

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha • Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

FEBRUARY 2024



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MAHALO for your generous Donations

CALENDAR

Keng Hsien Chao
Bill & Keiko Doughty
Omar & Joyce Faufata
Jon Faufata
Scott Faufata
Bryson & Reiko Goda
Arthur Isa
Arthur & Becky Isa
Rodney & Sharon Isa
Japan Airlines

James & Melba Kurashige
Noah Kutaka
Mike Lee
Matt & Jenn McNeff
Yae Miko
Steve Miwa
Mavis Mizumoto
Roy Morioka
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Craig & Diane Nishida

Earl & Toyoko Okawa
Lois Okawa
Akiko Sanai
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Robert Stallings
Sharon Tanigawa
Naomi Teramoto
Yusuke Watanabe
Lena Young

MARCH

3 2 pm

Sake Appreciation Festival

APRIL

13 1 pm

Cleanup and preparations

14 2 pm

Spring Thanksgiving Festival
Scholarship Awards

MAY

5 2 pm

Tsukinamisai Monthly Service

26 8 am (INTERNAL)

Memorial Day Service



Setsubun literally means "the changing of the seasons."

When seasons change, people are at their most vulnerable physical state and often catch colds, influenza and other illnesses.

Setsubun is meant to purge the home of negativity and to keep disease and misfortunes away.



GOKITO Private Blessings



Cultural traditions connect us to our past and creates a sense of continuity across generations.

Annual *Kanai Anzen* Family blessings were performed for shrine friends for a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.



A 16th year Memorial Service was performed for a dear friend.



Rituals like Yakudoshi blessings help to unlock the cultural and spiritual gifts from our ancestors.

GOKITO Private Blessings



A House Blessing was performed for a home in St. Louis Heights.

St. Louis School was established in 1846 as the College of Ahuimanu to serve the Catholic community of the Hawaiian Kingdom and counts Governor John Burns and Father Damien of Molokai as graduates.

St. Louis School moved to its present location in Kaimuki in 1928. 204 acres in the mountainous areas

of Kalaepohaku were purchased from Bishop Estate for the school.

To finance the construction of the school - 80 acres were sold on which the first St. Louis Heights homes were built.

In 1955, the Marianists established Saint Louis Junior College (later named Chaminade College in 1957 and Chaminade University in 1977.)

The streets on St. Louis Heights is said to have been named by Paul Low and James Hara, developers of the Heights who chose names of early members of the Order who started St. Louis School, beginning with the letter A.

Alencastre was named for Stephen Alencastre - the Catholic Bishop for Hawaii from 1924 to 1940.

Father Bertram founded the Society of Marianists in Hawaii.

Monsignor Gulston Ropert served as the Vicar apostolic of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu.

Brothers Eugene, Felix and Frank were instructors at St. Louis College.

Maigret Street was named for Bishop Louis-Desire Maigret who oversaw Our Lady of Peace Cathedral on Fort Street.

Libert Street was named after Vicar Libert Boeynaems of the Order of the Sacred Hearts.

St. Louis Heights is now a community of single family homes with panoramic views of Diamond Head, Waikiki and the Pacific Ocean.

SAGICHO - burning of the old omamori and ofuda

The annual *Sagicho* was performed on Sunday, January 21.

Sagicho is an ancient ceremony originating in China to express appreciation to and purify by burning old *Juyohin* which includes *ofuda*, *omamori*, *kumade*, *hamaya*, porcelain decorations and *hamayumi* that were blessed at a shrine or temple.



Renewal is central to Japanese tradition and as such, we renew

Juyohin such as omamori and ofuda at the beginning of the year.

When you visit the shrine at *Hatsumode*, we would appreciate your depositing old *omamori* and other *juyohin* in the hut by **January 7** of each year.



All plastic casings and metal decorations are painstakingly removed prior to *Sagicho*, to prevent toxic fumes from harming the environment.

This year the shrine collected 49



shipping boxes full of old *juyohin* which required around two weeks to prepare them for proper purification and burning.

Mahalo Nui to all that participated in *Sagicho* for their kokua in prepping and burning all the items.

The winds were blowing at 7-8 miles per hour and it was slightly overcast - - creating perfect conditions for the burning of the old omamori.

Visit our website at www.jinja.us

With the overwhelming number of items that are turned in, we are no longer able to accept items that were not blessed at a shrine or temple. That includes:

- *kadomatsu*
- *Ihai* tablets (for proper disposal, *Ihai* tablets should be returned to the Buddhist temple that performed your ancestor's funeral)
- *Mochi*, Salt, Sand, *Saiwaigami* paper, New Years decorations (*shime kazari*)
- Souvenirs and *omamori*-like items from retail stores
- personal items - clothing, letters, jewelry, accessories, books, dolls, plush, etc.

Please discard packaging from the *omamori*, explanation cards,

newsletters and calendars from shrines and temples.

Mochi should be consumed.

If you are unable to bring old *omamori* to the shrine or if you have new years decorations, *kadomatsu*, *mochi*, etc that you would like to dispose - - place the items not accepted by the shrine in a bag, sprinkle Hawaiian salt or any sea salt over it, thank the *omamori*

for their protection and discard it with your regular trash.

Mahalo for your *kokua* in perpetuating the traditions of *Sagicho*.

MAHALO VOLUNTEERS

Arthur Isa, Jr.	Shinken Naitoh
Becky Isa	Craig Nishida
Juston Isa	Diane Nishida
David Jimenez	Linda Shinsato
Marilyn Naitoh	



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

MAINTENANCE



Mahalo Nui to Mike Lee for fabricating and installing Mylar sheets to cover and protect the *Toro* lantern light source.

Toro lanterns are originally from China and made of stone to decorate shrines

and gardens.

Many *Toro* lanterns were exported to Japan, Vietnam and Korea around 700 CE.

The shrine's *Toro* was donated by Iseis that hailed from Yamaguchi, Fukuoka,

Kumamoto and Hiroshima.

In 1935, the two *Toro* were loaded onto a boat and shipped to Honolulu.

The individual sections are held together by gravity, not glue.

The annual cleaning of the light fixtures and replacement of the light bulbs in both shrines was done on 2/15.

An energy efficient bulb not only saves energy and money, but is brighter and lasts longer than incandescent bulbs.



FERAL ANIMALS

The shrine has a feral animal problem.

The Hawaiian Humane Society reports that each day hundreds of feral kittens are born in Hawaii.

A female cat can become pregnant at 16 weeks and go on to have two or three litters a year.

ASPCA data shows that in seven years, a single female cat and their kittens can produce 420,000 more cats.

Feral cats gather where there are resources - - food, water and shelter and often live in vacant lots, eat trash and eventually face disease and an endless cycle of pregnancy.

Feral cats have been leaving issues in the shrine - - odor,

feces, urine and eventually a possible flea infestation. Cats can also carry rabbies.

The Hawaiian Humane Society's solution is the Trap-Neuter-Return Program to end the overpopulation of feral cats.

Hawaii Humane Society instructs the public to trap the cats, make an appointment to have them neutered or spayed and pick them up to return them to their original colonies so they can continue to live out their lives.

They are apathetic to the feral chicken problem and offer no solutions. You can trap chickens with a permit but will be subject to City & County rules regarding animal cruelty.

We now must disinfect daily and bomb the shrine weekly for possible fleas.





abuse making it difficult to maintain employment and residential stability.

An African American male trespassed onto shrine property on 2/15.

He was wielding a metal rod and pounding the concrete stairs, railings and decorations.

He then proceeded to the preschool with rod in hand and began twirling the rod outside the window, but in the presence of the children and teachers.

911 was called however, there was no response by any officers.



This is the 3rd time this male has entered the property and is beginning to show aggression and possible violent behavior.

An Online Police Report was filed. The shrine could have pressed criminal charges for the property damages however, the grim reality is that neither criminal charges nor a TRO would

prevent this mentally imbalanced male from entering the premises again or being a danger to himself or others.

Without civil commitment and better mental health services, the homeless with untreated addictions or mental illnesses will continue to cycle between the streets, jail and psychiatric hospitals.

Homelessness hit a record high in 2023 with 4,038 homeless people in Hawaii.

1 in 3 people who are homeless report having a combination of mental illness and substance