



Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

DECEMBER 2023

E Komo Mai !

The shrine welcomed the annual visit of the 21st Century Religious Federation - - a Japanese organization of interfaith leaders that participates in the annual Pearl Harbor ceremony.

Visits by the full membership of the Federation were halted in 2020 due to COVID and finally returned with full membership this year.

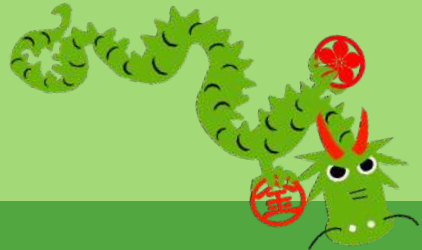
82 years ago, Japan launched an attack on the U.S. Naval base of Pearl Harbor killing more than 2,400 service members and accelerating U.S. involvement in World War II.

The 21st Century Religious Federation was formed in 1983 by religious leaders in Japan to make the annual pilgrimage to Hawaii to participate in the U.S. Navy and National Park Service's Remembrance ceremony held at Pearl Harbor on December 7th.

DONATIONS

40th Hawaii Peace Mission
Yuki Alzona-Kusuhara
Carl & Joy Anderson
Charlie & Amy Castro
Corniche K.K.
Bill & Keiko Doughty
Lauren Hamaguchi
Sachiko Hopkins
Seizo Imamura
Art Isa
Arthur & Becky Isa
Rodney & Sharon Isa
Iwashimizu Hachimangu
Jinja Honcho
Ayaka Kahiapo
Mami Kajiwara

Izumi Kato
Nenpo Shinkyō Kongoji
James & Melba Kurashige
Kent Matsuzaki
Yae Miko
Steve Miwa
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Lori Nakamoto
Daniel & Yoko Neves
Craig & Diane Nishida
Akiko Sanai
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Robert Stallings
Naomi Teramoto
Danielle Yoshitake



MAHALO NUI

RICE

Corniche K.K.
Seizo Imamura
Art Isa
Masa & Irene Takizawa

SAKE • SPIRITS

Lois Arakaki
Bryson & Reiko Goda
Seizo Imamura
Art Isa
Takeshi & Masako Kawasaki
KSK Hawaii
Mike Lee
Craig & Diane Nishida
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Masa & Irene Takizawa

Mahalo for all your cans and plastic bottles !

Cans and plastic bottles collected this quarter was redeemed for cash at the neighborhood Recycling Center - CM Recycling.

If you aren't already recycling, please bring empty cans and plastic bottles to the shrine:

- remove all caps from the bottles
- empty out all liquids
- be sure the HI-5 mark in on the cans and plastic bottles

Plenty Mahalo for your donations !



GOKITO - Private Blessings



A House blessing was conducted on 11/24 for a home in Kaimuki



A long distance blessing was performed for a family who are grateful for the goodness that surrounded them during a challenging year

PRIVATE BLESSINGS

The shrine will be taking a hiatus from Gokito Private Blessings from 12/28 ~1/4/2024.

Gokito Private Blessings will be available from January 5 (Fri).

Please contact the shrine after January 3 (Wed) to book a reservation.

Mahalo Nui Loa



The last Tsukinamisai of 2023 was conducted in the presence of our Officers and Directors. We look forward to a 2024 with good health, good fortune and much laughter.



An annual Business Blessing was conducted for a company based in Japan. May this business expand, flourish and create great livelihood and growth for all those involved.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2023

- 23 4 pm**
Clean up and Preparations
- 26 - 30 8:30 am - 4 pm**
Saisaki-Mode Early Hatsumode
Personal Worship
- 8:30 - 3:30 pm**
Early Omamori Selection (in the hall)
- 31 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**
(Closed 4 pm ~ 8 pm)
8:00 pm - 11:59 pm
Saisaki-Mode Hatsumode Worship
Omamori available in hall
- 11:30 pm (INTERNAL)**
Toshikoshi no O-harai



Mock Orange blossoms in full bloom

JANUARY 2024

- 1 Midnight - 2 am**
(Closed 2 am ~ 8 am)
8 am - 4 pm
Hatsumode Personal Worship
Omamori available in hall
- 2 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**
Hatsumode Personal Worship
(Omamori available from 8:30 am - 2 pm)
- 2 pm**
Moving omamori to shrine, clean &
restore hall
- 3 ~ ~ 8:30 am - 4:00 pm (Resume regular
schedule)**
Hatsumode Personal Worship
Omamori available in shrine
- 13 10 am - 4 pm**
JCCH Ohana Festival
- 21 12:00 pm** Sagicho Preparations
1:00 pm Sagicho
2:00 pm Tsukinamisai

SAISAKI-MODE 12/26 - 12/31 8:30 am - 4 pm

Saisaki-mode, literally means "praying for happiness early" and offers an opportunity prior to January 1 to express our gratitude and to pray for a new 2024 full of hope, health and abundance.

Saisaki-mode is offered "Japan-style" where you pray on your own. For those who prefer not to come together en masse for Hatsumode - visit the shrine for Saisaki-mode for a safe alternative.

Omamori Early Selection

12/26 - 12/30 8:30 am - 4 pm

Off-site Parking

Parking 12/31 & 1/1 at Farrington High School (Entry nearest to Kalihi Street)

Free shuttle

HATSUMODE 2024

January 1 Mon Midnight - 2 am
8 am - 4 pm

January 2 Tues 8:30 am - 4 pm

(Omamori available 8:30 am - 2 pm)

January 3 - February 3 8:30 am - 4 pm

We hope you will be able to see these safety protocols as an opportunity to carry on Japanese traditions in a new and safe way.

Embrace the spirit of the Japanese New Year at Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha • Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu.

No Toshikoshi Soba

No Ozoni Soup

No Shishimai Lion Dance

Omiki (sake) (Limited hours)

BYOBags

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

12/31 Sunday ~ 1/7 Sunday

Please consider some of the ways below to help the shrine during the Hatsumode season. Any length of time will be deeply appreciated.

Like Hatsumode 2023, we will have masks, face shields and

gloves available. The hall will be ventilated with all windows open.

The shrine will be running a reduced scope of services and hours of operation during our annual Hatsumode event.

However, we will still need help in sharing the traditions of Hatsumode with the community.

Feel free to reach us to us at anytime. These are the ways you can help !!

TRAFFIC CONTROL (pass out flyers for offsite parking)

1/1 8:30 am - 4 pm

OMAMORI BOOTH
(cashiers, baggers)

12/31 8 am - 4 pm
8 pm - 2 am (1/1)

1/1 8 am - 12 pm

1/2 8 am - 2 pm

1/6 8:30 am - 4 pm

1/7 8:30 am - 4 pm

OMIKUJI BOOTH (Give change, etc)

12/31 8 pm - 2 am (1/1)

1/1 8:30 am - 4 pm

1/2 8:30 am - 2 pm

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

(pack catered food for volunteer lunches, clean up after lunch)

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

LOGISTICS CREW (assist Rev. Takizawa in a multitude of tasks)

12/31 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
10 pm - 2 am (1/1)

1/1 8 am - 4 pm

1/2 8:30 am - 4 pm

SANITIZERS (Sanitize hall and high-touch surfaces)

12/31 8:30 pm - 2 am (1/1)

1/1 8:30 am - 4 pm

1/2 8:30 am - 2 pm



SHICHIFUKUJIN



It seems that every culture has lucky numbers and unlucky numbers.

In Japan, four and nine are considered unlucky because of their pronunciation.

Four is pronounced *shi* which is the same pronunciation as "death".

Nine is pronounced *ku* which has the same pronunciation as "agony" or "hardship".

Seven appears to be a universally lucky or auspicious number. Pythagoreans called it the perfect number - 3 and 4, the triangle and the square, the perfect figures.

There are seven visible planets and luminaries - Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

There are seven Chakras, seven Wonders of the World, seven deadly sins, seven virtues, the seven seas, seven days of the week, seven colors of the spectrum and so on.

SHICHI-FUKU-JIN

Shichifukujin is the Seven deities of Luck in Japanese folklore. They are deities often portrayed

together riding on a treasure ship (*takarabune*).

They carry various magical items such as an invisible hat, an inexhaustible purse, a lucky robe of feathers, keys to the divine treasure house and important books and scrolls. Here are the names and the features of the Shichi-fuku-jin.

Daikoku - The deity of wealth and farmers. He holds a big bag filled with treasures on his shoulder and an *uchideno-kozuchi* (lucky mallet) in his hand.

Bishamon - The deity of war and warriors. he wears a suit of armor , a helmet and is armed with a sword.

Ebisu - The deity of fishermen and wealth is usually depicted with t large, red *tai* (sea bream) and a fishing rod.

Fukurokuju - The deity of longevity has an elongated bald head and a white beard.

Jurojin - Another deity of longevity who has a long white beard and a scholar's cap and is often pictured with his messenger - a stag.

Hotei - The deity of happiness who has a jolly face and a big belly.

Benzaiten - The deity of music, performing arts and learning and is the only female in the group and carries a *biwa* (Japanese lute)

The Shichifukujin set will be available at the shrine from 12/26/2023.

NANA-KUSA

Nanakusa means "seven herbs". In Japan *nanakusa-gayu* porridge is eaten on January 7th.

These seven herbs are said to prevent illness. The Japanese tend to eat and drink excessively on New Year's eve and day, therefore, it is said to be the ideal meal - light and healthy and loaded with nutrients.

On 12/11, a Japanese tourist walked into the shrine. Rev. Takizawa thought it was odd that the tourist chose to carry his shoes instead of placing them at the front door.

After a few minutes, a local male entered the shrine - as seen on the left side of the photo.

He entered with his shoes on so Rev. Takizawa went to ask that he remove his footwear before entering. Upon seeing the local male, he immediately realized that the Japanese tourist was probably being targeted for robbery.

The local male wore a baseball cap low on his head and a ski mask covering most of his face and neck.

Rev Takizawa immediately asked the local male to leave the premises and followed him out the door. The male then ran towards the back of the shrine. Rev. Takizawa followed in pursuit and caught him hiding below the shrine.

The male then began throwing concrete blocks at Rev. Takizawa, at which time the police were called.

The male then climbed over the shrine railing, ran towards the back, jumped off the railing and climbed over the shrine fence into our neighbor's



property. The male then stole a child's scooter and escaped towards King Street.

The police finally arrived at this time and began their manhunt.

Rev. Takizawa offered to walk the Japanese tourist to the bus stop, who claimed to be shaken but fine. The tourist claims that he was being followed from the bus stop but was never approached by the male. He thought that the male was after his custom-made running shoes - purchased for the Honolulu Marathon.

A few months ago in September, Rev. Miyasaka of Izumo Taishakyo Mission was assaulted by an intruder in the middle of the night and suffered facial trauma

The intruder made an unauthorized entry into Izumo Taishakyo property despite video surveillance cameras and alarms and left with Rev. Miyasaka's Drivers License and credit cards.

There has also been purse snatching incidents while private blessings are being conducted at Izumo Taishakyo.

Crime data shows that churches all across the US is seeing a dramatic increase in theft, vandalism, arson and physical attacks on church property and clergy compared to the same timeframe last year.

Data also reflects an uptick in firearms being brought into houses of worship. Quite a few firearm incidents have been identified on the mainland.

It seems to be the end of a social taboo that once protected houses of worship as a sacred sanctuary. Criminals are now unfazed by committing crimes against churches.