

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

MARCH 2021



A Boat Blessing was
performed in Hawaii
Kai on March 14

DONATIONS

Yohei Azegami
Bradford Chun
Bill & Keiko Doughty
Anthony Fujii
Rodney & Sharon Isa
Islander Sake Brewery
Collin Kobayashi
James & Melba Kurashige
Clarence Kuroiwa
Mike Lee
Carol Matsuwaki
Steve Miwa
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Craig & Diane Nishida
Nicholas Ponce
Akiko Sanai
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Robert Stallings
Shiho Wamura
Brian & Dawn Yamanaka



Sake, a byproduct of rice has long been a vital part of Japanese culture.

Sake has an important place at festivals, ceremonies and rituals. Whether imbibed during *Sansankudo* at a Shinto wedding ceremony or at a festival, *sake* has symbolized the miracle of nature.

There were several popular *sake* breweries on Oahu, however the most famous was Honolulu Sake Brewery of *Takara Masamune* fame.

A new *sake* brewery opened in Kakaako in

2020 - 31 years since Honolulu Sake Brewery closed its doors.

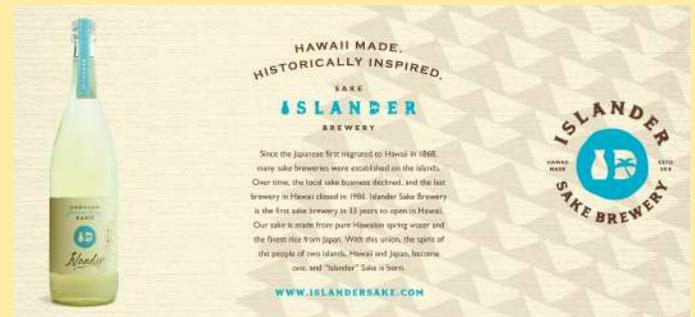
Islander Sake Brewery's owner and *toji*, Chiaki Takahashi was a researcher and instructor at the National Research of Brewing in Tokyo.

She hopes to revive *sake* brewing in Hawaii and has already produced *Daiginjo*, *Junmai Ginjo*, *Ginjo* and

Nigorizake.

The shrine's annual Sake Appreciation Festival was initiated to acknowledge the gift that alcoholic beverages made from rice like *sake* are to the world and our lives.

Although the event was canceled this year due to COVID-19, be sure to celebrate this miracle of nature - - *sake*, with family and friends!!



GOKITO Private Blessings



Yakudoshi years are said to hold many physical and emotional challenges especially *Dai Yaku* (Major *Yaku*) years which are 42 for men and 33 for women.

Crisis is an opportunity for growth and *Yakudoshi* is a time to look within yourself, recognize and acknowledge the changes, take stock of your life and set new goals.

Yakudoshi Blessings are meant to reconnect your spirit within to help you through the challenges.



Prayers for strength, resilience and comfort for an ohana member in need of health and healing was performed on February 12.

Dealing with an illness is never easy and can often leave those surrounding the suffering individual feeling helpless.

If you or your loved ones are sick and in need of healing, whether physical, spiritual or emotional - offer your loved one encouraging words of support and a special blessing.



Kanai Anzen family blessing was performed on February 14



A blessing for Good Health was performed on March 14

BOAT BLESSING

Throughout the centuries, *Kotohira-gu* has been a shrine dedicated to marine safety, agriculture, industry and prosperity.



Kotohira-gu or its nickname *Konpira-san* is said to have been founded on Mount Zozu in the 1st century to enshrine *Oomono nushi no Mikoto*. The original shrine name was *Kotohira Jinja*.

In 1165, *Kotohira Jinja* became *Kotohira Daigongen* and was a



place of worship as both a Shinto shrine and a *Shingon* Buddhist temple called *Matsuoji*.

Many shrines and temples shared the same building until the separation of Shinto and Buddhism by policy of the Meiji government in 1868.

In 1868, *Kotohira Daigongen* chose to be a Shinto shrine and officially changed its name to *Kotohira-gu*.

Kotohira-gu has been considered a sacred shrine for travelers for centuries as once you visit the shrine - all your travels are said to

be blessed with safety.

Commoners were not allowed to travel during the *Edo* period (1603 - 1868). However pilgrimages to the Grand shrines of Ise and *Kotohira-gu* was allowed and popular among the masses as once-in-a-lifetime destinations.

Kotohira-gu was famous for *Kotohira* dogs which were sent in place of their masters who could not make the pilgrimage personally.

A small bag would be hung from the dog's neck containing an *ofuda*, monetary offerings and travel expenses.

Travelers on their way to *Kotohira-gu* would care for and lead the dog to the shrine.



CALENDAR

MARCH

28 3:00 pm (INTERNAL)

Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service

APRIL

24 1:00 pm

Clean up & Prep

25 3:00 pm (INTERNAL)

Spring Thanksgiving Festival

MAY

2 3:00 pm (INTERNAL)

Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service

30 8:00 am (CANCELED)

Honolulu Shinto Renmei

Memorial Day Service

Arrival of
Commodore
Perry



TYCOON

Meaning: wealthy, powerful person

Origin: When the US forced Japan to open full commercial and diplomatic relations with the West in 1854, the ruler of the nation was the *Sei-i Taishogun* or *Shogun*. The *Shogun* was head of the feudal hierarchy based in *Edo* (Later *Tokyo*) and the Emperor controlled the imperial court in *Kyoto*.

Shogun means "General of the Army" which lacked an image of power and grandeur. The title *Tai-kun* which literally means Great Lord or Supreme Commander was used by the Tokugawa government in dealings with Perry in an attempt to portray the Shogun as being more important and powerful than the Emperor in *Kyoto*.

The term *Tai-kun* spelled Tycoon in America - became popular when Perry brought the word back with him to the US. Two of President Lincoln's aides were fans of the new word from Japan and often referred to President Lincoln as "Tycoon."

It was revived in 1920s journalism to mean "a businessman of exceptional wealth and power," a usage that continues to be part of the English language.

Naomi Osaka defeated Jennifer Brady in the finals to win the Women's Single Tennis Title at the 2021 Australian Open.

As seen on TV, Naomi Osaka walked the Champion's Walk leading to the court for the Australian Open finals with her headphones, racket case on her back and a red *omamori* hanging from her bag.

The photo of her with an *omamori* went viral in Japan with thousands of fans scrambling to obtain the same *omamori* which many felt led to her victory.

The *omamori* is a *Hissho* or victory *omamori* from *Shirasaki Hachimangu* shrine of Iwakuni city, Yamaguchi Prefecture.

Hachiman, literally means "the *kami* of eight banners" and is said to be the *kami* of victory, conquest, divination and success.



Hachiman was also the tutelary *kami* of samurai warriors and Japanese martial artists.

Shirasaki Hachimangu of Iwakuni city has deep ties to this shrine.

Rev. Misao Isobe, the 3rd *Guji* Chief priest for the shrine served at *Shirasaki Hachimangu* until his arrival in Hawaii in 1928.

In 1930, a *Gobunrei* (spirit of the deity of the main shrine) was received from *Shirasaki Hachimangu* of Iwakuni city and

the *Shirasaki Hachimangu Hosan-kai* was established at the shrine by Miyozo Komeya with a membership of over 600 *Issei* families from Yamaguchi-ken.

The *Isseis* attached great significance to their ancestral home and created prefectural, city and village associations outside of Japan.

The *Gobunrei* of *Shirasaki Hachimangu* is still in the altar of the Kotohira Jinsha-side of the shrine and reverence is performed at our monthly services and at our annual Autumn Thanksgiving Festivals.



MAINTENANCE

On 2/17, the spalled concrete was sawcut, chipped and the degraded concrete removed to expose the rusted rebars.

Electricians came on 2/18 to disconnect the wiring embedded under the walkway.

Concrete poured in hot weather, low humidity or high winds can suffer adverse effects if proper adjustments are not made to the process.

According to the masons, concrete



sets by hydrating. It sucks up water and forms crystals around the particles in the concrete. The cooler the concrete, the longer this process takes and the more time the crystals have to strengthen.

When concrete is hotter, the crystallization process happens more quickly, giving the crystals less time to strengthen.

The lack of water will also lead to weaker concrete, which means the concrete will be more susceptible to cracking.

It seems cement is an ingredient in concrete. Cement is made up of water and cement, which is primarily limestone in the form of fine powder. The paste if forms is combined with larger aggregates to make concrete.

As seen in the photo below, the middle section of the walkway has no rebars due to total disintegration.



The existing reinforced steel rebars were removed due to severe rusting.

New epoxy-coated rebars and dowel bars with an environmentally friendly corrosion inhibitor replaced the rusted rebars.



Concrete was poured on 2/22 and left to set and cure for 10 days.

Setting simply means the concrete has reached a completely solid-state but it still needs additional time to reach its full strength.

We were informed that concrete will set in about 2 days and reach 70% of its strength in about seven days. After 28 days concrete is generally considered to be fully

cured and at 100% strength.

A polymer-modified Cement wash was used to achieve a smooth finish on the concrete surfaces.

Portions of the main stairs leading to the second floor priest's quarters were also repaired with concrete and epoxy.



The second floor walkway is exposed to the elements, so a penetrating waterproofing sealant was applied to the concrete surface.

Electricians from Akamai Builders removed the dead wiring under the walkway and re-wired the exterior lights in a metal conduit attached to the exterior wall.



Electrical re-wiring

We extend our deepest appreciation to our shrine supporters for their generous donations that makes all of our maintenance and preservation projects possible and to Akamai Builders for creating a successful repair scenario based on our structure's unique situation.