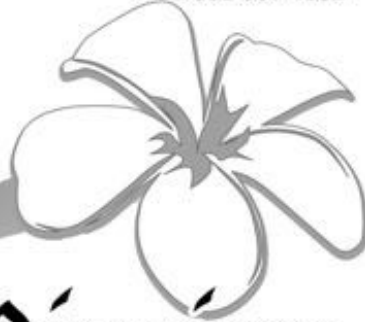
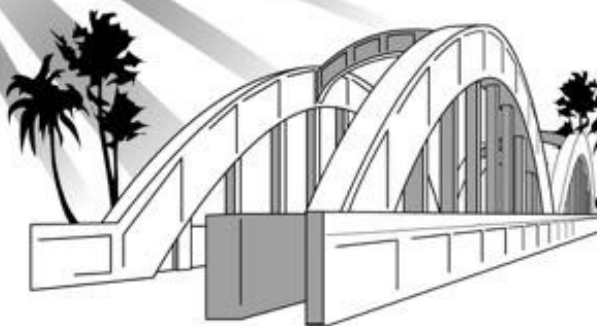


P.O. BOX 242 HALEIWA, HI 96712  
TEL: 808-637-4382



# Haleiwa Jodo Mission

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



NOVEMBER 2024

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# HALEIWA JODO MISSION

NOVEMBER, 2024



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## *JUYA SERVICE*

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024

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## *BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING*

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024

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## *KOKUA DAY*

9:00 AM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024

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### SERMON AT THE FAMILY SERVICE

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki

Minister of Haleiwa Jodo Mission

As previously mentioned in my last few sermons, Jodo Shu celebrates the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding this year. A Hawaii Jodo Shu group visited the headquarters at Chionin Temple last year to attend the celebration. Hawaii Jodo Shu will also celebrate their 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of missionaries in Hawaii in 2024. We will observe a combined celebration for the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 20 at the Jodo Mission of Hawaii in Makiki. We will welcome about 20 ministers from Japan, observe the affirmation service, have a commemoration ceremony, honor *keiro* people, and partake in lunch, and entertainment. It will be a memorable gathering so if you would like to participate in this ceremony, please let me know. In connection with the 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I have been speaking on life around St. Honen's time, 850 years ago, in the past months. However, I did not explain the 130-year history of Hawaii Jodo Shu. Today, I would like to speak highlighting why Jodo Shu came to Hawaii and what happened in Hawaii 130 years ago.

To speak on the history of Hawaii Jodo Shu, a good place to start is by mentioning the immigrants that came to Hawaii from Japan. The first immigrants came from Japan in 1868, 156 years ago. It took one month for 153 people on a sailing boat to reach Hawaii. They were called *gannenmono*, the

first-year man. However, they were treated as stowaways because Japan and Hawaii did not have the diplomatic relations that we have today. Many were deported or taken to the U.S. Mainland. In 1885, *kanyaku imin* which means the Government-Contract Labors, was started. Up until 1924, during the span of 39 years, over 100,000 Japanese immigrants came to Hawaii under this program. Jodo Shu was established in Hawaii during the middle of *kanyaku imin* time because of the high demand from immigrants. Over 90% of the Japanese immigrants were Buddhists or Shinto followers. The immigrants sought temples and shrines for their sanctuary. Most Japanese religions started to build temples and shrines during this *kanyaku imin* period. Jodo Shu is one of them. In 1894, Rev. Taijo Matsuo arrived at the Honolulu Harbor as the first Jodo Shu minister in Hawaii. He stayed at a house in Honolulu and started his missionary work. He visited plantation camps on Oahu and Kauai to investigate how immigrants lived in Hawaii. After completing and sending his report to the Jodo Shu Headquarters in Japan, they were convinced that there was an urgent need to teach and spread the Jodo Shu teaching to the followers in Hawaii. That was exactly 130 years ago.

Let me further explain about the history of Hawaii. In 1894, the year Rev. Matsuo arrived in Hawaii, the Hawaiian Kingdom became the Republic of Hawaii. There was an incident in which Queen Lili'uokalani was placed under house arrest at Iolani

Palace. In 1900, Hawaii became a U.S. Territory. Haleiwa Jodo Mission was established in 1912. The current building of the Jodo Mission of Hawaii in Makiki, the pink building, was built in 1932. In the 1920's, when the Government-Contract Labor system ended, it is said that the Japanese people in Hawaii made up more than 40% of Hawaii's population. The Japanese population continued to grow, but in 1941 the Japanese community in Hawaii suffered greatly when Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese Imperial Navy. Hawaii became the 50th state of the United States in 1959. Many Japanese immigrants started returning to Hawaii and the population grew again and became united despite being swept up in various events such as national upheavals, political issues, and wars. This is the history of the Japanese people. In the midst of such difficult times, Buddhist temples and Japanese language schools provided emotional support and comfort to the Japanese people of Hawaii.

Now, I would like to share the life of the Japanese immigrants and what kind of life they spent. Please take a look at the handout again.

- **Plantation Labor:** Once in Hawaii, Japanese immigrants worked primarily in the sugarcane fields under grueling conditions. The labor was backbreaking, requiring long hours (typically 10-12 hours a day) under the tropical sun, with little rest or respite.
- **Wages and Living Standards:** Their wages were low, averaging around \$15-20 per month, which barely covered living expenses. Additionally, many workers lived in plantation-provided housing, which was often cramped and of poor quality.
- **Resilience and Adaptation:** Despite harsh conditions, the Japanese immigrants worked to maintain their cultural heritage. They formed tight-knit communities, and established schools (especially Japanese-language schools), Buddhist temples, and Shinto Shrines.

These three points are just a part of what the Japanese community has done. Under such difficult working conditions, they formed communities, built temples and Japanese language schools, and boosted the Japanese community.

The founders of the different Buddhist organizations did not only erect temples and formed Japanese schools, but most importantly their accomplishments were not material but spiritual: generosity, compassion, a sense of community, and a deep commitment to the Buddha-Dharma-Sangha. Today, I highlighted on the 130th anniversary of the Hawaii Jodo Shu and spoke on the Japanese immigrants. However, in this day and age, unless you are of pure Hawaiian descent, your ancestors, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc., all came to Hawaii at some point in time. There is no

doubt that people gathered at a temple or something similar, like today's gathering, supported their temples and made it a place of spiritual refuge. Many ethnic groups gathered and built their own place of worship for a safe place of gathering. The teachings of Namu Amida Butsu were a source of support for the immigrants of Jodo Shu. We, Jodo Shu followers, have continued to gather at temples and chant Namu Amida Butsu. Haleiwa Jodo Mission has been supported and will be supported by enthusiastic members. This year marks the 130th anniversary of the arrival of Rev. Matsuo, who brought the teachings of Namu Amida Butsu to Hawaii and encouraged people to chant Amida Buddha's Sacred Name out loud. By learning about the deep history of the Japanese immigrants, we must have even greater faith in the teachings of Jodo Shu and pass on to the next generation the place of peace of mind, Jodo Shu temples, left behind by our predecessors.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

#### MEMBERSHIP DUES (2025)

Robert McLean	Luka McLean
James McLean	Eugene Cambonga

#### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Edwin Nakahara	(In memory of Larry Nakahara)
Jenny Tamura	(In memory of Duane Tamura)

#### SPECIAL DONATIONS

Calvin Kuniyama	Robert Kessner
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#### FAMILY SERVICE DONATIONS

Nadine Matsukawa	Dennis Nakamura
Kenneth Masatsugu	Grace Iwane
Mae Yorimoto	Sheri Yamauchi
Keith Yamauchi	Shinae Sakai
Joan Yamamoto	Jennifer Pang
Katherine Fujii	

#### PATIO DONATIONS

Chase Yasunaga	Katherine Fujii
Nadine Matsukawa	

### MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER

25 <sup>th</sup> YEAR	OTSUKA, MAE NOV. 25, 2000
	MASATSUGU, HERBERT NOV. 30, 2000
33 <sup>rd</sup> YEAR	NAKAMURA, MASATOSHI NOV. 28, 1992
50 <sup>th</sup> YEAR	EBISUI, HATSU NOV. 25, 1976

TREASURER'S NOTE

Please bring your membership dues up to date. We are accepting dues for 2025 as well as past year(s) dues for those who haven't yet paid. Annual membership is \$50.00. If you have a question about your dues, please call Haleiwa Jodo Mission at 808-637-4382 or send a text message to Rev. Ezaki at 808-223-4382.

HISTORY OF HALEIWA JODO MISSION  
FROM 1912 TO 1984

When Rev. Ezaki cleaned the temple office and organized the temple documents and pictures, he found a booklet of "90 Years of Jodo Buddhism in Hawaii" which was distributed when the Hawaii Council of Jodo Missions held the 90th Anniversary of Hawaii Jodo-Shu Missionary in 1984. Because the anniversary was observed in 1984, the article of the history of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission was from 1912 to 1984 in the booklet. However, it is a very important record, Rev. Ezaki wants to share this article with you.

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The pioneering minister, Rev. Jitsujo Muroyama, came to Haleiwa, Oahu, from Koloa, Kauai, on January 10, 1912, after founding the Koloa Jodo-Shu Kyokaido temple in 1910. Rev. Muroyama started his missionary work in a rented house in Haleiwa. He raised funds to build a church and Japanese language school by canvassing house to house on horseback. Finally, in 1913, Rev. Muroyama assisted by some of the Jodo-Shu members purchased the old "Sea Side Hotel" and some adjoining land (17,424 sq. ft.) for \$1,500, which is the present location of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission. The second floor of the building was used as Hondo (church) and the rooms downstairs for the Japanese language school and the minister's residence. This was the beginning of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission and the Taisho Japanese Language School.

In 1915, Rev. Buntetsu Miyamoto succeeded Rev. Muroyama who went back to Yamaguchi-ken, Japan. Since the number of students had greatly increased, in 1918 two school buildings were constructed one on either side of the church. In 1930, a second floor was added to one of the school buildings. During this time, the Taisho School became so well-known that total enrollment increased to nearly 500 students. There was a dormitory for boarding students. In 1930, Rev. Miyamoto organized the Meisho Y.B.A., Sunday School, and Nembutsuko. Rev. Miyamoto was assisted by Rev. Chisoku Masaki from 1931 to 1936.

Due to the outbreak of World War II in December, 1941, the church and the school were closed, and Rev. Miyamoto was interned in U.S. mainland relocation

centers. The church buildings were occupied by the U.S. Army for 4 years, during which time military authorities requested the church officers to deed the buildings to the U.S. Army, but the church officers rejected the demand.

In 1945, the U.S. Army returned the buildings to the church, and Rev. Miyamoto came back to Haleiwa to continue as resident minister of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission. On May 28, 1946, the church was incorporated as a non-profit organization. In April, 1948, the First Tidal Wave completely demolished the school buildings and damaged the church building. Over a period of one year by the volunteers' efforts and kokua, a new school building was built and the church was repaired. A concrete sea wall was erected as protection against future tidal waves. In 1948, an old school building from the Haleiwa Elementary School was set up for additional classrooms.

In 1949, Rev. Shunjo Shiratori of the Jodo Mission of Hawaii succeeded Rev. Miyamoto who became the 9th Bishop of the Hawaii Council of Jodo Missions. Rev. Shiratori reorganized the Fujinkai in 1949 and reopened the Haleiwa Taisho School in 1950. The Haleiwa Jodo Mission Boy Scouts was organized in 1951. The roofs of the church and school buildings were repaired and the buildings were painted in 1952 and 1954.

In March, 1957, the Second Tidal Wave completely demolished two school buildings and damaged the church building extensively. In spite of the disaster's fatal blow to the church and the school, the members of the church and the parents of the school volunteered to restore the church and the school. Through their untiring efforts stretching over a period of three years, the new two-storied concrete school building was completed in 1961, its value estimated as \$110,000.

In 1959, the former Haleiwa Seinenkai land (15,600 sq. ft.) and buildings were donated to the church, and, in 1961, three rental houses were sold at \$65,000 for the construction of the new church building. The following adjoining land was purchased for the church and school grounds:

- 1964: 8,000 sq. ft. (Oahu Railway land) costing \$6,000
- 1965 18,000 sq. ft. and two houses costing \$25,000
- 1972: 11,855 sq. ft. and two houses costing \$46,800

In May, 1972, because the church building was termite-eaten, unsafe and leaking, Rev. Shiratori and the members of the church decided to build a new one. In April, 1973, the construction of the new church and hall started and was completed in December, 1974, at the cost of \$200,000. On February 23, 1975, the dedication ceremony was held.

In 1977, the old church building was partially remodeled and used as a kitchen toilet, guest room,

and Fujinkai room at the cost of \$24,000. Due to the decrease of Japanese school students in later 1970's, owing to the young generations' moving out to the city area, a part of the school building has been rented out to the KEIKI O HALEIWA, a pre-school, since 1977. But the second floor of the school building was renovated as the minister's residence and office.

In June, 1979, Rev. Junji Suginothara was signed as the 4<sup>th</sup> resident minister of the church, due to the sudden death of Rev. Shiratori on August of 1978. R Rev. Suginothara's talented guidance, the Yoshimizuko (a goeika group), which started in 1976, progressed well.

In October, 1981, Rev. Kenneth K. Tanaka succeeded Rev. Suginothara who was transferred to the Kahului Jodo Mission. In 1982, the minister's residence was largely remodeled by the volunteers of the church and the old church, school building, and patio were reroofed. Also the St. Jizo House was erected. The 1946 original By-laws of the church was substantially revised in 1982. On October 16, 1982, the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission was observed. The exterior of all buildings of the church was painted by the volunteers of the church in 1982-83. The new Fujinkai By-laws was adopted in 1984.

At present, the church property is 49,703 sq. ft. --- a history of growth and progress

### FIRST SUNDAY OF NOVEMBER

The first Sunday of November will be a Juya Service starting at 10:00 am at Haleiwa Jodo Mission Buddhist Temple. Lunch will be served. Please join us.

### BON FESTIVAL FOR 2025

The Board of Directors of Haleiwa Jodo Mission has decided the dates of our 2025 O-bon Services will be August 1 & 2, 2025. As usual, a Bon Dance will be held on both nights and Toro Nagashi will be held on August 2 at 9:00 pm.

The first toro nagashi was held in 1955 by Rev. Shiratori. We will observe the 71th toro nagashi next year. The service has been supported by the members, friends, and neighbors of Haleiwa Jodo Mission for any years.

We really need your help to succeed in our big event. Please mark these dates in your calendar and help us make it a successful Bon Festival 2025.

### PLEASE DONATE OR LET SENSEI SCAN OLD PICTURES AND DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE HALEIWA JODO MISSION

As you read this month's bulletin articles, Rev. Ezaki is busy organizing the old documents and pictures of the temple. Many have pukas from termites and are faded. He is removing the dust and termite poop and putting them in plastic containers. We hope that these important records will be kept in good condition for the next few decades.

Knowing and honoring our predecessor's great achievements are very important for us. Especially, our *issei* and *nisei* ancestors who struggled during the *imin* (immigration) periods. In order to pass down their glory to future generations, Rev. Ezaki wants to collect old documents and pictures.

He wants any pictures of the buildings of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission (building or group photos with the buildings) and documents before 1960. If your grandparents or your parents were active or board members in the 1930's, 1940's, 1950's and 1960's at that time and have some things, please show them to Rev. Ezaki. He will take photos or scan them to keep for the records.

### PET MEMORIAL

Haleiwa Jodo Mission prays for your beloved pets who were one of your family members. It is common practice to have one's beloved pets cremated after they pass on. However, many pet lovers do not know how they can enshrine their pets further to give them a final resting place. Rev. Ezaki created the Pet Memorial because he saw that many families keep the urns of their pets' ashes in their homes with no place to go.

## **PET MEMORIAL**

Available to Members and Non-Members



**With Love, We Remember**

### NORTH SHORE FOOD BANK

Donations of blankets and towels to the North Shore Food Bank will be highly appreciated. The North Shore Food Bank wants to distribute these items to homeless people. Please call Rev. Ezaki at (808)-637-4382 to make an appointment if you will be able to drop off your donations.

# HALEIWA JODO MISSION NOW AND THEN



Rev. Miyamoto and his wife, Fumi, around 1930



Rev. Ezaki and his daughter, Miku, in 2024



The old temple from Haleiwa Alii Beach Park in 2024



The railroad truck on the current temple grounds around 1930



Converted the old Haleiwa Seaside Hotel to the temple