

Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

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

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Message from the President: Linda Nagai

In about seven months we will be joining our BWA sisters from BCA, Canada, South America, and Japan at the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention in Kyoto, Japan. I remember that it was about four years ago that we gathered at the Marriott Marquis in San Francisco for our 16th World Buddhist Women's Convention; what an exciting experience that was. For some, it was re-connecting with our BWA sisters that they met at other conventions, for others it was the first time interacting with BWA members from across the globe. Some of our members toured western states, while others visited with family and friends. Well, in May of 2023, we will, again, have the opportunity to connect with our BWA sisters from across the globe, as well as tour and embrace the beautiful culture and sights of spring in Japan.



This year the convention gathering will be quite unique in that we will also be celebrating the 850th birthday of Shinran Shonin and 800 years since the establishment of the Hongwanji. And because of the location of the convention and celebration, we will have the opportunity to visit our mother temple (Honzan) and participate in a service commemorating this auspicious occasion, as well as visiting gardens that are only open for public viewing during major celebrations.

I hope you'll join us at the World Convention Kyoto Japan next year, and at home please continue your great leadership in helping sustain your temple and community.

MAUI UNITED BWA

Gwen Hiraga

The MUBWA Spring Assembly was held on March 26th. In addition to general business, Nikki-Ann Yee, Co-Founder of the Ma'i Movement Hawaii (advocate for menstrual equity and the right to end period poverty in the schools) addressed the Assembly. Through the collaborative efforts of many individuals (BWA units, Hawaii State Legislature, and others), Senate Bill 2821 was signed into law in June 2022.

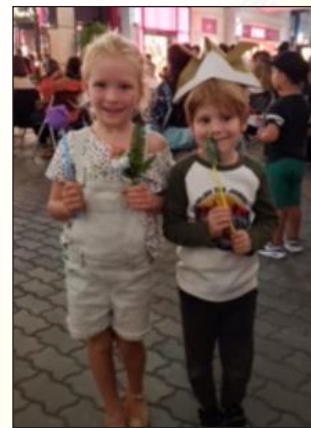
"Building Healthy Sanghas and Connecting with Others" was the theme of the 14th BWA State Membership Conference, held on April 23-24, 2022. MUBWA, through the efforts of Conference Chair Janet Shimada and the Planning Committee successfully provided a virtual conference. On April 23rd, conferees heard the keynote address from Deidre Tegarden on the "Nisei Veterans Legacy", attended the Business Meeting, and participated in workshops on "Hawaiian Women's Fashions", "Role of Women in Buddhism", "Let's Play: Social Media", "Enhance Fitness" and "17th World Convention in Kyoto, May 2023". On April 24th, Janet Umezu provided the keynote address on "Diversity & Acceptance, What Does it Mean?", followed by a Discussion Panel on "Diversity and Inclusion".

MUBWA participated in "Children's Day - Kodomo no Hi" on May 7th at the Queen Kaahumanu Center, inviting the public to make origami. Yellow and blue origami cranes to support peace for Ukraine were passed out.

Members were very busy helping others.



MUBWA President Charlotte Wilkinson and 2nd Vice-President Sharon Nohara visited Lanai in July, and met with Catherine Nohara and Sally Takahama. The ladies worked on the MUBWA Peace Day origami projects.



The children were delighted with their origami.

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MAUI UNITED BWA

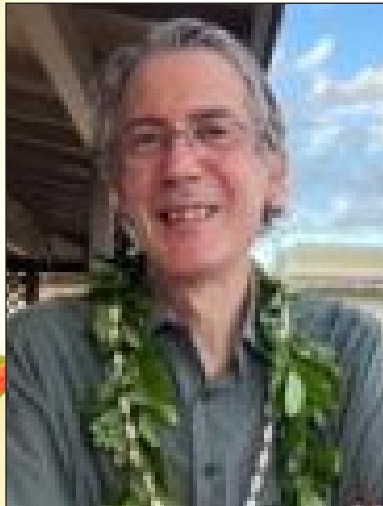
Gwen Hiraga

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MUBWA's 2022 Dana Award was presented to the Maui AIDS Foundation on August 1st. Their work in AIDS education and care in the communities of Maui, Lanai and Molokai is supportive of our BWA World Resolution on AIDS adopted in 1990. Charlotte Wilkinson, Sharon Nohara and Gwen Hiraga presented the 2022 MUBWA Dana Award to Amanda Ribao of the Maui AIDS Foundation.



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Aloha Rev. Richard Tennes

We extend our appreciation to our MUBWA minister advisor Rev. Tennes who has retired after serving at Kahului Hongwanji Mission for the past 9 years.

More from Children's Day Activities on Maui

Sharon with the Queen's statue in the back ground.



Positive activity in connecting with others.

MAUI UNITED BWA

Gwen Hiraga

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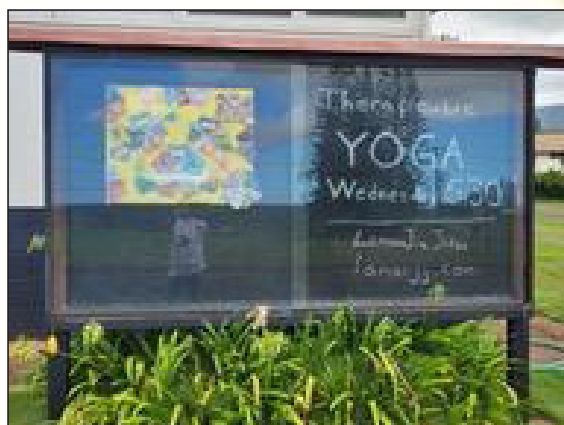
Maui and Lanai Join Forces to Make Peace Hearts Posters for Peace Day Observance On Lanai

On September 15th, Maui BWA members from Lahaina, Kahului, and Makawao rode the ferry to Lanai and met with the Lanai BWA to work on Lanai's Peace Day projects including Peace Hearts Posters and folded cranes. The posters and cranes were distributed in the community to display for Peace Day 2022! Overall, our visit to Lanai was very successful and appreciated by the Lanai BWA members!



Peace Hearts poster

Poster displayed on community bulletin board on Lanai.



Lanai and Maui BWA members working on Peace Day projects.



HONOLULU UNITED BWA

The Ocean Connects Us!

Donna Higashi

The theme of the 2022 Honolulu United BWA virtual Joint Education and Membership Conference on Aug. 27th was The Ocean Connects Us! This theme was chosen to underscore the 2022 Hongwanji Slogan, Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others. It was decided to reach out across the Pacific and connect with islanders within the realm of Oceania called Micronesia.

An eight-minute clip of a play entitled Masters of the Currents (TeAda Productions) was shown first to explain why many leave their island homes in Micronesia to come to live in Hawaii and to highlight the challenges they face. Three Pacific Island women, whose voices resonate within the island communities they serve, participated in the panel discussion: Innocenta Sound-Kikku, and Jocelyn Howard, from different islands in Chuuk state, one of the Federated States of Micronesia, and Gloria Lani, from an island in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. With great sincerity and warmth, they shared their deep connections to their home islands, to their family and clan, and to their values and traditions. They also described the programs they initiated in their communities to encourage youth to find sustenance, purpose, courage, and unity in the values and traditions of

their home islands. Thanks to these three cultural navigators, Innocenta, Jocelyn, and Gloria, who shared their stories with aloha, so many participants were able to meet, make heartfelt connections, and see the stars together.

Much appreciation to HUBWA Education and Membership Chairs Lois Ohta and Judy Muramoto, to M.Cs Lynn Nakata and Terry Jean Arakaki, Panel Moderator Wendie Yumori, and

to committee members, Cindy Alm, Dianne Ida, Dorothy Colby, Lois Toyama, and Penny Atcheson, for their commitment and hard work in bringing The Ocean Connects Us! to fruition. Warmest mahalo to HHMH's Derrick Inouye for masterful coordination of all the technical elements of the joint conference on Zoom.

*(Collage by Ruth Tokumi,
Text by Wendie Yumori)*

HUBWA Joint Education and Membership Conference The Ocean Connects Us! August 27, 2022



Conference MCs



Panel Discussion Moderator



Pacific Island participants in the panel discussion shared their deep connections to their home islands, to their family and clan, and to their values and traditions.



Micronesia a subregion of Oceania, consists of about 2,000 small islands in the western Pacific Ocean. A video clip of a play, *Masters of the Currents*, was shown to explain why many left their island homes in Micronesia to come to live in Hawaii.



Tech support in Hawaii Betsuin social hall. Mahalo, to planning committee and Derrick (tech support) for an enlightening day!

HONOLULU UNITED BWA

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Dana Award Continues

Since the 1st World Buddhist Women's Convention was held in 1961, many resolutions have been adopted as the program for each World District. One adopted program was to designate the second Sunday in February as "BUDDHIST DANA DAY" (Fuse No Hi) which continues vigorously till today by the Honolulu United. Our records go back to 1976 listing more than 160 non-profit organizations receiving monetary donations from our Honolulu Unit members.

At the HU Annual General Membership Meeting on August 27, 2022, a video was made and shared of this year's awardees thanks to the help of Rev. Yuika Hasebe and Dana Committee members: Liane Wong, Sandra Toma and Susan Okano. The awardees were: Project Dana (perpetual \$2000); Hawaii Food Bank, Touch-A-Heart, Adult Friends for Youth and We Are Oceania (\$1,000 each). Each organization receives funds for at least three years.

Since our Dana Fund was so healthy, during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukrainian-Russian humanitarian crisis years (2020-2021), a one-time \$1,000 awards were made to: Blood Bank of Hawaii, Hawaii Food Bank (Food 4 Keiki); Hawaii Meals on Wheels; Hawaiian Humane Society; Lanakila Meals on Wheels; Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Hawaii; Domestic Violence Center; World Central Kitchen and Doctors Without Borders. \$9,000 total.

We are truly grateful to all the generous BWA members (and friends) for donating to this worthwhile cause throughout the years. (Shared by Donna Higashi and Sharyn Sekine)

1995 Hawaii Foodbank Dana Award:
E. Fujioka, C. Yamamoto, T. Umehara, Food
Bank Rep (unknown); Michiko Motooka,
G. Zukeran.



2022 Dana Award. WAO representatives
with Honolulu United Pres Dorene Toma.

OAHU UNITED BWA

Susan Morishige



In April, **Mililani Hongwanji BWA** reinstated in-person meetings in April, held its Eshinni/Kakushinni Day service on April 17 with speaker Barbara Brennan, and participated in its Ehime Maru cleanup on 4/23/22. It held its Spring Luncheon on May 1st at Mango Street Grill. The BWA's 2022 scholarship recipient is Lewis Castellucci. Members can now access BWA minutes on Google Drive thanks to Doreen Sakamoto, who taught how to access the drive. The BWA's Country Store at the August 19-20 Bon Dance was highly profitable.

After a successful Eshinni/Kakushinni Service in April with Federation Second Vice-President Charlene Kihara as guest speaker, the **Pearl City Hongwanji BWA** again suspended meetings and projects when the Covid variants

caused a surge in cases. While many BWA members opted to stay at home, other members became involved in Bon Dance planning and preparations. The Pearl City Obon was a private indoor event on August 13 for Kyodan members and their families. BWA members donated desserts and created a small indoor yagura using Pearl City Hongwanji Bon Towels. About 100 attendees enjoyed dancing, a bento dinner, and great lucky number prizes. Everyone enjoyed socializing with other members, some of whom had not seen each other for many months.

Waipahu Hongwanji BWA made ono food and held a rummage sale (with great deals!!) at Waipahu's bon dance on July 9. And the rummage sale is now available to the public on Thursdays and Sundays during the midday!.

Aiea Hongwanji BWA was holding classes and working on craft items for months before our

Bon Dance on August 27. In addition to craft items, we had pickles and snacks for sale. Like all the other temple BWA's, we are an important part of the Kyodan and are involved in all aspects of the Bon Dance. Aiea is changing its meeting day to one more convenient for working members effective next month.

Beginning October 1st, following the transfer of Rev. Shawn Yagi to Lihue Hongwanji, Rev. Mari Nishiyama will be wearing three BWA hats as the district's minister advisor and temple/BWA minister for both Aiea and Pearl City.

Oahu United Honpa Hongwanji BWA will hold its Annual Meeting/Education Seminar on October 8. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Cullen Hayashida.

Pearl City



Aiea



KAUAI UNITED BWA Lynette Miyamoto

The United Buddhist Women's Association of Kauai's 2022 Scholarship recipient is Taryn Ramil from Kapaa Hongwanji Mission. She will receive \$1000.

Taryn is a well-rounded senior active in her community, school and church. She also finds time to participate in soccer and basketball, go to the gym and listen to music. She is also interested in photography. She worked during the summer at McDonald's to earn her own money. She has been active at Kapaa Hongwanji and the Jr. YBA as MC for events, help organize fundraisers, help at Bon, and clean the church.



Taryn Ramil

She ranked number one in her high school class of 2022 at Kapaa High School. Taryn will be attending the University of Hawaii, at Manoa. Her field of study will be Animal Science. Taryn is the daughter of Tami Ramil of Kapaa and Siegfried Ramil of Honolulu.

The World Central Kitchen was

the recipient of our \$500 Dana Project Donation for 2022. The members felt that this organization would best be able to help Ukrainian families fleeing home as well as those who remain in the country and in need of fresh meals.

Lihue Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association has been active. They had therapists from Hawaii Sports and Balance Center present a fall prevention workshop for all church members in April. They were given tips on how to evaluate risk factors for falling and exercises to help minimize falling.

They also partnered with Kauai Independent Food Bank to support their Backpack Program, which provides food for insecure children

Fall Prevention Workshop



with a backpack of ready to eat food on Friday to ensure they have meals over the weekend. They were able to help 150 Kauai children with donations from church members and friends.

In May, a fraud prevention workshop was presented by Kauai Police Dept. The Lihue BWA women learned about the prevalence of scams in our community and the resources available to help us.

Since socialization is prohibited after church service due to Covid, refreshments cannot be served. But Edith Ushio came up with the sweet idea of baking and giving delicious goodies with recipe attached, for Lihue members to take home after special services. Thank you ladies.

Kapaa Hongwanji was busy despite the Covid pandemic. In Feb they had a Keirokai appreciation day where they prepared bentos and delivered them to their Keirokai members age 80 and above. The busy ladies

also help coordinate the purchase of lanterns in memory of loved ones for bon in their Lanterns of Remembrance. These were displayed in the temple and on the lanai. Bento food sale in July helped to raise fund for the temple. The ladies also made sushi, namasu, pickled mangoes and baked goods.

Food Bank Donations



HAWAII ISLAND UNITED BWA

Buddhist Women's Association Scholarship

Jane Iida

Manami Alspach and Kieran Maesaka were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships by the Hawaii Island United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association. This scholarship recognizes outstanding seniors for their academic excellence and active participation in temple, school, and community activities.

Guided by their Buddhist values, Manami and Kieran have both actively participated in numerous community service activities during these difficult years, with compassion, humility, and leadership.



Kieran Maesaka

Kieran Maesaka, a Kamehameha Schools Hawaii High School graduate, and Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin member, plans to attend the University of San Francisco with a major in Biology. He is the son of Corey and Cheryl Maesaka and grandson of Ann and Ronald Maesaka.



Manami Alspach

Manami Alspach, a Konawaena High School graduate, and Kona Hongwanji member, will attend the Keio University with a major in Environmental and Information Studies. She is the daughter of Makiko Yamaguchi and Timothy Alspach.