

Taiheiji Bulletin

September 2023 (Special Edition)

Aloha! Thank you for your continued support for Taiheiji! Although the September and October 2023 Taiheiji Bulletin already went out, there are several important announcements that I want to share with you. As always, if you have any questions, please call me at 808-488-6794.

In Gassho,
Rev. Shuji Komagata

Demolition of Japanese School Building and Minister’s Residence

Work has finally begun on the new Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center! From Monday, August 28, workers began dismantling and tearing down the old Japanese School building and the old minister’s residence. It was a bittersweet farewell to these historic structures. They were both built around 1930 and served Taiheiji well. Sadly, the extent of termite damage sustained over nine decades made it too costly to salvage. In its place will be the new Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center, a two-story 5000 square feet building that will be used for a proposed Adult Care Center, with meditation room and meeting rooms. Please feel free to stop by periodically to see the progress of the project!

The entire project is estimated to take a year to complete. While we are extremely excited for the project to begin, we still need to raise more funds. Increased labor costs due to the pandemic and supply shortages have driven up the overall price tag on the project. With your support, though, I am confident that we will be able to successfully complete this project. We humbly ask you for your continued support through your generous donations to the project.



Removing the minister’s residence roof



George Hokama, Corinne Gytoku, & Susan Tachino
in front of the Japanese School building

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Please join us on Tuesday, September 19, at 10:00 a.m. for the groundbreaking ceremony to officially kick off the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center. This will be a special day for all members and supporters of Taiheiji, as it marks a major step forward in a project that has overcome so many delays and hurdles throughout the pandemic.

GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

Tuesday, September 19 at 10:00 am



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Online Auction

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

(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.

Help Lahaina!

The Hawaii Buddhist Council (HBC)—comprised of the Higashi Hongwanji Mission, Honpa Hongwanji Mission, Jodo Mission, Koyasan Shingon Mission, Nichiren Mission, Soto 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 donate through the HBC.

1. Make donation checks payable to **Hawaii Buddhist Council**.
2. Please write on memo line: **Disaster Fund**.
3. Mail your checks to: Soto Mission of Hawaii, 1708 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96817

We originally printed in the September and October 2023 Taiheiji Bulletin to send donations directly to the Hawaii Buddhist Council. However, we now ask you to mail your donations to the Soto Mission of Hawaii, where they will be collected and recorded before forwarding to the Hawaii Buddhist Council.

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Temporary Halt to HI-5 Recycling

Due to the ongoing construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center, we will temporarily pause our HI-5 recycling program at the temple. Of concern is the lack of secure storage space for the recyclables received. We hope to resume accepting your HI-5 recyclables soon. Thank you for your understanding.

October 22 Events

You are invited to join us at the Soto Mission of Hawaii Betsuin located at 1708 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu 96817 on October 22, 2023, for two very important events:

10:00 a.m.: Hawaii Soto Mission's 120th Anniversary 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.

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

“Daionki” are major ceremonies held every 50 years to show our heartfelt gratitude to the two founders (Koso Dogen Zenji and Taizo 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 **(\$15 each, preorder required)** will be served in Social Hall at 12:00 p.m. Please let Rev. Shuji know if you plan to attend the services and would like to order a bento lunch. Please confirm your attendance with Rev. Shuji by September 30.



Taizo Keizan Jokin Zenji