

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha • Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu



March 2026

Shunbun no Hi or the Spring (Vernal) Equinox is traditionally a day to honor your departed loved ones. In Japan, many families visit graves and have Remembrance services at shrines and temples. Here at the shrine, a ceremony was conducted on 3/20 for former Board members and friends whose *Reiji* tablets are interred at the shrine.

Alexandria Carlyle
Bill & Keiko Doughty
Bryson & Reiko Goda
Rodney & Sharon Isa
Jean Ishihara
Yae Miko
Steve Miwa
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh



Craig & Diane Nishida
Akiko Sanai
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Robert Stalling
Tanabe Ohana
Dean & Naomi Teramoto
Hanae Watanabe
Gordon Wong

A pair of *Hina* dolls were placed in the shrine to celebrate *Hina Matsuri* Girl's Day on March 3.

Hina Matsuri began as a Chinese ritual in the 8th century called *Joshi no Sekku* or the festival of the Snake.

Paper effigies cut into the shape of humans were scattered in rivers to disperse negative energies.

The modern day tradition of displaying *Hina* dolls began in the 1700s.



APRIL

- 4 10 am**
Cleanup and preparations
- 5 2 pm**
Spring Thanksgiving Festival
Scholarship Awards
Volunteer Awards

MAY

- 3 2 pm**
Tsukinamisai Monthly Service
- 29 8 am** (Rev Takizawa only)
Memorial Day Service
(Punchbowl, Makiki & Moilili Cemeteries)

GOKITO Private Blessings



Several shrine friends celebrated their milestone birthdays.

May the coming year be a time of flourishing, fostering growth in both our professional and personal endeavors!!!



Family traditions like Kanai Anzen allow us an opportunity to express gratitude to our ancestors, affirm the love we have for each other and recognize the importance of being together



GOKITO Private Blessings

An 1-year Remembrance Ceremony was performed for a shrine friend.

The one-year death anniversary is a day that holds a weight words can hardly express.

A death anniversary is a marker of time, a reminder of things that has changed and all that the survivors have endured.

The first anniversary is not just the memory of the loss, but the weight of an entire year navigating life without the deceased.

A 1-year Remembrance ceremony honors the deceased and brings peace to the heart and comfort to the soul of the living.



MAINTENANCE

The shrine's six fire extinguishers were serviced and certified last month by Alert Alarm/National Fire protection.

All components were examined to ensure they're mechanically functional and safe to use.



Japanese Names



The 2025 name rankings were announced by *Tamahiyo*, a media outlet specializing in parenting and childcare.

Most modern Japanese names no longer end with ~*ko* (子) - a trend that began in the 1920s and faded in the 1980s.

Names that English speakers can pronounce continue to rise as more families travel and work abroad.

BOYS

1. AO - means azure, referring to life or growth
2. MINATO - to venture out into the world
3. HARUTO - spread one's wings and fly
4. ASAHI - new beginnings like the sunrise
5. REN - like the lotus flower emerging beautifully from muddy waters
6. YUITO - elevating one's spirit
7. NAGI - staying calm in the storm
8. HARU - sunny skies that represents

energy, positivity and confidence

9. SORA - freedom to grow naturally
10. RITSU- righteous path

GIRLS

1. SUI - life of inner peace and harmony
2. HIMARI- meaning sunflower, symbolizing positivity and devotion
3. RIN - positive attitude that brings a breath of fresh air
4. MEI - infinite possibilities like a budding plant
5. HINA - cheerful, healthy and nurturing
6. AOI - symbolizes nobility, tranquility and grace.
7. KOTOHA - classic, dignified name
8. TSUMUGI - community and interconnectedness
9. YUZUKI - embracing human bonds
10. MIO - pure, divine waters



CONGRATULATIONS to shrine Vice President Marilyn Naitoh and former shrine president Shinken Naitoh on becoming grandparents!

You are getting the best job of all - pampering, spoiling and cuddling!

Precious little Maya was born in Singapore in January.

MAINTENANCE

The worst flood in 20 years hit Honolulu in mid-March. A Kona Low storm formed bringing heavy rains, strong winds and flash flooding.

The usual trade winds reversed, allowing moist air to flow into the islands, resulting in severe weather conditions.

The recent thunderstorms put the



shrine's kitchen roof through extreme stress - battering it with wind and rain. The ceiling began to leak in one area of the kitchen.

Luckily, the kitchen is a side extension of the main hall with a separate flat roof. The main hall roof was not compromised.

Old rags were placed along the interior of the sliding doors of both shrines to block water intrusion. On the exterior of the shrine, sandbags were placed on top of vinyl sheets to keep the rain from getting through the sliding doors.



The sump pump outside of the basement meeting room was constantly monitored to prevent flooding in case of a power outage. Miraculously, Kalihi with it's aging grid was not hit with a power outage this time around.