

SOTO MISSION OF AIEA  
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# TAIHEIJI BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2020

## SEPTEMBER SERVICES

The Fall Higan, Ryosoki, and Kannonko Services at Taiheiji are scheduled for Sunday, September 13, at 9:00 a.m. The two-week stay-at-home order that began on August 27 is scheduled to end on September 9. However, if you plan to attend the September 13 service, please call Rev. Shuji a few days earlier to confirm that the service has not been cancelled.

In compliance with social distancing guidelines, all attendees must wear a face mask or face shield while at the temple. In addition to being seated at least six feet apart from one another, we provide hand sanitizer and check temperatures upon entry. The temple is thoroughly sanitized before and after each service.

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## OCTOBER SERVICES CANCELLED / HSMA MEETING

The Hawaii Soto Mission Association (HSMA) Fall Meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 11**. This statewide meeting, attended by delegates from all the temples was originally scheduled to be held in Hilo in late October. However, it was rescheduled to October 11 and changed into a virtual online meeting because of COVID-19 travel restrictions. Therefore, Taiheiji's Daruma-ki and October Kannonko services, also scheduled for the same day, will be cancelled. The HSMA meets twice a year—once in the spring and again in the fall. Please contact Rev. Shuji if you would like to be an observer and gain access to the online meeting of the Hawaii Soto Mission Association.

## CEMETERY PLOTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Through the generous donations by temple members and supporters over the years, the Soto Mission of Aiea owns several cemetery plots at Hawaiian Memorial Park Mortuary and the Valley of the Temples. Now, these plots are available to the Taiheiji community.

The Soto Mission of Aiea has been able to help Taiheiji families seeking to make arrangements for a final resting place for themselves and their family. With several types of burial options still available at both locations, Taiheiji hopes to be able to help more families find a place to memorialize the lives of their loved ones for years to come.

If you are interested in acquiring a plot for you or a loved one, please contact Rev. Shuji at 488-6794. He will be able to send you more information. Additionally, if your family has an available plot they would like to generously donate to Taiheiji, please contact Rev. Shuji. Mahalo!

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## SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER MONTHLY TEMPLE CLEANUPS

Mahalo to all the people who have volunteered to participate in the past monthly temple cleanups. As our community tries to deal with the latest spike in COVID-19 infections, the Soto Mission of Aiea will postpone its monthly cleanups.

Rev. Shuji and family have maintained the cleanliness of the temple throughout the shutdown earlier this year. Although there will not be any official cleanup day in September and October, please contact Rev. Shuji if you are able to volunteer to come to the temple on your own to clean. Mahalo!!!

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## CHICKEN AND SUSHI BENEFIT SALE

Every year, the Soto Mission of Aiea holds a BBQ Chicken and Sushi Benefit Sale. Sadly, this fundraiser is just another event we have been forced to cancel because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The board of directors are in discussion on other ways we can all support the temple. We hope to be able to do the BBQ Chicken and Sushi sale later!

# OCTOBER 18: SHAKYO SESSION

Taiheiji's Shakyō Sessions, cancelled in July and August, has been rescheduled for Sunday, October 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Shakyō means "tracing the sutras." The Buddhist practice of Shakyō is a means of spreading the Buddha Way among people. It is for praying for the fulfillment of one's greatest wish. It is also an excellent way to reflect upon ourselves, or to attain mental well being by mindfully tracing the sacred scriptures. During the Shakyō session, participants quietly sit at a table and trace the sutra, "Maka Hannya Haramitta Shingyo."

Please dress comfortably and wear a facemask. The Shakyō Session will be held in the social hall below the temple. Please confirm with Rev. Shuji a few days before October 18 if you plan to attend.

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## UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### September

- 13 Sun 9:00 a.m. Higan, Kannonko, Ryosoki Services

### October

- 11 Sun 9:00 a.m. Hawaii Soto Mission Association Meeting
- 18 Sun 9:00 a.m. Shakyō Session

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

Doi Family	Funeral Service for the late Sumiko Doi
Lori Matsunami	Inurnment Service for the late Janet Sumimoto
Maui Mantokuji	New Building Construction Fund
Dane Furutani	New House Blessing Service
Yoshioka Family	Funeral Service for the late Kazuo Yoshioka
George Kurosawa	Funeral Service for the late Reiko Kurosawa

# SOTO MISSION OF AIEA LEGACY-ENDOWMENT BOND

It was just eight months ago at Taiheiji's New Year's Service that Rev. Shuji officially announced the start of the year-long campaign to raise one million dollars in investment pledges from temple members and supporters for the Legacy-Endowment Bond. The pledged amounts would then be collected during the 2021 calendar year, in time to be used to fund the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center in 2022. Just in the first three months of 2020, we managed to receive over \$300,000 in pledges from investors. It was nothing short of an incredible start to the drive.

Then, everything shut down in March 2020 because of the Novel Coronavirus global pandemic. As we have seen, COVID-19 has affected thousands of people in Hawaii, and has paralyzed so many more with the fear of infection. Additionally, many of our jobs have been affected or lost, and our laid back and social lifestyles in Hawaii have completely changed.

Understandably, the once steady flow of investment commitments suddenly stopped, and since April 2020, majority of the temple's efforts to collect pledges for the Legacy-Endowment Bond have been put on hold. As we continue to move forward in 2020, we begin to realize that it may only be with the production of a vaccine will we see an opportunity to actively restart seeking investments for this project.

In the meantime, the Taiheiji Vision Team (the project planning committee) continues to quietly work in the background. We hope for a quick and effective resolution to the global pandemic, and ask you for your support for this project when you are ready.

I strongly feel that the long term future of the Soto Mission of Aiea is heavily dependent on the success of the Legacy-Endowment Bond and the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center. Your pledge, even if it is at the minimum increment of \$1000, will help to make a difference.

# **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 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.

- *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 excited about 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, 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



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

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.

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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.

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## **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. 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.

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*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 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 Kansha Foundation**

The Soto Mission of Aiea expresses its deep gratitude to the Hawaii Kansha 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 Kansha 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 Kansha 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 Kansha 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 Kansha Foundation is valued at TWO MILLION DOLLARS for the entire project.



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