

Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

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

Honorary President: Tamayo Matsumoto President: Lois Toyama Minister Advisor: Rev. Shinkai Murakami
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Message from the President: Lois Toyama

Four years ago, as I was beginning my first term as Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations president, I stated my theme as "Dharma Leadership in Action." I hoped that we could build on Janet Honda's efforts to make the BWA more visible in the community and on Irene Nakamoto's theme of "Dharma Leadership." Over the past four years, you have shown Dharma leadership in action in ways we could never have imagined.



The pandemic has been a huge crisis for the state, the country, and the world. We were unable to meet in person and enjoy each other's company. Yet you created ways to communicate in order to create an army of mask makers to help alleviate suffering in our community. You reached out to hospitals, clinics, schools, and public and private agencies to determine their needs for masks. Then you set about meeting those needs by sewing and donating over 7,000 masks. When hospitals asked for surgical caps, you sewed those.

As people lost jobs and food insecurity became a problem for so many, you worked with your temples to conduct food drives, to prepare and serve food to the houseless, and to donate to food banks. You helped to prepare meals to deliver to elders in your temples. You continued or increased your Dana awards to community associations that help families.

Through all that, you stayed connected through Zoom meetings, phone calls, emails, and letters. You supported each other to ensure that those who needed help with technology were able to access it. As I write this, you are finding creative new ways to celebrate Peace Day and to share the Buddhist teachings of peace. Maui United members are now hard at work planning our State BWA Convention on April 23-24, 2022.

Thank you for the support and kindness you have shown me over the past four years. Thank you for the many ways that you show Dharma Leadership in Action every day.

MAUI UNITED BWA

Charlotte Wilkinson



The MUBWA Fall General Assembly on November 20, 2021, at the Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, will feature a presentation by Mrs. Tomioka (Puna Hongwanji) on the different kinds and qualities of incense. Mrs. Tomioka's parents own an incense shop in Japan, so she is immensely knowledgeable. Members will be able to experience and learn the purpose of the different types of incense and its significance in Buddhism. Members will make their own sachet pouch with the incense(s) of their choice.

MUBWA's 2021 Dana Award recipient is Neighborhood Place of Wailuku (NPW) located in Happy Valley. This family center is a part of Child and Family Service. It assists families with various programs, offers a wide range of services that are based on Native Hawaiian culture and serves

everyone from keiki to kupuna. It focuses on family values, parenting classes and instilling confidence; thus, it supports the family in its entirety.

Maui BWA units will be setting up displays to observe Peace Day in Hawaii and participate in the bell ringing on September 21, 2021. Wailuku has set up their red crane display and Lahaina has yard signs fronting their peace banner. Lahaina has also partnered with local businesses to distribute origami cranes to their customers to promote peace.

The MUBWA planning committee members have been meeting monthly via zoom

to plan and prepare for the 14th BWA Hawaii State Conference to be held on April 23 & 24, 2022 at Wailuku Hongwanji Mission. Janet Shimada is the chairperson. Please remember these deadlines: Maui Beach Hotel booking at the special rate is October 23, 2021, and conference registration is January 7, 2022.

E hele mai i Maui!
Come to Maui!



HAWAII ISLAND UNITED BWA

Buddhist Women's Association Scholarship Recipients

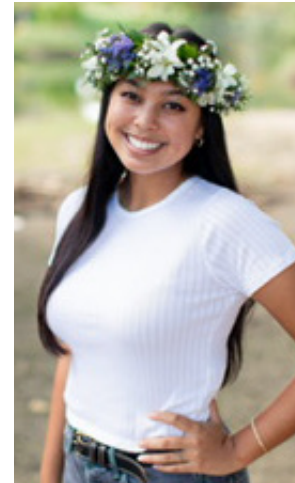
In recognition of their academic excellence and active participation in temple, school, and community activities, Maya Atwal and Jaslyn Miura were awarded \$1,000 scholarships by the Hawaii Island United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association.

With strong determination, leadership skills, compassion, and humility, both girls exhibited the Shin Buddhist ideals through active participation in numerous community service activities. They were also active in athletics and student government leadership, while achieving academic honors.

Maya Atwal, a Waiakea High School graduate and Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin member, will attend the University of San Diego with a major in Biology. She is the daughter of Jill Atwal and Money Atwal, and the granddaughter of Ronald and Netlie Yokoyama.

Jaslyn Miura, a Honokaa High School graduate and Kamuela Hongwanji member, will attend the University of Washington with a major in Environmental Science. She is the daughter of Colin and Lisa Miura, and the granddaughter of Toshi and Takako Miura.

Jane Iida



Maya Atwal



Jaslyn Miura

Thelma Ryusaki and
Jaslyn Miura

Ellen Okano and Maya Atwal



HONOLULU UNITED BWA

Ann Nakata and
Donna Higashi



Reaching out to Family, Friends, and the Community

Honolulu United's Joint Education and Membership Conference was held on August 14, 2021 with 60 members attending via Zoom including 8 members gathered at Jikoen Temple. A 90-year-old Jikoen member's son agreed to connect his mom to the zoom meeting. His mother was able to enjoy the program and her son agreed to help her again in the future. How wonderful!

Our conference theme was "Awareness." Our guest speaker Robbie Alm spoke on "Nurturing Empathy and Respect," reminding us of interdependence and how we can practice being especially caring and compassionate in these difficult times which has isolated us from one another. The memorial service included a slideshow of all the BWA members who had passed away during the year. One of these members had not been active so no picture was found, but the emcee contacted the family and was able to obtain a picture. She then invited the family to the online service.

Workshops included safety tips from two Honolulu Police officers on road/pedestrian safety to telephone/internet awareness, as well as group participation exercises in visualization and mirroring to increase awareness of ourselves and others.

The conference closed with a video of 2021 Dana Award recipients: Adult

Friends for Youth (\$1,000), Hawaii Foodbank (\$1,000), Touch-A-Heart (\$1,000), U.H. Foundation Project H.O.M.E. (\$1,000), and Project Dana (\$2,000 perpetual). "It takes a village" to do a conference and once again, all the hands of Honolulu United's Education and Membership Committees worked together almost seamlessly.

The Hawaii Betsuin BWA is collecting aloha shirts for military soldiers stationed overseas. It is helping a North Carolina group called "Hawaiian Shirts for Deployed Soldiers", which started when the founder's son

was heading to Iraq. He brought his aloha shirt to Iraq & his Army buddies all wanted one too, so he wrote to his mom & she collected & sent shirts to him.

We sent 38 shirts last month & will continue collecting shirts. Contact: Jo desMaret @purpleldy2@aol.com for more information.



On July 24, Jikoen Hongwanji BWA

members danced for a recording that was viewed during the virtual Okinawan festival this month.

Moiliili Hongwanji BWA members helped prep dinners for Moiliili's Obon Bento fund-raiser; others assist with Family Promise's Ohana Dinners. Recently a BWA member coordinated the Punchbowl graveside service for a temple member who died without family, but not without friends in Moiliili's Dharma School and Meditation group.



KAUAI UNITED BWA

Lynette Miyamoto



The United Buddhist Women's Association of Kauai is proud to announce the two recipients of our BWA scholarship for 2021. Both are high school seniors graduating from Kamehameha School and were impressive in their interviews, written letters, and school, church and community activities and grades. They will each receive \$1000.



Mason Doo is the son of Bryan Doo and Erin Takekuma. He belongs to Kapaa Hongwanji Mission where he has been active in church and received his Metta Boy Scout badge in Buddhism. He plans to attend Northern Arizona University majoring in Biology and hopes to work as a Marine Biologist.



Taylor Nishimoto is the daughter of Alan Liu and Lianne Nishimoto. She has been a volunteer at Lihue Hongwanji Mission for many years. In her interview, she replied that being a mentor for younger students has been a great learning experience from church. She plans to attend the University of Washington and major in Sociology with hopes of becoming an outreach counselor specializing in native Hawaiian Keiki.

The interview part of our selection process showed that both students are very versatile in their Buddhist education and could express core Shin Buddhism teachings. Thank you to the ministers, Dharma school teachers, parents, and members of the congregation for giving these students a solid background for their future endeavors.



The Kapaa Hongwanji BWA has been actively assisting the temple with fundraisers like Lau Lau Plate and Bon Dance bento (flying saucer, pronto pup, chicken yakitori, maki sushi and namasu.) Keirokai members were surprised with bentos in May.

Lihue Hongwanji Women's Association (LHWA) members hosted a virtual Eshinni-Kakushinni Memorial Service in April with Federation President Lois Toyama as our guest speaker. Thanks to Marion Ogata for making zippered Onenju pouches for our KUBWA members. Thank you also to Carolyn Yamasaki for making Sakura Unity pins symbolizing our oneness and togetherness during these trying times and to Caroline Ozaki for spear heading a committee on sewing head coverings while working in the kitchen. These will be available for sale at the HHFBWA convention in 2022.



OAHU UNITED BWA

Susan Morishige

The OUHHBWA's Annual Membership Conference and Educational Seminar has been rescheduled to Saturday, November 13th

In February, Mililani Hongwanji BWA had a successful Trial Country Store. To commemorate Dana Day, they collected 137 pounds of food and \$645 in donations for the Hawaii Food Bank. Guest speaker at their Eshinni Kakushinni Day service was Sheera Tamura; offertory collected was given equally to Dharma School and Ohana Arts. In April, after hearing a report on the Memorial's 20th anniversary, BWA members and their spouses visited the Ehime Maru Memorial in Kakaako Park for their annual cleaning and a brief service. On Buddha Day, BWA members helped to set up and decorate the Hanamido for the temple walk-thru. In August the BWA had a successful drive-thru Country Store at Mililani's Obon event.



On April 25, the guest speaker at the Pearl City Hongwanji BWA's Eshinni and Kakushinni Day Service was Mililani BWA member Carrie Kawamoto. The BWA members are



also making take-home refreshment bags for the six major services, and having monthly mini bazaars with all proceeds going to their Kyodan.

Waianae Hongwanji BWA held their first ever rummage sale on the day that



the Waianae bon dance would have been held. Sushi and andagi were also presold with pick up on that day.

As a follow-up to the walker bags sewn by Aiea Hongwanji BWA members and given to kupuna at the Lotus Adult Day Care, Elaine Kutaka sewed shoulder bags for the LADC kupuna for CARE Day. Mavis Niino taught bead jewelry making classes; the jewelry and other items were to be sold at the Bon Dance, which due to the pandemic, was limited to members and family, and activities were a walk-thru of the temple where the windcatchers were hung and of the hall where pre-sale bentos would be picked up and craft items sold. As the infection numbers rose, the craft table was cancelled. Please go to the temple's

website at <https://aieabuddhisttemple.org/store> to view the beautiful bead jewelry available for sale! And yes, the BWA is supporting YESS Camp Thirty 9¾ with an ad in the booklet.



Student Exchange Program Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Each year, the BWA hosts an exchange program with young women from Japan. One year, we host two women from Japan, and the next year, we send two women to Japan where they are hosted by Japanese BWA members for a stay of approximately two weeks. The program began in 1971, and this year marks its fiftieth anniversary.

Last year, shortly before the lockdown due to the pandemic, the Federation held a reunion of former participants in the program. Also present were some who had hosted students from Japan. In a group sharing of their experiences, participants expressed the profound influence that the exchange had on their lives. Some felt that their view of what they could do in life was broadly expanded; they developed confidence. Some developed lifelong friendships. Many felt that it was the experience of a lifetime.

Many of these women are now community and temple leaders. We collected photos and stories of those who were not able to attend, and compiled them into



In 2017, Zoi Nakamura of Hilo and Brandi Yamamoto of Kauai visit with Midori Kunisaki of Fukuoka, Japan.

a scrapbook which will be stored in the BWA archives. We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the members of Japan's BWA for hosting our students and for making such a difference in their lives as well as to our Hawaii hosts who welcomed our guests from Japan with aloha.

Mahalo also to the BWA members who have helped to organize the program over the past half century and to the student participants. The

program is on hold now due to the pandemic, but check with your temple BWA's if you know someone who would like to participate in the future.

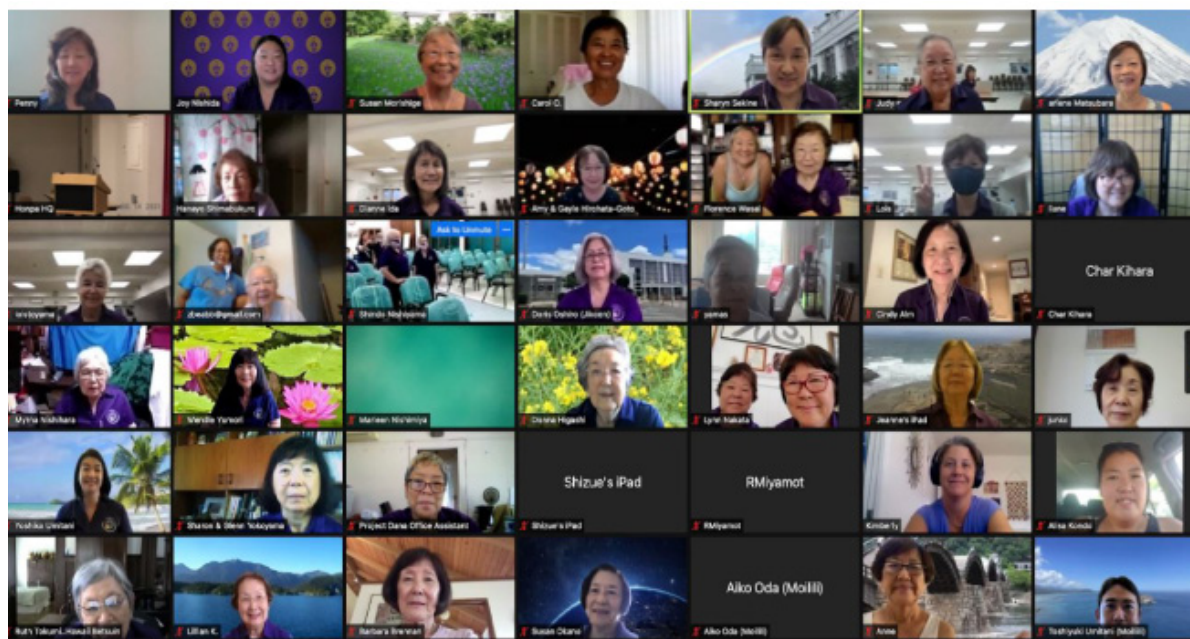
Hawaii BWA Archives Looking for 1963-1983 Issues of Newsletter

The first Federation newsletter was made in 1959 in Japanese only and later in both English and Japanese. We are looking for copies between 1963 – 1983. The president AND secretary were important members of the BWA. Most of the meeting minutes are on file except for those when Rose Nakamura was President during 2000 – 2003. Please help us locate some of these treasured BWA documents. (shared by Donna Higashi, Honolulu United)



What We've Been Doing...

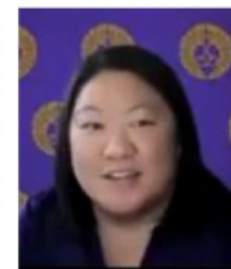
HUBWA Education / Membership Conference: "AWARENESS" August 14, 2021



**HUBWA President
Sharyn Sekine**



**Speaker Robbie Alm
"Nurturing Empathy
and Respect"**



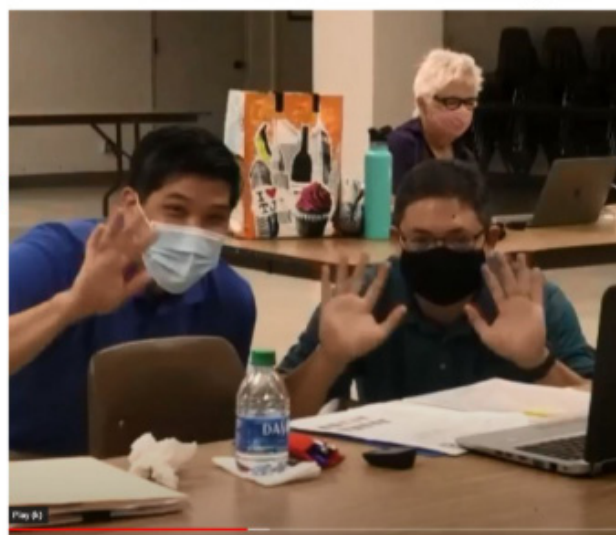
**Joy Wasai Nishida
Tech Support**

2021 Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Theme & Slogan

Building Healthy Sanghas: Nurturing Empathy and Respect



President Sharyn Sekine welcomed all to the HUBWA Conference. The stresses of the past year was the context for the conference theme and the focus on nurturing oneself through awareness. The speaker during the morning Remembrance Service was Mr. Robbie Alm. He provided a message that was so important for all to hear at this time -- "Give people acknowledgment and aloha. Be extra attentive and caring. Hear what people mean to say and not the 'mean' in what they say." He reminded everyone that "we are all connected to each other and that we need to nurture that connection."



Jikoen BWA women in Hondo. Tech Support: Derrick Inouye and Josh Chang. BWA Education Chair: Lois Toyama

What We've Been Doing continued...

HUBWA Education / Membership Conference August 14, 2021 Dana Award Recipients



HUBWA President Sharyn Sekine and Dana Awards Committee members, Chair Liane Wong (Betsuin), Susan Okano (Moilili), and Sandy Toma (Jikoen).



Representatives of Organizations: Debra Spencer-Chun and Lisa Tamashiro-Maumalanga (Adult Friends for Youth), Robin Kumabe (Touch-A-Heart-Hawaii), Ivan Yang (Hawaii H.O.M.E. Project), Cyndi Osajima (Project Dana), Marielle Terbio (Hawaii Food Bank).



Adult Friends For Youth



Touch a Heart



DANA is JOY



Project Dana Support group gathering



Hawaii H.O.M.E. Project



Hawaii Food Bank

Adult Friends for Youth provides healthy alternatives to gang membership, violence, and school failure by offering programs to redirect the lives of high-risk youth. *Touch A Heart* offers a food services training program to those with high barriers to employment. *Project Dana* is a National Volunteer Caregiving Network program that provides a variety of services to the frail, elderly, and disabled. *Hawaii H.O.M.E. Project* provides free medical services to the homeless through weekly student-run free clinics on Oahu. *Hawaii Foodbank* takes proactive steps to protect those impacted by the pandemic and those who already face hunger every day.

What We've Been Doing continued...

HUBWA Education / Membership Conference: "AWARENESS" Presentation and Activities / August 14, 2021



HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Tani Takushi and Officer Edmund Ho

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HFBWA Pres. Lois Toyama

AWARENESS

Relaxing Visualization Exercise



MIRRORING
matching someone's
voice
words
gestures
movement
posture



MIRRORING Penny and Dave Atcheson demonstrated ways to connect and develop empathy.

Jikoen attendees participated in mirroring on Zoom.