

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

Special Edition
Spring 2017



On Sunday, April 9, a solemn ceremony was held to express gratitude and to reflect on the many gifts that we receive from nature. Rev. Takizawa and Rev. Kazunari Todaka of Dazaifu Tenmangu, performed the Spring Thanksgiving ceremony marking the 65th anniversary of Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu in the presence of Chief Priest Nobuyoshi Nishitakatsuji and guests.

MAHALO for your donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa
Bishop Daiya Amano
Lois Arakaki
Daijingu Temple of Hawaii
Dazaifu Tenmangu
Bill & Keiko Doughty
Clark & Gayle Fujihara
Toshiko Fujisaki
Bryson Goda
Miyoko Hanahara
Hanayagi Dancing AHF
Bob Harada
Hawaii Senbukan
Arthur K. Isa

Izumo Taishakyo Mission
Ronald & Kathy Iwao
David & Masako Jimenez
Lorraine & Elsie Kadota
Elaine Komatsu
James & Melba Kurashige
Takakazu Maeda
Steven Miwa
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Craig & Diane Nishida
Diane Ogasawara
Mitsunobu Ohashi
Renee Sakamoto
Jay & Pauline Sakashita

Akiko Sanai
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Alice Sugimoto
Sugimoto Ohana
Yuko Takahashi
Sharon Toma
Lori Ann Toyama
Ryan & Kara Yasui



MAHALO

Festival Volunteers 4/9

Kirra Borello
Bill Doughty
Keiko Doughty
Chad Enoki
Kei Enoki
Everett Fan
Jeff Fujioka
Bryson Goda
Hanayagi Dancing AHF
Bob Harada
Ren Ikeda
Tyler Ikehara
Arthur K. Isa
Galen Komatsu
Jordan Masutomi

Marilyn Naitoh
Shinken Naitoh
Craig Nishida
Diane Nishida
Mitsunobu Ohashi
Ryan Okata
Stuart Pang
Jenna Shigeta
Gary Shinsato
Linda Shinsato
Yuko Takahashi
Johnny Tamanaha

MAHALO

Prep Volunteers

4/7

Diane Nishida

4/8

Arthur K. Isa
Austin Lau
Alan Lee
Marilyn Naitoh
Shinken Naitoh
Craig Nishida
Ryan Okata
Gary Shinsato
Linda Shinsato

Welcome to Hawaii

16 priests, miko and friends of Dazaifu Tenmangu Fukuoka led by **Chief Priest Nobuyoshi Nishitakatsuji**, the 39th descendant of Michizane Sugawara, arrived in Hawaii to participate in the 65th anniversary of Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu.

Welcome to **Rev. Takakazu Maeda** of Jinja Shimpo, Tokyo who flew in to join us at our festival.



Spring Thanksgiving 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.

Students of **Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation** (HDAH) performed classical Japanese dances followed by the annual presentation of Scholarships.

HDAH was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the shrine and Dazaifu Tenmangu Japan for their many years of dedication and service to the shrine.

Rev Mori, Rev. Kotorii and **Rev. Todaka** closed the festival with a performance of *Etenraku* and *Furusato*.

Much mahalo to the dedicated officers and friends of the shrine for their kokua in making the festival possible.



2017 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

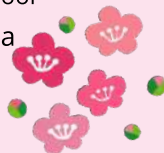


Scholarship recipients for 2017 are:

- Skye Sakashita** - presently attending Punahou School
- Staci Shimamoto** - presently attending UH at Manoa
- Jensen Yasui** - presently attending Mililani High School
- Cassandra Carlyle** - presently attending Iolani School
- Cherie Ishihara** - presently attending UH at Manoa

Award of Appreciation:

Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation



Celebrating 65 years of service to the community

At the urging of the Honolulu Fukuoka Kenjinkai and its members, a *Gobunrei* authorized for worship by Dazaifu Tenmangu of Saifu City, Fukuoka-ken was brought to Hawaii on July 24, 1952.

The *Gobunrei* was hand-carried from Dazaifu, Fukuoka to Yokohama by Chief Priest Nobusada Nishitakatsujii, father of Chief Priest Nobuyoshi Nishitakatsuji and transported by boat to Honolulu by shrine President and Fukuoka Kenjin officer, Yotaro Fujino accompanied by Fukuoka Kenjin Kai officer Gisaku Fujimoto.

In June 1960, Chief Priest Nobusada Nishitakatsuji of Dazaifu Tenmangu, visited the shrine for the first time, after completing graduate studies at Harvard University.

Rev. Nishitakatsuji was the 38th descendant of Michizane Sugawara, an eminent scholar and Minister of the Imperial court who was deified upon his death in 903 C.E. and given the posthumous name of *Tenjin*.

The 1970's heralded a new beginning of cultural activities for the shrine. On May 29, 1973, a plaque written by the legendary calligrapher Kanho Harada was bestowed to the shrine.

In celebration of the 15th anniversary of Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu,

Rev. Nobusada Nishitakatsuji and five priests from Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka arrived on March 21, 1976 to participate in the festivities.

Plans were initiated for the purchase of the Bishop Estate land behind the shrine for the construction of a



Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu Spring Festival held on March 25, 1956



Dazaifu Tenmangu shrine. Due to unforeseen circumstances, plans for the purchase of Bishop Estate land behind the shrine was abandoned in July 1976 and plans for construction of a Dazaifu Tenmangu shrine at Kama Lane was brought to the table.

Construction permits were issued on

May 9, 1981 and a *Jichin-sai* (ground breaking ceremony) was performed on May 17.

The ancient *Joto-sai* rites followed on November 15, when the ridgepoles were made and set in place on the roof.

On April 15, 1982, Rev. and Mrs. Nobusada Nishitakatsuji, 15 priests and a large tour group from Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka arrived in Hawaii to participate in the completion of the first Dazaifu Tenmangu shrine on foreign soil.

Architect, Thomas Agawa provided pro bono design work for the Kotohira and Dazaifu Tenmangu shrines which was devotedly built by members volunteering their time and expertise daily, for a period of twelve months.

The completion ceremony was performed on April 16 followed by a recreation of the elegant *Kyokusui-no-en* (Water Poetry Festival) at Ala Moana Beach Park. The Heian

aristocracy expressed their awe of nature through poetry in a gala called *Kyokusui-no-en*.

A shallow stream was dug at Ala Moana Beach Park and shrine members donned ancient costumes and recited poems, re-enacting the elegant traditions of the Heian period.

In 2013 - 31 years after the *Kyokusui no-En* event in Honolulu, a delegation led by Rev. Takizawa and Dr. Shinken Naitoh, president of the shrine visited Dazaifu Tenmangu Fukuoka to witness the *Kyokusui-no-en* festivities.



Festival Preparations & Clean up

Mahalo nui to our volunteers for helping on 4/7, 4/8 to prep and 4/9 to clean up at our recent Spring Thanksgiving Festival

