

SOTO MISSION OF AIEA  
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# TAIHEIJI BULLETIN



JULY & AUGUST 2019

## ***Taiheiji: The Next 100 Years***

The Soto Mission of Aiea was established in 1918 with a humble mission to serve the religious needs of Japanese immigrant workers and families living in and around the sugar plantation town of Aiea. The pioneer members of the temple selflessly contributed what they could—some even taking a second mortgage on their homes—to help cover the construction costs of the temple. Through the years, Taiheiji has been blessed by the continued support from members and supporters, and we are extremely grateful to have been able to arrive



Taiheiji temple dedication service, 1924. (Earliest known photo of Taiheiji)

at our centennial celebration in 2018 enjoying a warm, safe, and inviting gathering place for religious and social activities. As we look with great optimism and hope to the next 100 years of the Soto Mission of Aiea, we must ask ourselves some very important questions.

*(Continued on page 2)*



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- *What can we do now that will positively impact the future of the temple?*
- *What will be our legacy?*

When we stop for a moment to appreciate the rich history of Taiheiji and to contemplate how we can make a positive difference as the stewards of our temple, we discover that we are actually in a very fortunate position to do something now that can very well lead to even further growth of our temple and activities.

Through the vision of resident minister, Rev. Shuji Komagata, and with the unanimous support of the Taiheiji Board of Directors, we are pleased to announce the plans to build the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center—a new multipurpose building and activity center.

In partnership with the Hawaii Kansha Foundation and your financial support towards the Legacy-Endowment Bond that is introduced in this pamphlet, we are confident for the bright future of Taiheiji over the next century and beyond.

# ***Introducing the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center***

In addition to the temple that serves the religious needs of Taiheiji members, the social hall and Japanese School building currently is home to various extracurricular activities offered to people of all ages.

Although the Japanese School building and minister's residence have served the temple for nearly a century, there are costly major repairs and upgrades needed to improve the structures. As Taiheiji looks to grow and increase its positive presence in the Aiea community, the more sustainable option and viable solution for the future is the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center—a new two-story multipurpose building. In addition to providing a new and upgraded home for many of our existing activities, the new building's footprint better utilizes the limited space on the temple property. On the second floor, two activity rooms will provide the ample space for various groups to use simultaneously. There are plans to open a *Zazendo* (meditation hall) with enough space to accommodate more than 20 practitioners. There will also be a large meeting room with seating for over 50 people.



*Construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center to begin in 2022.*

As part of our continued commitment to serve both our temple members and community, plans are underway to open on the ground floor the Taiheiji Adult Care Center. This modern facility will provide a friendly, comfortable, and nurturing environment for our *kupunas* of the temple and Aiea community. With plans to accommodate up to 30 clients, we are confident that the Taiheiji Adult Care Center will make a positive difference in people's lives.

# **What is the Legacy-Endowment Bond?**

The LEGACY-ENDOWMENT BOND is a bond offering issued by the Soto Mission of Aiea, Taiheiji. The “BOND”\* is very similar to a 20-year U.S. Treasury Bond that currently (as of 5/31/19) pays 2.39% interest. Our “BOND” will also be for 20 years, but will pay a 3% fixed annual interest. After the 20-year period, the “BOND” owners will receive the final interest payment AND the principal investment amount back IN FULL.

\*This bond offering is an investment. It is not a donation. All interest received would be fully taxable.

*How much is Taiheiji seeking to raise?*

The “BOND” goal amount is ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

*What is the bond for?*

The “BOND” will be used for a large capital improvement project that includes tearing down the aging Japanese School building and the residence building, and replacing it with the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center—a new multipurpose building.

*Why do it?*

This will be just the beginning of what will become our current temple generation’s legacy. This project would certainly help make Rev. Shuji’s shared vision and dreams become a reality.

*When will it start?*

The “BOND” will be issued in 2021 and all money will be collected by the end of December 2021. However, although collection is important, early pledges are also very critical. While the goal is to raise the ONE MILLION DOLLARS by December 2021, collecting pledges as soon as possible will give a good early indication of your support.

*How will the temple pay for the interest and principal?*

We are very pleased to announce the commitment of the HAWAII KANSHA FOUNDATION. The foundation has pledged to help ensure

the success of the LEGACY-ENDOWMENT BOND by donating an annual monetary gift that more than covers the annual interest payments of the “BOND” (with the excess amounts invested into the temple’s Legacy-Endowment Fund account). It has been projected that the total annual excess funds invested into the Legacy-Endowment Fund account over the course of 20 years will be in excess of ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

*How will the bond be recorded?*

The “BOND” purchases will be recorded using the commonly practiced method of proper accounting procedures referred to as “book-entry.” All investments and payments will be recorded into the temple’s accounting records.

*How much will it cost?*

Each “BOND” will be valued at ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS and can only be purchased in one thousand-dollar increments.

*Are there any limits?*

The minimum amount is ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS. While there is no maximum established, any large purchase should be made only after consulting with a tax advisor. Our goal is to reach the ONE MILLION DOLLARS by sharing the opportunity and the experience with many of our members and supporters—not just a few.

*Who can buy?*

The “BOND” issue will be offered to all members and supporters of Taiheiji. It will not be available to the general public.

*Who will manage the funds?*

Two temple accounts have already been established with AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. The new “LEGACY FUND” account will initially hold all funds collected from the “BOND” issue. These funds will then transfer to the new “BUILDING FUND” account to pay for construction expenses. The “LEGACY FUND” will then be used to hold all annual gift payments from the HAWAII KANSHA FOUNDATION

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

and to distribute all interest payments and the final principal payment when due.

With everyone's support, the "LEGACY FUND" will eventually create the "ENDOWMENT FUND," to provide sustainability and assure us that the SOTO MISSION OF AIEA, TAIHEIJI will be able to continue its mission in perpetuity.

AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. will provide monthly statements to selected temple board members that show transactions and investment performance. The entire board of directors will provide oversight within their Fiduciary responsibilities.

## ***About the Hawaii Kانشa Foundation***

The Soto Mission of Aiea expresses its deep gratitude to the Hawaii Kانشa Foundation for the incredible opportunity to embark on this exciting project to issue the Legacy-Endowment Bond that will enable us to build a multipurpose building.

The Hawaii Kانشa Foundation was established in 2017 by a Taiheiji family whose relationship to the temple began in the early 1960s. This private family foundation seeks to support organizations committed to providing programs, services, assistance, and activities for people in need.

The Hawaii Kانشa Foundation has touched the lives of many people through its charitable contributions to:

- Shriners Hospital
- Ronald McDonald House Charities Hawaii
- Lanakila Meals on Wheels
- Make a Wish Foundation of Hawaii
- Victor Elementary Educational Fund (CA)
- Inland Empire United Way (CA)

*Additional note:*

The Hawaii Kانشa Foundation, in addition to its pledge to underwrite the Legacy-Endowment Bond, has also generously pledged an additional \$400,000 to Taiheiji's Building Fund. With this additional pledge, the total pledge of the Hawaii Kانشa Foundation is valued at TWO MILLION DOLLARS for the entire project.

# WHAT IS BON?

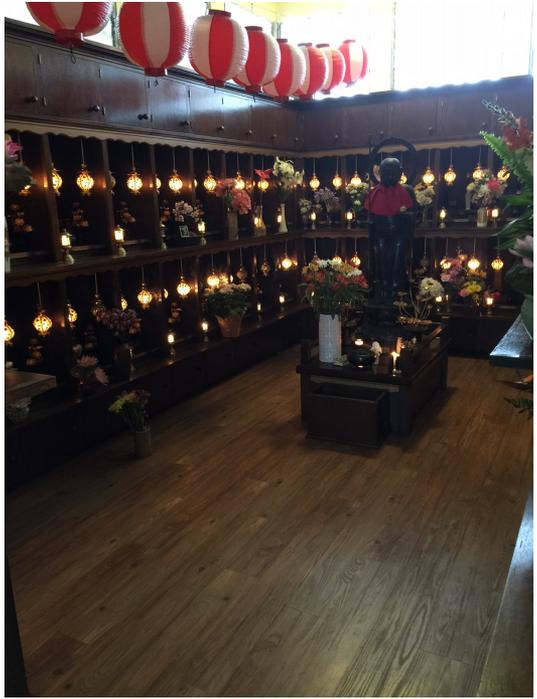
*The following is reprinted from Soto Zen literature published by the Soto-Shu Shumicho (Soto-Shu headquarters in Tokyo, Japan.)*

The memorial services held at Obon have two meanings. One is to honor the Buddha and show reverence for one's ancestors and others who have died. The other is to express gratitude to all people to whom we are indebted, including people who are alive such as our parents, relatives, and friends.

The full expression for Obon is Urabon-e which is derived from "Ullabana," an

old Indian word. According to the Bussetsu Urabon Sutra, the origin of this tradition goes back to a ceremony performed by Shakyamuni Buddha for the deceased mother of Maudgalyayana, one of the Buddha's immediate disciples. Ullabana means "hanging upside down" and it was by means of this ceremony that the suffering of that world in which she lived (the suffering was so intense it was like hanging upside down) was removed.

These days, people think that this ceremony will prolong the life of parents and remove all suffering and anguish. This is also one of the traditional holiday periods in Japan when people exchange gifts. The other traditional time is over New Years. Obon is a ceremony to respectfully honor the spirits of the ancestors; it is also to ask for the long life or our parents. In preparation for meeting the spirits, it is customary to thoroughly clean our house and put ourselves in order as if meeting guests.



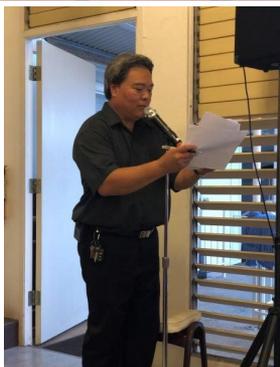


## TAIHEIJI BON SERVICES REPORT

On June 20, 22, 23, & 24, Taiheiji members and friends once again observed Bon Services in memory of their dearly departed loved ones.

The temple was beautifully adorned with beautiful flowers, colorful flags, lanterns, and otoa. At the first Bon Service on June 20, attendees received sekihan as *okumotsu* (food offering made on attendees' behalf to the Buddha, which is then taken home after the service). Packages of Hawaiian Candy senbei were distributed to everyone on the other days.

Thank you to Bishop Shugen Komagata, Rev. Ryohei Ishii, Rev. Kokei Yoshida, Rev. Shinryu Hoshino, Rev. Shinsho Hata, and Rev. Shoryu Fukagawa, for attending the Bon Services. A special thank you goes to Wahiawa Ryusenji & Waipahu Taiyoji Baikako for attending all our services to help sing Goeika.







## MAKING SEKIHAN FOR BON SERVICE

Thank you to the volunteers who came on Thursday, June 20 to prepare and package the sekihan distributed at the Taiheiji Bon Service!



*Donna Matsufuru & Verna Rabacal  
measuring the sekihan*



*Carl Kawauchi lining up the containers  
of sekihan to cool*

## YAGURA CONSTRUCTION

On Sunday, August 4, at 8:00 a.m., we humbly ask for volunteers to assist in the construction of our Bon Dance yagura. The Yagura is the red and white tower that everyone dances around during the Bon Dance. Please wear covered shoes and bring power drills if you have them. Lights will also be set up during this time.

## BON DANCE PRACTICES

On Tuesday, August 6, the Soto Mission of Aiea will hold a Bon Dance practice for people interested in learning dances. The practice will run from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

This is an excellent opportunity to be introduced to Bon Dance or to refresh your mind on the dance steps. Please call Rev. Shuji at 488-6794 for more information. Light refreshments will be served at the end of practice.

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## FUJINKAI BON DANCE FUNDRAISER: BAKED GOODS

The Fujinkai will once again hold its annual Baked Goods fundraiser at Taiheiji's Bon Dance on August 9 and 10. The ladies of the Fujinkai humbly request donations of baked goods from its members as well as supporters of the temples. Please call Rev. Shuji or Jaymie Komagata for more information on how you can be a donor to the Baked Goods sale!!

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## IROKAI LUNCHEON

This year, Soto Mission of Hawaii will be hosting the Oahu Bon Dance Association's annual Irokai luncheon (End of Bon Season gathering). Dancers and volunteers from all Oahu Soto temples will be attending. Volunteers at the Soto Mission of Aiea Bon Dance are invited to attend this gathering. We hope you will join us at the Irokai.

Date: Sunday, September 8, 2019

Place: To be announced

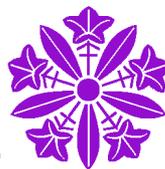
Time: 11:00 a.m.

Cost: To be announced

We hope to have more information about the Irokai soon. Please call Rev. Shuji if you interested in attending.



SOTO MISSION OF AIEA  
**BON DANCE**



2019

PUBLIC IS INVITED!

LOCATION: 99-045 KAUAHALE STREET  
AIEA, HI 96701

TWO NIGHTS!!!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019	7:00 PM - 10:30 PM
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019	7:00 PM - 10:30 PM

**LIVE MUSIC!**

SOMEI TAIKO PERFORMANCE  
BOTH NIGHTS AT 6:30 PM

OKINAWAN BON DANCE  
LED BY HAWAII EISA SHINNYUU-KAI  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10 AT 9:00 PM

AIEA TAIHEIJI YAGURA GUMI  
RETURNS FOR THEIR HOMECOMING!

THERE WILL BE LOTS OF FOOD ITEMS ON SALE BOTH NIGHTS.

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BON DANCE PRACTICE AT TAIHEIJI  
AUGUST 6 7:00-8:30 P.M.  
FOR INFORMATION CALL TAIHEIJI AT 488-6794.

# UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## July 2019

- 13 Sat 8:30 a.m. Temple Cleanup
- 14 Sun 9:00 a.m. Taiheiji Board Meeting
- 19 Fri 7:00 p.m. Wahiawa Ryusenji Bon Dance
- 20 Sat 7:00 p.m. Wahiawa Ryusenji Bon Dance

## August 2019

- 2 Fri 7:00 p.m. Waipahu Taiyoji Bon Dance
- 3 Sat 7:00 p.m. Waipahu Taiyoji Bon Dance
- 4 Sun 8:00 a.m. Temple Cleanup & Yagura Set up
- 6 Tues 7:00 p.m. Bon Dance Practice
- 9 Fri 7:00 p.m. Taiheiji Bon Dance
- (Taiko performance at 6:30 p.m.)
- 10 Sat 7:00 p.m. Taiheiji Bon Dance
- (Taiko performance at 6:30 p.m.)
- 11 Sun 8:00 a.m. Disassemble Yagura
- 16 Fri 7:00 p.m. Soto Mission of Hawaii Bon Dance
- 17 Sat 7:00 p.m. Soto Mission of Hawaii Bon Dance

\*\*\*\*\*No Taiheiji Board of Directors' Meeting in August\*\*\*\*\*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

Courtney Fukutomi	Donation to Temple
Fukiya	Donation to Temple
Tango Family	3rd Year Memorial for the late Frances Tango
Geraldine Nishida	Donation to Temple
George Akahori	Donation to Temple
Marcia Enga	Memorial Services for the late Richard & Janet Enga
Aiko Karaoke School	Donation to Temple
Fukiya	Donation to Temple
Geraldine Nishida	Donation to Temple
Ada Yamaki	Funeral Service for the late James Yamaki
Annie Fujimoto	17th Memorial Service for the late George Fujimoto
Grant Takahashi	49th Day Memorial Service for the late Kesa Takahashi
Fukiya	Donation to Temple
George Akahori	Donation to Temple
Carol Tani	Memorial Service for the late Tamae Fukuda



# Dharma Lei



## Bishop's Office Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

c/o Soto Mission of Hawaii 1708 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu HI 96817 U.S.A.

Tel & Fax: 808-538-6429

email: [info@sotozenhi.org](mailto:info@sotozenhi.org) WEB: <http://global.sotozen-net.or.jp/eng/>

Third Quarter, 2019 Issue No. 29

### Bishop's Message: Bishop Shugen Komagata

Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

I hope that you, your family and friends are doing well! The first half of 2019 has already gone by, and we find ourselves at the beginning of the 2019 Bon Season for our Soto Zen temples scattered throughout the state of Hawaii.

Bon is a time for us to remember our loved ones. For my family and me, we will be offering Hatsubon (first year Bon Service prayers) for my wife, the late Faye Komagata, who passed away in November 2018. While I am sad to have lost her just 7 months ago, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to offer prayers and welcome back her spirit during the Bon season. Although Bon was one of the busiest times of the year for Faye—she sang Goeika at Bon Services and



*(Continued on page 17)*

*(Continued from page 16)*

worked in the kitchen and concession stand during the Bon Dance—she thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to also sing, dance, and play taiko at the Bon Dance.

Let this 2019 Bon season be the time to cultivate our ability to love, appreciate, and celebrate the lives we are so fortunate to live. It is important to also pause to honor and remember those who are no longer with us physically. In doing so, the true meaning of “gratitude” manifests itself within our hearts. This is the heart of Bon.

After the completion of the Bon Season in August, I am looking forward to attending the 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Soto Zen Members’ Conference to be held in Las Vegas on October 26. With over 30 participants from Hawaii attending this conference, I am excited for the opportunity for us to meet and network with conference participants from across the mainland USA. If you are interested in attending the conference, please contact my Bishop’s Office staff as soon as possible.

In Gassho,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shugen Komagata". The signature is written in a fluid, cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final character.

Bishop Shugen Komagata

# Shushogi, Chapter 3 :

## Verses 11 - 14

By Rev. Ryokei Ishii

Waipahu Taiyoji



Aloha everyone!

When we receive the precepts of the Buddha and are formally admitted to the Sangha, we express and communicate that we are disciples of the Buddha and always convey our dedication by taking refuge in the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha.

### **Verse 11:**

We should always pay our most sincere and humble respect to the Three Treasures of the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. The reverent veneration of the Three Treasures is the teaching that has been passed from Buddha in India to the Patriarchs of China and to Priesthood in Japan and to modern day Buddhists.

### **Verse 12:**

Our commitment to the Three Treasures releases us from suffering and helps us to realize Enlightenment. Those who are unfortunate and without virtue cannot even respect the Three Treasures and cannot adore them. We should not vainly take refuge in appearances that shield us from fear, for they will not liberate us from suffering.

**Verse 13:**

We express pure faith as we take refuge in the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha while placing our hands in gassho and bowing our head. The Buddha is our great teacher; the Dharma is the teaching; the Sangha is the Priesthood and our friends. It is only when we rely on and revere the Three Treasures can we become disciples and receive the precepts of the Buddha.

**Verse 14:**

When a person humbly asks to take refuge in the Three Treasures, the devotee of the Buddha will show earnest merit of his commitment. This continuous process of humbly asking to take refuge in the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha will show your dedication and merit that leads you to Enlightenment. We should all realize that the merit of the Three Treasures is most honored, the highest, the most profound, and inconceivable. The Buddha, the World-Honored One, himself has become witness to this and all devotees of the Buddha should believe and take refuge in the Three Treasures.

Take refuge in the Three Treasures as we strive to become lay devotees of the Buddha. Reciting the verse Sanki Rai Mon, Three Refuges Prayer, exemplifies our commitment to the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha.

I take refuge in Buddha. Namu Kie Butsu. May all beings embody the great way, resolving to awaken.

I take refuge in the Dharma. Namu Kie Ho. May all living beings deeply enter the sutras, wisdom like an ocean.

I take refuge in the Sangha. Namu Kie So. May all beings support harmony in the community, free from hindrance.

**Soto Mission of Aiea  
P.O. Box 926  
Aiea, HI 96701**

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