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Volume LII

Issue 1

# Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

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

Honorary President: Tamayo Matsumoto President: Linda Nagai Minister Advisor: Rev. Shinkai Murakami

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## Message from the President: Linda Nagai

I am humbled that you have entrusted me to be your President for the next two years, and I believe it will be an exciting two years. With our virtual 14th BWA State Membership Conference at our heels, the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention in Kyoto in May 2023, trotting behind, and COVID still hanging around in our space. A passage from "Lady Kujo's Selected Works" reflects what we have been going through these past two years and as Jodo Shinshu followers we have persevered "Although nature is completely unbiased, it seems to be constantly challenging us. But even in the face of relentless testing, true travelers never begrudge giving their last ounce of effort."

As I read this passage, I reflected on what our BWA ladies have been doing during the pandemic. Our members do not think twice when asked to support our sanghas, our temples, and the larger community. And Maui BWA through it all you have accomplished putting together a first ever totally virtual State BWA Conference.

Throughout the state, our BWA ladies have always shown a commitment to share the dharma in many ways. It was nine years ago when, then BWA President, Janet Honda shared her vision for the BWA to become visible in the community. The BWA participated in the Martin Luther Jr. parade until 2020 when COVID temporarily forced the parade to take to the sidelines. However that didn't stop our ladies. In 2021 our BWA ladies, with the assistance of Jenny Taira of Ohana Arts, produced a twelve-minute video tribute honoring Dr. King's legacy which was available on YouTube. With the parade being cancelled again this year due to COVID, our ladies in the Honolulu and Oahu districts assisted the Honpa Hongwanji and the Honolulu Hawaii NAACP with a Food and Hygiene Products Drive. The drive was very successful and supported Martin Luther King Jr.'s philosophy as stated in his Nobel Prize acceptance speech in 1964: "I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education, and culture for their minds,



and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits." Our BWA ladies are out in full force working to keep Dr. King's dream alive, sharing the dharma, and putting into action the Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's slogan, "Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others."

Let's continue to share in the spirit of dana, or selfless giving, to support each other, connect with others, and to do "Great Things" in the community.



## MAUI UNITED BWA

Gwen Hiraga

As we enter the second year of the COVID pandemic, we are hopeful that this year is less complicated by the uncertainties and disruptions that the pandemic has brought upon us. We look to our Shin Buddhist values to find gratitude in life and are mindful that Buddhism teaches us that everything is interconnected. No one is completely independent of other people or the environment surrounding them.

The Maui United BWA held its 66th Fall General Assembly on November 20, 2021, with both in-person and virtual participation at Makawao Hongwanji Mission. The Opening Memorial Service was officiated by Reverend Kerry Kiyohara, in remembrance of members who passed during the year.



New members from respective BWA units were introduced. Following the Assembly, members attended an Incense Workshop ("Nioi Bukuro"). We extend our appreciation to Haruko Tomioka (workshop presenter) and are grateful for the support received from the Federation BWA Education and Membership grants.

Sharon Nohara represented MUBWA at the Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK, Jr.) event held on January 15, 2022, at the Stone of Hope Monument fronting the County Building. Representatives from the African Americans on Maui

Association received a Proclamation from Mayor Michael Victorino.

The Maui units will be sponsoring a canned goods and monetary drive for the Maui Food Bank at their respective temples. The drive will support the NAACP's effort to honor Martin Luther King Jr.

We welcome all participants to the 14th BWA Hawaii State Conference scheduled for April 23-24, 2022. Although we had hoped for an in-person Conference, the Maui-based Planning Committee decided on a virtual Conference, due to the uncertainty with COVID and its variants. The Conference program remains relatively unchanged, and we look forward to seeing all of you.

### The Business meeting included election of our officers for 2022:

President Charlotte Wilkinson  
 Past President Diane Kosaka  
 1st Vice President Tamara Manley  
 2nd Vice President Sharon Nohara  
 3rd Vice President Catherine Nohara  
 Secretary Yukari Murakami  
 Treasurer Colleen Suyama  
 Assistant Treasurer Bobbi Nakagawa

**Auditors** Aileen Cockett and Sharon Higa

**Directors** Sandy Hirata, Carol Inaba, Diane Nako and Sally Takahama.



# HAWAII ISLAND UNITED BWA

Jane Iida



## HIUHBWA General Membership Meeting

The Hawaii Island United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association (HIUHBWA) held its General Membership meeting on October 30, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was hosted by Honokaa Hongwanji BWA with President Ellen Okano presiding. The highlights of the meeting were as follows:

### New members were recognized:

Jill Atwal (Hilo)  
Ana Schaaf, Akemi Hiatt (Honokaa)  
Ilene Hara (Puna)

### Centenarians were honored:

Hanako Kuwaye (Hilo)  
Yasuko Taguchi, (Hilo)  
Chiyono Kobayashi (Kona)  
Satomi Hiura (Papaikou)  
Mitsue Okimoto (Papaikou)  
Makiko Ohashi (Puna)  
Sumie Takeguchi (Puna)

**Dana Award Recipient:** O Ka'u Kakou  
O Ka'u Kakou, which means "We are Ka'u," is a 100% volunteer-run 501(c)(3) non-profit formed in 2006. Its goal is to promote a healthy community through education, culture, and economic opportunity. Formed in 2006, OKK raises money through individual donations, grants and on-going fundraisers. All donations go towards funding local

scholarships, land for a proposed senior housing project, purchase of life-saving equipment for Ka'u Hospital, restoration and maintenance of three historical cemeteries, and sponsorship of Veterans Day and Fourth of July events.

The Kamuela Hongwanji BWA and the Papaikou Hongwanji BWA have terminated membership in HIUHBWA as of December 31, 2021.



Wayne Kawachi of O Ka'u Kakou receives Dana Award check from Alice Yonemitsu of Naalehu BWA.

## HIUHBWA Education Seminar

Kona Hongwanji BWA hosted the HIUHBWA Education Seminar on October 23, 2021, via Zoom. The Seminar, "On White Ashes—Advanced Care Planning and Buddhist Wisdom for End-of-Life," covered important topics concerning health care decisions and wishes for care. Approximately 45 people participated in this Seminar.

Ms. Jeannette Kojane, Executive Director of Kokua Mau, covered topics such as:

- The importance of meaningful conversations with loved ones about what matters most;
- What are Advance Directives, and who should have one;
- What is a POLST (Providers Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment) and who needs one;
- What is Palliative Care and who could benefit from it;
- What Hospice is and why early referrals to Hospice can benefit individuals and their loved ones;
- What is the Our Care Our Choice Act.

Rev. Blayne Higa of Kona Hongwanji presented his views on "Shin Buddhist Wisdom for End of Life." He shared Kona Hongwanji's Guidebook for End-of-Life and the benefit of individuals preparing "Spiritual Wills." The Seminar was recorded, so that those who were not able to participate could watch the video at a later date.



# HONOLULU UNITED BWA

Ann Nakata, Lois Ohta,  
and Wendie Yumori



*Haru ga kita, haru ga kita!  
Spring is here at last!*

In spite of lingering Covid restrictions, Honolulu United BWA managed to safely carry on some projects.

**Jikoen** members continue to support the temple by assisting with the mailing of their monthly newsletter, phone tree and temple cleaning. Jikoen BWA members also assisted with choba duties for the late Lily Horio's Service at Hosoi Mortuary. And a mini caravan delivered Jikoen's canned goods and feminine hygiene product donations to the Martin Luther King Jr. Day collection point at the Hawaii Betsuin.

**Moiliili** Hongwanji BWA made and delivered "otoki" to 28 temple elders. They have done this simple food offering for many, many years in conjunction with Hoonko. They also do this activity with C.A.R.E. Day in mind (Compassion And Respect for Elders) following the 12th BWA Convention resolution in Brazil (2002) which established this day as a way to promote awareness of the need

to show compassion and respect to the elderly. They made inarizushi, kuromame, kanten, and added a tangerine. A cluster of flowers for the Butsudan was included. The ladies were also able to say hello to elders who haven't been at the temple due to Covid restrictions.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Over the years, it has become a tradition in January for Honolulu United BWA to participate in the MLK Jr. Day Parade in Waikiki. This year, **Hawaii Betsuin's BWA** was invited to honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of peace and service in a different way.

On MLK Jr. Day, Jan. 17, 2022, the Honolulu Hawaii NAACP and Honpa Hongwanji partnered to hold a Food and Hygiene Products Collection on Oahu and one of the three Drive Thru and Drop Off points was Hawaii Betsuin's back parking lot. The first stop in the Drive Thru was the Welcome Station – where the BWA mounted its iconic bamboo poles strung with colorful origami peace cranes. From 9:00 – 11:15 a.m., PBA students greeted donors who were dropping off non-perishable food items for Hawaii Foodbank and period and hygiene products for Ma'i Movement Hawai'i. Hawaii Betsuin BWA members served as greeters from 11:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. All greeters thanked each donor with a "mahalo" packet of three lovely origami peace cranes, folded by BWA members, and information about the donation recipients.

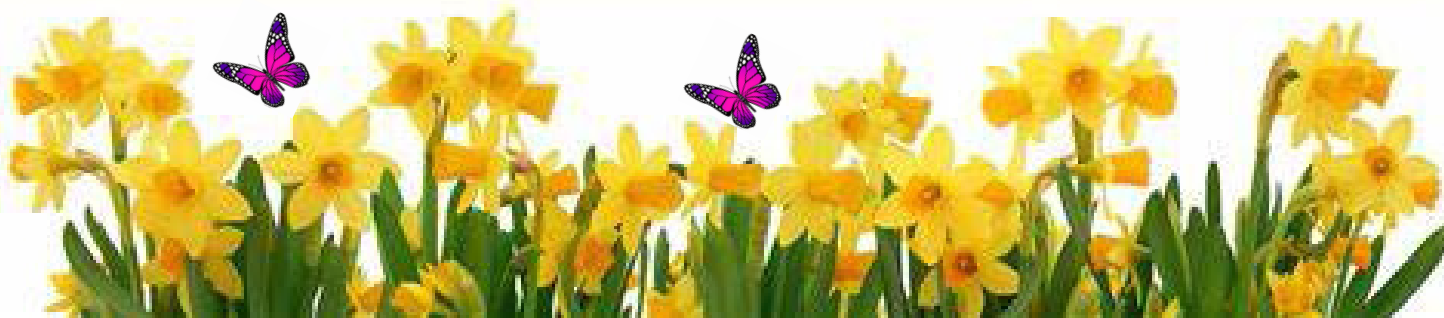
Many BWA members from Hawaii

Betsuin, Jikoen and Moiliili donated food, hygiene products, and checks to the Hawaii Foodbank and Ma'i Movement. Honolulu Hawaii NAACP volunteers picked up donations collected at the other two points (Windward Buddhist Temple and Aiea Hongwanji) and organized all the boxes in Hawaii Betsuin's Lotus Room for pickup the following day. A total of 3,480 pounds of food was collected for Hawaii Foodbank, and Ma'i Movement received several SUV loads of period and hygiene products.

The willingness of volunteers to give their all for this event was truly inspiring! What a marvelous MLK Jr. Day of Service 2022!



(More photos on page 8)



# KAUAI UNITED BWA

Roberta Yanagawa

The Kauai United BWA extends its New Year's Greeting to all. We hope you are doing well and staying safe as the covid pandemic continues to change our lifestyle.

The annual **Kauai United BWA Fall Conference** was held virtually on Sunday, October 24 at 9:00 a.m. The theme of the conference was "Nurturing Empathy and Respect." The opening service was officiated by Rev. Tomo Hojo. The keynote speaker was Dr. Warren Tamamoto, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Kyodan President.

Shirley Kakuda presided over the general membership meeting and Rev. Hojo installed the 2022 officers. The women gathered at the West Kauai Hongwanji, Lihue Hongwanji and the Kapaa Hongwanji temple to view the virtual conference together. Many thanks to the West Kauai Hongwanji Women's Association for hosting a great conference and for the goodie bags Lynette Miyamoto delivered to the temples for all to enjoy.

On November 10, the Kauai United BWA honored the veterans with the annual **Lonesome Grave Project** at the Kauai Veterans Cemetery in Hanapepe. For the past 23 years the Women's Association has continued the project with the participation of families and friends of the West Kauai Hongwanji, Lihue Hongwanji and Kapaa Hongwanji. The graves were beautifully decorated with flowers and greens to gratefully honor the veterans who served our country.

The annual **Kapaa Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** and lunch distribution was held on Thanksgiving Day. The Kapaa Interfaith Association and Mark Oyama of Contemporary Flavors saw the need to provide a hot meal for the community to celebrate in the spirit of Thanksgiving and express gratitude to all. The meals were packed and distributed at the Kapaa Hongwanji Social Hall on November 25. The BWA members and Jr. YBA assisted with the packing and delivering of meals to the homebound and disabled.

Although the pandemic continues to affect us, the Women's Association will find creative and innovative ways to serve the community.



## OAHU UNITED BWA

Susan Morishige



The Annual OUHHBWA Convention/ Seminar was held on November 13, 2021 in person at Aiea Hongwanji and on Zoom. The guest speaker for the Memorial Service was Rev. David Fujimoto on Zoom. General Workshop speakers were Dr. Kevin Kawamoto, UH Manoa, who spoke on Understanding Older Adults who have Communication Challenges: Strategies for Improving Interactions, and Cindy Ujimori who taught us How to Make a 5-1/2" Dish Garden. Officers for 2022 were elected and installed, and the Bylaws were amended to be gender neutral and to create an At-Large Unit to represent active members without an Oahu United/ Federation BWA affiliated unit.

At the 4th Quarter Board Meeting in December, the Federation Director and the representative to the Student Exchange Committee were selected, and United dues were raised.

**MLK Drive-Thru Food and Hygiene Products Collection:** This year instead of participating in the annual MLK Jr. Parade and Unity Rally in Waikiki, the Honolulu Hawaii NAACP sponsored a drive-thru collection of nonperishable food and feminine hygiene products on Oahu and asked the Honpa Hongwanji to be the host for the three collection sites. Aiea Hongwanji did the collection for Oahu District where volunteers from groups like the Scouts, Jr. YBA, the Kiwanis/Key Club, Democrats, Prince Hall Shriners, and the Aiea BWA, Dharma School and Board members worked in shifts to collect and box the donations and hand out peace cranes. BWA members from other

temples also came by with their collected donations.

Like **Ewa**, **Wahiawa**, and **Waiialua** Hongwanji BWAs, **Waianae** will no longer be a unit of the OUHHBWA and Federation as of January 1, 2022. But individual members are still welcome to join as At-Large members of the newly created **At-Large Unit**, which currently composed of members from Ewa and Wahiawa Hongwanjis will be choosing voting representatives to the OUHHBWA Board of Directors soon.

**Mililani** hopes to start in-person meetings in 2022. Officers for 2022 were installed on January 2. In lieu of an in-person bazaar, they have decided on a Zippy's fundraiser. Mililani Hongwanji BWA is once again offering a \$1,500 scholarship for post high school schooling or training to its BWA members, their children and grandchildren. The scholarship is one of the major programs of the BWA, which has awarded scholarships to over 15 applicants.

**Pearl City** is also planning to hold in-person meetings in 2022. They have been preparing take home refreshments for major services and are working on White Elephant sales for the Kyodan. Recently their ground floor storeroom was flooded because of heavy rain.

**Waipahu** had a "big" attendance of 9 members at the conference; the terrarium garden workshop teacher Cindy

Ujimori is a Waipahu member.

**Aiea** held an in-person Crafts and White Elephant sale on Dec 5. Some of the nicer surplus for the White Elephant was donated to Pearl City Hongwanji and the Hawaii Betsuin's aloha shirt project. A long-awaited BWA Year End Luncheon, which was postponed for two consecutive years, is scheduled for March 12th. An Eshinni Day Craft Fair is planned for April 16th. Members continue to hold craft meetings on Thursdays.

Please visit the store on our website at <https://aieabuddhisttemple.org/store> to view the crafts for sale which include note cards and beaded necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and lanyards (for masks).



## More photos from the Units!



The Stone of Hope Monument fronting the Maui County Building in Wailuku.



Maui's Incense Workshop  
("Nioi Bukuro")



Placing flowers at the Hanapepe, Kauai Veterans' Cemetery



In the kitchen at Mo'ili'ili preparing "otoki" to be delivered to some temple elders in conjunction with Ho'onko.

## Kauai Interfaith Zoom Service



Shirley Kakuda



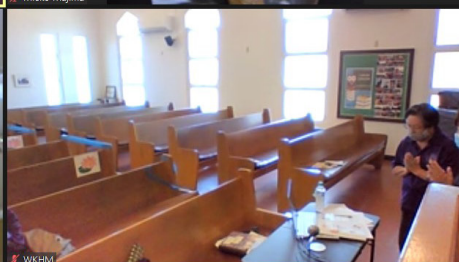
Mieko Majima



Lihue Hongwanji



Kapaa Hongwanji Mission



WKHM



Totome Hojo

More Photos: MLK Day Drive Through Food and Hygiene Supplies  
Collection at the Hawaii Betsuin



Jikoen sent a convoy!



## Maui To Host Hawaii Federation Buddhist Women's Associations 14th Conference Via Zoom; April 23-24 2022

### Welcome To The HHHFBWA Virtual Membership Conference

The Hawaii Federation Buddhist Women's membership conference is held once-every-four-years. One of the stated goals is to afford a chance for BWA members to meet, greet, and connect with each other in a face-to-face personal atmosphere. At the same time, during the years in between conferences, technology has progressed to allow large groups to meet, greet, and connect through the internet.

This year's 14th Membership Conference is a fortuitous meeting of conference and the internet! Through the Zoom App, BWA members will be able to meet, greet, and connect virtually on April 23-24, 2022.

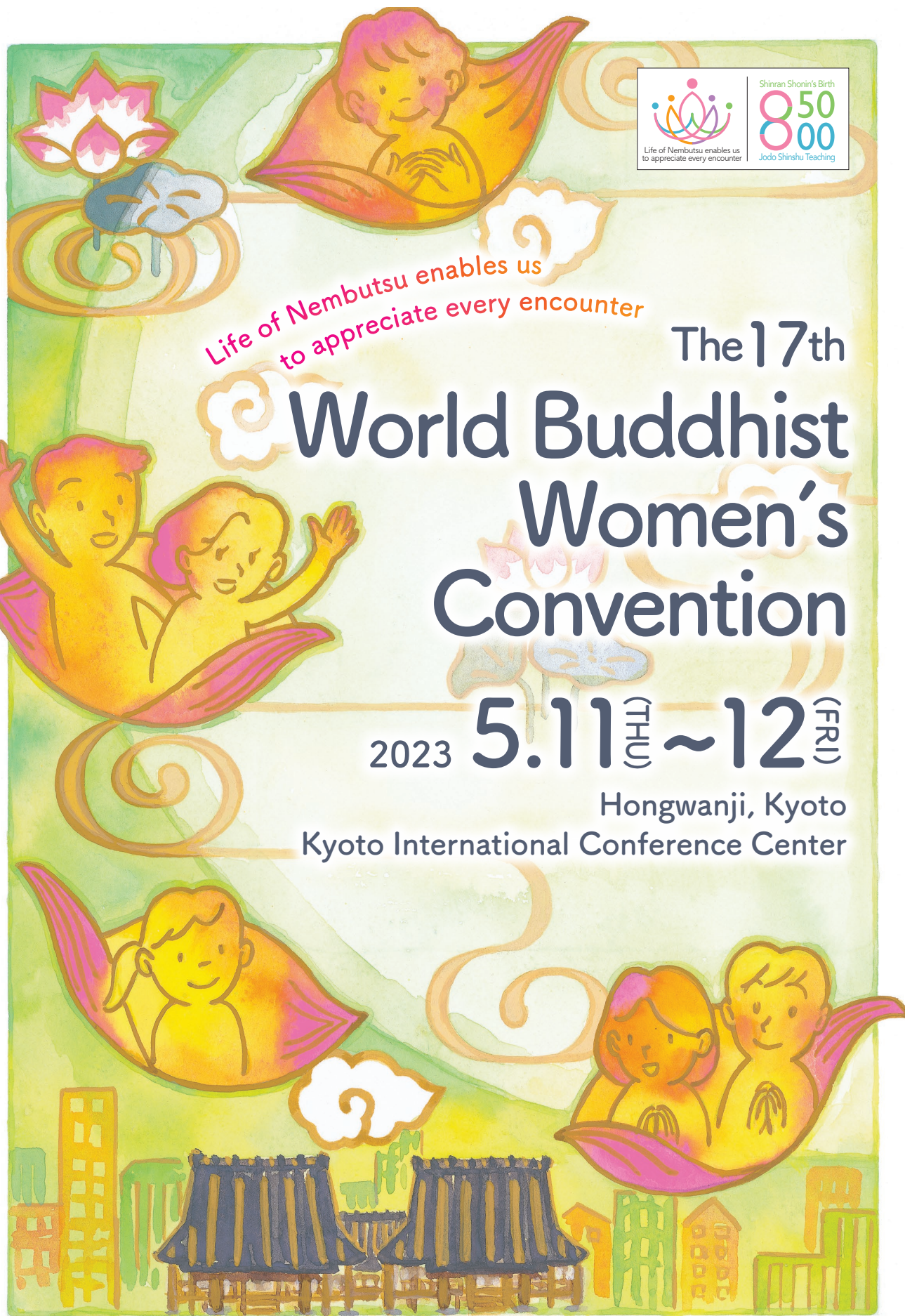
Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the original concept of an in-person conference morphed into a combination in-person/virtual format only to become final as an all-virtual event.

And so, the five temples of the Maui BWA welcome Hawaii Federation BWA members to a first--a Zoom conference. Business will be conducted, speakers will present on inspirational and thoughtful topics, and members will be educated and delighted on four life-style topics—all happening through the internet.

More than a hundred participants from all over Hawaii will be viewing and interacting with each other through their phones and computers. For those who would like to become more comfortable with the App, practice sessions will be scheduled as we get closer to the conference date. Each registrant will receive a program booklet with details on the services, talks, presentations, and presenters. Also, an Aloha bag containing several souvenirs will be mailed.

Maui is thrilled to invite, meet, greet, and connect  
with all conference attendees!  
“See” you on April 23-24!  
Until then, Keep Safe!

In Gratitude,  
Janet Shimada  
Maui Coordinating Committee



Life of Nembutsu enables us  
to appreciate every encounter

# The 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention

2023 5.11<sup>(THU)</sup> ~ 12<sup>(FRI)</sup>

Hongwanji, Kyoto  
Kyoto International Conference Center