

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha

Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

where ancient traditions thrive

Kanreki Blessing

In Asian cultures, the aging process is celebrated with the honor and recognition it deserves. In the U.S., we worship youth and looking young and entering our 60s is approached with dread and humor about having one's "foot in the grave."

Becoming 60 gives us an uneasy feeling that we have moved into unknown territory. For most of us, the first half of life was defined by our work; in the second half, we may not have a clue as to who we really are.

Kanreki literally means "return" and "calendar." The ancient Japanese calendar was organized on 60-year cycles. The cycle returns to its starting point in 60 years and as such, Kanreki celebrates that point in our lives when we return to the Chinese Zodiac sign under which we were born.

Kanreki prompts new beginnings. It is customary for



the celebrant to be given a red hat and red vest - clothes worn by babies and thus symbolizes the celebrant's return to their birth.

Kanreki is a time to re-evaluate our lives, when we may begin to face our mortality, make transformative changes and reaffirm a sense of gratitude for the goodness and richness of our years.

60s also heralds the need for us to cultivate new relationships to our bodies. For many of us, our bodies no longer do what they used to. They don't respond with the grace and ease they once did.

Kaneki is a time to:

- **take stock of how life is working for you**
- **let go of what no longer serves you**
- **make transformative changes**
- **create your legacy**

The shrine's Kanreki blessing can be wonderfully life-affirming. Instead of seeing the 60s as a time of loss, see it as a time to

listen to the callings of your soul.

Rituals afford us a sense of belonging and gives us a way to connect to family, past and present. It ties us to our ancestors and to our heritage and helps us to understand where we came from. As a bridge between past and future - rituals strengthen our own identity.



Embrace the blessings of life - it is a time of personal renewal and empowerment. Now is the time to continue on with your miraculous journey, living life by your heart. Celebrate Life !!

MAHALO for your generous donations

Tom & Linda Agawa
Aloha Koi Appreciation
Society

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9th Aloha Koi Show & 10th Nishikikoi Expo



Rev Takizawa performed the annual blessing for the opening ceremony of the Aloha Koi Appreciation Society's 9th Aloha Koi Show and the 10th Japan Nishikigoi Expo at the Waikiki Aquarium on February 13.

Pictured above is Rev Takizawa with James Kinney, Dr. Andrew Rossiter of the Waikiki Aquarium, Mitsunori Isa of Isa Koi Farms and Taro Kodama of Kodama Koi Farms in Mililani.



KAIPO, the new shrine dog is a 3 year-old male Labrador Retriever, born and raised in Waipio Gentry.

Kaipo has a heavy body set and is extremely powerful with a relaxed temperament and a docile personality.

HDAHF Annual Blessing

The annual blessing for the Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation was performed on 2/28.

HDAHF's Maizome recital will be held on Saturday, March 5 at the Mission Memorial Auditorium from 1:00 pm. It's free and open to the public.



Jichinsai - Ground Beaking Ceremony

A Jichinsai was performed at a private lot in Black Point on February 15.

The Jichinsai or Ground-breaking Ritual is a traditional Japanese ceremony performed before the construction of a new building.

Jichinsai literally means "pacification of the grounds". The kami are invited to be present - and to impart their blessings on the sanctified ground and people who are gathered.

In order to prepare the arrival of the kami, Rev Takizawa performed purification rites and composed a special Norito prayer to address the kami :

Bless this structure that it may be strong enough to weather the elements. May it pulsate with goodness and flow with good health and happiness, creating a haven for all who reside within its walls.

Bless those whose vision has brought us to this moment, to those who gave form, who labor tirelessly to lay a firm foundation. May this land be

blessed with safe working conditions and no harm to those involved in the construction.



May this building live lightly on this earth, using resources sparingly and respectfully.

Bless future generations who will reside here. Cement the past and the future with the present that we may be of one accord through the generations.



One of the highlights of the ceremony is the moment when the most important representatives "break the ground" by cutting grass on top of a mound created with sand using a sickle, removing rocks with a hoe, and digging the ground with a spade.

The ceremony concluded with a Naorai and Rev Takizawa leading a toast congratulating participants on the joyous occasion and expressing how he looks forward to standing here with them again for Jotosai - when the ridge poles of the building are set into place sometime in summer.

Mahalo to Mike Lee and Val Tsutsumi for their kokua in setting up and breaking down.



Mahalo to Mike Lee for fabricating the religious implements used - sickle, spade and hoe.

Kanreki, Setsubun & Valentine's at the Shrine



The shrine held a special Kanreki Blessing for the Fire Monkeys celebrating their 60th birthdays this year, followed by the annual Setsubun ceremony.

Rev. Takizawa was assisted by Masahiro Kuroda of Osaka who will be attending the Senkoka program at Kogakkan University this Spring. Masahiro was born in Arao city, Kumamoto and will be following in his father's footsteps in serving **Yotsuyama Jinja** in Kumamoto.

Pictured to the left is Rev Takizawa and Dr. Naitoh - 2 of the 3 monkeys of the shrine celebrating Kanreki. The 3rd monkey is Tom Jannuzzio (busily preparing dinner when this photo was taken). Masahiro Kuroda is on the far right.

Yotsuyama Jinja

Yotsuyama Kofun Tumulus was built sometime during the 6th century and is said to be where a Buddhist bodhisattva - Kokuzo Bosatsu (Ākāśagarbha Bodhisattva) descended on this earth, riding on a star.

A temple was built at the site in 1070 by Noritaka Kikuchi in honor of Kokuzo. In 1605, the temple was reconstructed by Kiyomasa Kato which fueled popularity in Kokuzo worship throughout the Kumamoto and Kyushu



areas.

Kokuzo was thought to grant worshippers wisdom on their quest toward enlightenment, improvement in technical skills, and artistic talents.

Eventually, the domain became the fiefdom of the Hosokawa clan and Kokuzo worship continued to flourish.

A maku curtain with a Kuyo crest was presented by the Hosokawa clan to the temple which eventually became its official crest. A Kuyo crest is well-known as the family

crest of the Hosokawa clan and has the Sun in the center, surrounded by eight planets excluding earth.

When Buddhism was introduced into Japan through China in the late 6th Century, the Japanese attempted to merge Buddhism with Shinto traditions. As a result, Buddhist temples were attached to Shinto shrines and vice versa.

Yotsuyama Jinja became a Shinto shrine after the Meiji Revolution in 1868.





Kineya Sakio (Bryson Goda) performed with other renowned musical artists in a Charity Concert on 3/1 at the famed Mitsukoshi Theatre in Nihonbashi, Tokyo.

The concert was a benefit for the reconstruction efforts of the devastating Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami.

MARCH

- 6 3 pm
Sake Appreciation Festival
- 12- & 13 10 am - 4 pm
Honolulu Festival

APRIL

- 3 3 pm
Tsukinamisai
- 10 3 pm
Spring Thanksgiving Festival & Scholarship Presentation

MAY

- 1 3 pm
Tsukinamisai
- 7 & 8 10 am - 4 pm
Pet Expo

- 29 8 am
Honolulu Shinto Renmei Memorial Day Service

JUNE

- 5 9 am - 2 pm
Chinowa for People & Pets

Maintenance



Door closers and bumpers were installed on the hall doors on 2/11 by Mike Lee



Doors were primed and painted on 2/21 by Bob Harada

Upgrades were made to the shrine's lighting system in the Shinsenjo on 2/12 by Mike Lee.

Repairs were made to the shrine's security video system on 2/26 by Fred Higa

Pothole patching blitz continues in the parking lot by Mike Lee, Bob Harada and Rev Takizawa.

