

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

DECEMBER 2019



12 Members of the 21st Century Japan Religious Committee for World Federation visited the shrine on December 6. This is the 38th year that a gathering of diverse religious leaders converged on Oahu to offer prayers of peace at the annual Pearl Harbor Memorial service.

MAHALO

for your donations

21st Century Japan Religious
Committee for World Federation

Thomas & Linda Agawa

Bill & Keiko Doughy

Lynette Hanashiro

Carol Hirashima

Arthur K. Isa

Akiko Kamaya

Yoshiko Kawakami

Kawasaki Taishi

James & Melba Kurashige

Mike Lee

Kengo Maeda

Clara Matsuzaki

Steve Miwa

Caroline Miyata

Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh

Craig & Diane Nishida

Akiko Sanai



Gary & Linda Shinsato

Andrew & Yuko Stone

Alice & Florence Sugimoto

Chester Sugimoto

Miyuki Takahashi

Sharon Tanigawa

Victor & Mutsumi Valdez

Mahalo to the Natori instructors
of **Hanayagi Dancing Academy**
Hawaii Foundation for
performing the annual *Susubarai*
clean-up of the meeting room

Bryson Goda

Gayle Fujihara

Kathy Hamada-Kwock

Stacie Hata

Diane Nishida

Sharon Toma



Mahalo to **Mike Lee** for fabricating a stand for the shrine out of *Hinoki*, a species of Cypress native to central Japan. Hinoki contains an antibacterial component so its resistant to decay.

A pole will be inserted and used in the shrine during *Shichigosan* to prevent children from falling back into the *Kicho* curtains when taking photos.



View event pics at: www.flickr.com/kotohira-dazaifu



December

- 29 5 pm
Pitch tent
- 30 6 pm
Cleanup & Prep
- 31 11:30 pm
Yearend Purification Ritual

January 2020

- 1 Midnight - 4 pm
Hatsumode
- 12 10 am - 5 pm
JCC New Years Ohana Fest
- 19 1:00 pm
Sagicho - burning of the old omamori
- 3:00 pm
Tsukinamisai Monthly Service



Koki Blessing was performed for shrine friend Gary on 12/15.

人生七十古来希

Jinsei Nanaju Koki marenari

Koki or the 70th birthday is a milestone in Japanese culture. The word *koki* was derived from a poem called "By the Winding River" by the Chinese poet, Tu Fu (712 - 770) which mentions living until the age of 70 as an amazing feat.

With the rapid pace of technology today - 70s are now considered the new 50s.



Welcome to Hawaii - Rev. & Mrs. Hisamichi Shinnishi of Dazaifu Tenmangu, Japan. The couple was married on 12/2 in Fukuoka.



A baby blessing was held on 12/16 for Chester. May you always feel the love that surrounds you

Reiwa

On December 2, the publisher *Jiyu Kokumin Shinsha* announced the annual awardees for the words and phrases that best encapsulate the year.

9 words and phrases are chosen each year that are considered buzzwords that reflected the year's



trends in politics, business, culture, sports and other fields.

Japan entered the Reiwa era in 2019 with the new reign of



Emperor Naruhito.

One of the nine awardees for 2019 is *Reiwa*. 令和 — *Reiwa*, the name of the new era was announced a month before Emperor *Naruhito* ascended the throne on May 1.

The characters come from the preface to a series of poems in the 8th-century *Manyoshu* anthology.

A court noble and scholar, *Otomo no Tabito* (665-731) lived near Sakamoto Hachimangu and it was

at this residence, during a gathering, where the poem which *Reiwa* was taken from was first composed. *Reiwa's* official English translation is "beautiful harmony."

Rev. *Yoshitomo Mita* serves at *Dazaifu Tenmangu* and is also the Chief Priest at *Sakamoto Hachimangu*.

Rev. *Mita* accepted the *Jiyu Kokumin Shinsha* award for "Reiwa" on behalf of *Sakamoto Hachimangu*.



Visit our website: www.jinja.us

Mochi Making

Mahalo to shrine friends for helping us at our annual mochi making on December 7. Be sure to stop by on 1/1 for some Ozoni made with mochi rice harvested and airflown from Fukuoka.



MAHALO

Friends

Diane Arakawa

Keng-Hsien Chao

Bill Doughty

Keiko Doughty

Chad Enoki

Kei Enoki

Jeff Fujioka

Miyoko Hanahara

Arthur Isa

Glenn Kawahara

Marilyn Naitoh

Shinken Naitoh

Ren Nakamura

Craig Nishida

Kaylee Rafof

Gary Shinsato

Linda Shinsato



Mahalo Nui to **Kengo Maeda**, President and CEO of Tsukushi Gas of Fukuoka for his annual donation of Hiyoku Mochi rice, a signature quality glutinous rice from Kyushu.

This is the third year that Mr. Maeda has donated over 60 lbs. of Mochi rice to the shrine.

The rice was harvested from his rice paddy in November and airflown to the shrine. Be sure to have a bowl of Ozoni soup at the shrine on New Years day.

Toji - Winter Solstice

Juni-gatsu is the Japanese word for December. Each month also has ancient names and December is called *Ume-hazuki*, *Sagetsu*, *Otozuki*, *Goku-getsu*, *Kyugetsu*, *Oyakozuki*, *Harumazuki*, *Kurekozuki*, *Yukizuki*, *Kagiri no Tsuki*. However, the most commonly known term is *shiwasu*.

Shiwasu is composed of two kanji characters "teacher" and "to run."

There are many theories for the origin of the name but, according to the *Iroha Jiruisho*, a Japanese kanji dictionary published at the end of the *Heian* period (794 - 1185), the meaning of *shiwasu* is that December is so busy that a Buddhist monk must run from home to home to perform ancestral rituals for their parishioners.

One of the traditional observances



in *Shiwasu* is *Toji* or the winter solstice.

The winter solstice is the shortest day and the longest night in the Northern hemisphere. This year, *Toji* falls on December 21.

Toji is often referred to as *Ichiyō Raifuku* or the turning point from Yin to Yang. It is also the "return of spring", when we welcome the end of winter.

One of the practices on *Toji* is to take a *yuzu* bath. Several slices or a whole *yuzu* is placed into a bag

or directly into the bathwater. It is said that taking a *yuzu* bath on *Toji* will deflect colds during winter. It was also thought that the scent of the *yuzu* removed negative energies from the body.

Another popular practice is to eat *kabocha* or Japanese pumpkin. *Kabocha* is full of vitamin A and good for preventing colds and strokes. *Kabocha* is often simmered with *azuki* beans - full of nutrients to boost the immune system.



Maintenance

The garage roof project is finally completed!!!

PHASE I

3/24 **Rudy Santiago** removed the old totan roof installed in 1983.

3/29 **Rev Takizawa** sliced the totan panels into 4 ft long pieces to comply with City & County Bulky items collection rules.

PHASE II

4/19 Equipment and materials were transported to the shrine by **Mike Lee** and **Kell Komatsubara**

4/20 **Kell Komatsubara, Mike Lee, Gary Shinsato, Milton Streeter** and **Rev. Takizawa** welded the new pipes to the existing poles and placed the new beams over the frame.

PHASE III

5/1 The roof frame was painted by **Scott Nakaoka** Painting.

12/18 **Rob Kimoto** fabricated a plywood underlayment to act as an additional layer of protection under the metal roof.

12/19 **Rob Kimoto** continues to affix a wooden frame to hold the roof in place.

Mahalo Nui to all our friends for donating their time and energies in our various maintenance projects!



Volunteers Needed

Any number of hours on any day(s)
Please contact Irene at kotohira@hawaiiintel.net

Asst Priest (performs Blessings for shrine visitors. Must wear kimono)

12/31 10:00 pm - 1/1 4 pm

Ozoni Team (grill mochi, serve ozoni mochi soup, clean tables)

12/31 10:00 pm - 2:30 am

1/1 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Volunteer Services (prep catered food for volunteer lunches, clean up after lunch)

1/1 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

1/2 9:00am - 2:00 pm

We Need Help!!

Traffic Control (pass out flyers for offsite parking)

12/31 11:00 pm - 3:00 am

1/1 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Omamori Booth (cashiers, baggers)

12/31 8:30 am - 11:30 pm

1/1 Midnight - 4:00 pm

1/2 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

1/3 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

1/4 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

1/5 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Saisen Booth (Give change, fill Saisen box)

12/31 10:00 pm - 3:00 am

Please help us sort and process old omamori and ofuda for our annual Sagicho.

The burning of plastics releases toxic gases into the atmosphere. All plastics covers and decorations are removed prior to burning.

Please contact Irene at kotohira@hawaiiintel.net for dates and times.

