



HAMAKUA JODO MISSION OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024



P.O. Box 7 Honokaa, HI 96727 Ph. (808) 775-0965
contact@hamakuajodomission.org

“Honoring Tradition, Embracing Community”

SEASON'S GREETINGS!



The holiday season has arrived offering a time to pause, reflect, and celebrate the journey we've taken over the past year. It's a season filled with warmth, connection, and gratitude - a chance to gather with loved ones and cherish the moments that have brought joy and meaning to our lives.

Looking back in 2024, our temple can take pride in the challenges we've overcome, the goals we've achieved, and the growth we've experienced, both big and small.

This year has been a remarkable one for our temple, marked by significant accomplishments and growth. We've seen an increase in both membership and volunteers, hosted dignitaries and visitors from around the world, and addressed many deferred structural repairs.

The beautification of our grounds has been an ongoing effort, one that continues to evolve as we work to create a welcoming and serene environment for all who visit.

While we've made noticeable improvements this year, the process is far from complete, and we remain committed to continue preserving our temple and grounds.

We've also made great strides in formalizing administrative processes and have gained broader visibility, being featured on local tv station KHON2 daily for a week, and in various print and online publications.

We look forward with hope and excitement to the new opportunities that await in 2025!

BODHI DAY



Bodhi Day is a significant Buddhist holiday that celebrates the day Siddhartha Gautama, also known as Shakyamuni, or Buddha, attained enlightenment.

It is observed annually on December 8th, with Buddhist temples around the world holding services on or near this date. This holiday commemorates Buddha's enlightenment, when he discovered the truths of life, the causes of suffering, and the path to inner peace after 49 days of meditation under a bodhi tree.

Bodhi Day is a time for Buddhists to reflect on Buddha's teachings, practice meditation, and express gratitude for his wisdom.

People often celebrate by lighting candles or colorful lights, symbolizing the light of enlightenment, and some may prepare traditional foods like sweet rice or tea. It's a peaceful day focused on mindfulness, compassion, and understanding.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY HAPPENINGS

- Congratulations to Hakalau Jodo Mission! They celebrated their 120th anniversary and the completion of their four year capital campaign to preserve their temple earlier this month.
- We are wrapping up 2024 with our official website views at an all time high with over 7,500 this year, and attracting online visitors from all over the globe - including the United Kingdom, U.S., Japan, Germany, Canada, Nigeria, India, China, Singapore, to name a few.
- Following our mention in last month's newsletter about exploring the purchase of an autonomous mower for the cemetery, we received a generous \$250 donation in support of this effort, bringing the total contributions to \$750.

We sincerely appreciate this generous support and welcome any additional contributions as we continue working towards this significant purchase. Mahalo!

- Our sincere condolences go out to the family of Kevin Acdal, who passed away on November 30, 2024.

Kevin, the manager and store director at Malama Market in Honokaa, was always so gracious, allowing us to leave our mini bon dance flyers at the checkout counters, restocking them as needed, and hanging our flyers in the store to help spread the word. *Namu Amida Butsu.*

- The HJM Executive Team is still patiently awaiting the Hawaii Council of Jodo Missions (HCJM) to answer their concerns and questions about the HCJM budget and assessment dues invoiced to HJM.
- Much appreciation goes out to Faith and Linda, who were part of the Kamana Senior Citizens Center's Seniors Lectures Class that visited our temple last month.

They drove all the way from Hilo to volunteer at our last Beautification Work Day. Mahalo to both of them!

2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES

We are accepting membership dues for 2025 now through March 31, 2025. Dues remain at \$60 for the upcoming year.

If you missed the deadline to pay your 2024 membership dues, you can still reinstate your membership to an active status by remitting your 2024 dues along with any outstanding dues you may owe for previous years.

Dues are to be sent in the form of a check or money order made payable to Hamakua Jodo Mission to:

Hamakua Jodo Mission
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 7
Honokaa, HI 96727

We also welcome individuals who are interested in becoming members of HJM. For more information on how to join, or if you are unsure of your membership status, feel free to contact us at (808) 775-0965 or via email at: contact@hamakuajodomission.org

NATSU OSAKO 100TH ANNIVERSARY NENKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

By: Tilden Osako



Photo of Natsu Osako

In March of 1899, Natsu and Sengoro Osako left the small fishing village of Ushima in Yamaguchi Prefecture and joined thousands of their countrymen in pursuit of a better life in the sugar cane fields of Hawaii.

They made their home first in the Overend Camp in Honokaa where their eight children were born and later moved to Paauhau. It was not long before the Hamakua Jodo Mission became a regular part of family life. Eldest daughter Yaeno married Eizuchi Higaki who helped to carve the HJM altar shrine and koa transoms.

Eldest son Yoshikazu was a featured member of the sangha in the 1934 publication *Yōjō no Hikari* published by the Hawaii Jodo Mission. Other marriages and funerals followed including the one for Natsu, who died in Paauhau on October 21, 1925. She was laid to rest in the HJM cemetery.

Because Natsu died relatively young, all but one of her children were still alive in 1974 when they all returned to the Hamakua Jodo Mission for her 50-year *nenki*.



Seven of Natsu Osako's children, 1974

Fifty years later, on October 26, 2024, 33 members of the Osako family spanning four generations gathered at HJM for her 100-year *nenki* which was officiated by former HJM minister Reverend Junshin Miyazaki of Hilo Meishoin.

Returning to HJM for this momentous occasion brought to mind the contributions and sacrifice of our earlier generations, and for this, we are grateful. *Okagesama-de.*



Four generations of the Osako Family

Mahalo, Tilden for sharing our family's story and about the recent service honoring your great-grandmother.

Tilden resides in California with his wife Lisa, and their two daughters. He is responsible for translating many of the headstones in our cemetery and uploading the information onto the Find a Grave website. We are grateful for his help and his love for genealogy research!

HJM EXECUTIVE TEAM UPDATE

The Executive Team recently underwent some changes. Dawn Matsui, who served as Treasurer, and Lani Matsumoto, a Director, both resigned from their positions last month. We extend our gratitude to them for their contributions over the past 1.5 years and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

We are pleased to announce that HJM member Kassie Tarpley has been appointed as a Director, filling the vacancy left by Lani.

Kassie is a teacher at Waimea Elementary School and brings a deep connection to HJM. Having participated in our annual bon dances since childhood as part of the Waimea Bon Dance Club, she learned traditional dances under the guidance of Alice Fujii.



Kassie has been a member of HJM for several years, and has actively participated in membership meetings and contributed to various committees.

This past summer, Kassie developed two innovative plantation-themed lesson plans focused on the sugar industry and plantation life, which were featured as part of the Hamakua Sugar Days Festival. These lesson plans were distributed to teachers to incorporate into their curriculum.

We are excited to welcome her to the Executive Team and look forward to utilizing her expertise as an educator to engage and inspire the younger generation in promoting HJM's mission and legacy.

The Executive Team has also announced their meeting dates for the first quarter of 2025, with all meetings to start at 10:00am HST*:

January 19, 2025

February 16, 2025

March 16, 2025

**Executive Team meetings are not membership meetings, but are meetings for the Officers and Directors of Hamakua Jodo Mission.*

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that Charles "Charlie" Sadami Nishimura, a beloved HJM member of the past and former Kyodan President, did a five-part oral history interview in 1999 that is part of the Japanese American Military History Collective Database?

Charlie was born on December 2, 1913, and grew up in Paauhau. Many remember him for his work at the sugar plantation, his 20 years as a Boy Scout Master, and his active involvement at our temple. However, what some may not know is that he was drafted into the Army at the age of 28 on December 10, 1940, during World War II, and served with the distinguished 100th Infantry Battalion.

During his interview, Charlie shared fond memories of his childhood in Paauhau, his experiences in combat during the war, and his life after returning to Hawaii - getting married, starting a family, retiring, and eventually moving to Oahu.

To view his interview or read a transcript, you can find it online by visiting the Japanese American Military History Collective Database website :

<https://ndajams.omeka.net/items/show/1050497>

UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICES SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
12/29/24	Beautification Work Day	8:00am - 10:30am
4/27/25	2025 Annual Membership Meeting	10:00am

These are events and services that have been confirmed by HJM's Executive Team. If you have made arrangements for a service or event and do not see it listed, please leave a message at (808) 775-0965 or send an email to: hamakuajodoexecteam@gmail.com

For the booking of future events, services, and facilities, please feel free to reach out to the Executive Team at the contact info listed above.

This calendar is being provided to avoid visitors from stopping by during private functions/services, and to prevent double bookings.

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES



Craving delicious Korean corn dogs, takoyaki, lumpia, milk tea, fruit drinks, and boba tea all in one spot?

Look no further than Takoyatea, a pop-up food stand on the Hamakua Coast that's got all your favorites! From their mouthwatering Korean corn dogs to their refreshing fruit drinks and a variety of milk and boba teas (including seasonal flavors!), Takoyatea is the place to satisfy your cravings.

We know firsthand how great their food and drinks are, as they were one of the food vendors at our bon dance this past August!

Takoyatea can be found at various locations throughout the week, including the Hamakua Harvest Farmers Market, Waimea Mid-Week Farmers Market at Pukulani Stables, and King's Shop Farmers Market.

Be sure to check out their Instagram [@takoyatea808](https://www.instagram.com/takoyatea808) to stay up-to-date on their schedule and the latest menu offerings!

FLASHBACK PHOTO OF THE MONTH



This month's flashback photo, taken in the 1960s, highlights several dedicated male members of HJM who played pivotal roles in maintaining the temple and assisting with event preparations.

While these men are sadly no longer with us, their contributions continue to be a lasting part of HJM's legacy.

Can you identify all the men in this photo? If you grew up in Paauhau, it should be easy to recognize some familiar faces!



**JANUARY 2025
NENKI MEMORIAL SERVICES**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
1/09	Mineo Yanagisawa	43rd

Please contact the HJM Executive Team at hamakuajodoexecteam@gmail.com or call (808) 775-0965 if you would like to schedule a memorial service.

IN SEARCH OF VOLUNTEERS



We are currently seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help with various tasks at our temple. Whether you're interested in assisting with maintenance, organizing events, offering your expertise, or simply contributing your time, there are many ways to get involved.

Your support helps us continue to serve our members and community by maintaining a welcoming environment for all.

If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to us at (808) 775-0965 or by emailing: contact@hamakuajodominion.org

IN APPRECIATION



We want to acknowledge those who generously gifted us with monetary donations:

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Horiuchi, Gayle Swanick, Debbi Cannoles, Elsie Pflum, and Janis Shirai.

CONTRIBUTIONS & SUBMISSIONS

We are always happy to receive articles, memories, and old photos from our community to share in our newsletter! We also welcome suggestions and feedback on how we can make the newsletter even better.

Please submit your materials in Word, PDF, JPEG, or PNG formats by the 15th of each month. Send your contributions to: contact@hamakuajodominion.org

*Mahalo for reading & your continued support!
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!*

*- The Hamakua Jodo Mission
Newsletter Committee*



"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future." – Agnes M. Pharo

For those of you that have email addresses but receive our newsletters via USPS, please consider saving a tree and a stamp by receiving them electronically. Sign up by sending an email to: contact@hamakuajodominion.org



Hamakua Jodo Mission 2025 Nenki Memorial Service List

JANUARY

Mineo Yanagisawa 1/09/1983 43rd

FEBRUARY

Tsuruye Hirayama 2/07/2009 17th
Ralph Matsumoto 2/07/1983 43rd
Shoichi Fukaura 2/14/2024 1st
Michiko Uyeda 2/26/2023 3rd
Fumiko Yanagisawa 2/28/2009 17th

MARCH

Yoshiko Kawashima 3/10/2024 1st
Sueko Oka 3/11/1983 43rd
Lynson Okunami 3/19/1989 37th

APRIL

Sadao Nakagawa 4/14/2003 23rd
Usa Takamine 4/21/1993 33rd

MAY

Yutaka Seo 5/11/2001 25th

JUNE

Fumie Higaki 6/04/2019 7th
Sumiko Nishimori 6/17/2013 13th
Torakichi Nishimura 6/23/1979 47th
Hatsume Takada 6/26/1989 37th

JULY

Mark Nakashima 7/11/2024 1st
Mitsue Nakagawa 7/13/2019 7th
Ted Ura 7/28/2019 7th
Takichi Okunami 7/30/1983 43rd
Haru Hirata 7/31/1983 43rd

AUGUST

Hideo Enomoto 8/25/1983 43rd
Toyoko Okamura 8/28/2003 23rd

SEPTEMBER

Iwa Hasegawa 9/06/1976 50th
Masami Doi 9/21/1976 50th

OCTOBER

Sakae Higaki 10/10/1993 33rd

NOVEMBER

Robert Hasebe 11/06/1976 50th
Lydia Seo 11/20/2019 7th
Sakichi Yamamoto 11/26/1976 50th
Takio Takahashi 11/27/1979 47th

DECEMBER

Janet Oka 12/10/1999 27th
Wanda Matsukado 12/28/2019 7th

While we await the assignment of a new resident minister, we now have a Jodo Shu minister available to officiate services during the interim without the previously required 30-day advance notice.

Please feel free to contact the HJM Executive Team at (808) 775-0965 or hamakuajodoexecteam@gmail.com if you would like to schedule a memorial service. Mahalo!

Hamakua Jodo Mission
P.O. Box 7
Honokaa, HI 96727



Hamakua Jodo Mission

*The First Sanctioned Buddhist Temple Built in
Hawai'i*

www.hamakuajodomission.org

<http://Bit.ly/HamakuaJodoMission>