

SOTO MISSION OF AIEA
P.O. BOX 926 AIEA, HAWAII 96701
PHONE AND FAX 808.488.6794
EMAIL AIEATAIHEIJI@GMAIL.COM



TAIHEIJI BULLETIN



MARCH & APRIL 2022

Visit New Taiheiji Website

In late 2021, Taiheiji's website, www.sotomission.com, received a facelift with new information and resources, creating an effective way for members and supporters to stay connected to the temple. This comes at a time when people around the world have had to find alternative methods to communicate due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the Taiheiji website, visitors can learn about Taiheiji activities and events, and now have the ability to make online donations. **You can make donations online to the New Building Construction Fund as well!**

Last Chance to Purchase the Legacy-Endowment Bond

This may be your last chance to invest in Taiheiji's Legacy-Endowment Bond! The bond actually sold out by October 2021, but thanks to the generosity of a handful of investors, \$180,000 were donated back to the temple for resale. By January 1, 2022, \$86,000 remained in available bonds. Now, only \$30,000 remain! Your bond purchase will help offset the increased construction cost caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Please contact Rev. Shuji or visit our temple website, www.sotomission.com for more information.

SOTO MISSION OF AIEA ACTIVITY CENTER: FROM VISION TO REALITY

By Rev. Shuji Komagata

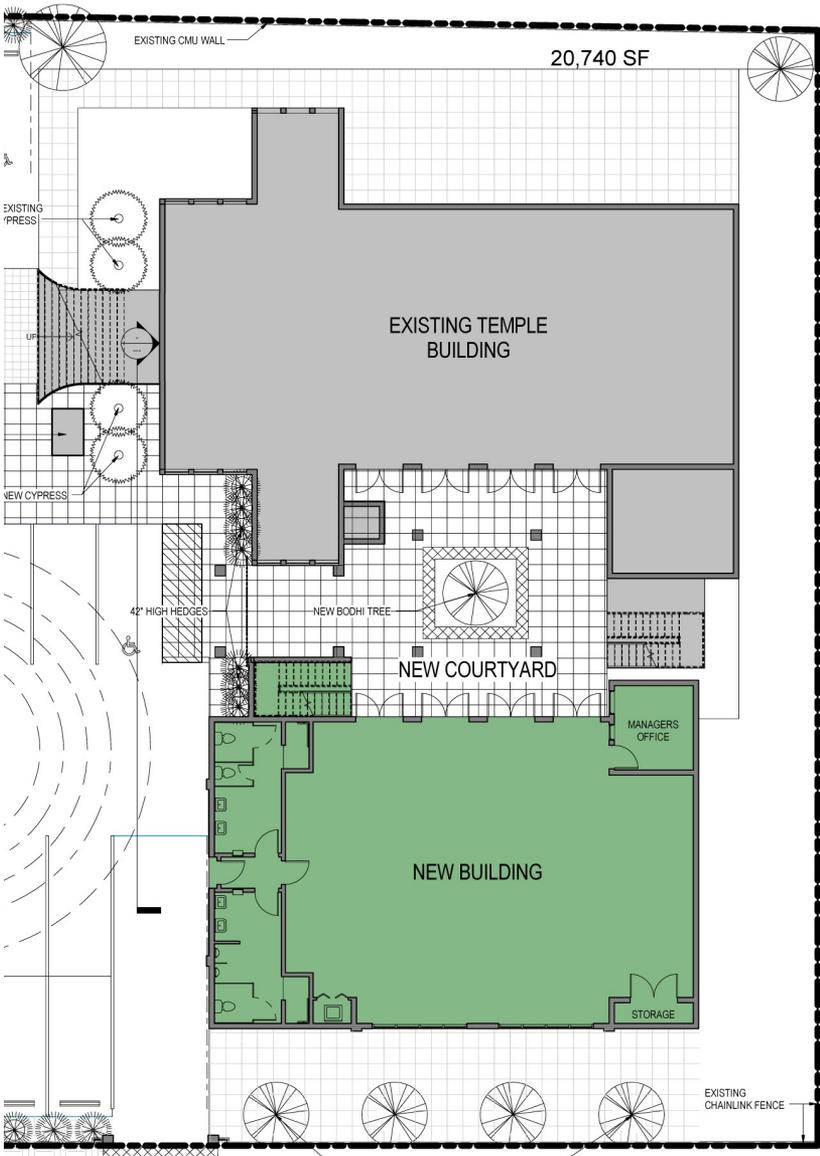
Churches and temples across the state continue to struggle through the COVID-19 pandemic. Services and activities still have not yet returned with regularity. I am confident that things will return to normal—one day. However, I do not want to simply wait for that day to come. I would like Taiheiji to begin thriving again 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.

The Taiheiji Legacy-Endowment Bond

By now, I think everyone knows about the Taiheiji Legacy-Endowment Bond. We originally sold out the full \$1 million

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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

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bond, but \$180,000 in bond purchases were donated back to the temple for resale thanks to the generosity of a handful investors turned donors. Taiheiji currently has only \$30,000 left in bond shares to sell. The money collected from this \$1,000,000 bond has been deposited into the temple's New Building Construction 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.

Our partnership with the Hawaii Kansha Foundation

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.

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The Impact of COVID-19 on the Project

COVID-19 has put tremendous strain on the supply chain of construction material. Skyrocketing construction costs have doubled to over \$3 million. We have had to come up with ways to keep the project alive, like negotiating bids, modifying plans through value engineering, adjusting construction timelines, introducing bank loan options, exploring fundraising opportunities, and seeking donations.

There is still \$30,000 in bonds still available for purchase. After that is soon sold out, we will rely largely on fundraising and the collection of donations. The idea of donating—giving selflessly to the temple—remains a fundamental principle that will continue to be practiced and encouraged. We are grateful for the \$145,000 in donations to the New Building Construction Fund received AND the \$180,000 in bond purchases that were donated back to the temple.

Now, with the ability for members and supporters to make online donations to the temple through the website, www.sotomission.com, I hope that we can work together to get closer to reaching our financial goals for the project. Please contact me if you have any questions, and I will do my best to answer them. Mahalo!!!

Bon Dance Season 2022

The Hawaii Soto Mission Bon Dance seasons were cancelled in 2020 and 2021. Although the recent Omicron variant driven spike in COVID-19 cases seem to be dropping and news of mask requirements possibly loosening nationwide, the chances of the having Bon Dances at the Soto Mission temples in Hawaii remain slim. Final decisions on the 2022 Bon Season should be made in the coming months. Thank you for your patience.

Spring Higan and Kannonko Services

Taiheiji will observe its Spring Higan and Kannonko services on Sunday, March 13, at 9:00 a.m. Higan, observed twice a year—at the beginning of the spring and fall seasons—is a time when prayers are made for our departed loved ones. Please visit Taiheiji to attend this memorial service for your loved ones and ancestors.

Taiheiji Hanamatsuri & April Kannonko

An early invitation is extended to everyone to attend Taiheiji's annual Hanamatsuri and April Kannonko services, which will be observed on Sunday, April 10, at 9:00 a.m. Hanamatsuri, translated as "Flower Festival," is also known as Buddha Day. Hanamatsuri commemorates the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, the prince of the Shakya clan, a tiny kingdom in India, in 563 BCE. Prince Siddhartha would later become Shakyamuni Buddha. During the Hanamatsuri ceremony, amacha, or sweet tea, is poured over the statue of the baby Buddha that stands under the hanamido, a miniature pavilion covered with fresh flowers. Taiheiji's monthly Kannonko service will also be held after the Hanamatsuri ceremony. Please join us for service and refreshments to follow.

Request for flowers for Hanamatsuri ceremony

Taiheiji humbly requests donations of flowers to place atop the hanamido at Taiheiji's Hanamatsuri Ceremony on Sunday, April 10.

Plumeria and dendrobium, or any other similar type of cut flowers to place on and around the hanamido will be appreciated.

If you are able to donate some flowers or have any questions, please call Rev. Shuji at 488-6794. Please drop off flowers by Saturday April 9. Mahalo!



January and February 2022 Recap

On January 1, Taiheiji members flocked to the temple to receive their New Year's blessing and new ofuda and omamori. Although the ceremony was done completely outside the temple as a "drive-thru" service and was met with a heavy downpour of rain at the start, people seemed to be happy to still get blessed on New Year's Day.

A week later, service goers returned to Taiheiji for the first Kannonko service of 2022 and the Ofudayaki (Service to burn old ofuda).

It was a beautiful day with no wind—important when burning a lot of wood and paper!



In February, Taiheiji observed Nehan-e, which is the service held in remembrance of Shakyamuni Buddha's passing more than 2500 years ago. Taiheiji's beautiful Nehan Scroll was on display for this service. After the completion of Nehan-e, the Setsubun ceremony was held. Although not a Buddhist practice, the Setsubun Ceremony is a Japanese tradition that the members of Taiheiji have adopted. Everyone shouted, "FUKU WA UCHI," (good luck in) and "ONI WA SOTO" (bad luck out), as Rev. Shuji threw roasted beans and his son, Reigen, who played the part of this year's demon. Everyone enjoyed being part of this lighthearted ceremony.



55th UHSSWA Annual Conference

After being canceled in 2020 and 2021, the 55th Annual Conference of the United Hawaii Soto Shu Women's Association (UHSSWA) will be held on Saturday, April 23. Maui Mantokuji Fujinkai will be hosting this virtual conference via Zoom. The UHSSWA is the Buddhist Women's Association of the Soto Sect (and commonly referred to as the "Fujinkai"), and provides an excellent platform for women to share their ideas with one another. Please contact Taiheiji's Fujinkai Advisor, Mrs. Jaymie Komagata, if you are interested in attending this conference. Mahalo!!

Recycling

The Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container Program (HI-5) is a State of Hawaii funded program that places a 5¢ redeemable deposit on each qualified beverage container. Why throw away your recyclables when you can donate it to Taiheiji? Just look for the HI 5¢ label on your glass, plastic and metal containers, and drop them off at Taiheiji. We will take the recyclables to the redemption center to get cash back for the temple and help protect the environment at the same time. Contact Rev. Shuji or visit www.sotomission.com for more information.

Cemetery Plots Available for Purchase

Taiheiji can help you and your family make arrangements for a final resting place in the future. 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 Memorial Park that are available to the Taiheiji community. 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!

Getting to Know our Taiheiji Sangha

The Soto Mission of Aiea is made up of many families living both near and far from the temple. Some members joined the Taiheiji family recently, while others have been part of the this temple for generations. In this featured section of the Taiheiji Bulletin, we introduce Taiheiji's Temple President, Teri Ann Wong-Tanaka. Teri gives so much of her time helping at all temple events and also serves as the Hawaii Soto Mission Association Vice President. This is her story.

(This story was originally printed in Taiheiji's commemorative history book entitled, "Soto Mission of Aiea Taiheiji... Our First 100 Years," published in 2018. Some details have been added and updated. To read this story and more stories like this and to learn about the history of Taiheiji and the Aiea community, please contact Rev. Shuji for your copy of the book.)

The Tanaka Family

The Tanaka family story begins with Masaru Tanaka and his wife, Umeno (Hiraki), who were both born in Hiroshima Prefecture. Immigrants from Japan, as many other members were, they sought to make a better life for themselves and their families. Settling in Aiea, both were hard working. Masaru worked for the sugar plantation and also as a fish peddler and a caterer. Umeno helped him with the businesses but her main job was to manage the household and raise the children.



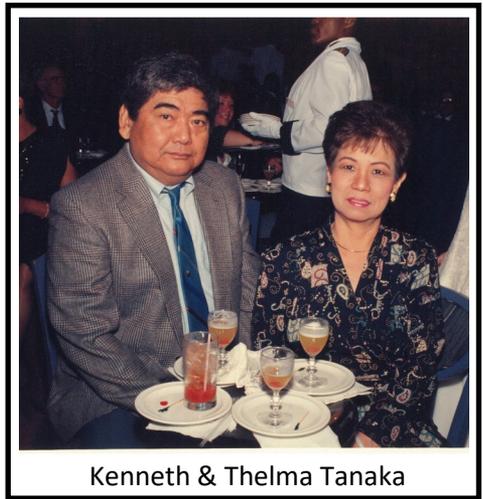
Together they had eight children, three of whom passed away at a young age. Of those who survived into adulthood, Hatsuko Fukamizu (Rev. Junkei of Hiroshima) was the eldest, then Michie Nagamine, followed by brothers Shigeo, Hideo, and Kenneth. Michie was a member of the Soto Mission of Aiea whose story is also included in this book.

Masaru and Umeno Tanaka were strong supporters of Taiheiji. Their youngest son, Kenneth and his wife Thelma continued to

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support the temple after his parents' passing. Born in 1934 and raised in Aiea, Kenneth was an electrician working for Wasa Electric, from where he retired. Kenneth met his future wife Thelma Tanijo, born in 1935, at a beach party. Married at the Soto Mission of Hawaii in 1958, they settled in his parents' Aiea home and started their own family. Thelma worked as a jewelry salesperson.



Kenneth & Thelma Tanaka

Keith and Teri Ann were born in 1959 and 1960, respectively. Both attended Hongwanji Mission School in Nuuanu, then Aiea Intermediate and graduated from Aiea High School. Keith attended the University of Phoenix where he earned a degree in computer information science. He lives in Pearl City and currently works for Hawaii Gas Company as a business analyst. He has one son, Brandis, who recently had a son of his own, Xander.

Teri Ann attended Washington State University, graduating with a degree in animal sciences. She worked in the WSU Animal Science Department as a research assistant for 20 years. She has two children, Jessica and Tyler. In 2001, Teri Ann and her children came back to Hawaii due to her father's illness. He passed away later that year.



Jessica, Tyler, and Teri Ann

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Jessica is currently in the U.S. Space Force in Japan and Tyler works for Toole Design Group in Seattle, WA as a civil engineer. Whenever they can come back for a visit to Hawaii, they both like to attend the New Year's Day service at the temple.

Teri Ann has worked in the local biotech field since returning home. In 2013, she started her own business called "My Personal Chef, LLC." Along with her business, she now works at University of Hawaii in vaccine development research.

Since 2008, Teri Ann has been active as a temple member and currently serves on the Board of Directors as well as the Fujinkai (women's auxiliary) board. On the state level, she is vice president of the Hawaii Soto Mission Association and recording secretary of the United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women's Association (UHSSWA). As a

member of the temple's Fujinkai, Teri Ann also cooks for many of the various temple services and activities. One of her little-known contributions to our temple is preparing food for the altar offerings. Her leadership and involvement now are greatly valued and deeply appreciated by the Taiheiji community.



Teri Ann, Thelma, Tyler, & Jessica

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

Beth Iwamoto	Inurnment Service for the late Midori Yoshimura
Steven Aisaka	17 th Memorial Service for the late Reginald Aisaka
Rev. Shuji Komagata	In Loving Memory of the late Faye Komagata
Rev. Shuji Komagata	In Loving Memory of the late Roy Watanabe
Ronald Tanaka	Funeral & Inurnment for the late Masuyo Tanaka
Shimabukuro Family	Graveside Service for the late June Shimabukuro
Waipahu Soto Zen Temple Taiyoji	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Troy Fukuhara	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Jerilyn Yamashiro	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Harriet Yamaki	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Kevin & Lara Sugimoto	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Estelle Yamaki	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Robin Fujikawa	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Craig Iinuma	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Todd Imamura	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Edith Matsuda	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Teri Wong	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Troy Fukuhara	Donation to Operating Fund
Mildred Aisaka	Donation to Operating Fund
Kevin & Lara Sugimoto	Donation to Operating Fund
Alice Masutani	Donation to Operating Fund
Jerrilyn Segawa	Donation to Operating Fund
Wesley Fukuda	Donation to Operating Fund
Betty Takahashi	Donation to Operating Fund
Troy Fukuhara	Donation to Maintenance Fund
Mildred Aisaka	Donation to Maintenance Fund
Alice Masutani	Donation to Maintenance Fund
Stephen Omiya	Donation to Maintenance Fund
Lloyd Itagaki	Donation to Maintenance Fund

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

P. Maki McHenry-Arens	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Neal Yamaki	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Diane Maeda	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Nora Taketa	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Paul Murato	Donation to Temple
Troy Fukuhara	Donation to Temple
Elaine Tanaka	Donation to Temple
Sandra Tanaka	Donation to Temple
Robin Fujikawa	Donation to Temple
Alice Masutani	Donation to Temple
Stephen Omiya	Donation to Temple
Myrtle Takiguchi	Donation to Temple
George Akahori	Donation to Temple
Robin Fujikawa	Donation to Temple
Lilly Ihara	Donation to Temple
Christy Kokami Yoga LLC	Donation to Temple
Troy Fukuhara	Donation to Building Fund
Mildred Aisaka	Donation to Building Fund
Alice Masutani	Donation to Building Fund
Carol Shishido-Ogata	Donation to Building Fund

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 2022

- 13 Sun 9:00 a.m. Higan & Kannonko Service

April 2022

- 10 Sun 9:00 a.m. Hanamatsuri, Kannonko at Taiheiji
- 23 Sat 55th UHSSWA Conference
- 24 Sun 8:30 a.m. Taiheiji Board Meeting

Kendo Returns to Taiheiji

The Aiea Taiheiji Kendo Club and the Waipahu Seibukan Kendo Club, under the direction of Dr. Braxton Fukutomi and Cynthia Fukutomi, returned to Taiheiji in February 2022 after being on pause for several months due to the recent spike in COVID-19 infections. Practices are held on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Email braxtonfukutomi@gmail.com for more information.



Other ongoing activities at Taiheiji are Karate (call Clayton Matsuoka at 808-220-6548) held on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings, Taiko classes on Sundays (email jaymie@taikohawaii.com for more information), and Yoga



on Monday and Thursday evenings (visit www.christykokami.com to sign up). We anticipate the return of both the Judo club and the Karaoke club in the coming months! Please call Rev. Shuji at 808-488-6794 if you have any questions!

TAIHEIJI'S SPECIAL OMAMORI STICKER

Taiheiji's special omamori sticker is a new item in 2022, and can be securely applied to your water flask, cell phone back, suitcase, and even car window! Pictured on the omamori is an image of Ojizo sama—the Guardian of children and travelers—offering protection to us as we navigate through these challenging and uncertain times around the world. Contact Rev. Shuji to get your sticker!

This sticker was made possible through the efforts of Taiheiji's Aloha Kansha Project, led by chairperson and temple member Linda Enga Fujikawa. The mission of the Aloha Kansha Project can be found in its name—*aloha* and *kansha* (gratitude)—two powerful words of love, caring, and compassion. The soon to be built Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center will provide a home for the Aloha Kansha Project—a safe place for new classes and activities that will promote education, cultural and religious awareness, and a sense of community.

The image of the Ojizo sama seen on this special omamori was created by a gifted young local artist named ISA Shimizu. ISA is on the spectrum, and uses his artwork as a means to promote public awareness and inspire others with autism. Local chef and massage therapist, Kaori Saito, shared her graphic design skills to design this omamori sticker. Mahalo for everyone's help and thank you for supporting the Soto Mission of Aiea!



(Actual Size)

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