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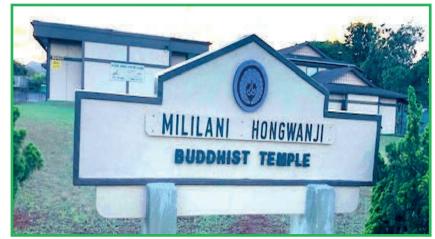
Dharmassconnection

June 2023

The Newsletter of Mililani Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Volume 46 Issue No. 6







June 2023 July 2023

4 9:00am Family Dharma Service

11 9:00am Joint Memorial & Family

Dharma Service

11 10:15am BWA Meeting

18 9:00am Family Dharma Service

25 9:00am Family Dharma Service

2 9:00am Family Dharma Service

9 9:00am Joint Memorial & Family

Dharma Service

9 10:15am BWA Meeting

16 9:00am Family Dharma Service

23 9:00am Family Dharma Service

30 9:00am Family Dharma Service



Minister's Message



Life of Nembutsu Enables Us to Appreciate Every Encounter: Reflection on the Joint Celebration and World Buddhist Women's Convention

As I am writing this month's newsletter article, I am filled with a lot of emotions. Mentally and physically, I am exhausted, even though I just enjoyed the nice ofuro overlooking the city lights overlooking Kagoshima.

As I reflect on the theme of the women's convention, "Life of Nembutsu Enables Us to Appreciate Every Encounter", I find that the events and

feelings/emotions of the past two weeks reflect on the very core of this theme. From the very emotional service at Honzan, the convention itself, and the post tour that many of us went on, the life that we live in, in the Nembutsu, offers us so much to appreciate.



During the singing of the Nembutsu at the service, I felt tears rolling down my eyes, as I was overcome with joy that I was able to share this moment with my parents. At the convention, it was great to be able to reconnect with some of my friends, classmates, ministers from all over the world, and also make new friends.

As minsters, there is that "ritual" of "aisatsu", I don't know what the English translation is, but it's like making courtesy visitations to

thank people and see them. It was a great opportunity to talk "in person" with people and have deep conversations, especially for us coming from the overseas districts.

The war played such a toll on Japan. Many of the places we visited on our post tour were a reminder of the tragedies that many faced. From the Okinawa Peace Monument, the Nagasaki Atomic Museum, the caves that many met their death, the Chiran Tokkotai Museum, where the stories and last letters of the Kamikaze Pilots are housed. While sad, it is with the aspiration that war never happens again, and peace in the world.



Japan is also a spiritual place. We visited many shrines and temples. We visited Kagoshima Betsuin and had a service there, saw a shrine that was dedicated to sake, yes, SAKE, and visited homes of descendants of samurai, who have magnificent gardens in their back yards.

All of these moments are such precious once in a lifetime encounters. You cannot help but recite the Nembutsu in each and every moment in appreciation for that moment and encounter. It is in that feeling, that I feel that the theme of this convention can be applied into our daily lives.

Rev. David Fujimoto

President's Corner

Greetings Mililani Sangha,

Dance is the

and Stan are

The nomination

Spread the

years.

Back from an incredible two weeks in Japan. Thanks to all of you for your best wishes and for taking care of things on the home front. The main event at Honzan was so inspirational and beautiful to witness in person. The BWA Convention over two days brought many surprises and wonderful memories for the group from Mililani. My bad luck—I fell on day one but not seriously enough to miss the events. My other bad luck—I tested positive for covid 2 days after returning so will be expected to quarantine for a week or more. Got to meet with Rev. Suehira who came to Kyoto for a couple of days to greet the Mililani group. Also got to meet other friends from around the world at the official events. The extension tour that I participated in took in picturesque scenes on the Noto Peninsula, Kanazawa, Matsumoto, Tateyama Alpine area and Kurobe Dam, Hakone and Tokyo. Lots of marvelous food and shopping too. Got to go to the

onsen to help with weary aches and pains. Visited

the historic Yoshizawa Betsuin and the Grand Tsukiji Betsuin with a private service. Was treated to a haunting rendition of "Ondokusan" on their large pipe organ. This sumo super fan got to roam the area around the sumo arena during tournament week and had a lot of interesting encounters. Tickets all sold out so couldn't go inside to get official souveniers but got to meet Konishiki's wife at their booth.

We are now gearing up for our Bon Dance on August 18 and 19. Now is the time to call us to volunteer for the areas you want to be

involved in. We're having the lantern parade, the service and dance, the silent auction, the craft booths and the food trucks. The word is out—Mililani Bon

place to be on Admissions Day weekend. word and invite your family and friends. Cliff awaiting more volunteers.

committee will be seeking candidates for the Temple Board of Directors. The next few years leading to our 50th Anniversary in 2027 is the time to determine where Mililani will go in the next 50



June Asato

Summary of May 3, 2023 Kyodan Board Meeting

- The Mililani Hongwanji Board of Directors met via ZOOM with a quorum. President June Asato presided. This month's meeting was held earlier due to the absence of several people who will be in Japan to participate in the joint celebration. During their absence, the Executive Committee will manage the temple affairs.
- Treasurer's Report: Cliff went over the income and expense reports, explained various amounts that seem unusual, and identified non-operating cost items. One of which was the cost for the roof repairs to the Ed Building initially charged as a CIP expense and will later be covered by our insurance carrier.
- Minister's Report: Recent power surge damaged modem and appliances. Replacements in process. Thanked those who helped with the Baccalaureate. Kyodan Scholarship awarded to Ty Wakahiro. Will attend State Minister's Assoc. Summer Seminar on June 6-7.
- President's Report: June requested that each board member attend at least one district Lay and/or Oahu Council meeting in preparation for leadership roles. Received Omimai from HHMH Social Concerns to defray cost of damages to roof. Temple insurance being renewed by a new agency. ADC is at capacity. Cleaning to meet BOH requirements being met with contract cleaners.
- Facilities: Will be looking into improving fire safety system, looking at disposing unwanted items in storage.
- Operations: Coordinating use of Columbarium, working with new temple insurance agent, Doreen & Chris smoothing out IT data management matters.
- BWA: Diane reported a wonderful 45th Anniversary luncheon with good food, prizes, and guest speaker. BWA provided lunch for special Eshinni/Kakushinni Service, offertory for service given to BWA who will then give funds to organizations of their choice. Cleaning of Ehime Maru Memorial, and Scholarship awarded to Ty Wakahiro.
- Jr. YBA: Jr. YBA Oahu District will be hosting the Statewide Convention on June 23-25.
- Bon Dance: First General Planning in-person meeting on May 24, 7:00 pm, most committees are working diligently.
- Approved Actions: Kyodan to give "Senbetsu" to the Reverend and President for their trip to Japan, partial subsidy to Mililani High School Gala event, continue Board meetings with ZOOM format for the remainder of the year, ratified Executive Board's emergency action to repair Ed Building roof and ceiling damages, purchase full page ad for Jr. YBA State Convention program.
- Next Board ZOOM meeting on June 14th, 7:00 pm.



Most of the members that went to Kyoto to see the special service observing the 850th memorial of Shinran Shonin and the World BWA Convention continued their stay in Japan by going on a tour of certain areas. They returned around May 22. I'm sure they will have lots to share with us!

There were eight of us participating in the cleaning of the Ehime Maru Memorial. It felt so honored to help keep the memorial clean for others to come and visit. There were a few people who visited the memorial while we were still cleaning it.





At the baccalaureate service, the BWA selected Ty Wakahiro to receive our \$1,500 scholarship. He is an outstanding person academically and in character. He will attend California Polytechnic University in Pomona. We wish him all the best as he embarks in the next journey of his life!

The Eshinni Kakushinni offertory was donated to the United Jr. YBA of Oahu and to Ohana Arts-Peace On Your Wings World Tour. The Jr. YBA can use the money for expenses like their annual convention. The Ohana Arts Peace On Your Wings World Tour will need lots of monetary help as they take their production to Hiroshima, Japan! We wish Jenny, Laurie and Cari all the best in this

monumental task of taking the production with cast members, props and orchestra all the way to Japan!



Our Kyodan Support committee helped the Thursday Gang by paying for a new lawnmower to mow our temple's grass area. Thank you to all the men who come every Thursday to maintain and repair various things on the temple grounds! We really appreciate all of you!





Dharma School

Hooray, summer break is here! We hope everyone enjoyed our 2022-2023 Dharma School year. We hope you learned more about the Dharma and everyone is wiser and healthier now.

Our "Congratulations" to Dharma School student, Ty Wakahiro and Sangha member, Richard Hamada, who after the wonderful Baccalaureate event on April 30th, both graduated from Mililani High School in May.



We had a very busy last month of Dharma School. It started with everyone's favorite Dharmachakra pizza making on May 7th! Before making the yummy pizza, Uncle Mel Hayase gave a talk about the meaning and background of



the Dharmachakra. We were also fortunate to have guest presenters Brian Fey and June Asato give a talk about Eshinni and Kakushinni, Shinran Shonin's wife and daughter, respectively, and their important influence on our teachings.

On May 21st, Aunty Ann Ishikawa lead a presentation on Shinran's life in celebration of his 850th birthday. The presentation was followed by a quiz with lots of

yummy goodies.

And on May 28th, after service, we closed out our school year with a presentation of participation certificates and a reusable bento box gift for each student. Our goal, along with the reusable cups given out at the beginning of the school year, is to help reduce the amount of paper goods used for weekly refreshments and do our part to help the environment. We also announced the winners of this year's poster contest. Our students did well and were given their cash prize awards. The winning posters will be circulated and displayed at all the Oahu temples during this summer's bon dances.



Lastly, to top off the end of the school year celebration, our families went to the Fun Factory Mililani for lunch and fellowship. The students enjoyed free game cards. A fun time was had by all! We would like to wish everyone a fun and restful summer. We do have a new Summer Adventure program this year! Please see the info provided for more details.

If you know a student (preschool to high school), in Mililani, Hawaii, or even on the mainland, who would like to join in on our next school year beginning at the end of August, please contact Claire Doi at clairedoi@hawaiiantel.net to be added to our email list to get our meeting agendas. Or please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need more info about our Dharma School sessions.

MILILANI HONGWANJI DHARMA SCHOOL 2023 Summer Adventure Program



Sunday, June 25th*, 10am: "Sharing Joy Together" LEGOs Challenge Bring a FAVORITE piece that makes you happy, to share and display. Bring your own Legos to create a NEW project to be displayed. *date to be confirmed

Sunday, July 30th: Youth BON DANCE Practice/Class

10:30 - 11:30 am

Led by our Obon dance instructors Myra Fujino and Sharon Kaneko Put on your hapi coats or yukata (optional)

Bring your cousins and friends to learn dances for Obon

Be on the lookout for updated info on our summer adventures!













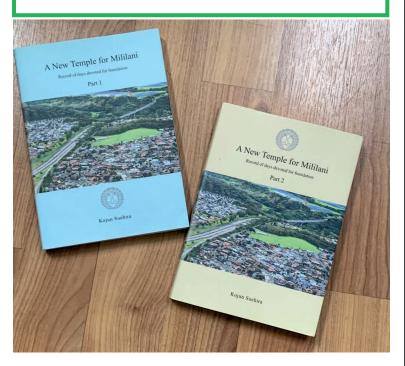
ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



A big Mahalo to all those who helped with our quarterly Adopt-A -Highway Community Service Project on May 27th. The Mililani stretch of Kamehameha Highway is looking clean as ever!

Next Clean-Up will be on August 26, 2023, 8:00 am. Please mark your calendars.

In Gassho, Tyler Oshiro Coordinator



"A NEW TEMPLE FOR MILILANI" PART 2

By Rev. Kojun Suehira

Pick up your copy at the temple. See details in President's message.

June Memorials

Those who have passed during the month.

Robert Asato Chiyoko Chinen Masue Goto Miyuki Guerrera Tadayoshi Hamasaki Nobuko Harada Matsukata Hayashi Akira Hayashida Shugeno Hironaka Matsue Honda Yone Honda Isaburo Iida Peggy Imamura Toshio Ishihara Miyuki Iwamoto Susumi Iwamoto Toshio Iwamoto Katsuji Kushimi **Gary Matsumoto**

Matao Matsumura Ryoichi Nakamura Shizue Nakamura Tsutsumu Nakauchi Yutaka Nishihara Elsie Nunotani Walter Nunotani Satoru Ota Kikue Sakado Kim Sav Ume Tashima Fae Togo Tsune Ueki Kimi Watanabe Miyuki Watanabe Asayo Yamashita **Beatrice Young** James Young Noboru Yoza

Please call the minister at (808) 625-0925 and/or email dharma.connection@gmail.com if there are corrections or additions to the published list. Families may call the minister to schedule special family memorial services for their loved ones. For 2023, special memorial years are observed for loved ones who passed away in:

2022 1st Year 2011 13th Year 1991 33rd year

2021 3rd Year 2007 17th Year 1974 50th year

2017 7th Year 1999 25th year

Baccalaureate Service and Luncheon – Sunday, April 30, 2023

Submitted by Ann Ishikawa



Richard Hamada, son of Keith and Desiree Hamada and Ty Wakahiro, son of Brad and Mari Wakahiro were honored at the Mililani Hongwanji Baccalaureate Service and Luncheon held on Sunday, April 30, 2023. It was the first "in-person" Baccalaureate in four years, which made it even more special. It is traditionally held annually to honor our high school graduates and provide them spiritual guidance as they enter into adulthood. In addition, college graduates recognized included Chloe Oshiro, daughter of Patrick and Susan Oshiro, Oregon State University, Bachelor of Science, Horticulture and Minors in Biology & Botany;

Shayna Yasunaga, daughter of Reid and Cheryl Yasunaga and granddaughter of Nora and Warren Hahn, Ithaca College, NY, Bachelor's in Communications and Culture; and **Sarah Hamada**, daughter of Keith and Desiree Hamada, UH Manoa, Bachelor of Science in Biological Engineering.

The Service speaker, Ms. Amy Boehning, a history teacher from Mililani High School, gave an inspiring message of appreciation, compassion and service to the community, echoing many of the teachings embodied in the Buddha Dharma. President June Asato and Rev. Fujimoto presented Richard and Ty with lei and gifts from the Sangha. In addition, Ty received both the BWA and Kyodan scholarships.

The joyful and meaningful Program was attended, not only by our members, but by over forty of Richard's and Ty's family and friends. Louis Castellucci's guitar video of Arigato was a heartfelt opening. The wonderful videos and collages presented by Richard's and Ty's parents expressed their love and pride. Both graduates were surprised and touched by their parents' efforts. Richard's Judo sensei, Chad Yasumura, spoke of his exemplary character as a Judo-ka. Ty's Jr. YBA advisors, Arynn Ishikawa and Gay Tanaka, spoke of his mature leadership as the Oahu District President. Both honorees paid tribute to and sincerely thanked their parents.

The Tanioka's bento and variety of salads, fruits and desserts donated was so ono. Arigato to all of you who anonymously contributed. Of course, the Graduation cake was beautiful and ono, too. The chocolate covered fortune cookie favors were a big hit.

Hats off to our committee chairpersons: Susan Oshiro, Claire Doi, Jill Kyhos, Luana Fukutomi, Lenora Inoue, Cliff Togo, Warren Hahn, Carrie Kawamoto and Brandon Hee. Additional menehune included: Rev. David, June Asato, Aileen Sato, Dennis Oshita, Rene Mansho, Dave & Madonna Thomson, Dennis Kawamoto, Mel Hayase, Keith Nakahara, Amy Nakamura, Diane Yoza, and the Wakahiro Family. Special Mahalo to Joyce Fujimoto for the beautiful centerpieces which made the room more colorful and cheerful.

Richard and Ty have since graduated from Mililani High School at Commencement Exercises held on May 16, 2023 at the University of Hawaii's Stan Sherriff Center. Richard will be attending UH Manoa with the field of Nursing in mind. Ty will be attending Cal Poly Pomona to study Urban Design. The Mililani Sangha wishes both young men our aloha. We know they will keep the light of the Nembutsu in their hearts as they continue their life journey.







Baccalaureate





















Mililani Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

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Kyodan Pres: June Asato

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ma.connection@gmail.com

3) download a copy from the temple website: mililanihong-wanji.org

For additional information check out our Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mililani-Hongwanji-Buddhist-

Temple/114271522485

2023 Temple Board

President-June Asato VP Fac.-Stephen Koito VP Oper.-Kevin Asato VP Rel. Svc./Programs-**Brandon Hee** Secretary-Roger Babcock Treasurer-Clifford Togo Auditor-**Brad Wakahiro** BWA Rep.-Diane Yoza Imm. Past Pres.-Dean Sakamoto Directors-Dennis Oshita Rene Mansho Gay Tanaka Janice Yasunaga Advisors-Melvin Hayase Masami Nishimoto Minister-Rev. David Fujimoto

Monthly Joint Memorial Service

Mililani Hongwanji's monthly joint memorial service is on the SECOND Sunday of each month. Mililani Hongwanji will continue to publish the names of the members and friends that will be honored in the monthly memorial services.

For families attending the joint memorial service, please sign in on the memorial service tablet on the counter, which will be made available every Sunday leading up the service.

For those who wish to add or remove family members or friends from the published list, please let Rev. Fujimoto know as soon as possible to ensure proper action.

Adult Day Center at Mililani Hongwanji

Aloha! We would like to let everyone know that we are accepting applications for Adult Day Center enrollment. Do you know anyone caring for a loved one that needs respite or help caring for their loved one throughout the day? We are welcoming new clients in our **air conditioned** facility.

For any interested new applicants, we are offering tuition assistance. Please contact our ADC Director Trece Scott for more information at (808) 561-2147. We are OPEN 5 Days a week Monday thru Fridays from 8am-5pm, and early drop off can be arranged beginning at 7am.

Memorial Services

Mililani Hongwanji conducts memorial services in honor of those who have passed away. The Shotsuki Memorial Service is a general memorial service which are held monthly to remember members and friends who passed away during the month in which the memorial service is held. These services are held primarily for those individuals that do not fall in the yearly service interval cycle.

Nenki Hoyo Memorial Services are memorial services which are held separate from the monthly memorial services in yearly intervals. These separate private services can be held before, on or after the memorial dates. It is a personal opportunity to gather as a family to encounter and listen to the Buddha Dharma and remember your family members and friends who have passed on and through these services, we are able to reflect on all that we have received from them in our daily lives. It also gives families the opportunity to reconnect with members they otherwise would not see during the course of the year.

Minister's Private Visitation

Are you unable to come to the temple? Please call Rev. David Fujimoto at 808.625.0925 to request a private visit. The minister would love to reach out to you and be the bridge between you, the temple and the sangha!



Mililani Hongwanji



August 18 & 19, 2023, Friday & Saturday

August 18, Friday

5:30 p.m. Food Trucks, Country

Store, Craft Fair &

Silent Auction Opens

6:30 p.m. Lantern Parade

6:55 p.m. Opening Ceremony

7:00 p.m.

to Bon Dance

10:00 p.m.

Country Store

August 13th, Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Obon Service Hatsubon Service Arranged



August 19, Saturday

5:30 p.m. Food Trucks, Country

Store, Craft Fair & Silent Auction Opens

6:55 p.m. Opening Ceremony

7:00 p.m.

to

Bon Dance

10:00 p.m.



Silent Auction

Bon Dance Practice: Aug 1, 8, 14, 15, 16 (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.) Subject to Change

Mililani Hongwanji, 95-257 Kaloapau St. Next to Mililani Rec. Ctr. III, No Pets Allowed. For more info call 625-0925 or www.mililanihongwanji.org

SILENT AUCTION

We are so grateful that all of our volunteers of the Silent Auction Committee have once again endeavored (or, as the dictionary says, "to try hard") to use their time and energy to produce the very popular Silent Auction as part of the Bon Dance festivities. The Sangha's consistent help and support will make it happen.

Through your continued help and support of donations of gift certificates, new or like new household goods, furniture, plants, and the like, we can all make this a successful fundraiser. Please take a look around your home or office as you downsize and consider a donation.

Please bring your donation(s) on Sunday, June 11 after service. If you're not able to, then please bring it on Thursday, August 17th and we will gladly accept it.

If you've got a small business, consider a donation and in exchange having a few hundred customers become familiar with your business name. We appreciate your support in advance. And, a shout out to Ewa Hongwanji, who donated many valuable dishes to the cause.

In Gassho,

Charijean Watanabe 808-223-6077 charijean@aol.com.

BON Country Store

Almost Here!

Hi Everyone! The Bon Country Store is beginning to gear up for our 2023 BON Dance to be held on both Friday & Saturday! We are looking forward to your donations of the wonderful array of delectable goodies and creative craft items you have been making over the years! Start thinking of what you may want to make! We are also looking for donations of kimonos, yukatas, and happi coats if you have ones that are not in use! If you have any questions about your items to donate, email Diane Yoza @ diane.yoza@gmail.com. Drop-off times will be announced later. There will be a sign-up sheet on the temple bulletin board beginning at the end of June. We are so excited and looking forward to another successful Bon!!!

Mahalo for your DAN (April 14, 2023 – May 18, 2023)

BWA Eshinni & Kakushinni Day

Janet Abe June Asato

Twila Castellucci

Claire Doi

Richard & Joyce Fujimoto

Myra Fujino Luana Fukutomi Warren & Nora Hahn

Melvin Hayase Theodine Hirai

Debra Hiyakumoto Lenora Inoue

Harley & Martha Ishii Karl & Carol Ann Kakehi

BWA Eshinni & Kakushinni Day Continued

Sharon Kaneko

Mamoru & Ethel Kawahara Dennis & Carrie Kawamoto Lawrence & Joyce Nishioka

Lester & Joyce Ogawa

Frances Saito

Charles & June Shimata

Margaret Tanabe Nancy Tanaka

Gordon & Lyn Watanabe Steven & Lani Yamami

Ethel Yamashige Diane Yoza





General Donation

Crochet Group

Mililani Hongwanji Bon Dancercise Class

Mililani Hongwanji Mahjong Players

Mililani Support Group MSG-Parkinson's Nick & Clarynne Blanchard Donation for Butsudan

Allan & Helen Hasegawa James & Karen Nakasone Masami & Joyce Nishimoto Charles & June Shimata

Rev Suehira's book



In Deep Gratitude.

Namo Amida Butsu Namo Amida Butsu Namo Amida Butsu

Joint Memorial Service

Anonymous IMO Helen Tanaka: 1 year service IMO Susumu Ando & George Ando Takashi Ando

Wayne & Roberta Kishinami IMO Jean Sanehira

Winifred Singeo IMO Sueo & Jean Watanabe

Richard & Gail Taira IMO Zenyei Taira

Shirlen Tanaka IMO Helen Tanaka: 1 year service

Memorial Service

Memorial Service for Yasuko Honda Anonymous

Sandy Hashimoto IMO Takeshi Yamashita

Social Concerns(HQ)

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii HQ Wind damages

Gojikai members, MAHALO for your membership dues for 2023. Please submit your pledge letter if you haven't done so.



Photo-Gallery

















EWA HONGWANJI MISSION

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phone: (808)681-5222 email: EwaHM1901@gmail.com



NEWSLETTER

June 2023

Calendar

June 17 (Sat) 10:30 am - 1:00 pm Obon Fundraiser

22 (Thu) 9:00 am Before service clean-up

25 (Sun) 11:00 am Obon Memorial Service/Monthly Service

President's Message

Aloha. I have returned from Japan in one piece. A big "shout out" to Myra, her sister, Claudia, Rev. and Mrs. Soga, the Waipahu group, Kintetsu, and JTB for a once in a lifetime experience. If there was "cause and effect situations", it definitely happened on this trip for me. So stay healthy. (My bad back is another story.) I have washed my clothes, and ready for another Japan trip because I did not do enough shopping there. Food was excellent. I wonder if the word, Aloha, originated in Japan?

Have a good everyday, everybody.

In Gassho,

Craig T. Tsutsumi

Direct link to order:
https://tinyurl.com/5tbk8sn3

Ewa Hongwanji Mission

91-1133 Renton Road, Ewa Town mail: P. O. Box 60549, Ewa Beach HI 96706

Obon Fundraiser Saturday, June 17, 2023 10:30 am - 1:00 pm



Preorders only: (deadline to order is Sat. June 3rd) Bento - \$10

Noodles - \$7

Andagi - \$5/dozen (regular, cinnamon/sugar, or mix)

Also:

Bon Dance Towel - \$5



Windcatchers - ÷10

Honor your ancestors with their names hanging from these lanterns which will be hung around the temple around June 17



To order

visit the Ewa Hongwanji Mission website at

https://bit.ly/3bKGt2f or call: 808-681-5222 or email: ewahm1901@gmail.com

Mahalo for your Ponations

Hanamatsuri Service

Abe, Jean Nagamine, Glenn Nohara, Myra Tokumoto, Claudia Wakimura, Rae Wakimura, Ruth Yoshioka, Arnold

Higan-e Service

Yamamoto, Amy

Ofuse

Iwata, Caran ~ In memory of Mrs. Namie Iwata

Rev. David Fujimoto's office hours at Ewa Hongwanji ~ Thursdays 9:00 am-11:00 am. You may also contact him at 808-625-0925 (Mililani Hongwanji Office) or leave a message on Ewa Hongwanji's voicemail at 808-681-5222.

Keep informed of what's happening at Ewa Hongwanji - https://bit.ly/3bKGt2f