

Kalyana Mitra

“Good Friend”

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Windward Buddhist Temple
268-A Kuulei Road
Kailua, HI 96734
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Kailua Hongwanji Mission is doing business as Windward Buddhist Temple

New Year's Message, 2022

Once again, we have come to a new year, this time, it is 2022! It's been another difficult year, with the pandemic continuing to ebb and flow with new variants. It appears that COVID 19 will continue to evolve and may become a permanent part of our lives and as a result, we are changing, too -- slowly adjusting to this ever-changing virus.

The Buddha taught that all things are constantly changing, and that we should let go of our attachments, meaning that we should let go of our fears that sometimes are exaggerated. The truth of life is becoming, in everything. The truth and beauty of nature are in this change. Trees and flowers are beautiful because they change. Budding of the trees and blooming of the flowers in the Spring and the falling of the leaves in the Fall are examples of change. The entire life of a tree is the life of becoming. Human life is no exception. We must constantly grow, individually and as a group.

Time never stops. It is a continuous flow, and in this flow is eternity. The Buddha said in transiency, immortality is hidden.

In this changing world, if we refuse to change, there comes a struggle, and suffering. We should accept all changes that come so that we can be born anew. Each has its own beauty and each has its place. Every moment is living, and it is a natural life. Living in the truth is living in the Buddha's world, which is naturalness. Shinran Shonin uses the term, *jinen honi*, which is to live naturally according to the Dharma. If we can live in *jinen honi*, we will live a life of naturalness, free of attachment and struggles and live creatively, giving meaning and value to this life, one that cannot be repeated.

We should pause to analyze whether we are merely moving about each day or are living a creative life. To live with Oneness with the Buddha is to live a creative life, and we live in the Nembutsu, and in the Nembutsu we see and feel the Buddha everywhere and in everything. Life itself becomes the unfolding of the Buddha.

Let us all celebrate the New Year with the assurance that by the Light of the Buddha, we will navigate through all the heartaches, disappointments and unfulfilled expectations with the busyness of our everyday lives, and don't let our self-centered views prevent us from seeing the reality of the Dharma.

Also, in the month of January, we observe Ho'onko, in memory of the passing of Shinran Shonin. As such, our thoughts turn to many in the world that have made it possible for us to live a life of the awareness of indebtedness we owe. Thoughts of gratitude to the researchers, teachers, those in the health fields that have made our lives sustainable. Included are police officers and first-responders, and even our politicians in government that have made this into a "world of becoming." Virtually everyone that we have encountered have contributed in making our lives possible.

Let's close with these words from the *Teachings of the Buddha*:

Life is too short and fleeting.
Today will never come to us again.
Life is the most precious gift.
Today is the most precious treasure.

The Buddhadharma makes us find
the true value of life.....
Let us make a little more effort for a better and
more meaningful life.
Namo Amida Butsu

Namu Amida Butsu.

Rev. Bert Sumikawa

Jan. & Feb. 2022



WBT is now open for Sunday Services at the temple. Please be prepared to provide proof of COVID vaccination. Refer to guidelines on page 4.

We will continue to post the services online shortly thereafter via:

- 1) **Windward Buddhist Temple website:** www.windwardbuddhisttemple.org
(or Google Windward Buddhist Temple)
- 2) **YouTube:** www.youtube.com/windwardbuddhisttemple
- 3) **FaceBook:** facebook.com/windwardbuddhisttemple

Date	Service	Speaker/MC
January 2	NO Service	
9	Family Service	Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Cynthia Rodriguez
16	Hoonko (Shinran's Memorial)	Guest Speaker: Rev. Kerry Kiyohara M.C.: Dennis Tashiro
23	Monthly Remembrance Service If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the <u>month of January (of any year)</u> , you will be given the opportunity to do so during this service. Please email the person's name and photo, if available, to Rev. Sumikawa at bertsumi@gmail.com OR mail the information and photo (optional) to Rev. Sumikawa at Windward Buddhist Temple 268-A Kuulei Rd. Kailua, HI 96734 by Sunday, January 16, 2022)	Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Shirley Yanagisawa
30	Family Service	Speaker: Michael Jaffe M.C.: Annette Tashiro
February 6	Intergenerational Sunday	Speaker: Bob Nishita M.C.: Linda Jaffe
13	Dana Day/Pet Memorial	Guest Speaker: Dr. Michael Cheang M.C.: Merle Tashiro
20	Nirvana Day	Guest Speaker: Alan Goto M.C.: Gerald Matsuda
27	Monthly Remembrance Service If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the <u>month of February (of any year)</u> , you will be given the opportunity to do so during this service. Please email the person's name and photo, if available, to Rev. Sumikawa at bertsumi@gmail.com OR mail the information and photo (optional) to Rev. Sumikawa at Windward Buddhist Temple 268-A Kuulei Rd. Kailua, HI 96734 by Sunday, February 20, 2022)	Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Naomi Kaneko

Rev. Kerry Kiyohara

Hoonko (Shinran's Memorial) Guest Speaker
(1/16/2022)



Kerry Kiyohara is the resident minister of Makawao Buddhist Temple on the island of Maui, serving Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Kerry was ordained as a priest of Jōdo Shinshū Hongwanji-ha in 2016, then graduated from *Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin* Seminary in Kyoto, was certified as a teacher, and assigned as a *kaikyōshi* missionary to Hawaii in 2018.

Kerry previously worked as CEO, COO, CMO, Consultant, and Copywriter in Los Angeles, Tokyo, Beijing, Shanghai, and Honolulu.

Kerry graduated with BA and MBA degrees from the University of Southern California, and speaks English, Japanese, basic Spanish, and survival Chinese but is mystified by *da kine pidgin* (Hawaiian Creole English).

Dr. Michael Cheang

Dana Day/Pet Memorial Guest Speaker
(2/13/2022)

Dr. Michael Cheang has over 25 years of teaching experience at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where he teaches Family Resource Management and Family Public Policy. In 2001, he developed a curriculum to train paraprofessionals who care for older adults and has partnered with county offices on aging and non-profit agencies in the State of Hawai'i to train individuals who work with or care for older adults. His doctorate is in Public Health with a focus in Gerontology.



Alan Goto

Nirvana Day Guest Speaker
(2/20/2022)



Alan Goto was originally a Kona boy and grew up in a Shin Buddhist family. The family moved to Aiea and after high school, he graduated from Bradley University (BS in Business) in Peoria, Illinois. Upon completion of an enlistment in the Air Force during the Vietnam War, he returned home and worked at HMSA for 35 years. He and his wife, Chizue (Rosemary) Tamekuni, have two sons, Sage and Ken and three grandchildren.

Alan & Rosemary's family lived in Kaneohe for a while and were members of Kailua Hongwanji Mission (WBT). At that time, Rosemary's brother-in-law, Rev Shigenori Makino was Kailua's resident minister. They enjoyed the fellowship of a small Sangha and he was mentored by Keiji Kukino, Richard Wasai and Wally Fujikawa in Jodo Shin Buddhism and operating a temple. Alan has always considered Kailua Hongwanji as his religious birthplace or home.

In the mid-1980's, the Goto family relocated to Pauoa Valley in Honolulu and became Hawaii Betsuin members. Alan has served on its board and as president, participated in Honzan's Tokudo Ordination Program for Foreigners in Kyoto and received Tokudo. Since then, he has focused on planning and executing Buddhist educational events at the Betsuin, Honolulu Hongwanji Council and the Buddhist Study Center. Alan is particularly interested in expressing joy on the Nembutsu Path.

New Year Message from WBT President

Warmest wishes for a Happy New Year!

I am grateful that we have endured the many months of COVID restrictions with a positive attitude and knowledge that everything changes, even COVID will one day be controlled. Having the temple closed since March 2020 has been a challenge. The Board of Directors has continued to do its best to be in communication with members and friends and to share the Dharma through YouTube.



The effort to look for new ways to keep the Sangha together and to spread the Dharma, resulted in several positive outcomes. For example, despite the inconvenience and missing the Sangha fellowship, Windward Buddhist Temple's online Sunday services have reached our friends and members as well as people outside of the Windward District and even people living on the mainland. Many of us learned to use Zoom and attended conferences and Dharma classes which we would not have been able to do prior to the pandemic. The Board learned how to conduct monthly Board meetings via Zoom.

In August we had a Bon Dance dinner sale that brought together members to safely prepare the dinner and to connect with people who came by to pick up their orders. The Fundraising Committee replaced the live fundraising events with an Online Store.

The temple has been able to weather this pandemic due to the support of the Board and the members who have generously contributed to the temple. I look forward to serve as President again this year with the goal of reopening the temple for regular services and fellowship.

Wishing you a Happy, Healthy, Safe and Peaceful New Year.

With Gratitude,
Prudence Kusano



ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES FOR TEMPLE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Beginning in January 2022 Windward Buddhist Temple will be open for services and other programs.

Everyone entering the temple must:

1. Be free of signs of COVID
2. Wear a mask
3. Present proof of their COVID vaccination status with a photo ID
4. Sign in on the COVID tracking sheet as they enter the temple
5. Keep physical distance between household groups

Sunday Services attendees:

1. Offer incense before or after the service
2. Maintain physical distance while enjoying refreshment and fellowship after the service

⚓ *Mahalo* ⚓

for your kind monetary donations

Gary & Annette Tashiro - Eitaikyo/ IMO of Taeko Tashiro
Allen & Prudence Kusano - Eitaikyo/Remembrance:
Alden Kusano

Margaret Fujikawa - Eitaikyo
Stephen & Geraldine Ochikubo - Eitaikyo
Keiji & Janet Kukino - Eitaikyo
Amy Abe - Eitaikyo
Rose Nakata - Eitaikyo
Greg & Naomi Kaneko - Eitaikyo
Bob & Joyce Nishita – Eitaikyo/IMO Tadayuki Nishita,
Hisano Nishita, Bodhi Day

Dana & Russell Arakaki - Eitaikyo
Ronald & Shirley Yanagisawa - Eitaikyo
Roy & Cynthia Miyamoto - Eitaikyo
Cynthia Rodriguez - Eitaikyo
Dennis & Merle Tashiro - Eitaikyo
Isao & Susan Asada – Eitaikyo
Stanley Tomasa

Marjorie Ikeda - Eitaikyo, IMO Hiroshi Ikeda
Paul & Misae Hironaka - Eitaikyo
Emmaline & Kwan-sei Kaneshiro - Eitaikyo
Paul Tatsuguchi - Eitaikyo
Thomas Yagi - Eitaikyo
M/M Masuo Kino - Eitaikyo
Geoge Kitano - Eitaikyo
Joanne & Leslie Yamamoto, Myles Yamamoto, Neal
Yamamoto - Eitaikyo service, IMO Janet M.
Hiramoto, 3rd year memorial service, IMO
Sawayo Hiramoto,

Shizue Miyasato
Ed & Amy Miyamoto
Gayle Kimura
Wendy Abe - Amy Y. Akamine funeral/memorial service
David Chung & Lily Pu
Arthur & Irene Nakagawa
Natasha Parker

Mahalo for the numerous donations to the Honpa Hongwanji State Social Concerns Committee. Your donations have been forwarded to Headquarters.



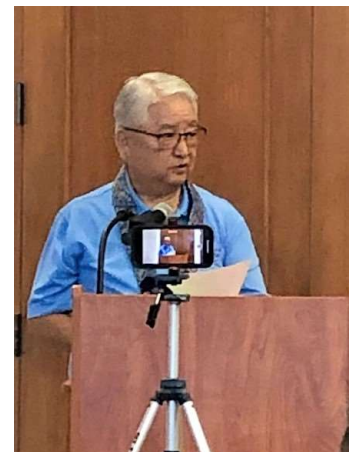
Guest Speaker: Quinn Hashimoto

Bodhi Day Service

December 12, 2021
(at the temple!)



Meeting and reconnecting.....



Service continues to be videotaped for uploading to YouTube, Facebook and on our website.

2022 Bishop's New Year Message

The New Year has always been a time of hope, renewal and new beginnings. I am hopeful that the year 2022 will be brighter and happier for you and your Ohana of family and friends, and all of us! Needless to say, the Pandemic has adversely affected all of our lives in various ways including the feeling of isolation and disconnect. However, let us not despair. Please always fully understand that Amida Buddha as Namu Amida Butsu is always with us embracing us as Great Compassion. There is a Jodo Shinshu expression “Ki-Hou-Ittai no Namu Amida Butsu” or “Namu Amida Butsu of the oneness of Amida Buddha and those to be saved.” For this reason, we are able to be born in the Pure Land to attain Enlightenment and, even in the here and now, we are never truly all alone!



Further, there is another dynamic in which we can appreciate the truth that we are always supported by others and thus never alone. I recall the life of an Oahu Hongwanji member who was always so grateful for the food she ate every day. She couldn't help, but place her hands together in gassho/anjali to express her appreciation and gratitude to the plants and animals for their gift of life and all others who played a role in her receiving the precious gift of the meals she ate each day. She was aware of the so many other lives which surrounded and supported her. She had to try to live her life as best she could out of appreciation and gratitude.

However, on the plane of human social interaction, yes, COVID has severely impacted our ability to interact with each other even among family members and as a Sangha at temple. I know many of you miss so dearly being able to come to the temple, the physical symbolic home of Amida Buddha. As the situation with the Pandemic slowly improves, please consider gathering, once again, at your temple. We must still be cautious especially with the discovery of the Omicron Variant, but when the time is right, please join us at the temple both current members and newcomers. Let us reconnect and connect with each other! The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii including your temple needs you! Please remember, there are three treasures not only two.

As we begin a new year, this would be the opportune time for us to reconnect with family and friends. Depending on the situation with the Pandemic, it might not be physically just yet, but there are other ways to connect such as writing down (or video recording) your most precious thoughts, wishes and aspirations as in a journal or as letters as did Lady Eshinni and Lady Kakushinni, and even Shinran Shonin. What is that which is most precious to you? What are the best memories you have? Why is the Teachings of the Buddha and the temple so important to you? Would it make you happy if your family becomes part of the Hongwanji Sangha?

Let us make manifest our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Theme & Slogan for 2022 which is “Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others.” Of course, this “Connecting with Others” is not limited to our close circle of family and friends, but with others around the world too. This year's Hawaii Kyodan Calendar highlights His Eminence Kojun Ohtani's “Our Pledge” which more concretely shares why and how we may connect with others. In this New Year, let me encourage you to begin reciting Gomonshu-sama's “Our Pledge” on a daily basis.

To conclude, please join me to recite Namu Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name Which I Call (in gratitude) in response to Namu Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name That Calls Me (to entrust). Namu Amida Butsu. Thank you and Happy New Year from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and the Office of the Bishop.

In gassho/anjali,

Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii President's New Year's Message

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

I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and in good spirits as we enter the New Year, 2022. Last year, as I wrote my message, we had reason to hope that the year 2021 would be one in which we would have control of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, millions of people in our country (and more around the world) are still unvaccinated and therefore susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection. Also, the natural world is unpredictable - with new variants of the coronavirus appearing in different areas of the world. We do not know what effect the new variants will have on the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is that the vaccines have proven to be very effective at preventing or reducing the chance of developing severe COVID-19 disease. They are also proven to be very safe in all of the trials and young children starting at the age of 5 can now be safely vaccinated. The COVID-19 situation is much better than a year ago at this time and it is very likely that it will continue to get better.



Our theme and slogan for 2022, “**Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others**” is particularly appropriate for 2022. Buddhism teaches that everything is interconnected. No one is completely independent of other people or the environment surrounding them. We are connected with and dependent on everything around us, for example the the air that we breathe. As we carefully re-open our temples, let's all make an extra effort to connect with our Sangha, especially those we have not seen for a year or two.

The past two years have been difficult for all of our temples. At least one temple (Papaalooa Hongwanji) will close its temple doors permanently in 2022 and consolidate with Honohina Hongwanji. The COVID-19 pandemic was not the only factor in Papaalooa Hongwanji's closure, but it certainly hastened the process. Buddhism teaches us that all things are impermanent, everything changes, and that “the root of suffering is attachment”. However, Shinran reminded us that we are all “bonbu” - foolish beings. We still have attachments. So it is still difficult for us to have many fond memories of a place and time in our past and not feel sadness that it will not be there the next time we visit. We can still be grateful that Papaalooa Hongwanji shared Buddhist values with the Hamakua community for over 100 years and during that time planted the seeds of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in many people, including this writer. Namo Amida Butsu.

As I reflect on our theme, “**Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others**”, I start with being grateful that Amida Buddha, through his Teachings, is with me and wants me to be happy. I am grateful that I was introduced to Buddhism by the good fortune of being born to a wonderful family in a little plantation town on the Hamakua Coast of the Big Island of Hawaii. Grateful that Papaalooa Hongwanji was built by the issei and nisei in spite of severe financial hardship. Grateful that Aiea Hongwanji was there for us when Claire and I were looking for a temple for our family. Grateful that I have made a connection with so many of you through our involvement in the Hawaii Sangha. Let's continue to nurture these connections.

With Gassho,

Warren Tamamoto, MD

President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

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WBT's Resumes Office Hours



WBT's office hours will be on **MONDAYS from 4-6:00 p.m.** Rev. Bert Sumikawa will be available for consultation appointments. Memorial services or other services are by appointment on a mutually arranged date and may be done at the temple or at your residence. **Please call Rev. Bert Sumikawa at (808) 492-7254 to schedule an appointment or for more information.**

Meditation Sessions will begin in January on **Monday evenings 6:00-7:00 p.m.** at the temple. Everyone is welcome to attend. *(Please refer to attendance guidelines on page 4 of this newsletter.)*

