

KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE



E - JIHO
April 2020



Theme & Slogan 2020:

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness



KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

P. O. Box 769 * Kealahoukua, Kona, HI 96750

Phone: (808)323-2993 * Fax: (808)323-9815

e-mail: konahongwanji@twc.com



March 16, 2020

Dear Kona Hongwanji Members and Friends,

We hope this message finds you taking comfort in the Buddha's wisdom and compassion in these uncertain and anxious times. We have been closely monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation as the health and wellbeing of our Sangha is our top priority. At the recommendation of Temple leadership, we have decided to suspend all in-person services and activities effective immediately until April 30, 2020. We will evaluate where things stand in mid-April with the hope of resuming services in May.

This decision was made keeping with the guidance and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding COVID-19 and communities of faith. The CDC recommends that those individuals who are at higher risk for this virus to avoid crowds and to practice social distancing. This group includes older adults and those with heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease.

The temple office and columbarium will remain open during normal business hours.

Funerals and memorial services may be conducted at the discretion of the minister.

Please contact the office for any religious/spiritual assistance such as bedside services or pastoral care and counseling.

During this time of uncertainty and fear, we should take refuge in the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha and deepen our reliance on Amida Buddha's compassionate vow. Should you find yourself in need of spiritual support, please do not hesitate to contact the minister.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we walk the path of the Nembutsu together guided by the light of Amida Buddha's wisdom. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us.

In Gassho,

Joseph Gusman
President

Rev. Blayne Higa
Resident Minister

ASSISTANCE OF THE MINISTER, contact Rev. Blayne Higa at 323-2993 or Emergency only (808)383-9153 or Joseph Gusman at 896-4988 or 324-0708. To schedule services or activities, call the church

This is the promise of the Dharma. The Buddha's Teachings help us to understand and to manage life with greater kindness, compassion, and equanimity. In the Pure Land Path of Shinran, the Nembutsu is a promise from Amida Buddha to embrace never to abandon. The Nembutsu is a blessing that we constantly receive every single day of our lives. Namo Amida Butsu holds us in both our joys and our sorrows and transforms our ignorance into wisdom, our greed into generosity, and our anger into love. Namo Amida Butsu can help us meet life's challenges with greater courage, comfort, and peace. Namo Amida Butsu empowers us to realize that we are enough and are worthy of compassion. Living the Nembutsu is our way of actualizing the world of awakening. Within Namo Amida Butsu we can find harmony and balance in our often-chaotic world.

Please take all necessary precautions to keep yourself healthy during this crisis. We should base our responses on good science not conspiracy theories and we should always take refuge in the Buddha's Teachings. The Dharma guides us never to shy away from honestly facing the pain of the human condition and at the same time, we learn not to shy away from the beauty and value of life in all its forms and experiences.

While in-person services and activities have been suspended, the temple will remain open for personal reflection and contemplation. Should you find yourself in need of spiritual support, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am here for you. We will get through this together. May Amida's light of wisdom and compassion give you comfort and peace. Namo Amida Butsu.



Mrs. Lois Toyama, President of the Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations was our guest speaker for our Eshinni/Kakushinni Day Service on March 1st.



On March 10th we welcomed the Fourth Graders from the Hongwanji Mission School during their annual Big Island trip. They had a wonderful time with our preschool students.



On March 8th, we hosted the 8th Annual Buddha Day Celebration sponsored by the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB). The service featured wonderful performances and a Dharma Message by Rev. Satoshi Tomioka. The beautiful Hanamido was decorated by members of the Jr. YBA.



Welcome New Members

Our warmest Aloha and Mahalo to Nathan Kurashige, and son and daughter-in-law, Ryan and Jeni Kurashige, with their 3 year daughter, Mia from Holualoa for joining our Sangha in becoming new members to Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Nathan loves growing plants and has a farm while his son Ryan is a plumber and Jeni is an RN.

New members are always welcome.

COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2019



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

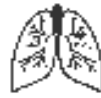
What are the symptoms of COVID-19?



FEVER



COUGH



DIFFICULTY BREATHING



SEVERE ILLNESS

How is COVID-19 spread?



Through coughing and sneezing



Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands



Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands



Because COVID-19 is new, we are learning more each day about the transmission patterns and incubation periods.

If you have traveled to a country with widespread community spread of COVID-19, stay home or in your hotel room for 14 days after leaving that country and monitor your health for symptoms.

- Avoid group settings, including work and school.
- Have another family member/friend, who didn't travel, run necessary errands for you, such as picking up food or medicine.
- Avoid using public transportation, taxis, or ride-shares if possible.

For a list of countries with widespread sustained community transmission, visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers.

How can I protect myself and our community?

Everyone in our community

- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
- Get your flu shot to reduce the chance of developing symptoms that can be confused with COVID-19. Everyone ages 6 months or older should be vaccinated against the flu.

If you have traveled to an affected area and feel sick

- Stay home and avoid contact with others except for seeking care.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the trash.
- If you need medical care, call ahead to your healthcare provider or an emergency room and let them know about your travel history. If you need emergency medical care, call 911.
- If you have difficulty accessing medical care or have questions how to care for yourself at home, call 211.

2-1-1

Get Connected. Get Help.™

For more information about COVID-19,
call our partners at Aloha United Way 2-1-1.

Or visit our website at:

health.hawaii.gov/docd/advisories/novel-coronavirus-2019.



This document was produced by the State of Hawaii Department of Health. Updated 3/4/2020.