

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

**STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM INFORMATION**

**GOAL**

To support two student delegates to Japan as “exchange students” in compliance with a resolution adopted during the Third World Buddhist Women’s Convention held in Honolulu in June 1967 as means of nurturing future leaders for Jodo Shinshu activities. Participants are expected to learn about Buddhist and Japanese culture and learn about youth activities.

**PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPECTED TO:**

1. participate in all activities scheduled by the host organization.
2. submit a written/multimedia report upon return.
3. accept invitations to speak of experiences.
4. engage and share their experiences promoting Buddhism for youth.

**PUBLICITY**

All temples are requested to publicize this project and encourage young Buddhist students to apply for this opportunity.

**QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANT**

1. Be a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist.
2. Be age 17 through 23 as of June 30, 2025.
3. Be a high school, university, community college or business school student.
4. Be in good health and be able to withstand the strenuous program in a foreign country.
5. Interest in Buddhist movement and potential leadership quality.
6. Submit two references including one from your temple minister.
7. Submit the application with two photos and your essay.

**ESSAY**

Applicant is required to submit a three page, double-spaced, typewritten essay of no more than 800 words. Applicant should describe themselves and what it means to be a Shin Buddhist. The essay should also include what they hope to gain from this trip and how they believe they can apply this to their life and their involvement in Buddhist activities.

**CRITERIA FOR SELECTION**

1. All qualifications have been met.
2. Temple Activities: The applicant should be an active participant in their respective temple or affiliated organizations and have a wide variety of interests and commitments to their temple’s activities. Substantial activity is essential in at least a few areas, such as Dharma School, Jr. YBA, YBICSE.

3. Involvement in Buddhist movement: Service to or involvement with Buddhist movements/church-related activities outside of their respective temple: e.g., district or state level Jr. YBA, YESS Camp, YBICSE, etc.
4. Leadership Activities: Assumes leadership positions and expresses thoughts well and clearly. List and describe the nature and length of your participation including dates of offices and chairmanships held. 1) Temple affiliated activities such as Dharma School, teacher/assistant, Jr. YBA, YESS Camp; 2) High School, College and Community activities (student government, service clubs, Scouts, sports teams, music groups, emergency relief projects, food drives, etc.)
5. Work/Volunteer Experiences: List experiences in work and volunteer activities.
6. Benefits of Student Exchange Program: Your essay should reflect an understanding of BWA's mission and the purpose of the Student Exchange Program and exhibit a willingness to learn about the Japanese culture and Buddhism.
7. Personality and Appearance: Applicant will be given a personal interview, in which they must show an ability to converse clearly and present a pleasant personality.

## THE SELECTION PROCESS

1. Applicant must submit their application form by **October 31, 2024** to:  
 Student Exchange Committee Chair  
 Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii  
 Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations  
 1727 Pali Highway  
 Honolulu, HI 96813
2. Applicants will be interviewed in person or via remote teleconferencing software (like zoom).
3. Selection/Interview Committee is comprised of the BWA Federation Student Exchange Chair and one representative from each United Buddhist Women's Association (Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, Oahu and Honolulu).
4. Two applicants will be selected for the Student Exchange Program as representatives of the Buddhist Women's Associations of Hawaii, based on the Criteria for Selection as stated above.
5. The Selection/Interview Committee will make the final decision.
6. All applicants will be notified of the decision.

## DETAILS OF THE TRIP

1. Travel time: Approximately 10 days (additional days will be at the expense and the responsibility of the delegate).
2. Itinerary: To be the host's responsibility.
3. Program: To be planned by the hosts. For a more meaningful trip for the student travelers, the following suggestions are made:
  - a. Preferably, delegates to be housed with private families for more than one night.
  - b. Delegates should have visitations with various youth groups in Japan.

## **EXPENSES**

1. Plane fare to be paid by the HHMHFBWA. Any additional days from that provided by Japan will be at the expense and responsibility of the delegate.
2. The host group will be responsible for lodging and meals.
3. All transportation or any other expense aside from host's jurisdiction will be the delegate's responsibility.

## **POST-TRIP REPORT**

A report will be submitted within 45 days upon returning. It should reflect the participant's expectations and impressions on how the trip met the goals of the Student Exchange Program (See GOAL). The report should include how the trip met or exceeded the expectations that they cited in their essay and give supporting examples and evidence from their experiences. It should also reflect on what they have achieved from the trip including what Jodo Shinshu now means to them, how their experiences will guide them in the future, and how they plan to inspire other individuals to participate. The format of the report is the choice of the participant, such as a multimedia presentation, a hard copy report, or any other that the participant feels will be best to share their insights.