

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha • Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

APRIL 2022



The Spring Thanksgiving Festival was performed on Sunday, April 24

MAHALO for your generous Donations

Bill & Keiko Doughty
Carly Fujinaka
Bryson & Reiko Goda
Miyoko Hanahara
Arthur K. Isa
Rodney & Sharon Isa
Seizo Imamura
Jaren Iwane
James & Melba Kurashige
Mike Lee
Yae Miko
Steve Miwa
Jake Nagasawa
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Craig & Diane Nishida
Akiko Sanai
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Robert Stallings
Naomi Teramoto



Two wooden stands called *An*, using a highly prized wood called *Hinoki* (Japanese Cypress) were fabricated and donated by **Mike Lee**.

An, also known as *Hakkyaku An* or *Hassoku An* because of its 8 legs, were used as tables and stands in shrines since ancient times.

Hinoki has long been used in Japan for its beauty, durability and natural fragrance which wards off a host of insects.

CALENDAR

MAY

- 1 2 pm (INTERNAL)**
Tsukinamisai Monthly Service
- 29 8 am (Rev. Takizawa only)**
Memorial Day Service
(Punchbowl, Makiki Cemetery,
Moiliili Cemetery)

JUNE

- 5 10 am - 2 pm (CANCELED)**
Chinowa for People & Pets
(Mark your calendars for
6/4/2023)
- 2 pm (INTERNAL)**
Tsukinamisai Monthly Service



Visit our website at www.jinja.us

SPRING THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL

The Spring Thanksgiving Festival is a time to remember the bounties that we receive from nature and the friendships, kindnesses, generosity and guidance received from everyone who has touched and shaped our lives.

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha was established in 1920, however, 2022 marks the 70th year since the *Gobunrei* (essence of the *kami*) authorized for worship by Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka was brought to Hawaii.

At the urging of the Honolulu Fukuoka Kenjin Kai and its members - the *Gobunrei* was hand-carried by the 38th Chief Priest **Nobusada Nishitakatsuji** of Dazaifu Tenmangu by train from Fukuoka to Tokyo.



Nobusada Nishitakatsuji, Chief Priest of Dazaifu Tenmangu (1920 - 1987)

The *Gobunrei* was then transported via ship from Yokohama by **Yotaro Fujino** who arrived in Honolulu on July 24, 1952.

Yotaro was the president of both Fukuoka Kenjin Kai and Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha and had a second home in *Denenchofu, Tokyo* where the *Gobunrei* was temporarily kept.

In 1985, the name of the shrine was officially changed to Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu.

A few months later, Chief Priest Nobusada Nishitakatsuji stopped in Honolulu after receiving his Masters from Harvard University to participate in a ceremony to celebrate the new beginning.



First Spring Thanksgiving Festival in 1953, after receiving the Dazaifu Tenmangu *Gobunrei* in 1952.

SPRING THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL

The pandemic erupted in February 2020, just ahead of the 2020 Spring Thanksgiving Festival.

Despite the continuing declines in infections and easing of restrictions, this year's ceremony was performed on Sunday, April 24 in the presence of the Board members - without a congregation and without any guests from Japan.



The ceremony began with a moment of silence by president **Bryson Goda** for the many victims of COVID-19 and the victims of ongoing armed conflicts around the globe.

The annual scholarships will be awarded to 5 students by mail - Stirling Sakashita, Danielle Sato, Madisen Yasui, Tiffani Muramoto and Sara Tash.

Deaths from COVID-19 surpassed 6 million globally with nearly 1 million of those deaths in the US.

Rates of infections, hospitalization and deaths have dropped - - hopefully indicating that we are transitioning from a pandemic to an endemic state of being more predictable and manageable.



It is with humility that we thank the Board, Officers and our supporters for keeping this shrine spiritually healthy for the past two years.

We hope to be able to once again share the spiritual traditions of our annual Spring Thanksgiving Festival with the community in Spring 2023.

2022 SCHOLARSHIPS

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha
• Hawaii Dazaifu
Tenmangu believes that education is crucial to the development of future leaders.

The Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu Scholarship was created in 2012 to award scholarships to qualified applicants attending an accredited high school, university or vocational school regardless of race, religion, sex or national origin.

This year marks our 11th year and we are happy to award five outstanding students.



Stirling Sakashita and his family have been devoted volunteers at the shrine for over a decade.

Stirling attended Iolani School since Kindergarten and was named Defensive Player of the Year - leading his team last year to the championship games as captain.

Stirling will be attending the University of Chicago this fall.



Danielle Sato is an alumna of Maryknoll High School and graduated from UH Manoa in 2014 with a BA in Psychology and a Minor in History.

She volunteers regularly at the shrine and is currently studying Japanese through UH Manoa's Outreach College. She is pursuing ordination and licensing as a Shinto cleric through one of Japan's Jinja-based Training Centers.



Madisen Mariko Yasui is a senior at Moanalua High School and will graduate with honors this summer.

Madisen will be attending San Diego State University as a Biology major with plans to become an orthodontist.

She is a Varsity Cheerleader at school, as well as on the All Star Cheer Team.

2022 SCHOLARSHIPS



Tiffani U'ilani Muramoto is currently in her graduate year at UH Manoa, majoring in Computer Animation and minoring in English.

She has been with the Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Fdn since 2012 and initially took shamisen before odori. She looks forward to continuing with odori and shamisen for many years to come.



Sara Tash is presently attending Punahou School.

She has studied piano for 13 years and is an excellent pianist. Sara also loves drawing and Japanese anime.

She is planning to go to college on the mainland to study aviation and to become a professional pilot. Sara is currently training for her private pilot's license.

Past Scholarship Recipients

2012

Bryson Teruo Goda
Kai Aaron Igarashi
Lucas Mattice
Tatiana Omokawa

2013

Jeffrey Ga Min Fujioka
Geraldine Gambalan
Lukela Los Banos
Jill Mari Mishida
Daniel Song

2014

Stacie Akemi Hata
Calvin Mai
Melvin Monces
Scott Okamura

2015

Alexandria Carlyle
Milena Sayaka Naitoh
John Sunahara
Dane Yamada

2016

Kazuumi Fujioka
Kylie Ling
Stuart Pang
Bethany Schwartz
James Yonemura

2017

Cassandra Carlyle
Cherie Ishihara
Skye Sakashita
Staci Shimamoto
Jensn Yasui

2018

Gavin Desamito
Victoria Hallett
Taylor Suzuki
Kylie Tamashiro
Micah Tong
Katherine Yoakum

2019

Joseph Agag

Dakota Rei Chun
Kilala Hall
Brenna Imada
Zeph Kaneshiro
Jordan Kimura
Konner Uratsuka

2020

Keng-Hsien Chao
Rayce Manriki
Kaylee Rafol
Skye Miyauchi
Kody Watanabe
Dorthea Yoakum

2021

Kody Watanabe
Landon Kimura
Becky Isa
Skye Miyauchi
Dorthea Yoakum



GOKITO

MAINTENANCE



A House Blessing was performed for a brand new home in Koa Ridge.

Many of you have gone to a home or business and felt "bad" feelings or vibes. House Blessings promotes spiritual healing for your residence and surrounds your environment with positive energies.



A car which was involved in a hit-and-run in the Moanalua area in the early morning hours of 3/27 was towed to and abandoned in front of the shrine a few hours after the incident.

Shattered glass, plastic and metal debris from the wrecked vehicle was scattered on the sidewalk and street.

Six police vehicles responded to the 911 call reporting the suspicious vehicle.



Cleaning was done on April 22, in preparation for the 70th Spring Thanksgiving Festival