



# The Messenger

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness*

## Calendar of Events

### August

All online Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Dharma Messages can be found at

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN4DTm65ALR0loYZc2\\_OHwwi](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN4DTm65ALR0loYZc2_OHwwi)

02 Sun 11:00am ONLINE HHMH Dharma Message by Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki (BSC)

09 Sun 9:00am ONLINE WHM Obon Service-Guest Speaker: Rev. Koyo Kubose (see below for more information) <https://www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org>

11:00am ONLINE HHMH Dharma Message by Rev. Ai Hironaka (Lahaina Hongwanji Mission)

16 Sun 11:00am ONLINE HHMH Dharma Message by Rev. Tomo Hojo (West Kauai Hongwanji Mission)

16 Sun 11:00am ONLINE WHM Executive Board Meeting

23 Sun 11:00am ONLINE HHMH Dharma Message by Rev. Sol Kalu (Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin)

30 Sun 11:00am ONLINE HHMH Dharma Message by Rev. Shinji Kawagoe (Papaikou Hongwanji Mission)

### September

11 Fri 8:00am 9/11 Service

13 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service (tentative - Please call the temple office before coming.)

20 Sun 9:00am Ohigan Service (tentative - Please call the temple office before coming.)

20 Sun 10:00am WHM Board Meeting

27 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service (tentative - Please call the temple office before coming.)

When will Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission re-open? At the July 19th board meeting, the WHM Board of Trustees decided that WHM will re-open when there are 8 cases or less per day on the island of Oahu during a period of 2 consecutive weeks.

## Wahiawa Hongwanji Hatsubon/Obon Online Service

Sun, Aug 9, 2020 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (HST)

Please join our Hatsubon/Obon Online Service from your computer, tablet or smartphone.



<https://www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org>

Guest Speaker: Rev. Koyo Kubose

of the Bright Dawn Center of Oneness Buddhism

Bright Dawn is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting Rev. Gyomay M. Kubose's vision of American Buddhism. Their core approach is "The Way of Oneness." This is one of the most basic Buddhist principles and pervades all Buddhist thought. Rooted in the original teachings of Gautama Buddha, their presentation of the Way of Oneness has its origins in the Japanese Mahayana tradition.

# Minister's Message

## Wherever we face, the Buddha embraces us

In the poem of the Hymns of the Pure Land, the eighty fourth says:

*The Buddhas of the ten quarters, countless as the sands of the Ganges,*

*Teach this Dharma that is most difficult to accept;*

*For the sake of the evil world of the five defilements, they bear witness to the teaching and protect beings who take refuge in it.*



This poem teaches us that the Buddhas are always trying to guide us to the true teaching with various methods wherever we are or we face, and never give up to teach us the Buddhist teaching.

Recently, I read an interesting article. I would like to share it with you.

When physicist Albert Einstein was invited to Japan, he paid a visit to Rev. Chikazumi Jikan and asked him about Buddhism, especially the heart of the Buddha. It is said that Rev. Chikazumi told him the story of Ubasuteyama (the old custom of abandoning old people deep in the mountain).

A young man was hurrying along a mountain path carrying his aged mother on his back. Along the way, the mother was breaking off tree twigs and dropping them on the path. She was marking the path with a trail of twigs. The young man thought that his mother was leaving a trail of the twigs so that she could make her way out of the mountain later. When they arrived at their destination, the son, bidding his mother farewell, was about to leave when she said, "Since I did not want you to become lost, I left a trail of twigs for you. Follow that as you make your home back." It is said that when the young man heard this, he did not have the heart to leave her there and once again put her on his back and carried her home.

*The trail of broken twigs to the recesses of the mountain is for whom? It is for my child who is hurrying on his way to abandon his parent.*

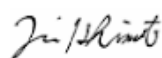
These lyrics reflect the feelings that the aged mother held in her heart. From them, we can clearly see that they were not meant to reproach him for dropping her deep into the mountains to abandon her, but rather it was her own abandoning of herself, and that as a mother, her sole concern was for the safety of her child. Although her son was intending on abandoning her, she was receptive and accepting of him completely as he was. This expression is linked to the Buddha's compassion.

Einstein was elated to have encountered this kind of religion for the first time, and said that in order for us to realize true peace that is free of conflict, we must learn from this. I feel that the Gassho of the Buddha is an expression of the Buddha's compassion.

Currently, we are in a difficult situation and limited in our freedom to act. But we should forget that countless Buddhas, including our loved ones, are always surrounding us and encouraging us to find the Buddhist way.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,



Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

# President's Report- July 2020

The month of July has been very volatile for many of the reasons highlighted below:

**COVID-19.** Hawaii is clearly experiencing another rise in COVID-19 infections as businesses try to open up. Our plans to open the temple for services on July 19 are suspended indefinitely in favor of keeping everyone safe. The Columbarium will be open starting July 19th. We are asking adherence to all the safe distancing guidelines, masking, sanitizing before and after entry, no flowers or incense offerings. Thank you for your continued understanding and support!



**Talk Story sessions.** All over the world, people are utilizing technology to connect with friends and family. Our Sunday Talk Story sessions have provided a good forum to discuss many of the activities we are planning for the temple, and sharing ideas about what other temples are doing. Please join us. Call 808-622-4320.

**Black Lives Matter protests over George Floyd killing.** July witnessed an increase in large gatherings and protests worldwide. Many of these protests have turned violent and used as a political statement on both sides. There is a current in place that appears to promote more division both far right and far left, that will diminish solving any racial equality problems. This is an opportunity for all of us to reflect on our Dharma-centric thinking and urges all of us, as we have conversations, to remain open to understand the many viewpoints being expressed peacefully. There are many economic solutions and proposals that can provide education, healthcare, housing, childcare and eldercare, and better living standards for all through more open dialogue.

**Takuan making and sale.** Our takuan making and fund raising sale was a huge success! With most of the ingredients and labor donated, we were able to make and distribute over 135 containers in a relatively short period making close to \$800. Thanks to all the volunteers and those who contributed above and beyond what was asked!

**Virtual Bon Dance celebration.** Under the leadership of the Bon Dance Instructor team, a very successful virtual Bon Dance was accomplished on June 27th. Over 2400 views accessed the event on Facebook! It was also featured in the Sunday Star Advertiser on July 12.

**Tribute to our Essential Workers.** Wahiawa and other rural temples recorded a very nice tribute to all essential workers on July 8. Pls see: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WBWpJe\\_BM4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WBWpJe_BM4)

**Political Rhetoric is ramping up.** As we get into the political season, participate as much as possible, learn the issues, and VOTE in the primaries in August!

**Obon and Hatsubon Service.** Our Hatsubon (First Year) and Obon Services will be held virtually on August 9 at 9:00 AM. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Koyo Kubose of the Bright Dawn Center of Oneness Buddhism.

Namo Amida Butsu!

In gassho,



Rodney S. Moriyama, President

Office Hours: By appointment 808.622.4320

President: Rod Moriyama

Vice Presidents (alphabetically): Karen Pang, Dale Shimauro, Carolyn Uchiyama

Secretary: Amy Kanemaru

Website: [wahiawashinbuddhist.org](http://wahiawashinbuddhist.org)

NEW Columbarium Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm

Minister: Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

Treasurer: Alan Kakazu

# Social Concerns

*The Committee on Social Concerns (CSC) was established by the Gisekai (Legislative Assembly) to advise the Bishop on social issues and to collect and disburse funds to support organizations and/or programs that promote peace, alleviate suffering, and advocate for the welfare of the disadvantaged, disabled or discriminated against. The Committee is also tasked with disbursing funds to aid individuals or groups affected by major disasters. The Committee on Social Concerns is composed of ministers and laypersons that research and study contemporary social issues relevant to the Shin Buddhist community in Hawaii and makes recommendations on social action by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH).*

The above is a summary of the Social Concerns Committee charter for Honpa Hongwanji. We are part of this effort to be more cognizant of our environment, both social and physical, and the potential of bettering humankind.

During the following months, our country will enter another important period of decisions relating to our role in this world. September 20 is designated as "Peace Day" for the state. We will be coming out of our efforts to hold down the spread of COVID 19 and opening our temples and activities. We will also be VOTING for leadership in our state and in our country. How we responsibly participate is our opportunity to show what the teachings (Dharma) and the membership (Sangha), two of the Three Treasures, are all about.

You are being asked to make a donation toward social concerns, but more importantly, consider your ACTIONS as a citizen of this state, our country and the world.

Namo Amida Butsu!



## Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers for the kitchen (helping to prepare refreshments), Hosha (yard work and minor repairs), and temple and columbarium cleaning. If interested, please call 622-4320

## Clothing Drive

A reminder that our Clothing Drive is on-going. We are currently accepting all gently used clothing, linen, towels, blankets, shoes, purses, etc. We especially welcome those heavy items such as those old army blankets, heavy jackets, etc, as we will be paid by the pound.

Though the temple and office are still temporarily closed you may drop off your items on the tables next to the columbarium. Please label with your name and phone number.

## Clothing Drive





# Wahiawa Community Food Drive

By Carolyn Uchiyama

Wahiawa Hongwanji conducted a food drive for the Wahiawa community because the Covid-19 pandemic in our state created difficult situations for people who lost their jobs. The food drive was held on two Thursdays in June, the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>. Due to unforeseen circumstances we were unable to donate to the St. Stephen's Food Pantry as was originally reported in this newsletter.



Nevertheless, we continued with the food drive collecting bags of rice, numerous cans of Spam and Vienna sausage. As always we had oodles of noodles to go with the spaghetti sauces and packages of ramen, the trusty go to food in a pinch. We also had canned vegetables, and not to be outdone boxes of cereal for the morning breakfast. In total we collected 554 pieces of food.

We were fortunate to assist these organizations in Wahiawa to support the citizens of this community. Ale'a Bridge, works with the homeless, and the Lion's Club of Wahiawa helped with the food distribution at Kaala School on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The second organization was Our Lady of Sorrows Church Food Pantry which offers bags of food on the last Saturday of the month.

During these unprecedented times, we are thankful to all of you for donating whatever was in your pantry or even purchasing items from Longs, the market, and even Costco. You helped to make someone's day brighter with the knowledge that they would have enough food for another day.

**Our next food drive will be Sunday, August 2nd 9:00am - 10:00am. Please drive by and drop off non-perishable foods.**

Everyone stay safe and healthy!!!

## Essential Workers of the Week & Every Day Stars Videos

The Hawaii Hongwanji Mission has developed a program for our sangha to express their gratitude to all essential workers and especially the front-line medical professionals serving the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each Wednesday at 12 noon, a "Mahalo" video will be published on the HHMH YouTube channel for viewing by our members, friends and community to remind us to stop for a moment and think of these selfless beings that courageously face higher risk of infection than those taking refuge at home. When lockdown rules and guidance from the Bishop's Office permit, ministers will ring temple bells on Wednesdays at noon as the video is published.



The 8-minute video features kansho bell ringing, introductions by Bishop Matsumoto and a Hongwanji minister, a photo collage accompanied by the Choralfest choir singing "Because You Are There," and a closing message. New photos will be shown each week and a "Health Care Treasure of the Week" and/or other essential workers and heroes will be honored. Each week's video will remain in the YouTube library for viewing at a later time.

The July 8, 2020 version of the tribute video features Essential Workers of the Week and Everyday Stars, with an emphasis on Wahiawa and Puna. You can view the video at

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WBWpJe\\_BM4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WBWpJe_BM4)

Please take a few minutes and say "Thank you" to the many others who support our life, health, and safety. Namo Amida Butsu!

# Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission VIRTUAL Bon Dance

Our WHM bon dance team held a virtual Bon Dance on June 27th. Judging by the positive comments left online, it was a great success! Thank you to our bon dance team for their hours of practice, planning, creativity, technological and video expertise that made our virtual bon dance possible. A big mahalo to Ewa Fukushima Bon Dance Club for participating by pre-recording their performance especially for us. Their video was a great finale to our virtual bon dance. Thank you to everyone who watched! Did you miss it? You can watch it online at

<https://www.facebook.com/109330400822417/videos/719196305591092>



L-R Stephanie Oshiro, Cindy Nakabayashi, Wendy Fukuhara, Elaine Fukuda, Karen Pang, Vivian Murayama, Doris Matsuoka, Charlene Acohido, Mavis Nakabayashi, and Chad Nohara.

