

## A mishmash of fun and news

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### Shichigosan celebrates growing boys and girls



Reservations are now being accepted for Shichigosan, a traditional Japanese ceremony celebrated by boys, ages 3 and 5, and girls, ages 3 and 7.

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha-Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu is offering a blessing and complimentary kimono dressing to perpetuate the tradition from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through Nov. 24.

Shichigosan is said to have originated in the Heian Period (794-1185) among court nobles to celebrate the passage of children into middle childhood. The ages 3, 5 and 7, considered lucky in Japanese numerology, are traditional milestones in the Shinto tradition. In November, children dressed in

kimono typically visit a Shinto shrine to report their healthy development and receive divine blessings.

Participants will also receive a candy bag, omamori amulets and a gift. Parents may take photos on the shrine grounds after the ceremony. A donation of \$50 is requested for the blessing, and \$10 for the Kimono Preservation Fund.

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha-Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu is at 1239 Olomea St. For reservations, call 841-4755, email [kotohira@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kotohira@hawaiiantel.net) or visit [e-shrine.org](http://e-shrine.org)

*Nina Wu, Star-Advertiser*