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Federation of BWAs Purpose

- to unify and cooperate with all United Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Women's associations in the State of Hawaii;
- to perpetuate and expand Jodo Shinshu (Pure Land sect) in the State of Hawaii;
- to promote the development of Buddhist Women's organizations; and
- to participate in the promotion of Buddhism throughout the world and to work for world peace.

2006 Slogan

Embraced by the Vow In Harmony

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HAWAII BUDDHIST WOMEN'S NEWS

Hawaii Federation of Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Assocoations

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813

Honorary President: Chihoko Yosemori • President: Carol Yamamoto • Minister Advisor: Rev. Shigenori Makino

President's Message

Dear Friends,

The 13th World Convention is finally over. It is almost unbelievable that we can now shift gears and return to "normal."



It was a totally gratifying experience to be part of such a dedicated, hard-working team. It was truly a total team effort. To have all of the parts come together and flow so smoothly was awesome.

Thank you, "arigato gozaimashita," "obrigada" to everyone who helped in ways large and small, from beginning to end. Buddhist women of Hawaii Federation can be proud of "one of the best world conventions," the first world convention where one truly felt the "power of women." But let us not forget it was all possible because of the support of families and friends of the

Sangha.



And "Hawaii did a wonderful thing by sponsoring that resolution." Now let us follow through and see to it that resolutions are surveyed and decisions made as to which ones will be the long-term guiding principles for our organizations world-wide. Our slogan will be our guide: "May There be Peace in the World, May the Buddha Dharma Spread."

Let us continue to walk the path together "in harmony."

With appreciation......in gassho, Carol Yamamoto, Fusae Kiyokawa, Donna Higashi, & Rev. Shigenori Makino



MESSAGE FROM FEDERATION HONORARY PRESIDENT

To: Federation BWA Newsletter

CONGRATULATIONS!



The 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention was a huge success. We have received many complimentary and thankful comments from people in Japan,

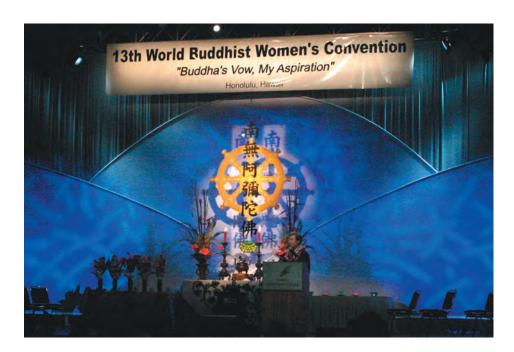
Canada, the US mainland and South America about the convention.

Thank you so much for all of your wonderful cooperation, strong support, and tireless efforts in planning and conducting this tremendous event. We were able to host a splendid convention here in Hawaii. We all put our talent, energy, enthusiasm and Aloha spirit together in believing that we could do it—and we did!

It was so exciting to hear 4,000 voices echoed in the great convention hall when we recited the sutras and sang songs together. I thought that Amida Buddha truly protected and sustained us with Amida's great compassion and unseen power during the convention.

Our special MAHALO to the convention chairs: Donna Higashi and Fusae Kiyokawa, President, Carol Yamamoto and Rev. Shigenori Makino who have been so dedicated and have worked so diligently throughout the past five years for the convention. We are truly grateful.

In Gassho, Chihoko Yosemori



13th WORLD BWA CONVENTION 2006 HIGHLIGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

HAWAII

Hilo/Puna

The members from Hawaii Island BWAs who attended and participated in the 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention were very impressed with the Convention Center and the organization of the activities. It showed how much effort was put into it by the committees and how awesome an undertaking it was. Congratulations to co-chair Donna Higashi and Fusae Kiyokawa and President Carol Yamamoto. The Puna Hongwanji members visited the Arizona Memorial on Friday, September 1 and joined the Hilo group for the Jon Hirokawa Polynesian Magic Show at the Waikiki Beachcomber that evening.

Honokaa

91 delegates to the 13th World BWA Convention from Kagoshima



visited the Big Island. They attended a short service in the Hondo of Honokaa Hongwanji and were welcomed by Aloha Chairperson Diane Imada with delicious refreshments in the Social Hall. They all loved the Malasadas. They were each presented with omiyage of fresh ground coffee, trimmed with pretty company decoration by Diane.

Honomu

At the 13th World BWA Convention, our Honomu Fujinkai delegates (5), met with our Sister Temple delegates (8) from Toronto Buddhist Church of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. This affiliation was established on June 1, 1990 when several ladies from Toronto Visited Honomu Hongwanji Mission. It was very nice to re-establish our relationship.

Kamuela

The Kamuela Hongwanji BWA ladies welcomes a group from the Kyoto area on Monday, the day after the 13th World Convention. We enjoyed the fellowship and listening to their beautiful voices as they entertained us with several songs. We, in turn, entertained them with an ukulele number and a hula. The ladies were very interested in the hula as a number of them joined us in dancing our "warm up" hula.

Kona

In May, Kona Hongwanji BWA bade a fond farewell to our Honorary President Mrs. Mieko Shindo, who with Rev. Hosho Shindo moved



to the Salinas Buddhist Temple in California. It was nice to see them at the 13th World Convention. Pre and post convention we have seven BWA groups

from Japan and one from Senshin Temple in Los Angeles visiting our temple. We provided refreshments and enjoyed fellowship. We also had a surprise visit from a Canada group during our Sunday service. It was a very enjoyable and interesting experience.

Naalehu

Six ladies from the Naalehu Hongwanji came away inspired and with feelings of gratitude after attending the three day event of the 13th World BWA convention on Sept. 1-3 at



the Hawaii Convention Center. With what were somewhat doubtful and lukewarm emotions, the ladies quickly changed their perception as the days' events progressed.

The presentations on Saturday proved to be very impacting and touching messages. The keynote speaker, **Dr. Rev. Ken Tanaka** of Japan, shared some important points as how one can live a more meaningful life as Buddhists. The panel of women ministers gave equally inspiring messages as they shared their life experiences. The suffering they endured helped them to awaken to a richer life, giving them the encouragement to

help others live a more spiritual and meaningful life

The youths from the Pacific Buddhist Academy gave everyone hope for the future as they showed such confidence through their performances at the opening and closing of the ceremony, their skillful and focused performances at the Taiko drums, and the message of vision and spiritual insight that was shared by a young student.

There were almost four thousand members who attended the convention, majority of them from Japan. Others came from South America, Canada and the U.S. It was a happy experience dining with the guests and struggling to break the language barrier. It was heartwarming to meet old acquaintances, friends and former ministers.

From Naalehu Hongwanji were Gladys Yonemitsu, Sumiye Takaki,

Alice Yonemitsu, Maria McCasland, Jackie McMurray and Masako Sakata. Maria and Jackie truly stole the hearts of many as they so willingly and joyfully shuttled the elderly from the hotel to the Convention Center. Boy, did they exemplify their Buddhist spirit! Just what Rev. Tanaka meant when he said "share the Dharma." People like them really make a difference in

our lives.

The theme: *Buddha's Vow, My Aspiration* prevailed throughout the event and hopefully will continue to spread throughout the world. Jim

Anderson stayed home but not without sending his Aloha spirit, support and concern.

Puna

Twenty-five members attended the successful 13th World BWA Convention in Honolulu. Prior to the convention, 120 members from Fukuoka



visited Puna Hongwanji Mission. On September 6th, 60 members from Los Angeles, led by Rev. George and Mrs. Kyoko (Shirasu) Matsubayashi, enjoyed a memorable reunion with our Sangha, reminiscing the times spent here when Rev. Shushin Matsubayashi and Rev. Jukaku Shirasu were ministers at Olaa Hongwanji many years ago.

Papaaloa

The 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention has been an eye-opener and an exhilarating experience for our sis members! We were all first-timers to world conventions and two are very new members of our church and to Buddhism. The speeches (by Lady Ohtani, by Rev. Dr. Tanaka, and by five panelists), and workshops were well-received by our members. We all felt it was well worth attending the event. We wish to commend and thank the convention committee





members and those non-members who worked very hard in making this a memorable experience! Thank you!

HONOLULU

Hawaii Betsuin

14 gutsy Betsuin BWA members and 2 from Project Dana dancers – 16 in all – performed "Staying Alive" which was on a disco beat and half way through changed into graceful motions of "Hokkai Bon Uta" still on the disco beat. We practiced and practiced with Sumie Sueishi who took on the responsibility of a presentation from Hawaii for the Aloha Luncheon program.

At the outset, I didn't think I would make it with 2 left feet and still having "senior moments". But, lo and behold, the 16 of us did SURPRIS-INGLY WELL on the 40 foot stage. We practiced to look way out into the audience, smile and enjoy. We all did!

The dancers were Sumie Sueishi, our instructor, Yaeko Kobayashi who just enjoyed her 90th birthday in August, sisters May Okazaki and Ethel Kitagawa, Project Dana dancers Gail Fukunaga and Joan Nakamoto, and the rest of us: Yukie Sakai, Kimiyo Miyose, Miyoko Sato, Amy Hirohata-Goto, Sets Takashige, Irene Ida, Connie Fukumoto, Peggy Shintaku, Terry Fujioka, and Lori Taketa who stepped in as substitute in the last few weeks of practice.

All in all, the many weeks of practice helped us tremendously in keeping our arms, legs and brains in sync. Our faith in the *Onembutsu* sustained us throughout. "*Tanoshii deshita*" to

be able to participate in the World Convention.

Forty-five members from Miyoshiso United Fujinkai, Bingo Kyoku, Hiroshima, Japan attended the Convention. They were members of our sister temple, established in 1984 under the leadership of then president, Mrs. Atsuko Hasegawa of Hawaii Betsuin Fujinkai and Mrs. Haruko Fujii of Bingo Kyoku, Miyoshi-so. At the end of the convention they were invited to Hawaii Betsuin for an evening of renewed friendship, dinner, and fun with over a hundred Betsuin BWA members and guests. With promises of meeting again at the next convention in Kyoto in five years, everyone parted after dancing the hula to the tune of "Aloha Oe."

Jikoen

Jikoen's delegates numbered 37, most of whom stayed at the Ala

Moana Hotel while others commuted. Many members took an active part in the activities, beginning with greeting our sisters from Japan at the airport as early as 6:00 a.m. and staying until almost noon. (Grace Isa, Natsue Kaneshiro, Tomi Masaki, Helene Minehira, Doreen Niibu, Haru and Ed Okita, Myrtle Oshiro, Shiz Miyasato, Annie Shimabukuro and Barbara Yamada) Smoothly planning and organizing our participation were Denise Hirano and Doris Oshiro. They ordered the Friday night bento and breakfast sandwiches for Saturday and Sunday mornings. Many others of us were involved in the people-moving phase of the workshops.

Suzue Nishiyama was narrator for the video "Lotus Blooms in Hawaii" and also served as MC for part of the program. Lily Horio was one of the convention's two secretaries, was busy for two years prior, taking notes during coordinating meetings.

Everyone went to extra meetings to learn the hula "Aloha O'e" and the Lady Ohtani's song "Hohoemi to Tomo ni." What a thrill it was to her the 3800 voices joining together in singing that beautiful song!

The whole convention was a marvelous experience for all of us and many are looking forward to the next one in Japan in 2011.





Moiliili

Rev. & Mrs. Matsumoto were literally running around backstage for Opening and Closing Service trying to make sure everything was going as planned. They helped to organize all the details with Rev. Toshima of Betsuin and sent hours in the preparation. The outcome was awesome. The Hawaiian quilt altar cloths using the kukui and ulu motifs were hand sewn by the Moiliili BWA members. They put in approximately a thousand hours to complete them in time for the convention.

Thank you to Rose Nakamura who headed the Resolutions committee and took on the responsibility of wording the Convention Declaration. The resolution was passed and will become the next order of business for the Federation.

And what would we have done without **Donna Higashi**?! No detail escaped her scrutiny. Congratulations, Donna for a job well done.

The 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention held Sept. 2-3 at the Hawaii Convention Center was a very successful gathering. 44 BWA members from Moiliili Hongwanji attended the Convention. Members' comments were very positive about the Convention. 30 of the 44 members attended a World Buddhist Women's Convention for the first

time. These first timers rated the Convention as excellent and were inspired by the guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka, and the panel of women ministers.

Other comments included the beautiful stage setting and lighting effects, meeting Lady Noriko Ohtani and how gracious and warm she was, the choir rendition of Nembutsu was very impressive and gave many "chicken skin". *Hohoemi To Tomo Ni* with every one singing was a beautiful way to end the Convention. The workshops went smoothly and Moiliili Hongwanji BWA members were involved in hosting two workshops, namely, Flowers and Plants of Hawaii and Introduction to Hula.

The entire Convention execution was done with thoughtfulness and sensitivity. Hawaii Federation of BWA President Carol Yamamoto and Co-chairs **Donna Higashi** and **Fusae Kiyokawa** are to be given accolades for their untiring leadership.

MAUI

Lanai BWA

Our BWA was represented by Dixie Buckley and Kitty Nohara at the International Convention in Honolulu, September 1-3. They were very happy to have the chance to visit with Reverend and Mrs Kobata.





Makawao

Seventeen members and Rev. and Mrs. Umitani attended the 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention in Honolulu, September 1-3. Sweet, juicy pineapple was brought from Maui and served at the pineapple workhop.

We all enjoyed making new friends and seeing old friends, especially our former reverends, **Bishop Yosemori**, **Rev. Nakanishi**, **Rev. Fujitani**, **Rev. Kobata** and **their wives**.

Wailuku BWA

We have been putting all out energies in the preparation for the 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention.

For the exchange gifts at the convention, we gave HC&S raw sugar and coffee. Janet Okamoto, Mary Tokumaru and Helen Tanaka sang with the mass choir, These ladies had practice sessions with our choir leader, Joan Tamori to learn their parts. Our BWA women were very pleased with the "smooth flow" of the convention activities. The highlight of the convention was the seating arrangement during the meals. Eating with the same people from Japan made friendship ties that the ladies are looking forward to the Japan convention in 2011.

OAHU

After four long years of planning, the 13th World BWA Convention, September 1 - 3, 2006 became a reality. The Convention was a success and many World District delegates were impressed with the many events throughout the Convention and the friendliness of the Hawaii delegates. The "Aloha-ness" came through beautifully from the members, friends, and relatives who helped in the various venues. I thank you all for your support and time that made the 13th World Convention a truly remarkable event that will be remembered by all for a long, long time.

In Gassho, Janet Honda (Mililani Hongwanji) Oahu United BWA Representative on the 13th World BWA Convention Planning Committee.

OTHER NEWS

STUDENT EXCHANGE 2006

Yuika Inagaki, 21, from Hokkaido and An Na Jo, 18, from Fukuoka were our exchange students for 2006. Yuika-san is a student at Osaka University majoring in international culture. An Na-san is a student at Chikuyo Gakkuen High School. They were greeted at Honolulu Airport August 8 by members from Oahu and Honolulu units. The blue Hapi coats the girls wore clearly identified them as our exchange students.

The first stop for the girls was Hawaii Betsuin where they were welcomed by Bishop Chikai Yosemori and Rev. Shigenori Makino. Short visits to Pacific Buddhist Academy and Hongwanji Mission School preceded lunch at Gyotaku Restaurant. They wanted to see Waikiki Beach so Ethel Shintaku from Honolulu obliged before checking them in at Pagoda Hotel for a much needed rest.

Bishop and Mrs. Yosemori hosted a welcome dinner at their residence that evening with Honolulu and Oahu committee members in attendance. The girls received lessons on how to introduce themselves in English and learned their first Hawaiian word, "mahalo."

Off to Hawaii the next morning. Etsuko Kurokawa and her husband took the girls on a short visit to Honomu Hongwanji Temple before going to Akaka Falls. Rev. Nobuharu Kato, Bernice Tomiyama and Linda Otomo greeted them and served light refreshments. That evening the girls were guests at a potluck dinner held at Hilo Hongwanji Sangha Hall cohosted several units.

They were home-stay guests of **Tsugie Tsutsui** who provided a warm "home-

away-from-home." Puna, Pahala, and Naalehu Fujinkai members hosted a luncheon for the girls at the Volcano House on August 10. On to Kona where they were able to enjoy some time at the beach and picnic dinner with Kona, Kamuela, Honokaa members.

An Na and Yuika were met at Kahului Airport on August 11 by BWA ladies from Lahaina and Kahului accompanied by Rev. Kosho Yagi and Rev. Daien Soga. At Kahului Hongwanji Rev. Soga conducted a short service, followed by light lunch. Wailuku Hongwanji Mission was the next stop. Rev. Shinkai Murakami gave a short history of the temple and the girls received leis and gifts from the Wailuku BWA. The girls went sight-seeing at Iao Valley before heading to the Royal Lahaina Hotel at Kaanapali. 46 Maui United members welcomed the girls at Royal Lahaina's luau where the girls learned to do the hula on stage.

Breakfast next morning was prepared by the Lahaina ladies after which the girls enjoyed a leisurely walk through Lahaina town. Instead of the traditional Hawaiian Aloha gift, they were given whatever they wanted at Hard Rock Café. They were thrilled: one selected a T-shirt and the other a tank top. A picnic lunch on the beach at Lahaina Jodo Mission. The group was joined by Rev. and Mrs. Gensho Hara of Jodo Mission,. Taking part in the Bon Dance at Kahului Jodo Mission rounded out the Maui stay.

On Kauai the girls were able to enjoy the beach again with the Kapaa ladies. Kauai United hosted a dinner Hanamaulu Café. They enjoyed sight-seeing at Kokee with the West Kauai ladies and dinner at Duke's with Lihue Hongwanji. Their lodgings were at the Kauai Marriott.

It was Wahiawa's turn to host on



Oahu. A special luncheon was held at the Sushi-ten Waikele Restaurant. 55 Oahu United members, along with special guests – **Pres. Carol Yamamoto** and **Ethel Shintaku**, Student Exchange Committee, Honolulu Unit attended.

The girls were delighted as we put hula skirts of them and taught them two simple hula dances. Then they were each presented with gifts from Hawaii – chocolate macadamia candy, Kona coffee, a Hawaiian quilted sling bag, and a souvenir book of Oahu. The book highlights the popular attractions of the island with pictures and information, so even though there was no time to sightsee, Yuika and An Na will still come to know and learn of our beautiful island of Oahu.

Following lunch, the girls were taken to Hawaii Hochi for the traditional interview. Then off to Ala Moana Shopping Center – their request. Many stores and many, many hours later, Yuika remarked, "Now I can go home." A quick drive through Waikiki, a short stroll through International Market Place, then off to a leisurely dinner where we had time to relax and "talk story." We learned that Yuika is planning to return to Hawaii in December with her father to take part in the Honolulu Marathon.

All too soon it was time to take the girls back to the Ala Moana Hotel where they spent the night. After breakfast the following morning, we drove to Magic Island where the girls got a beautiful unobstructed view of Diamond Head. Yuika's comment, "Now I did everything," was our cue to take the girls to the airport for their return flight back to Japan. It was a whirlwind trip, but a memorable one for our exchange students 2006, Yuika Inagaki and An Na Jo.

(Editor's note: This is a composite of items turned in by reporters.)

HONOLULU UNITED

HONOLULU UNITS

Kailua BWA

Esther Fujioka, Elaine Fukada, Jean Fukumoto, Julie Kusumoto, Miyuki Masuda, Masae Miyashiro, Geri Ochikubo, and Shirley Yanagisawa planned and executed a successful Honolulu United HHBWA General Membership Meeting on June 17 at Hawaii

Betsuin. A workshop was held to prepare all BWA ladies for the 13th World

Buddhist Women's Convention. Program information and schedules were shared, songs and hula practices were held. Some of the ladies even came dressed in their Hilo Hattie outfits.

KAUAI UNITED

KAUAI UNITS

The women of KUHBWA were busy making green and purple leis for the 13th Buddhist Women's World Convention. 31 members attended the convention from Kauai.

Other on going projects includes our annual General Membership Meeting to be held at Kapaa Hongwanji on October 1, 2006 and planting marigolds for our annual Lonesome Grave project for Kauai Veterans Memorial Cemetery during Veterans Day Celebration.

Lihue BWA

Lihue Hongwanji Women's Association held a social service project for Hale Opio (Girls division) by sewing bed quilt covers and providing personal care products in duffel bags. Over 20 quilts were sewn by members.

West Kauai BWA

West Kauai Hongwanji Women's Association held a "Fun Day" on August 26, 2006 – played bingo, sang songs, make your own sushi buffet for lunch just to have fun and fellowship and to encourage membership recruitment ...over 30 people joined in this enjoyable get-together.

MAUI UNITED

MAUI UNITS

Lanai BWA

Hanamatsuri service was conducted by Reverend Daiei Soga on April 8. On April 16, we visited the Lanai Hospital. President Karen Mendes presented liquid bath soap to the patients (as requested by the hospital staff).

The ladies celebrated Mother's Day at a luncheon at the Manele Bay Clubhouse. We had a very nice turnout and everyone enjoyed the meal and fellowship.

Our O Bon service was led by Reverend Murakami on June 30. The Lahaina Hongwanji again joined us for our Bon Dance on July 8. Sushi and chow fun were prepared by the Fujinkai for sale at the dance.

Reverend Yagi visited on September 16 and we bade him farewell as he leaves for Kauai.

October was the month of our annual bazaar. The ladies again worked hard making cone sushi for sale.

A group of ladies went to Maui to atend the General Assembly meeting in November.

We closed out the year on December 31 with our annual New Year's service and bell ringing.

Makawao BWA

In April, Makawao Hongwanji BWA visited Hale Makua Wailuku. It was especially heartwarming to see some church members and old friends.

Planning for our 100th Anniversary continues. There is still time to get your cookbooks, and now you can get t-shirts. Co-chairs **Diane Kosaka** and **Karen Ishizu** present the t-shirts for sale in last August. The design features the ocean near Paia Hongwanji, 1907-1971, to the mountain slopes of Makawao Hongwanji, 1971 to present. Get yourr women's cut or regular cut t-shirts.

Wailuku BWA

In May and June, we were in the kitchen, preparing sekihan, barazushi and snacks for the Maui Matsuri. Popcorn flavored pretzels, energy bars, brownies, Rice Krispie treats, and party mix were sold for a dollar each. We also had a rummage sale which was very profitable. Our talented sewers made Obon happis that we also sold.



THE 13th WORLD BUDDHIST WOMEN'S CONVENTION DECLARATION

The 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention with the theme, "Buddha's Vow, My Aspiration," and slogan, "May There Be Peace in the World, May the Buddha Dharma Spread!" took place in Hawaii. United in spirit and purpose, an impressive program of activities and fellowship prevailed as Shin Buddhist women gathered from Japan, South America, Canada, United States, and Hawaii. As members of the World Federation of Hongwanji-Ha Buddhist Women's Associations, awakened by the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha, everyone was encouraged to return to their respective Federation units to promote peace and harmony through programs and activities.

A resolution was unanimously passed to survey the past resolutions in order that the World Federation's purpose and objectives could be strengthened and achieved. Each Federation unit will complete the survey and submit a report at the next Representative Assembly in 2009 followed by a full compiled presentation with recommendations at the 14th World Buddhist Woment's Convention in 2011.

May each Federation unit delcare whole hearted support for this approved World Federation resolution.



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations 1727 Pali Highway Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Resolution to Survey World Federation Resolutions

- WHEREAS, the World Federation of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-Ha Buddhist Women's Associations was officially formed in 1961 to advance a world-wide Buddhist women's movement and to spread the Buddha-Dharma throughout the world, and
- WHEREAS, to promote its goals and objectives, the World Federation has encouraged the submission of resolutions by member organizations at its World Buddhist Women's Conventions, and
- WHEREAS, resolutions which were presented, discussed, and approved at the World Buddhist Women's Conventions are implemented by member organizations of the respective Federations of Buddhist Women's Associations of Japan, South America, Buddhist Churches of America, Canada, and Hawaii, and
- WHEREAS, these approved resolutions have increased in numbers throughout the years (see attached list);
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that member organizations of the World Federation of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-Ha make a concerted effort to implement the approved resolutions, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that member organizations be asked to survey the implementation of these resolutions within their respective Federations, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that member organizations complete the provided checklist for submission at the next Representative Assembly to be hosted by Japan in 2009, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a compiled report and recommendations be presented at the 14th World Buddhist Women's Convention in 2011.

This resolution was accepted at the Representative Assembly of the 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention held at the Ala Moana Hotel, Garden Lanai, on Friday, September 1, 2006 and announced at the General Assembly on Sunday, September 3.

Follow-up by Hawaii Federation will be discussed at the Fall Representative Assembly.