Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha
Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

September 2026



Shubun no Hi or the Autumn Equinox is a day to honor, respect and express gratitude to our ancestors and the departed.

In Japanese culture, ritual care for our ancestors is both a social obligation and religious practice.

Shunbun no Hi is a day to visit ancestral graves and to eat *Ohagi* - a red bean paste covered *mochi* rice ball.

Shunbun no Hi fell on 9/23 this year. A memorial service was performed on 9/20 for all those whose memorial tablets are kept at the shrine.

DONATIONS

Corniche K.K.
Bill & Keiko Doughty
Bryson & Reiko Goda
Miyoko Hanahara
Hanayagi Dancing Academy
Hawaii Foundation
Seizo Imamura
Art Isa
Arthur & Becky Isa
Juston Isa
Rodney & Sharon Isa
Megan McNamara
Yae Miko
Steve Miwa
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Craig & Diane Nishida
Akiko Sanai
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Robert Stallings
Gary & Waynette Taketa
Naomi Teramoto

MAHALO for your donation of food and beverage for the Taisai

Bryson & Reiko Goda
Art Isa
Craig & Diane Nishida
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Irene Takizawa

Shichigosan - 3, 5, 7 year olds
Totose no Oiwai - 10 year olds
Jusan Mairi - 13 year olds

Nov 1 - Nov 15
9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Blessing includes:
Blessing, Omamori, Goodie Bag, complimentary kimono rental and dressing Donation $65

Online reservations at www.jinja.us



CALENDAR

OCTOBER

8 8:00 am (Internal)
Tsukinamisai Monthly Service

25 10:00 am
Shichigosan Cleanup & Prep

NOVEMBER

1 - 14 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Shichigosan

15 12:00 pm
Shichigosan Cleanup

DECEMBER

6 2:00 pm
Tsukinamisai Monthly Service

20 3:00 pm
Cleanup & move into Hall

AUTUMN THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL

The Autumn Thanksgiving Festival is meant to remember the things we have to be grateful for.



It's a special time to give thanks... not just for the food we partake, but for the thousands of fortunate moments and the multitude of blessings that we receive everyday of our lives.

The 106th Autumn Thanksgiving Festival commenced at 2:00 pm on Sunday, September 6, in the presence of Directors and Officers.



The Double-Ninth Festival is a traditional Chinese holiday observed on the 9th day of the 9th Lunar month.

According to the I Ching, the number nine (9) is a yang or masculine number and a double nine has extra yang energy, thus considered an auspicious day.

The festival dates back to the Warring States period (475 - 221 BCE) as a day to drive away danger.

In Japan, this festival is known as *Choyo no Sekku* or the *Kiku* Chrysanthemum Festival and is observed by drinking *sake* infused with *kiku* or chrysanthemum petals.



GOKITO - Private Blessings

A 10th year Remembrance ceremony was performed on 9/19 for a former shrine Director and officer.

As you mark the 10-year anniversary of your loved one's passing, honor their memory, reflect on the joy and lessons they brought into your life and cherish the legacy they left behind.

Their spirit lives on in every life they touched.

A Kanai Anzen family blessing was performed for our annual visitors from Osaka.

Family is more than shared blood, shared meals and shared memories. Family helps us remember what truly matters - love, gratitude, connection, kindness and emotional well-being.

May your hearts never forget the blessing of simply having each other!!!





Shichigosan

Shichigosan is said to have originated in the Heian Period (794 - 1185) among court nobles who celebrated the passage of their children in middle childhood.

Over time, their tradition passed onto the samurai class who added a number of rituals.

Children who were required by custom to have shaven heads until 3, were allowed to grow their hair out in a ritual called Kamitoki.

The Hakamagi ritual allowed boys of 5 to wear a hakama for the first time, whil girls of 7 replaced the simple cords for a traditional obin in the Obitoki ritual.

By the Meiji Period (1868 - 1912), the practice was adopted by commoners and included visiting a shrine to wish for a healthy life.

Totose no Oiwai

Totose no Iwai, literally "10 year old celebration" are for 10 year olds who are on the verge of many changes in almost all aspects of their lives.

At 10 years of age, children are already developing an increasing sense of who they are in the world. many are preparing for the start of middle school and are getting ready to navigate new social settings.

Celebrate their milestone with a Totose no Iwai blessing to acknowledge and embrace the physical, emotional, cognitive and social changes associated with puberty.



Jusan Mairi

Jusan Mairi or 13 year old Blessing marks the first complete cycle of the Chinese Zodiac for the first time since their birth.

The Jusan Mairi blessing is meant to bless the teen with 13 key virtues:

Authenticity, Creativity, Curiosity, Flexibility, Generosity, humility, Integrity, Maturity, Purity, Responsibility, Spirituality, Tenacity and Unity,

An old Japanese superstition claims the teen receiving a Jusan Mairi blessing should not turn back to look at the shrine after the blessing has been completed.

It is a reminder that nothing is certain in life. Anyone has the ability to do amazing things: just don't let our past control tour future success,

LABOR DAY

Congratulations to the Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation for a successful Shamisen Concert with legendary performers - - Kineya Saki from Nagauta Samon Kai Tokyo, percussionit Kenny Endo, Shaku-hachi artist Christopher Blasdell and Koto artist Darin Miyashiro.

It was a delightful 2 hours experiencing the rich sounds of Japan's traditional instruments.





Labor Day, the first Monday in September is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers.

This Labor Day, the nation celebrated 250 years of the contributions of immigrant and American workers that built this country.

Labor Day affords us an opportunity to reflect on the blessings of fruitful labor by so many hard working men and women.

Hawaii welcomed thousands of Asian and European immigrants in the late 19th century to toil in sugar and pineapple fields.

The over 180,000 Japanese contract laborers who arrived from 1885 to 1924 gave birth to US-born Japanese Americans who continue to contribute to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our islands.



MAINTENANCE

The *Shimenawa* rope on the torii gate was replaced on September 1 in preparation of the annual *Taisai* festival and *Hatsumode*.

The *shide* (zigzag strips) were torn off by someone in August and new ones were made by Rev Takizawa using a special waterproof paper from Japan.

The *Shimenawa* rope is traditionally made from rice straw or hemp. It is meant to mark sacred space from the mundane and is seen hanging from every *torii* gate in Japan.

Rice straw is illegal to import due to injurious plant diseases in European, South East Asian, South American



and African rice.

As such, the shrine has been using Marine grade Manila rope made from fibers from the Abaca plant which is tailored for ship mooring and towing. It's known for it's resistance to water and sunlight.

The spiritual powers of the full moon has been revered since ancient times in Japan.

Chushu no Meigetsu or the Harvest Moon is said to be the brightest moon of the year and it is also the day that the Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated in Chinese culture to celebrate the end of the Autumn harvest.

On September 25, 15 *dango mochi* balls were made and placed under the moon along with some sake.

