

# Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

AUGUST 2018



The annual Back-To-School Blessing was performed on Sunday, August 5

# MAHALO for your donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa  
Bob Harada  
James & Melba Kurashige  
Tomohiko Matsuyama  
Clara Matsuzaki  
Steve Miwa  
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh  
Adele Nakamura  
Craig & Diane Nishida  
Nicholas & Yoko Ponce  
Justin Sakaue  
Akiko Sanai  
Gary & Linda Shinsato  
WIC LLC



Congratulations to shrine friend **Akiko Sanai** for her first piano concert in Vienna, Austria on August 16, at the famed Palais Ferstel.

Akiko left Honolulu on August 4th and has been spending her days in Vienna rehearsing for the concert.

## Private Blessings



A Memorial service was conducted for Lulu - a beloved pet that was blessed with a warm and happy home with this family



A private blessing was conducted for Yoshi, a 5-year old Boston Terrier who was diagnosed with cancer.

Japan is still seeking relief from the worst flooding in 36 years.

Overflowing rivers and landslides have displaced thousands - the worst hit being Hiroshima and Okayama. Hiroshima is home to one of the seven shrines enshrined here - Otaki Jinja of Otake City.

The shrine board has approved \$1000 to be donated to Jinja Honcho to strengthen disaster resilience of communities in Japan. May you be blessed abundantly for your generosity that has allowed the shrine to share contributions that will have a major impact in relief efforts of the flood victims.

# Back-To-School Blessing

The Back to School season is a time filled with capturing the last days of summer and at the same time assembling school supplies, coordinating new wardrobes and adjusting to new schedules.

This is a time that brings about a variety of emotions for parents, teachers and students as a new school year begins.

Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu, branch of the famous shrine in Fukuoka offered a special blessing seeped in ancient tradition honoring students of all ages so they may be blessed with the spirit of learning, take

delight in new discoveries and persevere in their studies and be safe and free from violence and crime.

Kicking off the event was a service officiated by Rev. Takizawa and attended by President Shinken Naitoh, and volunteers.

New pencils, new books, new classrooms - as students head back to school and colleges, we offer them our warmest thoughts and most hopeful prayers.

To the educators that participated, a heart-felt Mahalo for your devotion and inspiration that helps us to learn.



Dazaifu Tenmangu of Fukuoka prefecture, is the main shrine of over 6,000 Tenmangu shrines in Japan dedicated to the great scholar and statesman Sugawara Michizane.

Michizane was a 9th century nobleman who was falsely accused of improprieties at the imperial court and exiled to Dazaifu where he died in 903 CE before being exonerated.

His spirit was deified and revered as the *kami* of education, culture and the arts

Chief Priest Nobuyoshi Nishitakatsuji of Dazaifu Tenmangu Fukuoka is the 38th descendant of Sugawara Michizane.

# MAHALO Volunteers

## 8/4 Saturday Cleanup & Prep

Bob Harada  
Arthur K. Isa  
Marilyn Naitoh  
Shinken Naitoh  
Craig Nishida  
Diane Nishida



## 8/5 Sunday Back-To-School Blessing

Kyle Chun  
Keiko Doughty  
Tiare Faatafuga  
Kilala Hall  
Victoria Hallett  
Kathy Hamada Kwock  
Miyoko Hanahara  
Bob Harada  
Stacie Hata  
Gaylen Komatsu

Kell Komatsubara  
Milton Kwock  
Marilyn Naitoh  
Shinken Naitoh  
Nicole Nakagawa  
Craig Nishida  
Diane Nishida  
Diane Ogasawara  
Kenyu Oshiro  
Yuko Takahashi



View event photos at: [www.flickr.com/kotohira-dazaifu](http://www.flickr.com/kotohira-dazaifu)

# Yama no Hi (Mountain Day)

Japan currently has 16 national holidays. A new holiday was created in 2016 with the intention of giving the hard-working Japanese a break from work while spending time in the mountains with family members and friends.

The newest holiday is called Mountain Day or *Yama-no-Hi* and is celebrated annually on August 11th.

Mountain Day will celebrate all things mountain-related in Japan, which is a nation whose culture is founded on nature-inspired Shinto.

It is the first official public holiday in August. *Obon* season also falls in August, but it is not a National holiday as many people take paid leave to return home to be with family.

August 11 was chosen because the eighth month is denoted by the *kanji* '八' - which resembles a mountain.

In addition, there are no other public holidays in August, so it was hoped that people would stop working on the 11th to enjoy the mountains.

To celebrate Mountain Day, Japanese people are encouraged to visit rural mountainous areas across Japan, which should be easy as over 73% of Japan's terrain is mountainous.

Worldwide, there is one other Mountain Day - an International holiday celebrated on December 11th, which was created by the United Nations General Assembly to encourage sustainable development in the mountains.

## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 9 am  
**Reservations accepted for Shichigosan, Jusan Mairi, Totose no Oiwai, Seijin Shiki**
- 29 1 pm  
**Clean up & Prep**
- 30 3 pm  
**Autumn Thanksgiving Festival**

### OCTOBER

- 20 10 am  
**Shichigosan prep**
- 21/27/28 9 am - 4 pm  
**Shichigosan**
- 21 3 pm  
**Tsukinamisai**

# Maintenance

Mahalo Nui **Rudy** for continuing to repair and paint the *torii* gate



The aged, tattered and faded *Moncho* curtains of the Kotohira-side of the shrine were replaced on July 29.

*Moncho* curtains are made of white silk and specially dyed with the crest of a shrine or temple and used to decorate the interior of a place of worship.



The male in the photo was caught on surveillance video loitering behind the shrine on July 31 at around 8:15 pm.



As bizarre as it may sound, there are protections for trespassers if they get injured while illegally entering another's property. Landowners are liable for the injuries the trespasser sustains from deterrents like trip wires, high voltage electric fences, other devices or by simply falling while climbing your wall.

Some of the legal measures available to landowners are No Trespassing signs and video surveillance.

Mahalo Nui to **Bob Harada** for installing a No Trespassing sign on the Ewa-side gate of the Olomea fence. The shrine now has No trespassing signs on all gates to deter people from entering and remaining unlawfully on shrine property.