

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

June 2024



The annual Chinowa for People & Pets was held on June 2. The Chinowa event began 19 years ago and still attracts animal lovers from all over the island.

DONATIONS

Bill & Keiko Doughty
Bryson & Reiko Goda
Hawaii Doggie Bakery
Art Isa
Arthur & Becky Isa
Juston Isa
Rodney & Sharon Isa
James & Melba Kurashige
Yae Miko
Steve Miwa

Shinken & Marlyn Naitoh
Craig & Diane Nishida
Akiko Sanai
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Robert Stallings
Takizawa Ohana
Sharon Tanigawa
Lena Yafuso
Lena Yafuso

501(c)(3) nonprofits are a specific class of nonprofit organizations recognized by the IRS, including most churches that operates solely for religious purposes.

MAHALO for your most generous donations to

the shrine, which are tax-deductible up to fullest extent allowed by law as long as you itemize your deductions.

Shrine's tax exemption number: 99-6007158

CALENDAR

JULY

- 1 - 7 8:30 am - 4 pm**
Tanabata Wish Tags available in the shine
- 7 2 pm**
Tsukinamisai Monthly Service

AUGUST

- 3 1 pm**
Clean up and preparations
- 4 10 am - 1 pm**
Back-To-School Blessing



SEPTEMBER

- 1 8:30 am (ONLINE ONLY)**
Reservations accepted for Shichigosan, Totose no Oiwai and Jusan Mairi
Online reservations at www.jinja.us
- 2 pm**
Autumn Thanksgiving Festival

CHINOWA for People & Pets

A procession of people, dogs and cats went through the Chinowa Ring on Sunday, June 2 for the annual Chinowa for People & Pets Blessing at the shrine.

The event began 19 years ago in 2005, with a 3-year hiatus during COVID-19.

For the 6th year, Hamada Financial offered free Keiki IDs in their booth.

Some pets hung around for "Yappy Hour" while others slurped Pet Shave ice in the "Barking lot."

MAHALO VOLUNTEERS

Keng Hsien Chao

Becky Isa

Craig Nishida

Jeff Fujioka

Juston Isa

Diane Nishida

Art Isa

Tom Jannuzzio

Stuart Pang

Arthur Isa

Marilyn Naitoh

Jasmine Umeno



CHINOWA PREP

Chinowa making and prep was done on 6/1.

MAHALO to:

Keng Hsien Chao

Art Isa

Arthur Isa

Becky Isa

Juston Isa

Craig Nishida

Diane Nishida

Marilyn Naitoh



CHINOWA RING

The Chinowa ring ritual is observed as part of the *Nagoshi no O-charae* (Summer passing) ritual of surviving the hot humid summer in good health.

In Japanese legend, *Susanoo-no-mikoto* asked for a night of shelter to some villagers he encountered during a trip.

A rich villager named *Tanshorai* denied him shelter, however his elder brother *Somin Shorai* warmly hosted *Susanoo-no-mikoto*.

Susanoo-no-mikoto was actually the *Kami* of

protection from natural disasters and epidemics.

As a reward, *Susanoo-no-mikoto* instructed *Somin Shorai* to protect his family against epidemics by wearing a ring made of *kaya* grass around the waist.

Somin Shorai and his family are said to have survived pandemics and the sweltering heat of summer.

Since, walking through a ring made of grass has been observed in June in hopes of surviving the sweltering heat of Japan.

CHINOWA Breakdown

MAHALO VOLUNTEERS

Larry Bautista

Arthur Isa

Marilyn Naitoh

Keng Hsien Chao

Becky Isa

Craig Nishida

Jeff Fujioka

Juston Isa

Diane Nishida

Art Isa

Tom Jannuzzio

Jasmine Umeno



TI LEAVES

The *Ti* plant, originally called *Ki* and was considered sacred to the Hawaiian god Lono and the goddess of Hula, Laka.

In ancient times, the *Ki* plant was used as material for clothing, rain gear, roof thatching, religious ceremonies and making *Okolehao* from its roots.

Kahunas use the leaf to sprinkle holy water to bless and leis are woven to use in rituals such as openings of new sites and buildings.

The shrine's *Chinowa* ring is made of *Ti* leaves in honor of our Hawaiian host culture which believes that *Ti* leaves have great spiritual powers.



KOTOHIRA DOGS

Kotohira-gu, in Japan is documented as being established about 3,000 years ago. Since, it has been affectionately known as "Konpira- san."

The Hawaii branch of Kotohira-gu was established in 1920 and named Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha.

During the 17th century when Konpira pilgrimage was very popular, those who were not able to make the pilgrimage themselves, sent their dogs to Konpira-san on their behalf.

From one traveler to another the dogs were cared for and guided in the right direction until they eventually arrived at Konpira-san.

Offerings to Konpira-san along with the name and address of the owner and money to purchase food were placed in a bag with "*Konpira Mairi*" written on it and tied around the neck of the dogs.

Upon the dogs arrival at Konpira-san, prayers were offered for the donor and *ofuda* were placed in a bag and tied around the dog's neck.

The dogs were then fed, given a good night's rest and sent back to their owners in the same way they came.



Tanabata is one of Japan's five ancient festivals and is observed annually on July 7.

The five festivals are: New Years Day, Girl's Day, Boy's Day, *Tanabata* and *Choyo Chrysathemum Festival*.

Originating in China as *Qixi* and first observed in Japan in the 8th century, *Tanabata* marks the annual meeting of two star-crossed lovers - *Orihime* (Vega) the weaver star and *Hikoboshi* (Altair) the Cow herd star.

Tanzaku tags and pens will be available in the shrine from **July 1 - July 7** between **8:30 am - 4:00 pm**.

Wish upon a star by writing your wishes on one of the *tanzaku* tags of various shapes and hang them on the bamboo branch in the shrine.



GOKITO Private Blessings



A renovation blessing was performed for shrine friends on June 19.

Bathtubs, while a common feature, doesn't always get a lot of use.

The enormous bathtub was taken out and replaced with a roomy shower with a built-in seat and large glass doors that

opened up the space, making the bathroom feel large, light and airy.

The previous shower was ingeniously converted into a linen closet.

A sophisticated mix of materials turned a traditional bathroom into a dream bathroom!

A 50th day memorial service was conducted for Rev. Takizawa's father, Takashi on June 5 who passed away suddenly in Japan at the age of 99.

Takashi was healthy and active -- riding his bicycle to go to the supermarket and tended to his garden daily.

Japan has the highest number of centenarians in the world and offers broad prevention efforts with comprehensive social and medical care.

Takashi's *Reiji* memorial tablet will be kept at the shrine along with the many shrine friends who have left this world before us.



View event photos at: www.flickr.com/kotohira-dazaifu