

# Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

April 2020



*A tightly coiled spring  
filled with new energy  
bouncing back with hope*

William Doughty

The annual Spring Appreciation Festival was held on April 19

# MAHALO

## for your donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa  
Bill & Keiko Doughty  
Miyoko Hanahara  
Blake Harano  
Hawaii Senbukan  
Arthur Isa

Kokusai Sake Kai  
Kell Komatsubara  
Steve Miwa  
Craig & Diane Nishida  
Rob Kimoto Roofing  
Akiko Sanai



Mahalo to shrine President **Shinken Naitoh** for conducting an online lecture in Shinto for Nathan Connor and his Religion class at Chattanooga Christian High School.



Mahalo Nui to **Kell Komatsubara** for his donation of 5 folding tables.

Kell has been out of commission since January due to several health issues.

Kell, as each day passes you're one closer to a complete recovery. Ganbatte!



In mid-January the islands were hit with non-stop rain and several shingle tiles were blown off the shrine roof, requiring replacement.

Mahalo to **Rob Kimoto** for donating materials and his time to replace the shingle tiles and inspecting the overall roof to ensure that it remains intact and undamaged.

Visit our Website: [www.jinja.us](http://www.jinja.us)

# Private Blessings

This was the last private blessing at the shrine, before the Stay-Home Order which began on March 25.

Yakudoshi years are filled with tough challenges. The blessing is meant to impart inner strength, perseverance and resilience as one navigates life's challenges.



A long distance blessing was performed for baby Anela on April 16 in Honolulu. Congratulations to the new parents on the birth of their little treasure.

Long distance blessings are available throughout the Stay-Home Order. Please contact the shrine at 841-4755 or at [kotohira@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kotohira@hawaiiantel.net).

A service was conducted on April 18 to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the passing of a former shrine member.

The service was live streamed for the family to watch from different locations, in real time.



# CALENDAR

## MAY

24 8 am

**Honolulu Shinto Renmei  
Memorial Day Ceremony**



## JUNE

6 1 pm

**Cleanup and prep**

7 9 am - 1 pm

**Chinowa for People & Pets**

## JULY

1 - 7 8:30 am - 4 pm

**Tanabata Wish tags in the shrine**

5 3 pm

**Tsukinamisai Monthly Service  
& Tanabata**

Visit [www.jinja.us](http://www.jinja.us) for updates to the shrine calendar

# Spring Appreciation Festival

The Spring Thanksgiving Festival is a time to remember the bounties that we receive from nature and the friendships, kindnesses, generosity and guidance received from everyone who has touched and shaped our lives.

In compliance with the State's Stay-Home Order limiting religious gatherings, the festival was performed on Sunday, April 19 without a congregation.

It was the first time in the history of the shrine that any festival was celebrated alone, by the Chief Priest.

In an era where technology plays a big role in all aspects of our lives, faith-based organizations are no exception.



The ceremony was live-streamed on Facebook and uploaded to YouTube to make it interactive so online audiences may participate spiritually.

The ceremony began with a moment of silence for the many victims of the Corona Virus. The annual scholarships were awarded to 4 students by mail - Rayce Manriki, Keng-Hsien Chao, Kaylee Rafol and Jasmine Umeno.

Each day brings challenges, disturbing news and questions about the future. A big blow was our inability to gather and share space together as family, friends and as a religious community.

However, our global community has survived change and upheaval for generations and will remain adaptive, productive and resilient until we can once again share our spiritual traditions with the community.



**View event pics at: [www.flickr.com/kotohira-dazaifu](http://www.flickr.com/kotohira-dazaifu)**

# 2020 Scholarship Awardees

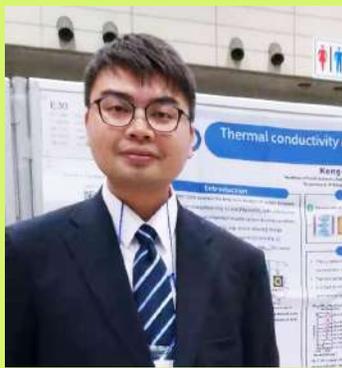
**Rayce Manriki** will be graduating Kalani High School this May. Rayce is a star athlete for the Falcoms, playing Defensive back in Football. He also played Baseball throughout his Intermediate and High School years. Rayce has frequented the shrine since he was 3 years old.



**Keng-Hsien Chao** is pursuing a doctorate in Geophysics at UH Manoa.

Keng-Hsien received his Masters degree at Taiwan Central University.

Keng-Hsien is from Tainan, Taiwan, speaks fluent Japanese and is interested in all aspects of Japanese culture.



**Kayee Rafol** is pursuing a degree in Dental Hygiene at UH Manoa.

Kaylee is from the Big Island and first volunteered at the shrine in 2017.

Kaylee volunteers for dental-related events where she teaches children how to floss and brush their teeth properly.



**Jasmine Umeno** is presently pursuing a classical Japanese Dance Instructor's license from Hanayagi-ryu, Japan. She is originally from Kula and received a BA from Scripps College.

Jasmine spent a year in Oita, teaching English in as part of the JET program.



Follow us on Instagram ([kotohiradazaifu](#))

# Temporary Shrine closure



The shrine closed its doors to the public on March 18. The first time the shrine ceased operation was 79 years ago, at the onset of World War II.

Despite the hardships of discrimination and incarceration, the Japanese Americans rose above the adversities with *gaman* - dignified endurance in the face of hopelessness.

The world is at war again. The enemy is ruthless with no regard for age, gender, race, religion or nationality.

Already, Covid-19 has killed more than 165,000 people, infected over 2,400,000 and has halted economies, overwhelmed health-care systems, and forced millions to be confined to their homes. Like any war, Covid-19 has hurt those who are already vulnerable.

It's challenging under the current restrictions, however, we will get through this together. *Gaman*

**Visit [www.jinja.us](http://www.jinja.us) for Shrine status and updates.**



Masks are now fashion statements. Here are some friends and their unique masks.



## Follow us on Facebook