother Roy Mento	\$200.00
Mrs. Yukie Mento	IMO Roy Mento	Undisclosed
The Omonaka Family	IMO Yuriko Omonaka	\$500.00
Harriet, Karen & Joyce Hamada	IMO Hideo Hamada (Funeral & 49 day services & inurnment)	\$1000.00
Raymond & Hisae Yamada	IMO Hideo Hamada	\$50.00
Wayne & Janet Nakanishi	IMO Hideo Hamada	Undisclosed
Anonymous	IMO Hideo Hamada	\$100.00

Name Correction to June Newsletter

Myrna Inaba	IMO Wilfred Shuji Tsukamoto	\$1,000.00
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Gotan-E Service - Additionaldonations

Karen Hamada	Robert Otomo	Amy, Lance, Ross & Gaye
Karen Irie	Glenn Takemoto	Tatsuno
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Kumasaki	Satoru Une	(Hanamatsuri, Gotan-E & O-Bon)

Dues

Kenneth Katakana	Gaye Tatsuno	Ross Tatsuno
Amy Tatsuno	Lance Tatsuno	Paul Yaley

Obituary

Hideo "Hide" Hamada (99) of Pepeekeo, died April 12, 2026, at Hilo Benioff Medical Center.

Born November 10, 1926, in Hakalau, he was a retired diesel mechanic for the former Hilo Coast Processing Company, U.S. Army World War II veteran and member of Honomu Hongwanji Mission. Private services held. No flowers or koden (monetary gifts).

Survived by

Daughters: Harriet (Herman Manalili) Hamada, Karen Hamada, Joyce (Stanford Chur) Hamada;

Brother: Kiyoshi Hamada

Sister: Kim Umeda;

Brother-in-law: Robert (Tomiko) Kitano

Roy Tetsuo Mento (101) died at the Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home on April 27, 2026. U.S. Army veteran. Retired as a welder from Hilo Coast Processing Co. Member of Honomu Hongwanji Mission.

Private memorial service held on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at Dodo mortuary. Urn committal service, Tuesday, May 26 at Hawaii veterans cemetery.

No flowers - no koden (monetary gift)

Survived by:

Wife: Yukie Mento	Sisters: Helen Nham, Ayako Higa Sister-in law: Nobuko Mento 4 - grandchildren. 1 great-grandson
Son: Karl (Stephie) Mento	
Daughter: Colleen (Stuart) Shibano	
Brother: Robert Mento	

Apology

The editor of the newsletter apologizes for not including the photograph of Shay Malia Yoshimi Beals in the printed (June) version of the article dedicated to her receiving the Saito Endowment Scholarship for 2026. The online version of the newsletter does include the photo.

I am taking this opportunity to congratulate Shay with the receiving the award and republishing the article, this time with the picture.

Shay Malia Yoshimi Beals
(Kamehameha School-Hawaii)

Shay, a deserving student, was awarded the Saito Endowment Scholarship for 2026.

School activities:

National Honor Society, Associated students of KSH Senior class secretary, Volleyball.

Other activities:

Youth volleyball coach and Hui Okinawa Junior Leader. Shay dedicated many hours of her free time to mentoring younger students, teaching them valuable life skills.

In addition to being an honor student, Shay was an outstanding volleyball player for KHK. According to the Tribune Herald, she was a member of the team that won four BIIF titles and the Division 1 State Championship.

Shay will attend California State University, Northridge, where she will major in Radiologic Science and compete in Division 1 beach volleyball.

As she wrote in her scholarship application:

"Earning my degree is not only a personal goal, but also a commitment I have made to give back. I plan to return home and serve the community that has shaped me into whom I am today. Growing up in Hawaii, I have seen firsthand the need for more individuals who are willing to come back and uplift their communities, and I hope to be one of those people."

Proud grandma - **Janice Hiyane**



Honomu Hatsubon / Obon 2026

June 10, 2026

Dear Members & Friends:

Please, with your fellow members and friends, do make a sincere effort to attend our annual HATSUBON SERVICE and BON DANCE that will be held on:

Date: **Saturday, July 18, 2026**

Time: **1:00 p.m. - Hatsubon Service**
2:00 p.m. - Bon Dance

At the sen/ice, the following deceased members will be remembered:

Yuriko ‘Yuri’ Omonaka March 19, 2025

Kazuto ‘Lefty’ Okinaga June 14, 2025

Sadako Okata June 26, 2025

Family members and relatives will be called upon to offer incense in remembrance of their beloved family member and relatives.

Dharma message by Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata, minister at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin. Please attend to listen to his sermon and message.

In gassho,

Honomu Hongwanji Mission

The Legend of Bon

Shin Buddhist Handbook

An ancient legend tells us that at the time of the Buddha, one of his disciples, Moggallana, saw with his superhuman sight the agony of his mother as she suffered in the lowest hell. When this fact was brought to the attention of the Blessed One, his heart was moved to great compassion. Through the grace of his all-embracing compassion, the woman was saved. Moggallana and the other disciples clapped their hands, in joy. The legend says this was the origin of the Bon-odori. Bon, therefore, being an occasion for rejoicing in the enlightenment offered by the Buddha, is often referred to as a “Gathering of Joy.”

Frequently Asked Question: Why Do We Oshoko? (Offering of Incense)

We start our services with the offering of incense. This is an opportunity to connect with the Buddha and express gratitude for this precious gift of life. The fragrance purifies our minds and prepares one to listen to the Dharma. We bow in Gassho putting our hands together to signify the oneness of Buddha and all beings. It is customary to use a nenju (mindfulness beads) around your hands at this offering.
Namu Amida Butsu.

Inspirationals

“At the end of the day, remind yourself that you did the best you could today, and that is good enough.”

“Don’t be jealous with anyone. Don’t compete with anyone. Just focus on becoming the best version of yourself.”

“Speak only when you feel that your words are better than your silence.”

“Always do the right thing no matter what others say. It is you, not them, who have to face the consequences.”

Honomu Hongwanji Points of Contact:

Wayne Nakanishi

President, Honomu Hongwanji Mission

(808) 959-8950 home

(808) 657-9657 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

July 2026

Acknowledgements with Gratitude - Gojikai Dues & Donations Received

From May 18, 2026 till June 17, 2026

- ✿ **Gojikai Dues:**
Jan Kawamoto, Ken Okimoto, Walter Ota
- ✿ **Inurnment Service:**
 - *In Memory of Mildred Takaki*
Guy Takaki
- ✿ **Hatsubon Service:**
 - *In Memory of Gail Kawamoto*
Lucille Takemoto
 - *In Memory of Toyomi Nonaka*
Lucille Takemoto
 - *In Memory of Akira Oshiro*
Lucille Takemoto
 - *In Memory of Jeff Saturnio*
Lucille Takemoto
 - *In Memory of Yukimi Yoshimoto*
Alvin & Judy Yoshimoto, Cindy Yoshimoto, Floyd Yoshimoto & Susan Mochizuki, Helen Shirota-Benevides, Lucille Takemoto
- ✿ **Memorial Service:**
 - *7 Year Memorial Service: In Memory of Kiyoko Horimoto*
Susan Horimoto, Carolyn Imai
- ✿ **May 2026 Joint Memorial Services:**
 - *In Memory of Mitsuko Haraguchi*
James Haraguchi
- ✿ **June 2026 Joint Memorial Services:**
Ausaf & Gail Rahman
 - *In Memory of Matsue Inouye*
Patsy Adachi, Wayne & Kathryn Yanagisawa
 - *In Memory of Gary Shirota*
Helen Shirota-Benevides
 - *In Memory of Misue Takaki*
Wesley & Sharon Ogata

- *In Memory of Kakuto “Glenn” Yoshimoto*
Cindy Yoshimoto & Rod Chin
- ✿ **Hanamatsuri Service Donation:**
Dorothy Kawamoto
- ✿ **Obon Donation:**
Eunice Hamamoto, Newton Inouye, Lembi James, Dorothy Kawamoto, Rodney Kawamoto, Masue Masu, Russell Masu, Hiroko Nagamine, George & Karen Nekoba, Esther Onaga, Walter Ota, Mitsuru & Kara Ozaki, Kay Shirota, Helen Shirota-Benevides, Hazel Takemoto, Betty Tanaka, Sally Tayama, Abel & Yoshie Wakida, Yoshiko Yoshioka, James Yoshiyama
- ✿ **Special Temple, Kyodan Donations:**
 - *In Memory of Melvin Kunitomo*
Newton Inouye, Kelly Saturnio, Lucille Takemoto, Alvin & Judy Yoshimoto
 - *In Memory of Tomoko Matsuda*
Betty Tanaka
 - *In Memory of Roy Mento*
Robert Mento
 - *In Memory of Lucille Sunada*
Dorothy Kawamoto, Rodney Kawamoto
 - *Special Temple Donation*
Joanne Yokote
 - *Birthday Donation*
Dorothy Kawamoto
- ✿ **Columbarium Donation:**
 - *In Memory of Takeyo Nakamura*
Jan Kawamoto
- ✿ **Social Concerns:**
Yoshiko Yoshioka

Onomea Kou 4-H Club Hi-lites

2026 is expected to be a busy hurricane season. Be prepared!



Onomea Kou 4-H Club members made pillow cases as part of hurricane preparedness: Go-to bag where in case of emergency, they can quickly place ‘important’ items to take with them. Hurricane season is from June 1-November 30.

Work Day – Thank You!

Special thanks to Newton, Gerald, Tilden, Lauren, Leo, Kenji, and Ken for painting the yagura, pressure washing, and clearing trees and bamboo. Everything looks so much cleaner and brighter! Thank you as well to our kitchen crew — Lucille, Jan, and Judy — for providing lunch. Much mahalo to everyone who came out and helped.

There’s still so much work to do (we’ve neglected the grounds and facilities for too long), so I’ve decided to schedule a Work Day every other month. Our next Work Day is Sunday, July 12, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.
Please come if you can — the more the merrier!

Kudos to Cooper Nakagawa

Our Yagura (Bon Dance Platform) had become a safety concern due to rust and corrosion. Thanks to Cooper’s welding expertise, it has been repaired and should now safely serve us for many years to come. Thank you, Cooper, for donating both your time and materials. We truly appreciate it!

Yagura (櫓)

Yagura in the context of Bon dances refers to a raised wooden platform or tower erected as the central focal point for Bon Odori (盆踊り) during the Obon festival. Dancers form circles around it, while musicians, singers, and Taiko Drummers perform on top.

Etymology and General Meaning

- Yagura literally means "tower," "turret," "scaffold," or "keep" in Japanese.
- The term originally related to fortress or fire-watch towers (from "ya" for arrow + "kura" for storehouse). In festivals, it describes temporary wooden structures.

History and Role in Obon/Bon Odori

- Obon (or Bon) is a Japanese Buddhist festival honoring ancestors, blending ancient Japanese beliefs in ancestral spirits with Buddhist customs. It has been celebrated for over 500 years and is often called the "Festival of Souls" or "Festival of Lanterns."

- Bon Odori (the dances) evolved from Nembutsu Odori or Odori Nembutsu — Buddhist chanting and prayer dances from the late Heian (794–1185) and Kamakura (1185–1333) periods. These were popularized by figures like the monk Ippen Shonin.

The dances became more widespread during the Muromachi and Tokugawa (Edo) periods (roughly 15th–19th centuries) and developed strong folk entertainment aspects. They carry themes of remembrance, welcoming ancestral spirits, consolation, and joy.

The yagura serves as:

- A stage/bandstand for musicians (taiko, flutes, shamisen, singers performing min'yō folk songs or Obon-specific music).
- A symbolic structure allowing ancestors to "descend" and enjoy the festivities with the living.
- The visual and spiritual center of the event, often decorated with colorful lanterns, curtains (sometimes red-and-white striped), and lights.

Dancers typically move in a circle (clockwise or counterclockwise, varying by region) around the yagura. Styles, songs, and steps differ greatly by locality (e.g., Awa Odori in Tokushima, Gujo Odori in Gifu).

Cultural Significance and Evolution

- Originally tied to welcoming and sending off ancestral spirits (who are believed to return home during Obon).
- It was sometimes suppressed in the Meiji era (late 19th/early 20th century) for being too "immoral" or rowdy but later revived.
- In modern times, it is a joyful community event mixing spiritual remembrance with social dancing, food, and celebration. Anyone can join — no prior experience needed.
- In Japanese-American communities (e.g., Hawaii, California, Portland), Obon and yagura-based Bon Odori became important cultural anchors, especially post-WWII, preserving heritage through temples and festivals.



Papaikou Hongwanji Mission
Bon Dance 2023

Upcoming Memorial Services (Nenki)

33 years Service – 1994

Toyoko Shigehara 7/5/1994 age 78
Ronald Makoto Takazawa 7/16/1994 age 54

25 years Service – 2002

Teruo Kitayama 8/22/2002 age 87

17 year Service – 2010

Hiroshi Hiramoto 7/28/2010 age 95

13 year Service – 2014

Susumu Murashige 8/27/2014 age 78

3 year Service – 2024

Tsukimi Murashige 7/10/2024 age 94

1 year Service – 2025

Gail Keiko Kawamoto 8/5/2025 age 83
Vivian Haraguchi 8/18/2025 age 87
Yukimi Yoshimoto 8/31/2025 age 96

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).

June (1976 -)	Satoru Ota	Kakuto "Glenn" Yoshimoto	Kimiyo Mori
Chiyoza Aoki	Fusae Rokunohe	Ethel Shigeko Yoshiyama	Tsukimi Murashige
Satsuki Furutani	Gary Kiyoshi Shiota		Ichiro Nakatsu
Hisayo Hiramoto	Mitsuko Shiota		Yaeko Oda
Niichi Hirano	Ichiro Takahashi	July (1976 -)	Mitsuo Ojiri
Itaru Inoue	Misue Takaki	Masaichi Hayashi	Jitsuichi Ota
Matsue Inoue	Fuji Takeda	Hiroshi Hiramoto	Ricky Tetsuo Shibata
Toyozo Masu	Hideko "Lynette"	Noboru Hirayama	Katsumi Shigehara
Rihachi Mihara	Takemoto	Torao Hirayama	Toyoko Shigehara
Yoshimatsu Mihara	Tsuru Takemoto	Mamoru Inoue	Tetsuichi Shinbo
Haruyo Minamoto	Wakamatsu Takemoto	Mildred Kaneshiro	Yukiko Shiota
Teruko Mori	Yuichi Takemoto	Aiko Oda Kubo	Leslie Kazuhiko Sumiye
Isamu Muramoto	Shinichi Tanaka	Komutsu Mihara	Ronald Makoto Takazawa
Toshiko Muronaka	Noboru Wakida	Kumezo Mihara	Gladys Shie Taketa
Ritsuko Nakao	Masae Wakida	Lawrence Setsuo Miki	Gloria (Aya) Yanaga
Tsuya Otori	Kokichi Watanabe	Hatsu Maruichi	Misue Shimizu Yoshizawa
Satoru Onaga	Tona Yamashita	Yoshimi Minamoto	Fumio Yoshioka
	Teruyuki "Teru" Yoshida	Hisayo Mori	

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