

# Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

MAY 2018



The first Shichigosan blessing of 2018 was performed on May 10

# MAHALO

## for your donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa  
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Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh  
Craig & Diane Nishida  
Glenn & Esther Nishio  
Akiko Sanai  
Gary & Linda Shinsato  
Allan Takeshita

## New Shrine Logo

The shrine finally has its own visual identity, created by the icon of Aloha wear - Sig Zane of Hilo.

Sig is a child of Hawaii and has lived in the rhythms of nature with an intimate knowledge of the relationship of nature and mankind and of traditional Hawaiian culture. His philosophies echo those of Shinto.

The shrine's new visual identity is a tangible form of the traditions of the shrine represented by the sacred *Sakaki* which symbolizes a Sense of Place, Offering, Balance, Growth, Purity, Sincerity, Gratitude and Family.

These important principles are the foundation of our shrine.



**HAWAII**  
KOTOHIRA JINSHA  
DAZAIFU TENMANGU



Shrine Director **Bryson Goda** aka Hanayagi Mitsujyuro left for Japan on April 22 to train for a year in *Nihon Buyo* classical dance and *Shamisen*.

He presently has a *Shihan* Dance Master's license and will be pursuing a *Shihan* in *shamisen* from the Kineya school of *Nagauta. Ganbatte!!!*

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

# Baby Blessing

Children are the fulfillment of the dreams of many generations. Few things are as profound and life-changing as welcoming a child into your life, whether by birth, marriage or adoption.

Honor these milestones with ceremonies to help you step into parenthood, feel the support of our loved ones and recognize the role others will play in your child's life.

A Baby Blessing was performed for Micah on May 6.



① 乳児は肌を離すな



② 幼児は肌を離して  
手を離すな



③ 少年は手を離して  
目を離すな



④ 青年は目を離して  
心を離すな



## 4 Japanese teachings for raising a child

Research reveals that American children lag behind in academic achievement, happiness and wellness.

The Japanese child reading practices are based on the dependency of the child on their mother, contrary to American culture where the child needs to be independent.

Here are some tips from the Japanese in child rearing:

1. Keep your newborn by your skin
2. Let a baby leave your skin, but do not let them leave your hands
3. Let a child leave your hands, but not your sight
4. Let a youth leave your sight, but not your heart





A House Blessing was performed in Halawa on April 16.

The land and home was symbolically purified and cleansed of old negative energies, making way for positive and a balanced atmosphere of peace, protection and happiness.



A *Kanreki* and *Beiju* Birthday blessing was performed on May 11.

In Shinto, there are many passages of later life and rituals that support and guide people through the spiritual dimensions of those passages.

The 88th birthday is the occasion of *beiju* (米寿) or "rice birthday", because the Chinese character for rice, 米, looks like the characters for eight tens plus eight (八十八).



The annual raising of the *Koi Nobori* in celebration of *Tango no Sekku* or Boy's Day was done on April 20. The *koi* carp is thought to be the most spirited of fish - full of courage, power and determination that it can fight it's way up swift running streams and cascades.

Visit our website: [www.jinja.us](http://www.jinja.us)



Welcome to Hawaii !! Eight members of the Fukuoka-ken *Sosaigyō Kyōdo Kumiai Seinenbu* (Fukuoka Prefecture Funeral Directors Co-op - Young Entrepreneurs Division) was greeted with a *Seishiki Sanpai* ceremony on May 6.

The Co-op is part of the All Japan Funeral Directors Association which was established 63 years ago and boasts a membership of 1327 Funeral-related businesses throughout Japan.

The eight visitors are from the Yame City Chapter.



Tobaya Sanemon III, deemed a Living National Treasure by the Japanese government visited the shrine on May 9.

Tobaya Sanemon III is an iconic Nagauta artist who will be performing in a Kabuki production in Honolulu next March.

# CALENDAR

## MAY

12 11 am  
**Paint Project**

27 8 am  
**Shinto Renmei Memorial Day Service**

## JUNE

2 1 pm  
**Clean up and preparation**

3 9 am ~ 2 pm  
**Chinowa for People & Pets**

## JULY

1 3 pm  
**Tsukinamisai**

1-7 9 am ~ 4 pm  
**Writing of Tanabata Wishes**

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

# Rice and Japanese culture

Rice cultivation is a timeless part of Japanese history and culture.

It is still not clear as to where and when rice originated from. Most scholars theorize that rice was first cultivated in China and went overland to Korea and then by sea to southern Japan.

The oldest remains of rice paddies in Japan are found in *Miyakonojo* in *Kyushu* and is said to date back to the 4th or 5th century BCE.

Rice cultivation required intense communal labor. Eventually, villages began to form, consisting of farming families which evolved into the Japanese societal structure.

Here in Hawaii, rice farms once occupied more than 25 percent of the usable agricultural lands.

Rice planting expanded to 9,400 acres and output reached 42

million pounds in the early 1900s.

Rice paddies stretched from the Keeaumoku area all the way into Waikiki. The area around Sheridan Street was called "Pake Patch" because of the rice farms operated by Chinese immigrants.

In 1890, the Islands exported more than 10 million pounds of rice and more than 5,000 laborers worked in rice fields on all the islands.

In 1899, Hawaii was the third largest producer of rice in the US, behind Louisiana and South Carolina.

A decline in rice production occurred in the 1920s and most rice farmers left the business before World War II. Higher land costs, the need to invest in new technology and the arrival of the rice weevil brought an end to Island-grown rice.

Japan is one of the most urbanized countries in the world, However it still retains Shinto values evolved from rice production.

MAHALO NUI LOA to **Allan Takeshita** for cultivating rice plants for all the shrines in Hawaii and offering stalks at every Taisai festival.

The rice offering is a constant reminder of our values that are embodied in rice production and the cycles of nature, the value of family, hard work and harmony with others.





# Maintenance

The Painting project continues with painting of the *rankan* banisters. Banisters on the Dazaifu-side were painted on 4/21 and 4/27

The *rankan* banisters were last painted in February 2002 by:

**Hitoshi Fujisaki**  
**Arthur Isa**  
**James Kunichika**

**Bob Harada**  
**James Kaneshiro**  
**Masa Takizawa**

Mahalo Nui for the great exterior paint job that lasted 16 years !!



## MAHALO Volunteers

Midori Abe  
Bob Harada  
Arthur Isa  
Craig Nishida  
Gary Shinsato  
Linda Shinsato

M  
E  
A  
C  
G