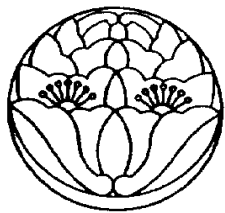


Hakalau Jodo Mission
PO Box 296
Hakalau, Hawaii 96710



Hakalau Jodo Mission

PO Box 296, Hakalau, Hawaii 96710

Email: hakalaujodominion@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.hakalauhome.com/hakalau-jodo-mission-today>
and <https://www.hakalauhome.com/hakalau-jodo-mission.html>

JULY-AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

For Our Members, Friends, and Neighbors



CELEBRATE OBON WITH US ON AUGUST 19th!

O-bon service at 5 p.m., Bon Dance starts at 6 p.m.!

O-bon is a time of remembrance, prayers, offerings, and expressing gratitude to our loved ones, past and present.

Good food, energetic dances and the grace of the Tsukikage Odorikai members and dramatic taiko drumming of the Hilo Bon Club promise a good time for all!

Please join us!

In gassho, *Susan Forbes*

2023 HAKALAU JODO MISSION O-BON TOBA ORDER FORM

O-bon season has arrived! O-bon is believed to be the season that our ancestors and beloved ones in the Buddha's land come to visit us. It is good to express our respect and gratitude to them through offering toba prayers. Toba is derived from the Indian word, *stupa*. Stupas are large structures that Indian Buddhists built in which to place and worship the Buddha's ashes.



In India, stupas were dome-shaped; however, when stupas came to China, they became pagodas. Stupa was written in Chinese 卒塔婆 (Zu ta po). It was pronounced Sotoba in Japanese and was called "toba", or "to" in short.

Stupas have been a very important object of worship especially in Mahayana Buddhism. Building a stupa has been regarded as a virtuous deed in Buddhism. Since building a stupa or a pagoda was difficult, Japanese people made a pagoda-shaped piece of wood on which they wrote their ancestors' or the deceased's names, then prayed for them at temples. In modern Japanese, "toba" refers to the pagoda-shaped piece of wood and "to" refers to a pagoda.

At the O-Bon service Rev. Miyazaki will pray for those who are on toba. If you want to have a service individually, or if you have any questions, please contact Rev. Miyazaki at 808-936-7828 (cell phone) or gongqi326@hotmail.com (email).

Sponsor's name: _____ Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

You can include one individual or family name on one toba for \$10. If you need to include more names, write them on a separate sheet of paper and return it with this form.

Toba for:	Toba for:
Toba for:	Toba for:
Toba for:	Toba for:
Toba for:	Toba for:

My donations include: _____ Toba Ordered @ \$10 each \$ _____

O-Bon Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail this completed form with your check to: Hakalau Jodo Mission, P.O. Box 296, Hakalau, HI 96710

Thank you

UPCOMING SERVICES

NO SERVICE IN JULY	
<p>Saturday, August 19th 5 p.m.</p> <p>Bon Dance, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Obon is the traditional summer festival to invite spirits of dead ancestors back home, hold a memorial service and then send the spirits back to heaven. These dead ancestors are called hotoke-sama, literally "venerable buddhas". This is especially true in the Pure Land tradition where we are assured of birth in the Pure Land and ultimate enlightenment in the next life through Amida's saving grace.</p>

NENKI MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR JULY AND AUGUST

JULY		
Tsuru Hiyane	7/13/1974	50 th
Kama Oshiro	7/14/1991	33 rd
Yoshiko Nakamura	7/27/1981	43 rd

AUGUST		
Masao Takeya	8/1/1974	50 th
Shigeru Suekuni	8/4/1977	47 th
Kerry Browning	8/16/2021	3 rd
Sanehiro Okaji	8/28/2007	17 th
Satoyo Kurisu	8/31/1974	50 th

HANAMATSURI

Linda Hartwell, passed 5/11/2023

For scheduling, please contact Rev. Miyazaki at 808-936-7828
Namu Amida Butsu

CLASSES: Advance registration, please. Contact instructors directly.

- **Bon Dance Practice with Sensei Jane Heit: Contact Jane Heit at bonqueen@gmail.com.** Hakalau classes through August will be held on the following Tuesdays from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.: August 1st, 15th, 22nd.
- **Practice Yoga with Alison Simpson:** Three times weekly including Tues. 9:00-10:30 a.m., Thurs., 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Fri., 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. **Contact Alison Simpson at 808-825-7856 or alison@mahanahouse.com.**
- **Tai Chi with Sifu Slade Shim:** Wednesdays, 8:30 -10:00 a.m. **Contact Slade Shim at wsi808@yahoo.com.**
- **Karate for Children with 4th Degree Black Belt Patricia Taniguchi:** Twice Weekly for each age group on Wednesdays and Fridays. Children 4-6 years old, 4:00 - 4:50 p.m.; 7-12 years, 5:00 - 5:50 p.m. **Contact Patricia Taniguchi at WKA.hakalau@gmail.com.**
- **Art Classes open to all age groups-- “My Art, My Journey”, an art class with Ilze Sims in the Dining Room. Tuesdays, 3-4:30 p.m.** This is a class for anyone who would like to start their art journey and for those with some experience who would like to find new inspiration to express themselves through their art. Ilze’s method balances inspiration and play – crucial elements in expressing ourselves, along with principles of good design and color harmony. The first few classes will **address finding inspiration, creating a good design, and harmonizing color.** Call or text Ilze 808-557-2797 or send an email: ilze@HawaiiArtStudio.com to sign up for classes.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PREPARE FOR AND CLEAN UP AFTER O-BON, AND PROVIDE SUPPORT DURING O-BON...INTERESTED?

At least one week before O-bon, we clean up the grounds, the Temple, and the Social Hall. The day before O-bon, we set up. During O-bon, we make sure everything is clean and all is working smoothly. The day after O-bon, we clean up and put everything away. **We work hard and have fun in the process!**

Here are the specific tasks:

- **To be done by August 12th:** power wash, paint yellow stripes along edges of stairs, paint the kitchen and Social Hall doors, make sure all the lights in the chochin are working, weed, trim, mow.
- **To be done on Friday, August 18th to set up for O-bon:** set up tarps and concession areas, string chochin over the dance area, clean the “stairs to nowhere”, place benches around the perimeter of the dance area.
- **To be done on Saturday, August 19th during O-bon:** periodically empty trash, monitor the area.
- **Work to be done on Sunday, August 20th to clean up after O-bon:** dismantle the tarps, return tarps, poles, chochin, benches, etc. to their proper storage area, consolidate trash to take to the transfer station on Monday.

If you're interested in volunteering, please email hakalaujodominion@gmail.com or call the Mission at 808-963-6110 and leave a message. Either Susan Forbes or Mike Stolp will follow up with you.

PLEASE CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS, OR IF YOU NEED HELP!

- Junshin Miyazaki, Minister: 808-936-7828 or gongqi326@hotmail.com
- Susan Forbes, President/Newsletter Editor: 808-286-6130 or sksforbes@gmail.com
- Akiko Masuda, Community Liaison: 808-963-6422 or msakiko@hawaii.rr.com

GOOD NEWS FROM THE IRS!

In November 2022, the Mission applied to the Internal Revenue Service for “Recognition of Exemption”, i.e., to achieve recognition as a 501(c)(3) organization. Here's their response, received in May:

“We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522.”

Why is this important?

While there is no requirement for churches to file for 501(c)(3) status with the IRS. The US government recognizes that churches provide unique services to their communities that are protected by the First Amendment of the US Constitution. Congress created special tax laws just for churches that exempt them from paying income tax and other federal taxes.

However, there are benefits to the Hakalau Jodo Mission resulting from this status, specifically:

- 501(c)(3) status expands our eligibility for grant funding.
- Some individual donors prefer to donate only to 501(c)(3) organizations.
- The application process and the rigorous evaluation by the IRS **provides an assurance to the public** that the way the Mission is organized and conducts itself is consistent with its charitable purposes and that there is a process in place to identify and manage potential conflicts of interest.

Introducing Online Giving

You can now support us through online donations, including monthly and yearly recurring donations as well as one time donations. The link is https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=Q6RW6KDDPKV32 or click on the button on our website, hakalauhome.com/hakalau-jodo-mission-today. Of course, you can still send donations by check to Hakalau Jodo Mission, PO Box 296, Hakalau, HI 96710. We are grateful for your support. Mahalo!

The Hakalau Jodo Mission is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, IRS section 170(b)(1)(A)(i) for both federal and state tax purposes. Our federal tax identification number is 99-0083836.

MEMORIAL DAY 2023

What began in 1945 as a quest to honor the 12 young men from the Hakalau area who died in World War II, took 20 years to become a reality. This monument was first unveiled at a Memorial Day Service on May 30, 1965, sponsored by the Hakalau Recreational Council. Over time, 4 more names were added from other wars and conflicts: World War I, Korea, and Viet Nam. The memorial service is now sponsored by the Hakalau Jodo Mission.

This year's Memorial Day Service on May 27th was attended by 25 individuals. Among this group were 6 relatives and friends of men who died in service during World War II (Pfc. Hiroshi Motoishi) and the Vietnam War (Sgt. Lester Alipio and Spc. Bobby Barcena).

Raising of Colors: Mike Stolp, Michael Doolittle, and Robert Arakaki raised the flag. Ray Gandy, a two tour Vietnam veteran and retired general, played "TAPS" during the flag raising on an 1892 "Field Trumpet", also known as a bugle. This is the same model still used at Arlington Cemetery by the Army and Marine Corps. We are grateful to Ray for his participation in our service over *many* years.

Akiko Masuda guided us through the program.



- World War 1:**
Pvt. Thomas Smith

- World War 2:**
Pvt. Onso Chinen
Sgt. Hiroyuki Hiramoto
Cpl. Isamu Ikeda
Pvt. Yasuo Kaneshiro
Pfc. Yoshitaka Kataoka
Pfc. Satoshi Matsuoka
Pfc. Toshiaki Morimoto
Pfc. Hiroshi Motoishi
Pvt. Saburo Nakazato
Sgt. Masayoshi Ogata
Pvt. Eishun Soken
Sgt. Ronald K. Takara

- Korean Conflict:**
Cpl. Jun Matsushige

- Vietnam War:**
Sgt. Lester W. Alipio
Spc. Bobby J. Barcena

Rev. Miyazaki chanted the sutra, followed by the offering of incense.



Our speaker this year was Michael Doolittle, Vietnam Combat Infantry Platoon Sergeant and currently Chairman of the Hawaii Island Veterans Memorial, Inc. and Chairman of Hawaii County Veterans Advisory Committee for Mayor Mitch Roth. He shared stories of his unit in Vietnam, his thoughts about those lost and the families who have mourned the loss



over many decades, and the healing resulting from meeting former friends and enemies during recent visits to Vietnam. Michael noted that Vietnam Veterans are the most maligned group of veterans in our history. He is determined to bring traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall to Hilo in 2024 and is currently raising funds to make this happen. If interested, all donations for "The Wall That Heals" are made to Hawaii Island Veterans Memorial, Inc, either through online donation at www.hawaiiislandveterans.org or by check to HIVM Inc., Hilo, PO Box 342, Hakalau, Hi 96710, Memo Line: "The Wall That Heals".

We are grateful for the opportunity to honor those local boys who died serving our country. We are also grateful for our opportunity to work hard together, to share traditions, and express commitment to our community. While being grateful, we also had lots of fun! Many thanks to all who attended the service and the lunch, to all those who helped set



up for the service and the lunch and clean up afterward.



TEACHINGS FROM REVEREND JUNSHIN MIYAZAKI: ALL ABOUT INCENSE



Incense is very important in Buddhism. The general Jodo Shu service begins with 'purification verse'.

I aspire for my body to be as pure as an incense burner.

I aspire for my mind to be like the light of wisdom.

With every thought, I burn this incense of discipline and meditation to dedicate myself to the past, present and future Buddhas of the ten directions.

Incense is made of aromatic woods such as sandalwood, agarwood, and other woods, most of which are found in the tropics. Those trees were cut into small pieces and burned or powdered and mixed with other herbs and applied to the body. Incense has long been used in the Indian subcontinent and often appears in Buddhist scriptures. It was introduced to Japan via China and Korea along with Buddhism. Incense was very expensive because fragrant trees do not grow in Japan.

In the Shosoin, or treasury, of an old temple in Nara called Todaiji, there is a large old fragrant tree called Ranjatai. It is about 5 feet long and weighs about 25 pounds. Its origin is unknown; it is said to have been there for about 1,000 years. It was sometimes clipped by emperors, shoguns, and other authorities. Most recently, it was clipped by Emperor Meiji in 1877.



Ranjatai



Zensenko

In the same Shosoin, there is also a fragrant tree called Zensenko. This one is 3 feet 6 inches long, weighs 37 pounds, and was imported in the 8th century.

Incense burners range from the common bowl-shaped ones to those with a handle used by ministers and elephant-shaped ones that are *straddled* during special ceremonies.



Today, Japanese Buddhists usually use incense sticks, and temples have incense flakes.

Incense sticks should be lit and placed so that they stand in the incense burner. In the Jodo sect, there is no fixed number of incense sticks to be offered; they follow custom, but I was taught that if there is no custom, I should offer one. Depending on the sect, some offer two or three. At Hongwanji, incense is laid down. In the Jodo sect, burning incense flakes is done once if there is no custom to do so. In some sects, it is done twice or three times.



Please enjoy incense and repeat
Namu Amida Butsu.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE: PHASE 3

The third and final phase of the Capital Campaign is off to a great start with completion of the parsonage renovations and tenting for termites. We welcomed our new tenant on July 1.

Now we are focused on identifying individual, corporate, foundation and government funding sources to complete the final Phase 3 projects:

- Replacing worn and threadbare altar brocade
- Replacing pew padding
- Repairing broken stained glass panes
- Painting all roofs
- Repair and paint exterior walls
- Restore historic Buddhist symbols (medallions) on front of temple

Inside the Temple: altar brocade, pew pads, and stained glass. (Pew pads pictures are not interesting, not shown here.)



Exterior areas: primarily painting and repairs and replacing temple medallions.



The Jōdo-shū emblem (center) with Dharma wheels on each side