

# 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

E nā hoa aloha

(Dear beloved friends),

As I pass the torch to your new president, Claire Tamamoto, I want to sincerely thank you—the members of the BWA—for granting me the honor of serving as your president over the past four years. These years have been incredibly meaningful, and I am deeply grateful for the trust and support you have shown me.

Together, we have accomplished so much. One of our significant achievements has been the planning of the 15th State BWA Conference, which will be hosted by the Oahu United BWA at the Ala Moana Hotel on March 28–29, 2026. The Hawaii Federation of BWA holds a statewide conference every four years to help prepare members for the upcoming World Convention. This year, our State Conference will serve as a prelude to the 18th World Buddhist Women's Convention.

Planning for the 18th World Buddhist Women's Convention is also well underway. Although 2027 may seem far off, time moves quickly. We recently hosted the World Buddhist Women's Convention Representatives Meeting in a hybrid format, as our South American representatives were unable to travel. However, we were honored to welcome representatives from Japan, Canada, and the BCA, and to share a preview of what our convention will offer under the theme:

*"Live Peace, Live Aloha, Live as One in the Nembutsu."*

This included visits to Pearl Harbor (Arizona Memorial & the USS Missouri), Byodo-In Temple, and Iolani Palace.

Our target date to open registration for the World Convention is October 1, 2025, as we prepare to welcome more than 1,400 fellow BWA members and Sangha friends from BCA, Canada,



Japan, and South America on September 11–12, 2027.

None of this could have been possible without your dedication, teamwork, and the spirit of dana. I truly could not have done it without you. Thank you for walking this journey with me.

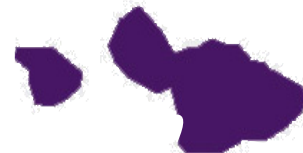
Me ke aloha pumehana,

In Gassho,  
Linda



# MAUI UNITED BWA

Diane Lee



"MUBWA wants to SHOYU are appreciated, amazing and awesome."

Who would have thought of a bottle of shoyu as a delightful favor? None other than our MUBWA president, Sharon Nohara. The MUBWA General Membership Spring Assembly held on April 5 featured an introductory workshop "Matter of Balance" program designated to manage falls and increase activity level. Heidi Taogoshi, State Public Health Dept. nurse, a team of nurses and HOSA students presented an educational and informative session. All members received an emergency first-aid bag.

At the Maui Matsuri Kodomo No Hi at Queen Kaahumanu Center on May 10, MUBWA hosted a craft station where children and their families folded origami and drew and colored hand fans while

learning about Japanese culture.

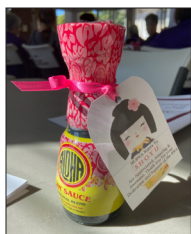
The Arc of Maui County is the recipient of the 2025 MUBWA Dana Award. Their mission is to promote and protect the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, actively supporting programs and services that ensure full inclusion and participation in the community throughout life.

The presentation of the donation check with leis was held on August 29 at the Arc county office. On Memorial Day, the MUBWA members made and donated 841 ti leaf leis for the Maui Veterans Cemetery in Makawao.

In the midst of Obon season, BWA members worked tirelessly at their Temple bon dances and supported the other temples Obon. On August 9 many members drove the treacherous highway (king tides causing havoc) to

the grounds of Lahaina Jodo Mission for the Lahaina Community O-Bon Festival held jointly by the three temples. It was a memorable evening marking two years since the wildfire destroyed Jodo Mission, Shingon Mission and Lahaina Hongwanji Mission.

We ended the summer by supporting Lanai Hongwanji Obon with donations of baked goods and assorted snack food items for their August 30 Obon food concession. Maui dancers hand carried the donations by car to Maalaea Harbor to ride as passengers on the Expedition Ferry to Lanai's Manele Harbor. Four large boxes of the snacks were also shipped to Lanai via the Expedition Ferry's freight boat. Each year the Lanai community excitedly looks forward to the onolicious and various donated goods by our Maui BWAs.





# HAWAII ISLAND UNITED BWA

Since 2012, our organization was a participant in the HIV/AIDS Walk at Lili'uokalani Gardens till the last one held in 2018. Over those years and through their generous support, BWA members and friends have raised hundreds of dollars for AIDS education and treatment on Hawaii Island. After a six-year hiatus, it was revived on May 3, 2025. BWA members and ministers from Hilo and Puna participated with K. T. Cannon-Eger serving as the gung-ho BWA Team captain. Besides raising funds and walking, they helped distribute supporter tee shirts, snacks and water.

Units hold ongoing fundraisers, support their temples and are involved in the greater community as follows:

**HILO:** Their Super Garage Sale held on August 9 was a huge success, enabling them to surpass their monetary goal. For nearly two weeks, members and friends ranging in number from 60 to 80 filled the Sangha Hall and diligently prepared the goods for sale. Laughter permeated the hall with chatter and catch-up stories as everyone worked side by side to accomplish this monumental task. Hilo BWA is forever grateful to our many Sangha members and community friends for their generous donations and helping hands. Members also raised over \$3,000 for the Alzheimer's Association Walk to be held on September 20.

**HONOKAA:** BWA continues to assist the Peace Committee's "Feed the Keiki and Kupuna" program, that has served thousands of meals and distributed thousands of pounds of groceries. They

E. Okano



will be hosting our fall General Membership meeting on October 25, 2025.

**KONA:** BWA will be celebrating their 125th Anniversary on September 27, 2025, and will host the Buddhist Education Seminar to be held in conjunction with our meeting at Honokaa Hongwanji.

**PUNA:** Members assisted Puna Taiko's "Summer Festival" Vendor and Craft Fair held at the temple grounds on August 23. They, along with interested vendors, will also be participating in their temple's Winter Craft Fair to be held on November 15, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**NAALEHU:** Community interaction through food service and other programs abounds with the help of BWA members.





# KAUAI UNITED BWA

Karen Nishimoto



A visit to the Kauai Museum in February began with an oli or chant to grant knowledge and wisdom to all those in attendance. This was made possible by the knowledgeable docent who guided us through the cultural exhibits and artifact displays while sharing colorful stories of Kauai's rich history. Our journey through time from past to present day Kauai soon came to an end. We did not, however, end our journey there. We continued on a short walk to relax and enjoy a delicious lunch at Restaurant Kiibo.

Members and friends from West Kauai and Lihue gathered at Lihue Hongwanji to continue the lei making project started at the Fall Conference in 2024. We learned

how to complete lei by tying off ends and ensuring the ribbons were intact. Lihue members continued to meet every Thursday and successfully completed 100% of the lei given to them. We are right on track to meet our commitment for the 18th World Buddhist Women's Convention in 2027.

West Kauai Hongwanji hosted the 2025 Eshinni and Kakushinni Day Service. The dharma message presented by Linda Nagai, President of the Hawaii State Federation BWA, and the refreshments prepared by West Kauai BWA members provided all participants a day

of inspiration and fellowship.

The Kauai community has come to expect traditional bon dance festivities with good fun and good food during the summer months. This year was no exception and KUHBWA members were happy to make this happen. Flying saucers, shaved ice and pronto pups were made and enjoyed by all. Barazushi and sekihan, along with more modern rice dishes were prepared and packaged for eager shoppers. A variety of baked goods were also available for those wanting something sweet. These tasty treats, provided by the dedicated KUHBWA members and friends, always make the bon dance experience a memorable one.





# OAHU UNITED BWA

Susan Morishige



OUHHBWA ladies attended Oahu District English Seminar (at Aiea) and the Summer Session District Seminar (at Mililani), and provided hearty refreshments.

Chad Tsuyoshi Okawa (Aiea) and Lauren Kana Suzuki (Pearl City) were selected as the Federation's Exchange Students for 2025. They left for Japan in July and have returned. The Federation webpage is in the process of being updated.

The Planning Committee is meeting on September 14 and will send out the next flyer for the OUHHBWA-hosted State Conference in mid-September, describing each workshop and Sunday's Panel, and providing registration information and form.

Plans are to hold OUHHBWA's Annual Conference on October 18, 2025 in Aiea Hongwanji's Social Hall. The theme is "Nurturing Nembutsu: Cultivating Awareness." The conference is open to anyone interested in the OUHHBWA or the event, and the registration fee will be the same for everyone registered. Conference flyer will be sent out in mid-September. Proposed Schedule:

- Registration and refreshments at 8am.
- Memorial Service and Dharma Talk: Dharma Speaker Linda Nagai will speak on her Tokudo journey.
- Annual Meeting will include annual Election of Officers, and updates on the State Conference and World Convention.
- Workshop speaker: Kealii Lopez of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).
- Lunch.
- Chair Yoga activity led by Roy Arakaki.
- Closing and cleanup at 2:30pm.

## Unit Reports:

**Aiea** held its Craft Fair on April 25-26 and Eshinni-Kakushinni (EK) service with speaker Barbara Brennan on April 27; visited the Lotus Adult Day Care Center for a Dana Day bingo activity; resumed meeting on Thursdays to work on crafts; met on September 7 for an Air Plant workshop; and is folding 108 cranes to hang at its Peace Day service on September 14.



**Pearl City's** EK Day service was held on April 27 with speaker Claire Tamamoto. Future activities are Care Day in September, and annual Memorial Service, Initiation Ceremony and Rededication Day on November 30.



**Waipahu** held its EK service on April 27. Guest speaker was June Asato who shared her childhood memories and her experience as a Buddhist. The BWA donated \$300 from its Dana Day service donations



to victims of the Southern California Wildfires, and also donated a new computer to the temple office.

**Mililani** BWA's EK Day service guest speaker was Edythe Vassall who spoke about her life and what led her to Buddhism. Read about the service and other Mililani BWA activities in their monthly newsletter which can be found at <https://www.mililanihongwanji.org/dharma-connection-newsletters>. On Friday morning of Mililani's bon dance, the BWA and Kyodan members carefully arranged the yagura skirt over its framework, and affixed floral arrangements on the four corners.



# HONOLULU UNITED BWA Lois Ohta

Our 2025 Honolulu United Joint Membership and Education Conference was held on Saturday, August 16th at Hawaii Betsuin with participants from our 3 temples (Hawaii Betsuin, Jikoen and Moiliili Hongwanji) in attendance. Our Hongwanji theme:



## 2025 HUBWA Dana Award Presentations



**Project Dana  
Perpetual Award**



**Honolulu Police Com-  
munity Foundation  
3rd Year Dana Award**



**Mediation Center of the Pacific  
2nd Year Dana Award**



**Ma'i Movement  
1st Year Dana  
Award**

"Nurturing Nembutsu-Cultivating Awareness" guided our conference topic, "Seeing Dementia...Through Eyes of Compassion".

We honored our dedicated members who passed on in the last year at our morning temple service and then moved down to the social hall for our Annual General Membership meeting, fellowship and to listen to our speaker, Ms. Tani Kalei Salazar, LSW, from the Executive Office of Aging of our State's Department of Health. Ms. Salazar's presentation was very informative, and timely as it built our awareness of this condition of dementia, which has touched many of our lives through family and friends. We all also engaged in small group discussions, each member sharing how dementia has impacted their lives and what they've learned from their interactions with these family members and friends. Most importantly, we shared with each other how we might become even more compassionate with these loved ones.

Each year, we also present our Dana Award checks to non-profit organizations selected by the HU Board. This is also very gratifying to our membership as they hear from and see which organizations are supported through their Dana donations each year. It was indeed a very special and joyful conference!

Oh, fun! Making air dry clay roses to take home and enjoy!



This is becoming a "tradition"...Ending our conference with an Okinawan kachashi dance celebrating another wonderful time together!

