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 as 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 very virtuous deed in Buddhism. Since it was difficult to build a stupa or a pagoda, 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 put one individual or family name on one toba. 1 toba = $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 $_____

Membership Dues ($60) $_____

Total Enclosed: $_____

Please mail this form and your check to:
Hakalau Jodo Mission
PO Box 296
Hakalau, Hawaii 96710

Thank you!