



# JHO

September 2022



## Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others*

---

### Dharma Family Services

Please join us for our hybrid services in September. All services will begin at 10:00 am (unless otherwise noted). A Zoom link to join the service will be emailed to you a few days before. Please contact the office to be included in our email list to receive weekly temple updates and information. Wearing of face masks and sanitizing of hands will continue to be required in temple. We look forward to seeing you in person or online!

### Dharma Family Service

Sunday, September 4, 2022, at 10:00 am

### Joint Service & Seminar with West Kauai Hongwanji

Sunday, September 11, 2022, at 9:00 am—10:00 am

Join us in person or online for this hybrid seminar presented by Rev. Blayne for West Kauai Hongwanji Mission on *Buddhism and the Power of Community:*

*Finding Ourselves in Sangha.* A short service led by Rev. Tomo Hojo of West Kauai Hongwanji will be followed by a presentation and Q&A. Rev. Blayne will present live from Kona Hongwanji.

### Dharma Family Service

Sunday, September 18, 2022, at 10:00 am

Sangha Speaker: Linda Nagai

Minister Lay Assistant and Temple President

### Autumn Ohigan Service

Sunday, September 25, 2022, at 10:00 am

Guest Minister: Rev. Alan Urasaki

Retired Chaplain, Federal Detention Center

Ohigan services occur twice a year around the spring and fall equinox when the daylight and nighttime are equal. In many ancient cultures, it was a time of celebration to remind us of our deep connection to the rhythms and cycles of the earth and the entire universe. Ohigan translates as “the other shore” and is a metaphor for crossing from this shore of ignorance, anger, and greed to the other shore of nirvana and peace. Rev. Urasaki will join us in person.

### For Assistance

**Office Clerk:** Ramah DeMello (Phone: 808-323-2993 Email: konahongwanji@twc.com)

**Resident Minister:** Rev. Blayne Higa (Emergency only 808-383-9153)

**Temple President:** Linda Nagai (Emergency only 808-936-6079)

**KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

P.O. Box 769

Kealahou, HI 96750

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 1  
KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## President's Message

Aloha Kona Hongwanji Sangha members,

As our 125th celebration nears, (just about 6 weeks away), I am humbled by your generosity which continues to pour in. On behalf of the Kona Hongwanji Kyodan, I would like again to send our sincere gratitude for your generous donations.

Kona Hongwanji has existed in the Kona Community due to the benevolence of Sangha members such as yourself. To celebrate this auspicious event, we will be having craft and food vendors and the long-awaited Bon Dance on Saturday, October 15, and on Sunday, October 16, a Chigo parade (small children's parade, application is attached), to showcase our younger members of our Sangha and the children of friends of our Sangha. Also attached you will find information regarding the Affirmation Rites and celebration luncheon which will also be held on Sunday October 16. Please consider joining us in our milestone celebration.

In preparation of the 125th celebration our Temple has just been outfitted with new carpets. With new Cushions, new carpets and soon a few new altar ornaments and scrolls, we will have our Temple spruced up and ready for this milestone celebration.

September as you know is Foodland Stores "Give Aloha" campaign. Kona Hongwanji is again participating in this event. Spread the word to your families and friends, to please consider supporting Kona Hongwanji, when visiting Sack and Save in Kona or any Foodland or Sack and Save stores anywhere in the State,

If you are in need of COVID test kits, please see Ramah in our office.

As a Sangha we radiate collective energy that makes us strong. Let's travel on the Sangha boat which will transport us, and prevent us from sinking into the sea of suffering.

In Gassho,

Linda Nagai

## The Spiritual Foundation of Surrender

Rev. Blayne Higa

In our fast-paced world it often feels like we are always trying to skip to the end of things. We have forgotten how necessary the actual journey is to our lives. A famous saying attributed to Chinese philosopher Lao-Tzu says, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." How we start a journey is immensely important because we realize the destination or goal we seek cannot be reached if we don't have a firm foundation from where to embark.

A story from Buddhist scripture illustrates this important lesson:

*Once there was a wealthy but foolish man. When he saw a beautiful three-storied house of another man, he envied it and made up his mind to have one built just like it, thinking he was himself just as wealthy. He called and ordered a carpenter to build it. The carpenter consented and immediately began to construct the foundation, the first story, the second story, and then did the third story. The wealthy man noticed this with irritation and said, "I don't want a foundation or a first story or a second story: I just want the beautiful third story. Build it quickly."*

*A foolish man always thinks only of the results, and is impatient without the effort that is necessary to get good results. No good can be attained without proper effort, just as there can be no third story without the foundation and the first and second stories.*

This impatience has also influenced how we think of our spiritual journey. We tend to seek awakening without wanting to put in the work to get there. We want spirituality to be as simple as looking up a restaurant on Yelp. However, true spirituality is a lifelong journey of awakening to ourselves. The hardest yet most necessary thing we can do.

In the Pure Land path, our spiritual journey begins and ends with surrendering our ego. The result of this continual surrender is our heartfelt saying of Namu Amida Butsu or "I entrust in the dynamic working of all-inclusive wisdom and all-embracing compassion." Shin Buddhist writer Dr. Hideo Yonezawa shares, "Until now we have lived our life with nothing but ego. We have cherished our egos and placed ourselves ahead of everything. However, when we think carefully about our life, without things like the sun, the moon, water, air, grass, and trees, we would not be able to live for even an instant. Even our breathing and the beating of our



heart are not of our own power. When we come to realize that all things in the world are a working that transcends human beings, then we cannot help but unconditionally surrender ourselves to that working.”

Only when we realize our lives are made possible through an inconceivable power beyond the self, is the foundation of our lives firmly established. We understand this power to be the dynamic working of Amida Buddha who embraces and never abandons us, leading us to the world of awakening. Secure in this knowledge, our entrusting heart is nurtured, and we are able to journey through life with deep confidence and profound spiritual freedom.

Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani, spiritual head of the Nishi Hongwanji writes, “Amida’s liberation, the dynamic working that takes us in, becomes the great foundational support in our lives. No longer are we led astray by our wavering and unrelenting concerns, worries, and anxieties that have kept us unsettled without peace of mind. Instead, there arises within us an abundance of energy, vitality, and peace that fills our hearts and minds.” This is the life-giving power of surrendering our ego which enables us to live authentically every moment of our lives. Each new day we have an opportunity to begin this journey of awareness and awakening to ourselves. This is how surrender is the first step along the Pure Land path. Namo Amida Butsu.

### Compassionate Care

The Dharma offers guidance and support for our whole lives, especially during times of difficulty. I am here to be a compassionate presence and companion to you on life’s journey. I am available for pastoral care and counseling via phone or video conference. I am also available for bedside end-of-life services and grief care. Please contact me at 808-323-2993 or for emergencies only at 808-383-9153.

*Aloha,  
Rev. Blayne*

## Hiroshima Remembrance Service

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, we held our 3rd Annual Hiroshima Remembrance Service hosted in collaboration with the Kona Hiroshima Kenjin Kai. Our speaker was Mr. Art Taniguchi, Honorary Consul General of Japan in Hilo who shared his family's connection to the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 77 years ago. Art was joined by his wife and daughter who made the trip over from Hilo early this morning. Let's continue working to bring about a more peaceful, just, and humane world. Namo Amida Butsu.



West Kauai Hongwanji Mission Seminar "Buddhism in Daily Life"

## **Buddhism and the Power of Community: Finding Ourselves in Sangha**

Sunday, September 11, 2022, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. (HST): Zoom

Guest Speaker: Rev. Blayne Higa  
(Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple)



We often think of the Three Treasures of Buddhism as separate things. However, they are really one because a true understanding of the Buddhist Path is only complete when there is a unity of Buddha, Dharma, AND Sangha. Our journey of self-discovery is enabled through the good spiritual friendships found within a community of practice. Let's explore the power of Sangha to nurture our spiritual lives as a community of fellow travelers.

Rev. Blayne Higa was born and raised in Hilo, Hawaii and is a graduate of Waiakea High School. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, California with a focus on Shin Buddhist ministry and chaplaincy. Rev. Blayne is currently the Resident Minister of the Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. He previously served as Assisting Minister of the Moiliili Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and as Assistant Chaplain for the Pacific Buddhist Academy in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Before entering the ministry, he spent over 17 years in state government and in non-profit fundraising. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree as well as a Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.

Rev. Blayne is the Chair of the Committee on Social Concerns and Ministerial Training Committee for the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. He also serves on the Board of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii and Vibrant Hawaii. He is a past President of the Moiliili Hongwanji Board of Directors and former First Vice President of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

Rev. Blayne received Tokudo ordination in 2012 and Kyoshi certification in 2018 from the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha.

**Registration Fee:** Free (Registration Required)

Donations can be made to the West Kauai Hongwanji Mission. Please make checks payable to: West Kauai Hongwanji Mission and send it to: West Kauai Hongwanji Mission P.O. 529 Hanapepe, HI 96716.

**Maximum capacity is 100 people**, first come first serve. We will e-mail you a zoom link three days prior to the seminar.

**Click below to register!**  
"Registration Deadline September 4, 2022"

<https://forms.gle/aYdsMEMGEO3a2p4a7>



When you complete the seminar registration, you will receive an automatic confirmation email from Google forms.

**For further information, please contact:**  
West Kauai Hongwanji Mission at 335-3195 or [tojo@honpahi.org](mailto:tojo@honpahi.org)

## **Obon Family Service**



On July 31<sup>st</sup>, we held our Obon Family Service where we remembered loved ones who have been born in the Pure Land. Their names were read, and we offered our gratitude for our continuing relationship with them. Rev. Earl Ikeda, retired minister of the New York Buddhist Church and Hawaii Kyodan gave a heartfelt Dharma message on the significance of Obon in his life. He joined us via zoom from his home in New York City. Namō Amida



During September, make a donation to Kona Hongwanji at any Foodland or Sack N Save checkout, and Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will make a donation to our temple too!

**KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
OUR CODE IS: 78465**

How to Donate:

- 1) Shop at Foodland or Sack N Save!
- 2) Show your Maika'i card to the cashier at checkout.
- 3) Tell the cashier our code and the amount of your donation (up to \$249).
- 4) Review your receipt to confirm the following appears:
  - Our organization name
  - Your donation amount
  - Your Maika'i number

**Mahalo for your support!**

## 2022 Peace Day Celebration

Celebrate Peace Day on September 21, 2022! It is easy to participate from your temple, church, school, home or favorite place. All you need is a bell to ring, and a cellphone, computer or other device to connect with us via Zoom. How to join in:

1. Register online [bit.ly/PeaceDay2022](https://bit.ly/PeaceDay2022)
2. You will receive a link for the Zoom event, and simple instructions on how to set up.
3. On the day of the bell-ringing, join the Zoom event at 8:15 a.m. Here's the program:
  - 8:30 a.m. Blowing of the Pū (conch shell), Pule,  
Opening Ceremony
  - 9:00 a.m. One Minute of Silence honoring all who sacrificed for us to achieve peace
  - 9:01 a.m. Ring your bell for Peace Day from all around the world! View everyone on Zoom for 5 minutes!
  - 9:06 a.m. Sharing Peace with Jake Shimabukuro, ukulele virtuoso  
"Hawaii's Ambassador of Peace"
  - Acknowledgments



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii  
Hawaii District Ministers Association  
**2022 BUDDHIST EDUCATION**

## Nembutsu Seminar

---

# Shinjin & The life of the person of Shinjin



Guest Lecturer: [Rev. Yuki Sugahara](#)  
Resident Minister, Oregon Buddhist Temple

**Saturday, October 1 at Sangha Hall**  
398 Kilauea Ave.

Part 1) Lecture: 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. followed by lunch  
**Registration Fee: \$10 with lunch (in-person) or \$5 for zoom.**

Click: [Register via Online](#) or mail by Sep. 24 

Part 2) Dharma Discussion with Rev. Sugahara 1 p.m.-2 p.m.  
**No registration is required. In-person & zoom. Email at [hawaii.kyogakkai@gmail.com](mailto:hawaii.kyogakkai@gmail.com) for the zoom link.**

Make check payable to: **Hawaii District Hongwanji Council**  
Mail to: Puna Hongwanji Mission, PO Box 100, Keaau, HI 96749 Attn: Seminar  
Please include: Name, phone #, Email, and in-person or zoom

Questions? Call Puna Hongwanji at 8089669981



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii  
Hawaii District Ministers Association

---

## In-person & Zoom District Sunday Service

**October 2, 10 a.m.**  
**@Honokaa Hongwanji**  
45-5016 Plumeria St, Honokaa, HI 96727



**Guest Speaker: [Rev. Yuki Sugahara](#)**  
Resident Minister, Oregon Buddhist Temple

Refreshments to follow.  
[Click here to join: Zoom Online](#)

Questions? Call Puna Hongwanji at 8089669981

## Chili Fundraiser Pick-up



Thank you for supporting Kona Hongwanji's Chili Fundraiser! This exciting partnership with Sandy's Drive-In supports the temple and local business during these challenging times.

Remember to pick up your chili at Sandy's Drive-In Tuesday – Friday from August 30 to September 16, 2022, 8:00am – 2:00pm. Saturday pick up is also available from 8:00am to 2:00pm.

\*\*\*\*\*



## *Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple 125th Anniversary Celebration*

### **COME AND JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY**

The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee has been working very hard for over a year planning for this commemorative event. Lots of exciting things are already in place for this celebration and lots of exciting things will be happening in the next couple of months.

We are still selling our anniversary logo items....cookbooks, insulated bags and clock. Merchandise chair, Betty Takeoka will have more anniversary items for sale in the coming months. The pews for the temple benches have been replaced with new, much more comfortable ones, thank you to Linda Nagai who worked on this project. Reverend Blayne worked hard on our new carpeting and in the next month, the replacement of the altar ornaments will begin. We are also considering an upgrade to our security system.

Steven Kaneko is working on our souvenir booklet which will have history of our temple and information about our affiliate organizations, including photos organized and taken by Wendy and Terry Terada. And don't forget about our time capsule which will be opened in 50 years. It's not too late for you to submit your memorabilia, letters to your future generations, family photos and whatever that is safe to tuck away in the time capsule. Thank you Daren Katayama for spearheading this exciting project.

We thank everyone for their generous donations. Joey Gusman is currently working on a plaque recognizing donors that will be displayed in the temple. These generous donations have allowed us to fulfill our goals to upgrade the temple and to plan a grand celebration.

The 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee invites you to join us on Saturday, October 15, 2022 at a **BON DANCE**...the first one since 2019. We will also have food booths and craft vendors to highlight this bon dance and we thank Daren Katayama, Richelle Tagawa, Morris Nagata, Alan Matsumoto and Dean Uemura for making this bon dance happen.

On Sunday, October 16, 2022 we will have a Chigo Parade, chaired by Linda Nagai, featuring Kona's beautiful keiki. See attached form. After the parade at 10:00 AM we will have our 125th Anniversary Service with Bishop Eric Matsumoto and other Reverends and dignitaries in attendance.

We will celebrate with a luncheon organized by Lynn Katayama and Lisa Ciriako. Door prizes, including Hawaiian Air gift cards will be awarded to lucky winners. Please RSVP by September 30th. And to culminate our celebration we will hold Affirmation Rites by Bishop Eric Matsumoto at 2:00 PM. See attached form.

We hope to see all of you on October 15th and 16th.



Registration form for Luncheon

Name \_\_\_\_\_

No. of People Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut out this registration form and send it to Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple by September 30, 2022. Address: P.O. Box 769, Kealahou, HI 96750.

Or call the temple office with your RSVP. Phone: (808) 323-2993.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—September 2022

### HAKASOJI and NOKOTSUDO

Kathleen Abe	Judy Amano	Mr. & Mrs. Francis Iwamoto
Norman Sakata	Gloria Ichishita	
	Total - \$250.00	

### JIHO

Hi Tropical Fruit Growers	Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo	Judy Amano
Rinko Matsuoka		
	Total - \$180.00	

### HI KYODAN

Mr. & Mrs. Francis Iwamoto	Norman Sakata	
----------------------------	---------------	--

### CAPITAL FUND

Mr. & Mrs. Francis Iwamoto	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Uyeda	Kathleen Abe
----------------------------	--------------------------	--------------

### OBON

Anonymous	Lisa Ciriako	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman
Miyuki Inouye	Emiko Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko
Mary Katayama	Sachiko Katoku	Kenneth Komo
Janet Lindner	Alan Matsumoto	Ann Matsumoto
Linda Nagai	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano	Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina
Satoru Odaira	Helen Oishi	Molly Takashiba
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue	Lilly Ushiroda
Hatsuyo Haimoto	Kei Buddhist Church	Kobayashi Ohana
Sueto Matsumura	Rinko Matsuoka	Fusaye Murayama
Norma Nakamoto	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sugiyama	Doris Yamamoto
	Total - \$1,251.00	

### SERVICES

Rose Onaka, Mark Onaka's 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service  
Sadie Miki, Funeral and Related Expenses for Yukiko Nakayama  
Mr. & Mrs. Tami Murakami, Sadako & Chiaki Kato's 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Services  
Kenneth Komo, Memorial Services for Mutsumi Komo and Kathleen Komo  
Grace Sasaki, Richard Sasaki's 1<sup>st</sup> Year Service  
Michitoshi Murakami, Sally Murakami's 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Service  
Total - \$2,100.00

### SPECIAL DONATIONS

Mikie Hanato-Wells	Linda Nagai	Peggy Ciriako
Hi Tropical Fruit Growers	Honomu Hongwanji	Myrna Kunihiro
Ellen Nishikawa		
	Total - \$580.00	

**Acknowledgements continued:**

**IN MEMORY OF**

Allyson Brown & Family, IMO Sally Murakami's 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

Valerie Char, IMO Chikaharu Saito

Milton Fukumitsu, IMO Flora Fukumitsu

Pauline & Lara-Lynn Goodwin, IMO Walter T. Nishina & Tojiu Nishina

Melvin Harano, IMO Mae Harano

Nelson Harano, IMO Mae Harano

Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Kurozawa, IMO George Kurozawa

Gail Kurozawa, IMO George & Yukiko Kurozawa, Duane Kurozawa, and Warren Kitaoka

Janet Maeda, IMO Richard Maeda

Dawn Broderick & Yuri Toyama, IMO Richard Maeda

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano, IMO Mary Nakagawa

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina, IMO Walter T. Nishina & Tojiu Nishina

Grace Sasaki & Ohana, IMO Richard Sasaki

Larry Tanaka, IMO Walter T. Nishina & Tojiu Nishina

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Wong & Ohana, IMO Doris Higashi

Mr. & Mrs. Oren Yamagata & Ohana, IMO Doris Higashi

Doris Yamamoto, IMO Chikaharu Saito

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Grace, IMO Chayson Matsuoka

Mr. & Mrs. Trevor Grace, IMO Chayson Matsuoka

Hatsuyo Haimoto, IMO Chayson Matsuoka

Lorrin Hayashida, IMO Melvyn Hayashida

Carol Honda, IMO Iwaki & Kitsu Honda, Harry & Tomie Honda, Sakae Honda

Ciana Matsuoka, Shawncie Matsuoka, Andrew & Myka Imamura, IMO Chayson Matsuoka

Mr. & Mrs. Yasuo Nakamoto, IMO George Nakamoto, Harold Manago, Fumiko Manago

Janice Onaka, IMO Mark Onaka

Leatrice Saito, IMO Chikaharu Saito

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Sasaki, IMO Melvyn Hayashida

Shigeko Yonemori, IMO Nisuke & Kimiko Yonemori

Doris Yoshitake & Emma Teshima, IMO Masao & Kazue Teshima

Taron Murakami & Kim Nonaka, IMO Sadako & Chiaki Kato

Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Nakamura & Ohana, IMO Chizuko Nakamura

Margy Alson, IMO Chizuko Nakamura

Vernon & Rae Nakamura, IMO Chizuko Nakamura

Bryan Matsumoto, IMO Asano Matsumoto

Roy & Lynn Nakamura, IMO Mae Harano

Lisa Harano & Jonathan Nakamura, IMO Mae Harano

Iris Higashi, IMO Doris Higashi

Chelestes Grace & Ohana, IMO Chayson Matsuoka

Robert Tanaka, IMO Richard & Amy Tanaka

Total – 2,455.00



**MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR September, October and November 2022**

**FIRST YEAR (2021)**

09/20 Asano Matsumoto

11/02 Flora Fukumitsu

**THIRD YEAR (2020)**

10/08 Charles Tsuneo Okino

11/12 Ukie Saito

**SEVENTH YEAR (2016)**

09/05 Kiyoshi Nakamura

09/19 Zane Fujimoto

10/01 Misae Clara Tokunaga

10/07 Kikuye Kadohiro

10/17 Chiyoko Kawasaki

11/15 Bernice Etsuko Yoshida

**THIRTEENTH YEAR (2010)**

09/13 Kumiko Omori

10/25 Tokio Takamoto

11/22 Richard Kitae Tanaka

11/26 Earl Teshima

11/29 George Matsumoto

**SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2006)**

09/15 Kazuji Kirihara

09/20 Emiko Ezuka

09/23 Masao Teshima

09/26 Yoshio Fukumitsu

10/25 Eisho Matsumoto

10/28 Yoshio Harano

11/10 Stanley Noboru Nagata

11/16 Moto Nakasone

11/19 Sayoko Murai Sakata

**TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR (1998)**

10/19 Masanori "Windy" Aoki

11/22 Chiyome Shimamoto

**THIRTY-THIRD YEAR (1990)**

09/19 Michael Toshio Matsumoto

10/05 Yoshio Kondo

10/08 Sueme Ege

10/11 Sue Makida

10/18 Sadaharu Tashima

10/23 Michiko Masunaga

11/13 Genichi Yukuno

**FIFTIETH YEAR (1973)**

09/22 Akie Matsumoto

10/18 Eiki Kobayashi

11/21 Yoshimatsu Fukuzaki

**NOTE: If you have any questions or corrections regarding the information listed above, please call the office at 323-2993. Thank you.**