

# Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha • Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

March 2025



Our warmest congratulations on the birth of your precious son!!! May his beautiful smile make your world a little brighter everyday!



# MAHALO for your generous Donations

Dylan Barnthouse

Bradford Chun

Kyle Clymore

Bill & Keiko Doughty

Bryson & Reiko Goda

Mitsuru & Pam Igarashi

Rodney & Sharon Isa

James & Melba Kurashige

Yae Miko

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Rheanna Pulley

Akiko Sanai

Gary & Linda Shinsato

Robert Stalling

Lia Takeshita

Shiho Wamura

Takashi Wamura

**MAHALO** for your donations of Sake

Bryson & Reiko Goda

Art Isa

Arthur & Becky Isa

KSK Hawaii

Craig & Diane Nishida

Manako Ogawa

Gary & Linda Shinsato

Irene Takizawa

Naomi Teramoto

Earl Yamamoto



Congratulations to a couple from Missouri who celebrated their union at the shrine on 3/8.

A traditional Shinto ceremony is known as *Shinzen kekkon* and emphasizes harmony with nature, reverence for family and ancestors.

The major focus of a Shinto wedding is *San San Kudo* - the exchanging of sake.

Each sip carries a specific significance, making it a rich tapestry of humility, gratitude and honor.

The couple was well versed in Japanese traditions and was inspired to be united in a Shinto ceremony during a recent visit to Dazaifu Tenmangu in Fukuoka.

Mahalo Nui for embracing and celebrating the unique cultural identities and perspectives that make our world more prosperous and vibrant.

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

# GOKITO Private Blessings



A staunch friend and supporter of the shrine celebrated his Milestone Birthday at the shrine.

As you celebrate another year - may you be surrounded by all the things that make your heart happy!

A long distance blessing was performed for a shrine friend in Taiwan.

Congratulations on being recognized with an award for the valuable contributions you make as a volunteer!



Congratulations on the birth of your little bundle of joy!

A traditional *Omiya-mairi*, also known as *Hatsumiya mairi* was performed for a darling little boy on 3/23.

*Hatsumiya-mairi* is a tradition where a newborn is taken to the shrine for the first time to report their birth to their ancestors and the guardian deity of one's birthplace.

It also expresses gratitude for the safe delivery and to pray for the baby's healthy growth.

# GOKITO Private Blessings

The shrine was saddened by the passing of our friend, Robert Ishihara on 2/11, at the age of 93.

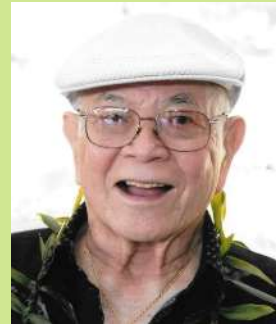
Robert's father was the longtime caretaker of Hosoi Mortuary.

Robert began as a parking attendant at Hosoi Mortuary and eventually became a successful embalmer

Robert and his wife Jean are devoted supporters of the shrine and the driving force behind the Otaki Jinja Hozon Kai for decades.



The Otaki Jinja and Otaki Jinja Hozon Kai was established in 1930 by the first President, Teiichi Sugimoto with a



membership of over 120 families from Otake City in Hiroshima. Since, Hawaii Otaki Jinja has been patronized by descendants of *Isseis* from Otake City.

Robert was a wonderful singer and could be seen singing at community events with his wife, Jean.

It's hard to forget someone who gave you so much to remember.

Our heart goes out to Jean, Randall, Robyn, the Ishihara ohana and everyone who loved him.



*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.



# SAKE APPRECIATION FESTIVAL

# CALENDAR

Sake, a byproduct of rice has long been a vital part of Japanese culture and has an important place at festivals, ceremonies and rituals.

Sake was brewed and imbibed with the *kami* as a sign of gratitude and respect.

The shrine's annual Sake Appreciation Festival was held on March 2.

In Japan, sake drinking is a prominent cultural activity that comes with its own drinking etiquette.



In formal situations, it's important to adhere to the traditions as a sign of respect.

Sake is served out of a *tokkuri* vessel. One never pours for themselves, only others at the table.



Pour with your right hand and prop the *tokkuri* from the bottom with your left hand. It is the same protocol for beer.



## APRIL

**5 10 am**

Cleanup and preparations

**6 2 pm**

Spring Thanksgiving Festival

**2:45 pm**

Scholarship Awards

## MAY

**5 2 pm**

Tsukinamisai Monthly Service

**24 8 am** (Rev Takizawa only)

Memorial Day Service

(Punchbowl, Makiki & Moliili Cemeteries)





E Komo Mai Dr. Manako Ogawa!

Dr. Ogawa is a professor at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto and obtained her PhD from UH Manoa.

She's published numerous books and articles on the women's international peace and reform movements, fishing industry in Hawaii and the 1949 Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha vs McGrath case.



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 and leaves cut into the shape of humans were scattered in rivers to disperse negative energies and evil spirits.

The modern day tradition of displaying *Hina* dolls and eating *Hishi-mochi*, began in the 1700s.



On 3/13, the night sky delivered a rare celestial spectacle.

A total lunar eclipse, observable from Hawaii occurred around 8:36 pm - 9:21 pm, turning the moon a crimson red.

During a total lunar eclipse, the Earth's shadow blocks most of the light that illuminates the moon's surface, creating what is known as a blood moon.

# MAINTENANCE



The shrine's Hurricane insurance policy has come up for renewal. However, our provider for the last 30 years has ceased its insurance business in Hawaii, in a move precipitated by declining profitability.

Insurance, especially hurricane or disaster costs have soared across the country partly due to unpredictable weather patterns.



It's been a while since an inspection of the property and buildings by our provider was requested to assess the replacement cost and risks associated with the policy.

Mahalo to Gary Taketa of Pyramid Insurance for searching for provider options in this climate of reduced policy options and for helping to prepare for the inspection.



It's Alahe'e or the Hawaiian Mock orange season.

The mock orange flowers mature into thousands of little red egg-shaped fruits in early spring .

The tiny white flowers typically bloom during summer, making a spectacular and fragrant hedge.