

TAIHEIJI BULLETIN

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2025



Deepening the Dharma: The 10th U.S. Soto Conference



On October 23–26, 2025, over 140 participants, along with 20 instructors and 40 staff and volunteers, gathered at the Soto Mission of Hawaii in Nuuanu for the 10th U.S. Soto Conference. Among the more than 50 priests present, we were honored to receive special guests Rev. Daiken Kurayama, Director of the Education and Dissemination Division at the Headquarters of Soto-Shu Administrative Headquarters of Soto Zen Buddhism, Rev. Tenyu Fukagawa, Director at the Soto-Shu Headquarters, Rev. Dosen Muto, Manager of the Dissemination and International Departments at the Headquarters, Bishop Gengo Akiba, of the Soto Zen Buddhism North America Office, and Rev. Konjin Godwin, Director of the Soto Zen Buddhism International Center.

Participants were welcomed into a well-organized format: each day offered a balance of lectures, hands-on activities, and opportunities for fellowship.

Opening Day: After a warm welcome, participants engaged in an orientation session, followed by the first round of workshops. The sense of arrival and mutual welcoming set a positive tone. Many commented on how “welcomed” they felt from the very start.

Workshop and activity days: Variety was a hallmark at the conference. Instructors led both traditional lectures and interactive sessions — from meditation workshops to arts-and-crafts related to Zen practice, from group reflections to personal contemplations. The hands-on experiences like Juzu making, lei making, Zen Cooking, and taiko stood out. Many participants remarked on the attention to detail in the planning: well-timed transitions, clearly marked rooms, and friendly volunteers ready to assist.

Formal gatherings: The group of more than fifty priests added a strong presence of shared practice and tradition. The special guests contributed not only by teaching but by being among us as one community. Their presence underscored the conference’s dual spirit: rooted in our Soto Zen tradition and yet alive to the needs of a contemporary U.S. sangha.

Closing reflections: As we came to the end, the words most heard were “thank you” and “see you next time.” The variety of classes, the comfortable welcome, the sense of being part of a larger family — these were the take-aways many expressed. Our aim to deepen practice, foster community, and share the Dharma across the U.S. and beyond was clearly met.

In closing, we extend our gratitude to all instructors, staff, volunteers, and participants. The success of the 10th U.S. Soto Conference is a sign of vitality in our sangha, and a clear demonstration of the theme ‘Sharing the Dharma’ in action. We look forward to continuing this journey together. **Turn to the next page to see pictures of the various sessions at the conference.**



Eitaikyo, Kannonko, & Keizan Zenji's Birthday Services

Please join us on Sunday, November 16 at 9:00 a.m. for the combined Eitaikyo (Perpetual Donors), Kannonko, and Keizan Zenji Birthday services. All members and friends are warmly invited.

Keizan Zenji's Birthday Service

Our Soto tradition in Hawai'i is traced back to our two founders, Dōgen Zenji and Keizan Zenji. While both are rightly celebrated as great teachers of Zen, Keizan Zenji is especially credited with initiating the rapid and wide-spread growth of Soto Zen throughout Japan. He laid the foundation for the development of the tradition by training numerous outstanding disciples who would carry the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha into new contexts. With deep reverence and gratitude, we honour and pay homage to Master Keizan.



Keizan Zenji

Eitaikyo Service

The Eitaikyo Service is held each year at Taiheiji as an annual memorial service for deceased members of our temple. What distinguishes this service from private memorials is that it is a "Perpetual Memorial." Members may make a donation (\$1,000) and non-members (\$1,500) to add the names of departed loved ones to the list. Prayers are made for these honorees each year as part of the service at Taiheiji, comprehensively read alongside the names of many whose memories span our temple's long history.

If you are interested in ensuring that a loved one's name is included this year and in years to come, please call Bishop Shuji (808-488-6794) to make arrangements. After the service, please join us for refreshments. We welcome food and dessert donations for the post-service gathering.

December Bodhi Day Service

The teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha have touched lives around the world. His words of love, mercy, and compassion have helped countless persons find peace and happiness. Our Buddhist beliefs and practices trace back to a single pivotal event in the Buddha's life — following quiet meditation beneath the Bodhi tree, Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment and became Shakyamuni Buddha, thereby revealing to all beings the way to end suffering.



On Sunday, December 14 at 9:00 a.m., Taiheiji will observe its Bodhi Day Service honoring the Buddha's enlightenment with our monthly Kannonko Service. Guest minister Rev. Masataka Hoshino from the Soto Mission of Hawaii will officiate. Refreshments will be served following the service. Feel free to bring food or desserts to share. We look forward to seeing you there in fellowship.

On December 9, 1979, seven Taiheiji YBA members: Susan Suzuki, Pam Suzuki, Pat Suzuki, Diane Suzuki, Corinne Fukumae, Chizuru Togami, and Craig Iinuma won 1st place in a mural contest sponsored by the Hawaii Buddhist Council for their painting of the Buddha's Enlightenment.

Planting Roots: Taiheiji Activity Center Nears Completion

Major construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center is now substantially complete. While we await the arrival of the doors and a few remaining items, the exciting moment of opening is near. The building will soon be ready for operation, in just a few months.

In the meantime, our temple vice-president, George Hokama, has been busy enhancing our temple grounds. He has planted a variety of fauna and flora around the property: vibrant hibiscus flowers, bamboo brought from the Imperial Palace in Japan, and 14 bodhi trees, all cuttings from the original bodhi tree that stood in the front corner of our property since the 1970s.

Just as these plants are beginning to take root at Taiheiji, so too is our sense of anticipation for the grand opening of the Activity Center. It is a time of promise and growth, not only for the building itself, but for our temple community as we look forward to the new ways we will gather, serve, and connect.





Sponsorship and Remembrance: Your Legacy at the Activity Center

The Activity Center at the Soto Mission of Aiea is more than a building. It is more than meeting rooms or a meditation room. It is a living expression of our community, of who we are now, looking back to the pioneers of our temple, and making a statement that we remember and honor them. This building becomes our legacy.

As part of that legacy, we are pleased to offer members and supporters the opportunity to make memorial dedications for departed loved ones or families by sponsoring various elements of the project. So far, we've received the following:

• \$25,000	Pledge	Majestic black archway gate	Diane Kazama and Family
• \$25,000	Pledge	Majestic black archway gate	Glenn & Elizabeth Tango
• \$8,000	Pledge	Bodhi Tree in the courtyard	Bruce Behnke and Steven Leong
• \$5,000	Pledge	Bodhi Tree	Amy and Ken Mijo
• \$5,000	Pledge	Bodhi Tree	Corinne and Keith Gytoku
• \$5,000	Pledge	Imperial Bamboo	Corinne and Keith Gytoku
• \$5,000	Pledge	Bodhi Tree	Candace and Gary Tasoe
• \$5,000	Donation	Bodhi Tree	Bishop Shuji Komagata
• \$5,000	Donation	Bodhi Tree	Jaymie Komagata
• \$5,000	Donation	Bodhi Tree	Remi Komagata
• \$5,000	Donation	Bodhi Tree	Reigen Komagata

There are still opportunities available: sponsorship of the three conference rooms upstairs, the meditation room, the adult day-care center downstairs, and three additional bodhi trees. We are also planning a Legacy Wall on the side of the Activity Center, made of a copper bodhi tree sculpture. We hope that you will consider making a donation to put your names on the wall as one of our "Legacy Donors."

If you would like to leave a lasting tribute in memory of someone you love, please contact the temple for more details. Let us build together not only a structure, but a statement of our community's gratitude, continuity, and hopeful future.

4th Annual Online Auction Fundraiser

Taiheiji's 4th Annual Online Auction Fundraiser was a tremendous success! Over the one week of online bidding, our temple raised **\$3,861.38** in support of the New Building Construction Fund. With the additional donations collected alongside the auction, we came very close to achieving our \$5,000 goal! Thank you to all winning bidders, generous donors, and everyone who helped organize and manage the event.



We used the online auction platform 32auctions.com. We look forward to the next auction in 2026 — please begin thinking about potential items or services you can donate for next year's event. For more information, please call Corinne Gytoku at 808-223-5735.

[View All Items](#)

START

03

October 2025
06:00 PM HST

END

10

October 2025
09:06 PM HST
+ Extended Bidding

RAISED
\$3,861.38

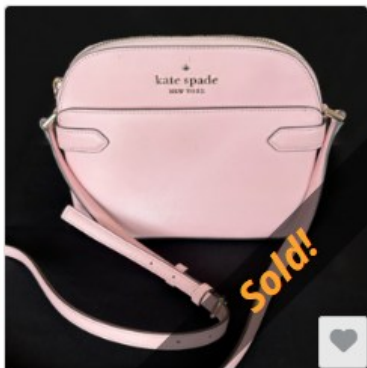
GOAL \$5,000.00



109 Three Dish Towels and Scrubbies

\$24.00

bids: 3



110 Kate Spade Pink Crossbody

\$20.00

bids: 1



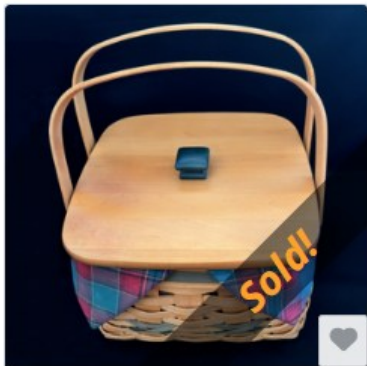
113 Jigsaw 3D Puzzle Vase

160 Piece Puzzle

\$12.00

value: \$30.00

bids: 1



115 Longaberger Basket with Protector

Christmas Collection 2000

\$20.00

bids: 1

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 can positively affect your life and the lives of others around you.

What is the Zazenkai?

The Zazenkai is the group that sits together, thus supporting one another through the practice of Zen meditation. The meditation group is beginning to grow! We have six members who attend regularly!

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 Bishop 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. 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.



2026 New Year's & Daihannya Blessing Services

By Bishop Shuji Komagata

On January 1 at 9:00 a.m., we will gather at Taiheiji for our New Year's Daihannya Blessing Service. For temple members, their families, and supporters, visiting the temple on New Year's Day is a longstanding tradition that ensures a proper start to the new year. It is a special moment of renewal, reflection and community — the perfect time to pause and attune our hearts to the unfolding year. The service offers space for gratitude for the past year, mindful intention for the one ahead, and the warmth of being together in sangha.

During the service, Bishop Shuji, with the assistance of a minister from our main temple in town, will chant Hannya Shingyo, and perform the DAI-HANNYA TENDOKU. “Ten” means to roll, flip over, or spin; the ceremonial flipping that you will witness is the symbolical release of the Buddha’s spiritual energy and wisdom. “Doku” means to read. As the ministers fan the Daihannya Tendoku—symbolic reading of the great 600 volumes of the teachings of the Buddha—they will recite the prayer that is translated as: “May the merits of this symbolic Daihannya reading become an added blessing for all of us.” Taiheiji recently received the brand new Daihannya Tendoku books at Taiheiji.

Bishop Shuji will also bless the ofuda and all attendees at the service. We look forward to seeing all of you at the service! Don't forget to drop off your old ofuda and omamori for proper disposal. Light refreshments will be prepared and served in the social hall after the service. We are also seeking volunteers to help on January 1. If you are available, please contact us at 808-488-6794.

Daihannya Ofuda Packets

On New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1, 2026, the new *Daihannya Ofuda* will be distributed to Taiheiji members and their families. When ordering a NEW OFUDA PACKET, you will receive: 1 wooden *kifuda*, 2 paper *ofuda*, 1 car *omamori*, and 1 wallet *omamori*. Multiple Ofuda Packets may be ordered for your various households in your family. Ofuda items may also be ordered ala carte. Order forms will be mailed to you at the beginning of December.



Are You a Member of Taiheiji?

Soto Mission of Aiea Membership Drive

Taiheiji strives to serve the social, spiritual, and religious needs of its members by providing a place where all are welcomed with open arms to receive the guidance of the Buddha Dharma. We regularly receive requests from non-members for services, often in times of need—whether for joyous occasions like weddings or difficult moments like bidding farewell to a loved one. Having an active membership enables you to access the full range of temple services.

Your household membership donation is more than just financial support — it is a statement of confidence you place in the temple as an important and relevant part of your life. As an active member, you also gain the use of our social hall to host parties and events. Currently, there is **no rental fee** for members — simply book the facility and make a donation at your discretion. The hall comfortably accommodates up to 150 guests.

The annual membership donation is \$100 per household. In December we will mail the membership/donation form for renewal (or for joining the temple community). Please encourage your parents, adult children, relatives, and friends to renew or join. If you have any questions, please call Bishop Shuji at 808-488-6794.

ZIPPY'S

BENEFIT FUNDRAISING

It's 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. The price per ticket is \$11.00. Each ticket sold can 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 soon and is due on Monday, November 17. If you do not receive a preorder form, please contact Bishop Shuji at 808-488-6794! The Zippy's Fundraiser Event tickets you order and pay for will be printed and mailed out to you around November 25. Please remember—your tickets will be mailed to you only after payment is received. The tickets will be redeemable for approximately 10 weeks (estimated late January expiration).

Thank you for your participation in this fundraiser. The money raised will help Taiheiji manage the cost of maintaining the temple facilities.



2026 Fujinkai Dues

The Soto Mission of Aiea Taiheiji Fujinkai will soon be collecting Dues (\$10) for the year 2026. There are two membership options to choose from:

- Annual Membership: \$10/year
- Lifetime Membership (for current members of the Fujinkai with at least two years of active membership), based on age:
 - 50 and under - \$100
 - 51-60 - \$50
 - 61-70 - \$40
 - 70 and over - \$30

Anyone interested in joining the Fujinkai is welcomed. If you are unable to pay the membership dues because of financial difficulties, please contact the Soto Mission of Aiea Fujinkai at 488-6794 to discuss options.

The Fujinkai is the auxiliary organization of the temple, and had been a long time advocate for women inside and outside the Buddhist community. **In April 2023, the Taiheiji Fujinkai, together with the Fujinkai groups at all of Hawaii's Soto Mission temples, expanded its membership to include all genders, not just women. With this monumental change, the Fujinkai reinforces its firm commitment to help all people in the time of need, and spend time together in fellowship at and outside the temple throughout the year.**

In addition to providing support for each other, the Fujinkai take on added responsibilities. They make generous contributions to the maintenance and furnishing of the minister's residence, and purchase appliances for the temple. **Please remember to make your \$10 dues payable to "Soto Mission of Aiea Fujinkai."**

Dollar a Day Donation Drive

**Donating
\$1
a day
makes
a difference!**

The recent facelift of the Taiheiji's website has really 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 "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. **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 Bishop Shuji Komagata at 808-488-6794 for more information.

Columbarium is reopened!

The Taiheiji Columbarium, or Nokotsudo, is now open regularly on Tuesdays and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For now, please contact Bishop Shuji if you are planning to visit the nokotsudo to ensure that the room is open for you. Mahalo!!

Upcoming Schedule of Events

November 2025

- 4 Tue 6:00 a.m. Zazen
- 11 Tue 6:00 a.m. Zazen
- 16 Sun 9:00 a.m. Keizan Zenji Birthday Service, Eitaikyo, & Kannonko Service
- 18 Tue 6:00 a.m. Zazen
- 25 Tue 6:00 a.m. Zazen

December 2025

- 2 Tue 6:00 a.m. Zazen
- 7 Sun 9:30 a.m. Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service @ Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
- 9 Tue 6:00 a.m. Zazen
- 14 Sun 9:00 a.m. Bodhi Day & Kannonko Service

Hawaii Buddhist Council Sponsored Bodhi Day Service

On Sunday, December 7, at 9:30 a.m., the Hawaii Buddhist Council (HBC) will hold its Bodhi Day Service at the Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. This service commemorates Shakyamuni Buddha's attainment of enlightenment after sitting under the Bodhi Tree for seven days.

The service will be held at the Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, located at 1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu, 96817. Please call Bishop Shuji at 808-488-6794 if you have any questions.

Acknowledgement of Generous Donations Received

Aiko Karaoke School

Betty Matsui

Victor Michimoto

CPB Foundation

Sharla Nomura

Sharla Nomura

Fukiya

Aiko Karaoke School

Fukiya

Amy Imaguchi

Russell Okoji

Susan Johnston

Loren Odagiri

Diane Kazama

Danette Kobayashi

Dew-Anne Langcaon

Brian Nishida

John Nishida

Joe & Gertrude Nishida

Colin Miyata

Alysha Arase

Jeffrey Baucom

Bishop Shuji Komagata

Jaymie Komagata

Remi Komagata

Reigen Komagata

Donation to Temple

23rd Year Memorial Service for the late Kazuo Matsui

3rd Year Memorial Service the late Keiko Michimoto

New Building Construction Fund

Funeral and 7th Day Service for the late Daniel Toyama

49th Day Memorial Service for the late Daniel Toyama

Donation to Temple

Donation to Temple

Donation to Temple

Donation to New Building Construction Fund

Funeral Service for the late Annie Okoji

Burial Service for the late Hisako Toyoshima

13th Year Memorial Service for the late Toshifumi Odagiri

Donation to New Building Construction Fund

Donation to New Building Construction Fund

Donation to New Building Construction Fund

Donation to New Building Construction Fund

Donation to New Building Construction Fund

Donation to New Building Construction Fund

Donation to the Operating Fund

Donation to the Operating Fund

Donation to Temple

Bodhi Tree Sponsor

Bodhi Tree Sponsor

Bodhi Tree Sponsor

Bodhi Tree Sponsor

Soto Mission of Aiea
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