

# Gyosho 曉鐘 “Morning Bell - Let us Awaken”



## WAIPAHU SOTO ZEN TEMPLE TAIYOJI

Reverend's Message  
President's Letter  
News & Announcements  
Memorial Services  
Calendar  
Donations

### APRIL TEMPLE HOURS

Office: Mon-Sun \* 8am - 2pm  
Nokotsudon (Columbarium):  
Mon - Fri \* 8am-2pm  
Sat & Sun \* 8am- 3pm

**Temple will be closed on  
April 18 & 19** (USHWAA  
Conference in Kona)

Call the temple before you  
leave to be sure someone is  
here.

94-413 Waipahu Street  
Waipahu, HI 96797  
(808)671-3103 /  
waipahutaiyoji@gmail.com

## APRIL 2026

by Rev. Ryohei Ishii

Buddha was born over 2,500 years ago and taught us how to understand human suffering, how to attain enlightenment, and the importance of compassion and kindness toward others.

Celebrating Buddha's birthday is not only a way to honor a great teacher from the past, but also an opportunity for us to **reflect on our own hearts and daily actions**. Like Buddha, we are encouraged to live with kindness, mindfulness, and a heart that cares for others.

On this day, we also perform the ritual of sprinkling sweet tea over the Buddha statue, called "Kanbutsu." The sweet tea symbolizes **purity and the gentle cleansing of the mind**. In the same way, we can use this occasion to calm our own hearts, practice gratitude, and bring compassion into our daily lives.

Buddha's teachings are not just a part of history—they are a **guiding path for how we live in the present**. By carrying these teachings in our hearts, we can support one another and live with peace, mindfulness, and care.

Let us celebrate Buddha's birth by embracing these teachings and applying them in our daily lives. Join us on Sunday, April 12 at 9:30AM.

In Gassho  
Rev. Ryohei Ishii





*Keizan Zen Master*



*Taiyoji Buddha*



*Dogen Zen Master*

## SERVICE

JOIN US

**Buddha Day Service (Flower Festival):**

**April 12 9:30am**

**Waipahu Soto Zen Temple Taiyoji**

Celebration of Buddha's Birthday, we decorate a small altar with flowers and pour sweet tea over a statue of the infant Buddha. It's a time to reflect, cleanse and find guidance. We invite you to join us on Sunday.

### *In Memoriam*

We would like to extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of the late: **CAROL FUSAKO OYAMA**, who passed away at the Age 99 on Wednesday, March 10, 2026.

February 25, 1927 ~ March 10, 2026

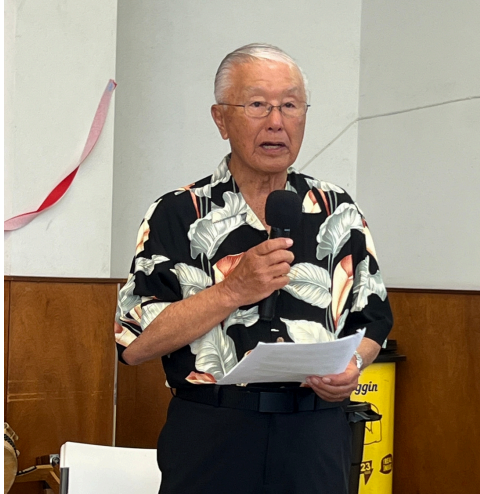
May the love and blessing of the Compassionate Buddha be with you.

In Gassho 合掌



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# President's Message



Aloha members and friends of the Waipahu Soto Zen Temple Taiyoji.

Fifteen months ago, I accepted the Presidency of your Board on an interim appointment condition. Pursuant to this agreement, I submitted my resignation and it was accepted at our March 21 Board meeting. My request for an interim appointment was made for several reasons. The first was my age ( I will be observing my 90th year in 2026) and my wishes that a timely transition to a younger group of Board members will be needed to take our Otera forward.

I am happy to announce that a transition was successfully made with Susan Goya accepting the mantel for the duration of this year. I have every confidence that under her leadership, the progress your Board have made in the past year will be continued going forward. I have offered my readiness to assist the Board if requested.

I extend my "Mahalo" to all of our Officers and Board of Directors for your willingness to serve. Your time, dedication and commitment have been instrumental to the progress we have made. Your voluntary efforts have restored Waipahu Soto Zen Temple Taiyoji operating at the highest levels.

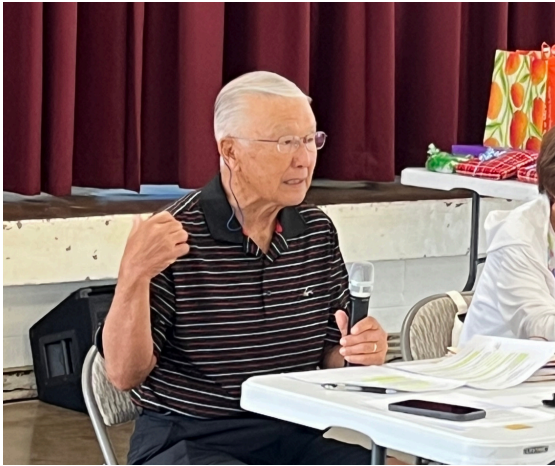
My special recognition is extended to Reverend Ishii, Walter Ozawa and Ikuko Ishii for their invaluable advice, support and encouragement they extended to me during my time in office. They were unwavering in their support and this certainly assisted me throughout my term.

I also extend my thanks to some personal acquaintances of mine. Attorney Eric Tsugawa provided his services to assist in the redesign of our new Building Rental Agreement. Structural/Civil Engineer Richard Sato was instrumental in the design and follow through of the construction of our Handicap Access Ramp Project which just got underway on March 23 and will soon be completed. Ivan Chong of IC Construction supported us with the advantageously favorable construction bid on our behalf. Their generosity and readiness to assist our temple are recognized and much appreciated.

Most importantly, I extend my thanks to all of you, our Taiyoji Ohana, for allowing me the privilege and opportunity to serve you. My life's journey is still an ongoing event and my service to our temple and to all of you is a fulfillment of a service commitment that I will always cherish and remember.

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# President's Message –



WAIPAHU is first and foremost my FURUSATO (hometown) where I spent my entire “growing up” days in “Nishi Camp” living across from our old temple. I wrote my memoirs dedicated to my two grandsons, “Memoirs of Growing up in Waipahu, my “Furusato”. Walter Ozawa was instrumental in my having it printed and a copy is available at the temple office if you care to read it. If you do, I am sure that it will be a revelation of sorts like opening a time capsule to learn what Waipahu was really like when everything evolved around Oahu Sugar Co.

Back then, there were two so called “givens” in our daily lives that I remember. The first was the ritual of our minister ringing the temple bell (suspended during WW II) and the other was Oahu Sugar Company’s siren going off every night at 8:00pm. The sound of the siren is long gone; however, the ritual of sounding the temple bell still continues on today and perhaps in a strange way, it must have beckoned me back to do my service at our temple.

Most importantly, I extend my thanks to all of you, our Taiyoji Ohana, for allowing me the privilege and opportunity to serve you. My life’s journey is still an ongoing event and my service to our temple and to all of you is a fulfillment of a service commitment to do my service at our temple.

Growing up in Waipahu helped form the person I am today and while I no longer live here, the following excerpt from my memoirs says it all for me.

“.....what will never change is that my “FURUSATO” will always mean the town or place I grew up and for me, it will always be “WAIPAHU” and more specifically, “NISHI CAMP”.

As I close my term of office and write this, my last President’s letter, I extend to each and everyone of you, my best wishes for your continued good health, happiness and success in your endeavors in the year ahead.

MAHALO NUI LOA !

YOROSHIKU ONEGAI SIMASU !

OUR TEMPLE CONTINUES TO THRIVE  
BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT AND  
PARTICIPATION

In Gassho,

George Sakurai

# Announcements & News

April 2026

Join Us, Get Involved, Meet New People, Reconnect



## Hana Matsuri Flowers and Greens Request

Accepting Hana Matsuri Flowers, ferns, ti leaves donations - April 9 - 11. Please call 808-671-3103 and arrange to drop off your donation.

## Hana Matsuri Service - April 12 - 9:30am Join us on Sunday

Celebrating Buddha's birthday is not only a way to honor a great teacher from the past, but also an opportunity for us to reflect on our own hearts and daily actions. Like Buddha, we are encouraged to live with kindness, mindfulness, and a heart that cares for others. We hope to see you!

## Welcome New Members

The temple is welcoming members with a orientation to the temple. We also want to welcome the new Taiyoji Fujinkai members too.

Shelly Buckely, Colleen Chun, Lila Dunbar, Carol Enomoto, Peggy Higa, Lissa Ishiguro, Erin Kawamoto, Gwen Kawamoto, Kris Miyashiro.

**Thank you to June Tamashiro** for teaching us how to make

macrame bracelets after the Higan Service. We appreciate you sharing your time and patience and supplies.

**Thank you to the members** who have been contributing to the meal with delicious entrees and desserts. Please join us for the monthly service and stay after for food and fellowship.

## Opening Doors

A newly formed committee headed by Ann Hasegawa-Taira is working to preserve and expanding the WSZTT membership, The committee would appreciate member's support to accomplish their objectives.

- Engaging our members, our community, other service groups, and outreach programs.
- Branding and marketing through social media and temple website.
- Increasing tutorial classes, exhibits, etc., open to members and the community.
- Enhancing personal outreach for new members.
- Providing a mechanism for follow up with questions and suggestions.

## Upcoming Events

NO TEMPLE CLEAN UP IN APRIL

Mother's Day Service  
May 3, @ 9:30 am

Memorial Day Service  
May 24, @ 9:30am

Zippy's Fundraiser  
Coming Soon!

Online Auction- June

If you are able to donate your time or resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Thank you for your continued support!

For more information contact the temple.

Waipahu Soto Zen Temple Taiyoji

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# Announcements & News

April 2026

Join Us, Get Involved, Meet New People, Reconnect



The Fujikai Board has been working on organizing Craft Workdays in April and May. We are also seeking out talented volunteers who would like to contribute by teaching or donating craft items for our upcoming sale in October. Contact us via email at taiyojifujinkai@gmail.com or by calling the temple at (808) 671-3103.

## **Craft Workdays** **Saturday, April 11 & May 23** **12:00p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Join us and help make crafts for the Fujinkai Bazaar in April. Please contact the temple if you are interested in dropping by to help with sewing rice bags, patchwork throw rugs or crocheting the wash cloth (bring crochet hook and scissors).

If you have any crafts that you think would be a great seller and would like share with the group, please contact us at taiyojifujinkai@gmail.com or call the temple at (808)671-3103.

## **Lei Making** - Ti leaf lei with Kukui Nut

**April 25, 9am- 2pm**  
Donation: \$10

Please bring the following:  
30 Kukui nuts  
20 ti leaves (cut off stems and wash and dry leaves.  
Scissors

Participants who attended last year's haku head lei class, Avis will be available to assist you with making your lei. Please bring your materials for your lei and we will provide the raffia backing and enough for tying. For questions or to RSVP, call 808-671-3103 or taiyojifujinkai@gmail.com.

## **UHSSWA Conference (Kona)**

Eleven members will attend the conference in Kona on April 18 & 19. All of the temples' Fujinkai groups will be attending this annual event. In 2027, Taiyoji Fujinkai will host the conference.

If you are able to donate your time or resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Thank you for your continued support!

## Upcoming Events

### **Accepting Hana Matsuri Flowers, ferns, ti leaves donations**

**April 9 & 10**

Please call 808-671-3103 and arrange to drop off your donation.

### **Omamori for Purchase**

Omamori are traditional lucky charms, designed to offer protection.

Omamori for the family: Grandpa, Grandma, Father, Mother, Boy  
Also available for the car, your pets (Cat & Dog), House Ofuda, Laminated Wallet, Victory (Red & Blue), Car Sticker. Stop by during temple hours to purchase them.

### **Year of the HORSE T-shirts - \$25.**

Sizes S & M

### **Free Tech & Career Courses for Older Adults**

Build the digital and professional skills today's workplace demands. Explore free, self-paced courses through IBM SkillsBuild designed to help older adults gain confidence, strengthen tech skills, and stay competitive in a changing world. National Council on Aging  
NCOA FaceBook.



## 2026 Waipahu Taiyoji April Memorial Services

Phone: (808) 671-3103 / Email: waipahutaiyoji@gmail.com

### 1st Year (2025)

Calvin Shoji Sato 4/26/2025  
Susan Sumie Yamasaki 4/30/2025

### 3rd Year (2024)

### 7th Year (2020)

Sumiko Inafuku 4/19/2020

### 13th Year (2014)

Hiroko Kawaoka 4/13/2014  
Shizuno Sanda 4/23/2014

### 17th Year (2010)

Yoshiko Oshiro. 4/23/2010

### 23rd Year (2004)

Seiichi Ishimoto 4/14/2004  
Fujiko Izumi 4/19/2004  
Sueko Ito 4/21/2004  
Doris Setsuko Kamihara 4/28/2004

### 27th Year (2000)

### 33rd Year (1994)

### 37th Year (1990)

Hajime Sakurai 4/7/1990  
Masashi Higa 4/8/1990  
Kazumi Funakoshi 4/10/1990  
Isahich Suzuki 4/26/1990

### 50th Year (1977)

Rikie Watanabe 4/26/1977

### 100th Year (1926)

Tomozo Chinen (Children) 4/12/1926

**Please contact Rev. Ishii to make a Memorial service appointment.**

**Please bring Ihai (Memorial tablet), picture, offering of flowers and food.**

**If you have any question, please let Sensei know.**

**In Gassho**



<b>Waipahu Soto Zen Temple Taiyoji</b> 94-413 Waipahu Street, Waipahu, HI 96797 Phone: (808) 671-3103 waipahutaiyoji@gmail.com						
<b>April 2026</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Baika 9-10:30am Nihongo Circle 6:30pm- 8pm	2	3	4
5 Taiko 11am-1pm	6 Crafts & Coffee 9am- 12pm	7 Sewing Class 6pm- 9pm	8 Baika 9-10:30am Nihongo Circle 6:30pm- 8pm	9 Receive flowers and greens for Hana Matsuri Sanshin Practice 6pm-8:30pm	10 Yoga 9:30am-11:30am Receive flowers and greens for Hana Matsuri	11 Decorate for Hana Matsuri 10am-12pm Craft Workday 12pm- 8 pm Zazen 7pm -8pm
12 Hana Matsuri 9:30am Taiko 11am-1pm Bon Dance Practice 2pm-4pm	13 Crafts & Coffee 9am-12pm	14	15 Baika 9-10:30am Nihongo Circle 6:30pm- 8pm	16 Sanshin Practice 6pm-8:30pm	17 Yoga 9:30am-11:30am	18 <b>Temple Closed</b> UHSSWA Conference in Kona
19 <b>Temple Closed</b> UHSSWA Conference in Kona	20 Crafts & Coffee 9am-12pm	21	22 Baika 9-10:30am Nihongo Circle 6:30pm- 8pm	23 Sanshin Practice 6pm-8:30pm	24 Yoga 9:30am-11:30am	25 Lei Making Wksp 9am- 2pm Zazen 7pm -8pm
26	27 Crafts & Coffee 9am-12pm	28	29	30 Sanshin Practice 6pm-8:30pm	May1	May 2

<b>2026 May Schedule (Subject to Change)</b>		
<b>May 3</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Mother's Day Service</b>
May 4, 11, 18,	9:30am-12pm	Crafts and Coffee
May 5, 19	6pm - 9pm	Sewing Club
May 6, 13, 20, 27	6:30pm - 8pm	Nihongo Circle
May 9, 23	7pm - 8pm	Zazen
May 23	12pm - 8pm	Craft Workday
May 8,15,22	9:30am-11:30am	Yoga
May 10	2pm- 4pm	Bon Dance Practice
May 7,14,21,28	6pm-8:30pm	Sanshin Practice
May 1,8,15,22,29	8:30am-until done	Nokotsudon Clean-up
Saturdays	9am-12pm	Okinawan Dance Practice
<b>May 24</b>	<b>8:30am-12pm</b>	<b>Memorial Day Service</b>
May 3,17, 24	11am-1pm	Taiko Practice
<b>May 31</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Temple Clean Up

## Thank You For Your Donations

### General Donation

Janet Kawaguchi, Kris Miyashiro, Wilfred Onishi, Oyama Family  
Ikuko Ishii: Nihon-Go Circle, Derrick Iwata: Bon Dance Class  
Linda Nakasone: Sewing Club

Lynn Okamura Blessing Service for Carol Oyama  
Erin Kawamoto In Memory of the Late Egan Kawamoto 3rd year Memorial Service  
Lila Dunbar In Memory of the Late Margaret Chieko Matsufuru 7th year Memorial Service  
Dawn Amano Funeral Service & Burial for the Late Mitsue Amano  
Avis Connolly In Memory of the Late Mary Endo  
Susan Hirokane In Memory of the Late Yoichi Tamura 7th year Memorial Service  
Dawn Amano-Ige In Memory of the Late Mitsue Amano 49day Memorial Service  
Roger & Frances Imamura In Memory of the Late Masako Suzuki  
June & Wallace Tamashiro In Memory of the Late Susumu Saito

### Spring Higan Service

Avis Connolly, Robert Fujioka, Gail Funai, Margaret Ginoza, Susan & Larry Goya, Ann Hasegawa-Taira, Genevieve Imai, Janet Kawaguchi, Erin Kawamoto, Mildred Kihara, Margy Kodama, Mitchell Kerklo & Mario Magtanong, Kathryn Koshi, Frances Matsumoto, Marjorie Muraki, Eleanor Nakada, Colleen Nakatsu, Stan Nakayama, Helen Shiraishi, Richard Suzawa, Myrtle Takiguchi, Jane Tateyama, Koren Wakatsuki, Carolyn Yoshioka, Constance Yoshioka-Kinoshita.

### Taiyoji Taiko

Norene Ajimine, Jennifer Narimatsu, Junko Jiang, Sharon Kawatomari

### Zazen

Kathryn Koshi

### Kannon-ko Offerings

Given by Participants

### Food Donation for Spring Higan Service

Margaret Ginoza, Margy Kodama, Kathryn Koshi, Erin Kawamoto, Colleen Nakatsu, Michelle Kerklo & Mario Magtanong, Koren Wakatsuki, Ikuko Ishii