

# Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII FEDERATION OF BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

Honorary President: Tamayo Matsumoto President: Irene Nakamoto Minister Advisor: Rev. Shindo Nishiyama  
1727 Pali Highway Honolulu, HI 96813 USA Contact us at (808) 522-9200 or [www.hawaiiibwa.org](http://www.hawaiiibwa.org)

## Message from the President: Irene Nakamoto



Our October 8, 2016 meeting is a few weeks away. As I was thinking of our meeting, I began to reflect on the life of Takeko Kujo, who at 22 created the nucleus for the Buddhist Women's Association along with her sister-in-law, Kazuko. Forming a women's organization was a new thing in Japan in 1904. Women in Japan were still the housewives who were bound by conventions and traditions... somewhat like feudalism. United effort for a common purpose seemed hardly "consonant with the modest, ordered pattern of their lives.... Takeko and Kazuko, determined to break the tradition of public apathy among women, decided to seize the opportunity for public service--to start an organization on a nationwide scale, a bold pioneering venture." Kazuko assumed the presidency and set out on a countrywide campaign to organize local women's units in every city, every accessible town and village in the provinces. At twenty-two, she was a zealous young lady with natural person-to-person abilities. Takeko remained at home as the directing officer at headquarters in Kyoto to coordinate the wartime work of all women's branch organizations. Takeko had the makings of a leader and was able to handle the large

undertaking with quick decisions and determined capacity for work. She "stepped forward" at a time when her country needed her to organize women's groups to help the war effort.

Like Takeko Kujo, we have a need to "step forward" as our organization calls us to overcome the adversities of declining membership and aging population. As our 2016 theme/slogan states: "Embrace Change: New Vision (Create Engagement)," each of us individually and collectively can make a new tomorrow by embracing change. The Hawaii Federation initiated some corrections/changes to the World Federation By-Laws which were shared at the 2015 Representatives meeting. Due to concerns/questions, representatives from each of the world districts have been in communication via a form of webex and are focused on making some important changes to the by-laws at the next World BWA Representatives meeting in 2017.

In Hawaii, under the leadership of Alton Miyamoto, a group of representatives from the different organizations have been gathering to discuss a joint conference in 2018. Change is in the air with a new vision.

At our October 8, 2016 Hawaii's BWA Federation meeting, we will be discussing these important changes in the afternoon session and all BWA members are welcomed to join us for this discussion.

Let us all be motivated by Takeko Kujo and continue the perpetuation of the Buddhist Women's Association by remembering to "Embrace Change: New Vision (Create Engagement)".

# HAWAII ISLAND UNITED BWA

Nancy Nonaka

**NAALEHU:** The Pahala Hongwanji held its first obon service and dance since 1999, led by Wayne Kawachi, Kyodan President, with assist of members and community volunteers on August 21, 2016. Puna BWA member, Carole Tsunozumi, helped with the planning of the service with Rev. Bryan Siebuhr of Hilo Betsuin officiating the service and opening of the bon dancing. Naalehu Hongwanji BWA members prepared 281 sushi rolls to help their sister temple from 4:30 am on the day of the event.

"Pahala residents helped participants make hachi maki...headbands worn to celebrate Obon.... friends provided long strips of cloth for people to stamp with favorite symbols before tying them on their heads.... It was a homecoming indeed as there were so many new

and old timers who came back to visit their hometown and temple. There must have been a lot of 'natsukashi' feelings stirring in many hearts, all, who had at one point or another had something to do with building its history!"\*

"At Pahala Hongwanji there remain many old timers who continue to put their all in whatever they do: Irene Takahara, Lillian Aratani, Dora Yokomizo, Mrs. Sumida and Sally Yamaguchi. It was also very heartwarming to see many new 'young faces'

on the scene to give a lending hand for the occasion.

Although it rained intermittently throughout the evening, spirits were high, dancers danced joyfully in the rain and the successful event can be attributed to the hard work everyone put forth!"\*\*

\*Excerpted from Kau Calendar News Briefs 8/28/16

\*\*Excerpted from Naalehu Honganji newsletter by Masako Sakata



**HILO BETSUIN:** On August 6, 2016, Hilo Betsuin held its Super Garage Sale at the Sangha Hall. Co-chaired by Karen Maedo and Jane Iida, the sale ran from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., with people lined up well before 6 a.m. With items including clothing for all ages, toys, housewares, fabrics, quilts, house furnishing, books, plants, and a large miscellaneous collection, the event proved very successful. A new Boutique section offered gently used, specially priced items including kimono and happi, muumuus, dresses, tops, and other unique offerings. Unsold items were donated to numerous agencies providing services to the larger community. Thanks to all whose hard work and selfless giving made the event a large success.



## PUNA HONGWANJI

**MISSION:** The annual Big Island AIDS Walk was held on April 9, 2016 at Liliuokalani Park. The AIDS walk is a movement to an AIDS free Hawaii Island.



Participants from Puna Hongwanji were Dora, Bernice, Bev, Mako, K.T., Carol, Charles, and Jean. Some supported by selling t-shirts and others participated in the walk and gave monetary donations.

Thank you to those who gave up their precious Saturday morning time to come down to the park and spread the, "Dana".

## MAUI UNITED BWA Marilyn Morikawa

WISDOM, COMPASSION, PEACE. Maui United Buddhist Womens Association endeavors to promote our Buddhist concepts within our Temple Sanghas and in our Community. At our Spring General Assembly on April 23, President Sharon Nohara introduced two speakers. Sylvia Neizman of Lahaina Hongwanji shared "What is Buddhism? - Five Hawaiian Words" (pono, aloha, aina, ohana, mana) from her workshop at the Maui Taste of Hongwani and Marilyn Morikawa of Makawao



Hongwanji shared "The Five Kinds of Offering (Kindness) which was from the state Dharma School Teachers' Conference.

During the busy summer months, BWA women enjoyed the Obon Festivals, dancing, seeing friends, and enjoying ono food. Violet Nishijima of Lahaina, who attended all the BWA World Conventions except Calgary, and Karen Mendez of Lanai are long-time friends. Sharon Nohara and Phyllis Nakamura of Lahaina Hongwanji share sushi and somen salad, while at other temples BWA ladies made chili, spam musubi, andagi, nishime, bento, of course chow fun and many other popular foods.

August 14-16, Maui hosted exchange students from Japan. They enjoyed tours of Upcountry Maui, Lahaina, making leis, learning the hula, shopping, and eating local food.



In the next few months, we look forward to Peace Day activities, Autumn festivals, Holiday bazaars, and celebrating yearly New Years mochi pounding and other traditions. We are always learning and sharing: WISDOM, COMPASSION, PEACE



## OAHU UNITED BWA

President, June Asato

The Oahu United BWA held its annual convention and seminar at Pearl City Hongwanji on Saturday, September 17. The OUHHBWA Convention and Educational Seminar for 2016 were combined, and someone from each of the active units volunteered to chair various committees involved in planning and implementing the event. This arrangement worked well and we hope to continue having at least one major OUHHBWA event per year with shared responsibilities. Our events are open to Oahu Hongwanji Ohana and friends, and this year we had women from 6 of the 8 temples attend the program. Volunteers from Kokua Mau presented a program on The Conversation Project (dedicated to helping people reflect/talk about their wishes for end of life care), and the Conversation Starter Kit for this project was provided to each participant to help get the conversation going with their families. There was lots of engaged discussion among the participants. Member Arynn Ishikawa led us in learning and singing the Buddhist Women's Pledge. The following were elected to lead the OUHHBWA in 2017: President June Asato (Mililani), Vice President Susan Morishige (Aiea), Recording Secretary Joan Masaki (Pearl City), Corresponding Secretary Takako Desaki (Pearl City), Treasurer Joyce Ogawa (Mililani), Assistant Treasurer Susan Ushijima (Waianae), Auditors Doreen Sakamoto (Mililani), Beatrice Sonoda (Waipahu).



Pictured with installing officer Rev. Mari Nishiyama from l to r are: Susan Morishige, Joan Masaki, Takako Desaki, June Asato and Susan Ushijima. Back row: Joyce Ogawa, Doreen Sakamoto and Beatrice Sonoda

## HONOLULU UNITED BWA

Lois Toyama

On Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, members of the planning committee for this year's Education/Membership Meeting attended a service at the Manoa Mosque. We were very warmly welcomed and after the service had a tour of the mosque. Following the service and tour, BWA members met with four women from the mosque who will serve on a panel for our meeting, "Reaching Out – Making Connections."

Our engaging two hour planning meeting gave us a preview of what we are confident will be an informative and interesting workshop for our members and guests. They talked about the wearing of the hijab, which they will demonstrate for us at our October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. They also shared delicious chai tea and harissa, a homemade cookie bar that they will be bringing to the workshop as well.

At the meeting, our four panelists, who come from Morocco, Pakistan, Turkey, and the United States, will share personal elements of their faith as well as of their various cultures.

The members of Honolulu United BWA would like to express our appreciation to the Federation for the education and membership grants which will make this exciting event possible. Many people have expressed interest in attending. In addition to our members, we will invite

women from our temples who are not BWA members as well as women who are not temple members but who have shown an interest in Buddhism, thus hoping to increase our membership.

The process of planning this event has been enriching, informative, and fun for the whole committee. While trying to "Reach Out – Make Connections" in the community, we have deepened connections among ourselves.



## KAUAI UNITED BWA

Lynette Miyamoto

The Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association is very pleased to award two scholarships to two very deserving students from West Kauai Hongwanji Mission. They are Janine Iseri and Riley Saiki. They were well versed in relating Jodo Shinshu teachings in their everyday life. They both rank in the top 10% of their graduating class.



Janine is the daughter of Neal and Alison Iseri. Proud grandmother is Harriet Iseri, long time BWA member. Janine plans to attend the University of Hawaii at Hilo, majoring in business administration and hope to start a career in the hospitality and tourism industry. Janine has been at-

tending church since childhood and is now one of our emcees for services. She also helps in the booths at our bon dances, participates in Relay For Life and donates flowers to our Sunday services. While she is passionate about playing volleyball four years at Kauai High School (defensive specialist), she is also a terrific hula dancer with the Halau Ka Waikaha Lani Malie. Busy girl that she is, she also finds time to volunteer in community and service projects through the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism Club.

Riley Saiki is the son of Ryan Saiki. Grandparents who introduced Riley to the Dharma are Elaine and Steven Saiki. Riley will be attending



the University of Portland, majoring in Electrical engineering. Riley has had a busy four years at Waimea High School. He has been an active member of the Leo Club and Interact Club doing service projects for the community such as doing inventory at Sueoka store. He has been part of the Waimea JROTC program for three years and holds the rank of Cadet 2nd Lieutenant. He was part of the Waimea High School Science Olympiad and Vidroc class which shot a rocket into the air. He was a KIF soccer and tennis All-Star and team captain. Riley is also one of our church emcees, works in the game booths at our bon dances and makes computer posters and flyers for our church. We are very proud of Janine and Riley, and wish them the very best in their endeavors.