

SOTO MISSION OF AIEA
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TAIHEIJI BULLETIN



MAY & JUNE 2020

Aloha Taiheiji Members and Supporters,

Greetings from the Soto Mission of Aiea. For over a month now, the people of Hawaii as well as everyone around the world have endured the devastating effects of the novel coronavirus pandemic. I hope that you, your family, and friends, are doing well and staying safe. I send out my thoughts and daily prayers to you and your loved ones.

On Friday, April 17, Governor David Ige announced that although the overall efforts of social distancing, testing, and quarantine has proven to help flatten the curve of new infections in Hawaii, the road to recovery and returning back to our normal lifestyles will continue to take time.

A few days later, Mayor Kirk Caldwell extended the city's stay-at-home order through May 31. Although some activities will be allowed, such as exercising in city parks and on our island's beaches, the majority of our usual activities will still not be allowed.

As we have already witnessed, the status of the COVID-19 pandemic has been changing day by day. The Soto Mission of Aiea will continue to follow the guidelines set forth by the state, and all temple activities are canceled through the end of May. We hope to gradually begin resuming operations once the stay-at-home work-at-home mandates are lifted.

If you have already scheduled a memorial service in May

or would like to visit the temple, please contact me directly to confirm. For the safety of everyone, the Tsuicho-e & Kannonko Services scheduled for May 3 have already been cancelled. The columbarium will remain open during normal visiting hours.

In mid June, the Soto Mission of Aiea's annual Bon Services are scheduled to take place. We remain hopeful that our families will be allowed to attend these very important services. At the very least, I plan to hold the Bon Services and offer prayers on your behalf if restrictions on large gatherings are not lifted by then. Please check your mailboxes in a few weeks when we send out Bon Otoha request forms for the Bon Services.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that everyone wear cloth masks, avoid hugs and handshakes, and practice social distancing. However, we should try to stay connected to one another—our families, loved ones, and friends. We can accomplish this through various means, whether it be via a phone call, text message, or email.

I will continue to do my best to remain accessible to serve the needs of the Taiheiji Sangha. If there is anything I can do to support you during these trying times, please contact me at anytime. Please take care of yourself and your loved ones.

In Gassho,

Rev. Shuji Komagata

"What the world needs now is solidarity.

**With solidarity we can defeat the virus and
build a better world."**

UN Secretary-General António Guterres
31 March 2020



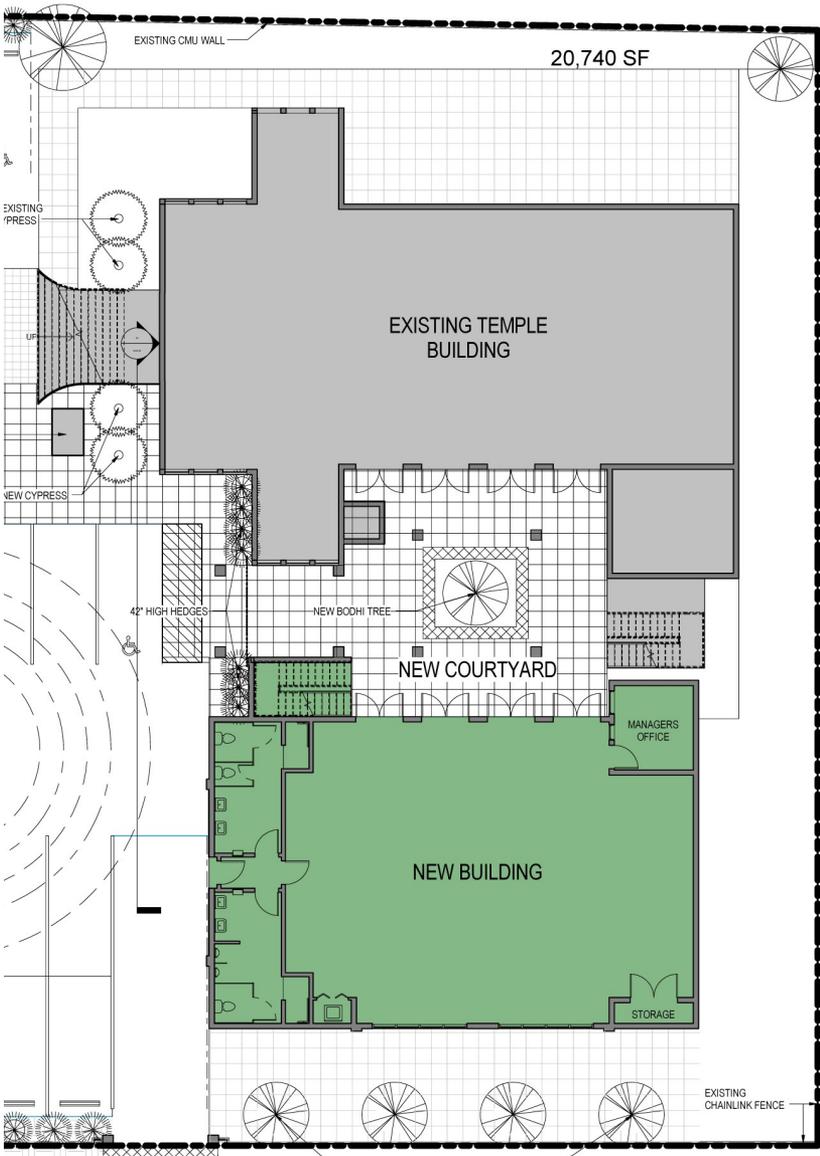
un.org/coronavirus
#coronavirus | #COVID19

SOTO MISSION OF AIEA ACTIVITY
CENTER:
FROM VISION TO REALITY

By Rev. Shuji Komagata

As Taiheiji enters its second century of existence, it is important that we establish our plans for the future. With ongoing operating costs and mounting repairs, temples and churches across the island are struggling just to keep their doors open. I would like to find a better future of Taiheiji—not only of survival—but also of growth. I would like Taiheiji to both thrive and positively impact more and more people in the community. With that in mind, Taiheiji will break ground in 2022 on the construction of the new 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.

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.



An aerial view of the existing temple (top) and the new building (bottom).
 The new 2 story building will boast over 5000 square feet of space for a variety of activities

The Taiheiji Legacy-Endowment Bond

To fund this project, Taiheiji will issue the Taiheiji Legacy-Endowment Bond in 2021. The money collected from this \$1,000,000 bond will be deposited into the temple's Building Fund, which will be used to pay for the project. In return, all Taiheiji Legacy-Endowment Bond investors (or designated beneficiary) will receive an annual interest return of 3% on their principal investment for a period of 20 years. After the 20th annual interest payment is distributed, all investors (or designated beneficiary) will receive their initial principal investment amount back in full.

2020: Receiving pledges and early contributions

To get a head start on this project, Taiheiji is accepting pledges and early contributions to the Taiheiji Legacy-Endowment Bond from now to December 2020. While early contributions are helpful, the pledges we receive this year in 2020 are the most important. Your pledge not only indicates your support for this project, but also helps us measure how close we are to attaining our goal of raising \$1,000,000. We are grateful to have received over \$300K in pledges and early contributions so far.

I hope that the unanimous support the Taiheiji Legacy-Endowment Bond has received from the Taiheiji board of directors is an indication of how strongly we believe in the bond, and how truly excited and extremely optimistic we are about the success of the project.

We at Taiheiji are fully aware that the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically affected all of us financially these past several months. For now, we just ask that you keep this project at Taiheiji in your mind. We are grateful for your consideration and look forward to your contribution when things look better.

We are excited about this project and strongly believe in this bond as the best method to raise money for the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center because of how different it is from how we've raised money in the past. The vast majority of non-profit religious organizations including Taiheiji rely heavily on the generosity of its members and supporters to survive. We are grateful that even after taking on several large projects like the elevator installation, Nehanzu (scroll) restoration, temple altar's restoration project, restroom expansion and renovation, Kannondo Project, PV solar panels, roof repair, temple painting, and ongoing repairs and upgrades required to maintain Taiheiji, our members and supporters have consistently and generously donated money in support of these projects.

Our partnership with the Hawaii Kansha Foundation

Although there is no indication that this support is waning, the Taiheiji board of directors felt it important to explore other fundraising methods for the new Activity Center. We were ecstatic when the Hawaii Kansha Foundation—a private charitable organization with Taiheiji roots—agreed to partner with us on this project. There are many reasons why the Hawaii Kansha Foundation chose to back the Legacy-Endowment Bond instead of simply paying for the construction of the Activity Center. This arrangement encourages temple members and supporters to truly be a part of this effort to start a new chapter of true sustainability for Taiheiji. However, instead of donating to the project, temple members and supporters can invest in Taiheiji through the bond—truly a mutually beneficial relationship. Over the lifetime of the 20 year bond, the Hawaii Kansha Foundation contribution to Taiheiji is projected to be in excess of over \$2,000,000—far more than what would have been awarded simply as a lump sum contribution today. The

excess money from Hawaii Kansha Foundation will help start Taiheiji's Endowment Fund—monies that Taiheiji will be able to use in perpetuity—the lasting mark of what can be our generation's legacy.

On a personal note, I am excited about the Legacy-Endowment Bond. In the beginning, it looked as if I would only be able to comfortably invest a few thousand dollars given my limited income as a minister. Still, the pledge program currently underway allows us to always increase our investment should more money become available to us. This flexibility provides us the time to comfortably and wisely determine how much we will invest into this project.

Additionally, it wasn't until our recent meeting with our financial advisors that it was brought to our attention that my wife and I invested in Municipal Bonds years ago. We were pleasantly surprised to learned that we are able to move our long forgotten municipal bond investments to the Legacy-Endowment Bond.

It was encouraging to receive the thumbs up from our advisors. They looked over the same Legacy-Endowment Bond pamphlets circulated to all members and supporters, and agreed that this bond is a solid long term investment opportunity that can be part of our financial portfolio.

Invest or Donate?

The idea of donating—giving selflessly to the temple—remains a fundamental principle that will continue to be practiced and encouraged. In fact, a number of our board members have already indicated that they would like to donate their pledged investment to the temple. This means that the bond they purchase will be donated back to the temple, and these funds will be invested toward the growth of Taiheiji's Endowment Fund. I have chosen to use the Legacy-Endowment Bond as a part of my investment portfolio. Perhaps down the road I will change my investment into a donation. But that is why this is so appealing—I have choices... Please contact me with your questions, and I will do my best to answer them. Mahalo!!!

Let's keep the momentum going strong!!! Contribute towards the Taiheiji Bond!

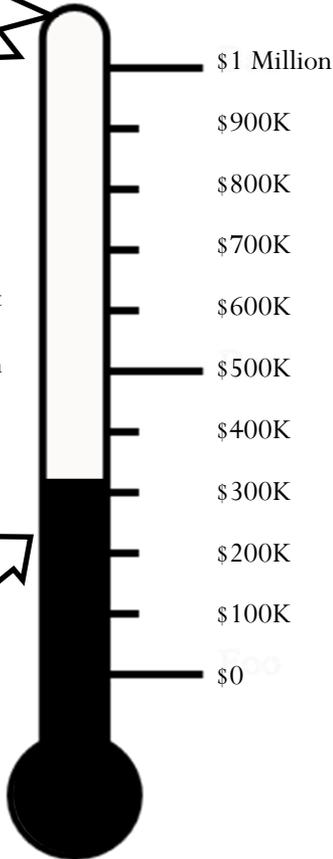


IMPORTANT!

Remember—Early contributions are great, but informing us right away of your pledge to invest is what we really need!!! Please be sure to complete and send in the bond pledge forms!

Pledge forms have been mailed out. Please contact Rev. Shuji for additional forms.

Early Pledges received as of April 2020:
\$313,000 & climbing



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

Byron Uchiyama	Donation to Temple
Byron Uchiyama	Donation to Temple
Chester Fujimoto	Early Contribution to Legacy-Endowment Bond
Chris Hokama	Early Contribution to Legacy-Endowment Bond
Colleen Nakatsu	Donation to Temple
Cynthia Matsunaga	7th Year Memorial Service for Haruyoshi and Grace Kaya
Dawn Matsuura	Donation to Temple
Diane Maeda	Early Contribution to Legacy-Endowment Bond
Diane Maeda	Early Contribution to Legacy-Endowment Bond
Diane Maeda	Early Contribution to Legacy-Endowment Bond
Dorothy Kikuta	Donation to Temple in Memory of Jerry Kikuta
Gail Miyasaki	Early Contribution to Legacy-Endowment Bond
Geraldine Nishida	Donation to Temple
Geraldine Nishida	Donation to Temple
Jane Naya	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Fukiya	Donation to Temple
Jean Fujinaga	Donation to Temple
Jeanne Omaye	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Lei Goya	Funeral Service for Kieko Kosuga
Marion Taketa	Makuragyo Service for Charlene Hasebe
Michael Watanabe	Donation to Building Fund
P. Maki McHenry-Arens	Donation to Temple
Paul Hokama	Early Contribution to Legacy-Endowment Bond
Robin Fujikawa	Early Contribution to Legacy-Endowment Bond
Scott Hokama	Early Contribution to Legacy-Endowment Bond
Shizendo	Donation to Temple
Verna Rabacal	23rd Year Memorial Service for William Rabacal
Wallace Kazama	Donation for Blessing Service
Araki Hiroya Soroban School	Donation to Temple

REQUESTING FOR YOUR RECIPES FOR UHSSWA COOKBOOK

Do you have a favorite dish you love to cook? Do you have a family recipe that you're willing to share? The United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women's Association (UHSSWA) is currently working on its second edition of its cookbook and is asking for the contribution of recipes for this project. All types of dishes from any cuisine are welcome! Submit your recipe to the Soto Mission of Aiea, and we will forward it to the UHSSWA for consideration to be printed in the cookbook!

The project is a fundraiser that will help the UHSSWA support the Fujinkai groups at the various temples in Hawaii.

The first edition of the cookbook was a collaborative effort between the UHSSWA and the Hawaii Soto Mission Association. Printed in 2003, it was widely distributed that same year as part of the celebration commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Soto Mission in Hawaii. Please contact Jaymie Komagata at 808-488-6794 if you have any questions.

FROZEN YOGURT PIE RECIPE FOR YOU

By Rev. Shuji Komagata

I'd like to share with a yogurt pie recipe I learned how to make when I was just 8 years-old. It's so simple to make!

Ingredients: 2 Yoplait Strawberry Yogurts (6 oz. each)
 Cool Whip Original Whipped Topping (8 oz.)
 9 inch Keebler Ready Crust

Directions: Mix 2 yogurts and tub of cool whip in medium sized mixing bowl until smooth. Pour mixture onto pie crust. Cover and freeze. Enjoy!!!

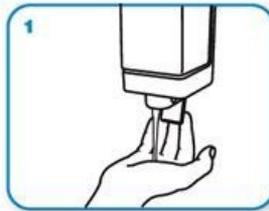
To this day, frozen yogurt pie is one of my favorite treats to eat. I hope you enjoy it!



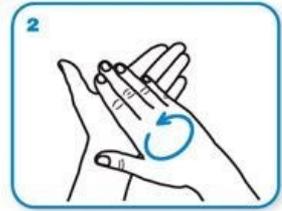
HOW TO PROPERLY WASH YOUR HANDS



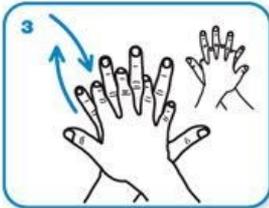
Wet hands with water



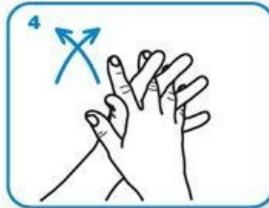
apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces.



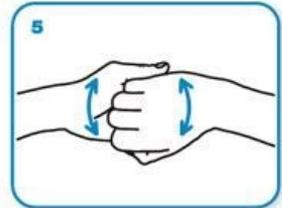
Rub hands palm to palm



right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa



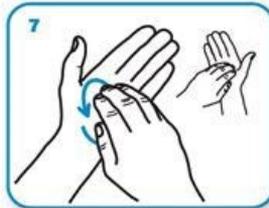
palm to palm with fingers interlaced



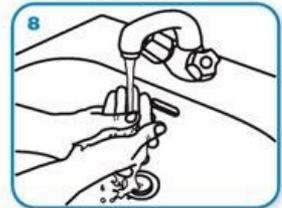
backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked



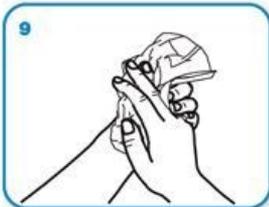
rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa



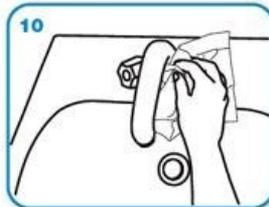
rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa.



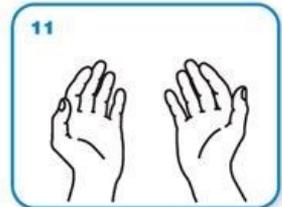
Rinse hands with water



dry thoroughly with a single use towel



use towel to turn off faucet



...and your hands are safe.

**Soto Mission of Aiea
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