

SOTO MISSION OF AIEA
P.O. Box 926 AIEA, HAWAII 96701
PHONE AND FAX 808.488.6794
EMAIL: AIEATAIHEIJI@GMAIL.COM WEBSITE: WWW.SOTOMISSION.COM



TAIHEIJI BULLETIN



SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2023

A Message from Rev. Shuji Komagata

Aloha! Greetings from sunny and beautiful Hawaii! I feel fortunate to live in a place where the people are nice, the food tastes great, and life seems worry free. However, even in paradise, we were reminded of how fragile life is when tragedy struck the town of Lahaina on Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

Much of Hawaii was under a red flag warning for fire risk when the wildfires broke out, with dangerous high wind conditions caused by Hurricane Dora, a Category 4 storm that was moving across the Pacific Ocean hundreds of miles south of the Hawaiian islands.

While the cause of the fire is still under investigation, the damage is clear—much of Lahaina’s 2,700 structures destroyed and over a 100 people dead. The death toll is expected to rise as hundreds remain missing.

At the start of Taiheiji’s Bon Dance on August 11 and 12, attendees offered their prayers of comfort and healing. Throughout both evenings, donations were collected at the Bon Dance for the wildfire victims.

The Hawaii Buddhist Council (HBC), comprised of the Higashi Hongwanji Mission, Honpa Hongwanji Mission, Jodo Mission, Nichiren Mission, Shingon Mission, Soto

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Mission, and Tendai Mission, has set up a relief fund to help the people of Lahaina. The recovery and rebuilding of Lahaina will take years, but please act now and make a donation through the HBC (see info below)!

Additionally, three Buddhist temples belonging to the Hawaii Buddhist Council were destroyed in the wildfires—Lahaina Jodo Mission, Lahaina Honpa Hongwanji Mission, and Lahaina Shingon Mission. Please contact their main temple on Oahu (see info below) if you would like to make a donation directly to the affected temples in Lahaina.

In Gassho,
Rev. Shuji Komagata

How to Make a Donation to Lahaina

Hawaii Buddhist Council
c/o Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813

Please make checks payable to: Hawaii Buddhist Council
Memo: Disaster Fund

Honpa Hongwanji of Hawaii: 808-522-9200
Jodo Mission of Hawaii: 808-949-3995
Koyasan Shingon Mission of Hawaii: 808-935-3862

August 28: Work to Begin on the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center

The Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center construction will finally get started! On Monday, August 28, 2023, Elite Construction Management, LLC will begin mobilizing their trucks and assembling their equipment at the Soto Mission of Aiea to begin demolition of the old Japanese School and minister's residence. This will be the first step in the construction, expected to continue through much of 2024.

Taiheiji will continue to operate normally throughout the construction, although the parking will be limited at times. Please call Rev. Shuji at 808-488-6794 if you have any questions.

To those who made all of this possible—thank you to all the investors in the Legacy-Endowment Bond, the countless members and supporters for generous donations, and for the large charitable donation from the Hawaii Kansha Foundation, a private charitable organization with Taiheiji roots.

As Taiheiji looks to grow and increase its positive presence in the Aiea community, the sustainable solution for the future is the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center. This is an exciting and historic project that will serve as a nurturing place for our temple members and our community.

We are still in need of more funding as construction costs have been driven up by the pandemic and supply chain problems. Please send your donations to the Soto Mission of Aiea (memo: New Building Construction Fund) to help contribute to the project.

Bon Dance Report



The Soto Mission of Aiea Bon Dance was successfully held on August 11 and 12, 2023. The temple property was filled with hundreds of visitors eager to dance, eat, and enjoy taiko performances and live music. Thank you to all the many volunteers who gave several hours of their time to run the Bon Dance.

Mahalo to the dance leaders from the various Soto Mission temples on Oahu who tirelessly danced around the yagura all evening. A special thank you goes to Mike Tsue of Ryusenji for coming to help as DJ, and to Dwight Ishiguro of Ryusenji for collecting and dumping all the trash for us on both evenings.







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! More information can be found at www.sotomission.com

Plant & Flower Sale

Coming off the heels of a very successful Plant and Flower Sale at the Bon Dance last year followed by an even larger plant sale in November 2022, Taiheiji held its “2nd Annual Plant and Flower Sale” at the Bon Dance on August 11 and 12. Mahalo to all Taiheiji members and supporters who donated plants, flowers, and their time to run a very successful Plant and Flower Sale.

The proceeds from the sale will help fund the construction of the all-new Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center.



Left: Some of the hundreds of plants and flowers that were donated to the Plant and Flower sale.

Below: The Raffle Prize winners from each evening of the Dance. Each winner took home two orchid plants valued at \$75!!!



The Taiheiji Online Auction is Back!

Taiheiji will soon host its second Online Auction! Proceeds from Taiheiji's "Online Auction" will go toward funding the new building project. There are many ways to support the project!

Be a Donor: We are asking our members, community, and businesses to help in donating auction items for this online event. Taiheiji is already accepting items to be added to the auction. Please take a look at the following list of example auction items.

Example of Auction Items:

- Artwork, Handmade Crafts
- Jewelry, Accessories
- Cultural Objects (e.g. Japanese, Hawaiian items)
- Buddhist Items (ojuzu, zafu, books, artwork)
- Collectibles (e.g. sports memorabilia, toys, etc.)
- Vintage Collectibles
- Musical Instruments
- Housewares (dishes, silverware, small appliances, etc.)
- Home and Garden (tools, decorative objects)
- Potted Plants, Orchids
- Non-Perishable Gift Baskets
- Non-Perishable Food (rice, coffee, bagged snacks)
- Services (massage, manicure, haircut, yard care, etc.)
- Gift Cards/Certificates (retail, food, service, gas)
- Business or organization donations are also welcome

(If your item is a service (e.g. manicure) we ask that you provide a gift card or authorized certificate.)

Be a Bidder: From October 20 to 27, the public will be able to make bids on all kinds of interesting items in the auction. Taiheiji has chosen 32auctions.com to host the online auction. To place a bid on an item, please be sure to create your 32auctions.com account!

Go to the temple's website, www.sotomission.com to learn more about the online auction. Auction items are already viewable. Please check periodically for new items being added. Auction item pickup is scheduled for Sunday, October 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please call Corinne Gytoku at 808-223-5735 for more information.

September Monthly Service

Sunday, September 10, at 9:00 a.m.

Please join us for September's Fall Higan, Ryosoki, and Kannonko Services. Refreshments will be served after the service! Please join us for the service and fellowship.

Higan Service

The following are excerpts from Bishop Jiho Machida's informational booklet, "Our Religion and Tradition."

"...Our Autumn Higan Service is held traditionally to pay our respect to the founders of Soto Sect, Dogen & Keizan Zenji, with prayer for peace and happiness of all beings. Of course, paying our tribute to the beloved ones who have departed from us is the most important practice of Japanese Higan tradition..."

"...As to Higan, there are many different explanations among Buddhists. For example, Higan is the time for us to practice six ways of self perfection to cross over from this shore, **Shigan***, to the other shore, **Higan****. Higan is also the time to visit the family grave, since the sun sets due west on that day indicating where Jodo (the Pure Land) is. They are well known explanations but many scholars disagree on this as to the origin of Japanese Higan..."

"...Japanese Higan, as you know, is observed twice a year on or around vernal and autumnal equinox days. The dictionary explains equinox as the time when the sun's center crosses the equator and day and night are everywhere of equal length. It happens about March 21 or September 23. The two days are called "Chunichi" and three days before and after the Chunichi is Higan Week. During this week people usually visit their family grave yard to pay respect to deceased family members..."

*Shigan: Dualistic World, the world of happiness and misery, rich and poor

**Higan: Non-dualistic world, the world beyond dualism

Ryosoki Service

Ryosoki is the memorial services for the founders of the Soto Zen sect—Dogen Zenji and Keizan Zenji. Master

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Dogen (1200-1253 C.E.) brought the Soto branch of Zen Buddhism to Japan after his 1223 visit to China. Master Keizan (1268-1325 C.E.) initiated the great social development of the Soto sect throughout Japan. Thanks in large part to these individuals, Soto Zen Buddhism has gained great popularity in Japan and throughout the world.
~~(from the Sanbutsu)~~

October Monthly Service

Sunday, October 8, at 9:00 a.m.

Please join us for October's Darumaki and Kannonko Services. Be sure to stick around for refreshments that will be served upon the conclusion of the services.

Darumaki

The following section is an excerpt from the Soto Zen Publications, Zen Friends, Vol 12, No. 3, 2001

October the fifth is the anniversary of the death of Bodhidharma, the famous Indian monk and founder of Zen (Chan in Chinese) Buddhism. Heir to the teachings of the Buddha, he traveled to distant China, where he spread the Buddhist spirit through seated meditation, or zazen. Today, when mental magnanimity is greatly in demand, interest in zazen is rising. Bodhidharma physically demonstrated the quintessence of Zen, and his teachings preserve their vigor even now 1,450 years after his death. On the anniversary of his death, we of Soto Zen pay reverence to him and conduct ceremonies, like the Daruma-ki, to repay our debt to him.

During both September and October's services, prayers will also be made to Kannon Bodhisattva, who embodies the Buddha's teachings on love, mercy, and compassion. Through prayers made, Kannon ensures the safety of one's family, their good health and happiness.

Hawaii Soto Mission 120th Anniversary and Memorial Services for Keizan Zenji

October 22, 2023

You are invited to attend three very important events held at the Soto Mission of Hawaii Betsuin (1708 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu 96817) on October 22, 2023:

Hawaii Soto Mission's 120th Anniversary Memorial Service and Commemorative Ceremony

Soto Zen Buddhism traces its roots in Hawaii back to 1903 when the Kauai Zenshuji and Waipahu Taiyoji temple communities were established. A memorial service is first held in gratitude with prayers made to all departed ministers and members of our temple community statewide. A special commemorative ceremony follows in observance of the 120-year journey of Soto Zen Buddhism throughout Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, and the Big Island.

Preliminary Memorial Ceremonies for the 700th Anniversary of Daihonzan Sojiji's Founder, Taiso Keizan Jokin Zenji (at 11:00 a.m.)

“Daionki” are major ceremonies held every 50 years to show our heartfelt gratitude to the two founders (Koso Dogen Zenji and Taiso Keizan Zenji) and the two second abbots (Koun Ejo Zenji and Gasan Joseki Zenji) of Soto Zen Buddhism's two head temples, Eiheiji and Sojiji. In 2024, Master Keizan's 700th Memorial Service will be held in Japan. Preliminary Services are held a year earlier in the Soto Zen Buddhism regions outside of Japan.

Bento Lunch in Social Hall (at 12:00 p.m.)

Bento Lunch will be distributed in the downstairs social hall. Please let Rev. Shuji know if you plan to attend the services and would like to order a bento lunch. The cost of the bento lunch will be \$15. Please confirm your attendance with Rev. Shuji by September 30.

Saturday, December 16

16 Bodhisattva Precepts Class

On Saturday, December 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Soto Mission of Hawaii will host a study session on the 16 Bodhisattva precepts, which serve as the foundation of all Buddhist thought and practice in the Soto Zen tradition. This study session is open to anyone, including those who have already studied the precepts in the past. The class will be held at the Soto Mission of Hawaii (1708 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, 96817). Registration is \$50 per person, and includes refreshments and lunch. Please contact Rev. Shuji by December 1 if you are interested in attending this class.

Sunday, December 17

Lay Confirmation Ceremony

A Lay Confirmation Ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m. at the Soto Mission of Hawaii. During this ceremony, participants formally receive the 16 Bodhisattva Precepts and confirm themselves as Buddhists.

The Lay Confirmation Ceremony is open to those who attended the Precepts Class on December 16 and to individuals who participated in previous Precepts Classes. Please contact Rev. Shuji if you are interested in studying and formally receiving the Buddhist Precepts on December 17.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS FOR THE ONLINE AUCTION NOW!
(see page 4 for details)

September

- 5 Tue 6:00 am Zazen
- 9 Sat 8:30 am Temple Cleanup
- 10 Sun 9:00 am Higan, Ryosoki, Kannonko
- 12 Tue 6:00 am Zazen
- 26 Tue 6:00 am Zazen

October

- 3 Tue 6:00 am Zazen
- 7 Sat 8:30 am Temple Cleanup
- 8 Sun 9:00 am Darumaki, Kannonko
- 10 Tue 6:00 am Zazen
- 20-27 Taiheiji Online Auction
- 21 Sat 10:00 am Hawaii Soto Mission Association Meeting
- 22 Sun 10:00 am Hawaii Soto Mission's 120th Anniversary Memorial Service and Commemorative Ceremony
- 22 Sun 11:00 am Preliminary Memorial Ceremony for the 700th Anniversary of Daihonzan Sojiji's Founder, Taizo Keizan Jokin Zenji
- 24 Tue 6:00 am Zazen
- 29 Sun 9:00 am Online Auction Item Pickup at Taiheiji
- 31 Tue 6:00 am Zazen

Recycling

Mahalo for your participation in the Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container Program (HI-5) . Each month, many people have been dropping off their cans and bottles at Taiheiji, giving the temple the opportunity to receive the 5¢ redeemable deposit benefit of this state funded program. Please stop by Taiheiji to drop off your recyclables! You can contact Rev. Shuji at 808-488-6794 or visit www.sotomission.com for more information. If possible, please segregate cans, plastic bottles (no caps), and glass bottles.

Temple Cleanups in September and October

Saturday, September 9: 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 7: 8:30 a.m.

Mahalo to all the people who volunteered to help at the monthly temple cleanups in the past. These cleaning days were held on the Saturday morning (usually the second Saturday) before monthly temple services.

With the construction of the new Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center soon underway, there will certainly be a lot of dust and debris that will accumulate in and around the temple. We really need help to keep the temple clean throughout! Please join us for the upcoming temple cleanups in September and October! Mahalo!!!



Zazen at Taiheiji: Tuesdays, 6:00 a.m.

What is Zazen?

Zazen is a meditative discipline that is typically the primary practice of the Zen Buddhist tradition. In general, it can be regarded as a means of insight into the nature of existence.

Do I need to be a Buddhist to sit in Zazen?

Absolutely not! Everyone, no matter what their religious beliefs may be, should try to make meditation a part of their lives. The practice of Zazen is to make you a better self.

What is the Zazenkai?

The Zazenkai is a group that sits together in Zen meditation. They support one another in the practice of Zazen. The meditation group is beginning to grow!

When does the Zazenkai meet?

The Zazenkai meets every Tuesday from 6:00 am to 7:00 am in the Taiheiji social hall. Please contact Rev. Shuji at 808-488-6794 for the monthly Zazen schedule.

I don't have any experience sitting in Zen Meditation. May I still join the Zazenkai?

The Zazenkai is open to everyone. No experience necessary.

Zazen Etiquette

All participants are to arrive a few minutes early and be seated **before** beginning time. Please refrain from talking. While at Taiheiji, participants are asked to abide by the following five precepts, which promote the harmony and wellbeing of the Zazenkai.

- Refraining from killing and harming living beings
- Refraining from taking that which is not given
- Refraining from causing harm through sexual misconduct or inappropriate behavior
- Refraining from false speech, harmful speech, gossip, and slander
- Abstaining from drugs, tobacco and intoxicants that cause carelessness or loss of awareness

Please dress comfortably and in a way suited to visiting a spiritual place. Please do not use strong fragrances during Zazen. Outside food and drink, with the exception of water, are not permitted. You may select either a chair or zafu (cushion) on which to sit.

Zazenkai Donations and Dues:

A small offertory bowl will be put out on the table. Your donations are greatly appreciated. You are also encouraged (but not required) to officially join the Zazenkai. Monthly dues for the Zazenkai are \$40 and will be used to support Taiheiji and the meditation group. Thank you for your kind support.



Dollar a Day Donation Drive

Taiheiji's website has given the temple a broader readership and made online giving an alternative, yet effective way to contribute to Taiheiji. Please visit the temple website to learn more about Taiheiji, and participate in the new "Dollar a Day Donation Drive." Donating to the Dollar a Day Drive is a positive expression of dana (selfless giving) and helps Taiheiji look optimistically to the future in sharing the Buddha-Dharma. This tax-deductible gift is collected monthly (\$30.00). Donors will be recognized in the Taiheiji Bulletin when they sign up to participate in the Dollar a Day Donation Drive. Donors will also be recognized on the Taiheiji website, www.sotomission.com.

Instructions: Please enter **\$30.00** (or more if you choose) as your donation amount. This amount will be charged to your credit card each month. Please contact Rev. Shuji Komagata at 808-488-6794 for more information.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

Aiea Matsubayashi-Ryu Karate Club	Donation to Temple
Aiea Taiheiji Judo Club	Donation to Temple
Aiko Karaoke School	Donation to Temple (July)
Bishop Shugen Komagata	Dollar a Day Donation (July)
Fukiya	Donation to Temple (July)
Betty Matsui	7th Year Memorial Service for the late Tamayo Matsui
Renee Yamamoto	Funeral Service for the late Michiko Iwata
Yoshimura Family	Inurnment Service for the late Elmer Yoshimura
Fukutomi Family	Funeral Service for the late Ryoko Fukutomi
Alton Goo	Donation to Temple
Lloyd Shibata	1 Year Memorial Service for the late Sadako Shibata
Aiko Karaoke School	Donation to Temple (August)
Calvin Kaya	Donation to Temple
Wayne Komamura	Funeral Service for the late Shizue Komamura
Wayne Komamura	49th Day Memorial Service for the late Shizue Komamura
Karen Kasai	Inurnment Service for the Florence Kasai
Sharon Mitani	Donation to Temple
Glenn Tango	Donation to the New Building Construction Fund
Fukiya	Donation to Temple (August)
Bishop Shugen Komagata	Dollar a Day Donation (August)
Wayne Komamura	In Loving Memory of the late Shizue Komamura
Lisa Matsukawa	Funeral Service for the late Vernon Matsukawa
Linda Yamaguchi	In Loving Memory of the late Takeo Maeda
Charlene Yamaguchi	27th Memorial Service for the late Chie Shiraki

ZIPPY'S

BENEFIT FUNDRAISING

For the past two years, the Soto Mission of Aiea participated in the Zippy's Benefit Fundraising, and both times were more successful than our once favorite BBQ chicken and sushi sale! Of course, all credit goes to Taiheiji's wonderful members and supporters like you. The money raised helped Taiheiji manage the cost of maintaining the temple facilities.

Well, it will soon be that time again for the Soto Mission of Aiea's annual fundraising event! We once again ask you for your support by purchasing Zippy's Fundraising tickets. Although the price per ticket and redeemable items have not yet been determined, last year each ticket sold could be redeemed for: Chili, Portuguese Bean Soup, one (1) meat & egg breakfast with one (1) small coffee or soft drink, OR five (5) pieces of cornbread.

The presale order form will be mailed out in October and will be due in early November. The Zippy's Fundraiser Event tickets you order and pay for will be printed and mailed out to you in mid November. Please remember—

your tickets will be mailed to you only after payment is received. The tickets will be redeemable for approximately 10 weeks (estimated mid-January expiration).

Thank you for your participation in this fundraiser.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AIEA, HI
PERMIT NO. 5**