

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

Yearend 2016



A *Joto-sai* (also known as *Mune-age shiki*) was performed on December 16 for a private home in Diamond Head. It was a rare chance in Hawaii to see the traditional observance of ancient Japanese construction practices.

The ceremony was to convey thanks to the workers for their efforts to this point and to pray for their safety as they climb about the roof and other dangerous heights. In accordance with tradition, a *gohei* wand was attached behind the rafters for protection.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Asst Priest (Perform Blessings for shrine visitors. Must wear kimono)

12/31 10:00 pm - 1/1 5:00 pm

Ozoni Team (grill mochi, serve ozoni mochi soup, clean tables)

12/31 10:00 pm - 2:30 am

1/1 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Kitchen Prep (cut & boil mizuna, kamaboko, prep dining area)

12/31 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Volunteer Services (prep catered food for volunteer lunches, clean up after lunch)

1/1 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

1/2 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Traffic Control (pass out flyers for offsite parking)

12/31 11:00 pm - 3:00 am

1/1 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Omamori Booth (Cashiers, baggers)

12/31 8:30 am - 11:30 pm

1/1 Midnight - 5:00 pm

1/2 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

1/3 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

1/4 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Saisen Booth (Give change, fill Saisen box)

12/31 10:00 pm - 3:00 am

1/1 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

We need help!!!

Contact Irene at:
kotohira@hawaiiantel.net

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

26 ~ 31 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

2017 Omamori available in meeting room

30 5:30 pm

Hatsumode preparations

31 11 pm

Toshikoshi no O-harae

JANUARY

1 Midnight - 5 pm

Hatsumode

8 10 am - 4 pm

JCCH Ohana New Years Festival

15 1 pm

Sagicho - Burning of old omamori

MAHALO for your donations

MAHALO NUI

Miyuki Aguillard
Hiroshi Amma
Dave & Rinko Begley
Mai Bell
Akemi Bogenhagen
Raymond & Keiko Brand
Keiko Burton
Mariko Cadus
Amy & Charles Castro
Chiharu Delgado
Yuki Engle
Joanne Furukawa
Yuki Hamada
Sean Harap
Darci Hata
Terri Irwin
Isa Reunion Ohana
Emily Iyomasa
Tracie Izumihara
Michael & Lei-Anne Jones
Miho Jones
Tae Kim
Bliss Kiyabu
Kell Komatsubara

James & Melba Kurashige
Jean & Yuki Laliberte
Ari Lau
Mike Lee
Katherine Masaki
Alastar McNeil
Keo & Mitsuyo Mendes
Ian Mickells
Saori Miranda
Satsuki Morales
Hiroki & Mariko Mori
Takahiro Murai
Ryo Nagaoka
Kazuko Nakamitsu
Les & Claudia Nakamura
Minako Nelson
Jayme & Yuka Newell
Sarina Nihei
Ann Nishida
Ron & Jan Nishihira
Eriko Nishiye
Eriko Oda
Ai Ogata
Mitsunobu Ohashi

Deborah Okada
Lance & Miyuki Okada
Rie Okamura
Mike & Jin Onuma
Darin & Aiko Ortega
Osaka Toyopet
Kaoruko Oshiro
Ashlyn Ponteras
Yui Putra
Adrienne Rivera
John & Liane Sataraka
Miyono Shimoda
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Yoshinori Shiraishi
Yurika Sumiya
Scott & Jenny Suzuki
Ailene Tanaka
Ryan & Sonia Toguchi
Kelli Tomiyoshi-Kim
Yoshika Trinidad
Val Tsutsumi
Edna Yaguchi
Mika Yamaguchi-Aranoff
Yasuhiro Yamauchi

Hatsumode preparations were done throughout the month of December by our devoted officers and friends of the shrine.

Bob Harada
Mike Lee
Craig Nishida
Diane Nishida
Marilyn Naitoh
Shinken Naitoh
Gary Shinsato
Linda Shinsato
Val Tsutsumi

Melveen Yoshihara
Kimi Yuen



MAHALO NUI to Val Tsutsumi for choosing to donate her vehicle to the shrine.

Our vehicle donation program is a special way to help the shrine further its services to the community.

The shrine accepts running or non-running, salvage and junk autos and offers maximum tax deduction.

In addition to auto donations we accept donations of trucks and motorcycles.

Your car donations will help fund:

- * Preservation and perpetuation of the shrine and its infrastructure

- * Annual Scholarships

- * Kimono and accessories for our Shichigosan Children's Festival

You can deduct contributions to charity only if you itemize deductions on your Schedule A of Form 1040.

Donations received by December 31st counts for that tax year, so call us at 841-4755 or email us at kotohira@hawaiiantel.net for more info or to schedule a vehicle donation.

For more tax info please visit:

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4303.pdf>

Many churches ask volunteers to use their personal vehicles to conduct church business or run errands for the church.

Often churches wish to reimburse dedicated volunteers for the use of their personal vehicles. The good news is that under the law, they can.

The IRS issued the 2016 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, purposes.

Beginning on January 1, 2016, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, or pickup will be 14 cents per mile.

For more info:

www.irs.gov/uac/newsroom/2016-standard-mileage-rates-for-business-medical-and-moving-announced

Maintenance

MAHALO NUI to Mike Lee for fabricating a traditional *Kekeya* - a large wooden maul, used in the *Jotosai* ceremony on December 16.

The *Jotosai* brings a sense of unity to the building and construction crew, and enables the structure to let the energy flow easily within it and the earth energy system.



MAHALO NUI to Kell Komatsubra for donating a plastic Storage shed.

The shed was assembled and placed outside of the meeting room by Bob Harada and Kell Komatsubara on December 17.

Clean-up



MAHALO NUI to the Natori instructors of Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation for the annual cleanup of the shrine's meeting room on December 10.

Gayle Fujihara
Kathy Hamada Kwock
Stacie Hata
Elaine Komatsu
Diane Nishida
Diane Ogasawara
Sharon Toma



MAHALO NUI to Rudy Santiago for power washing and repairing the concrete on December 18 & 19



Kadomatsu

Traditionally, the New Year's holidays, known as *Shogatsu*, was a time for expressing gratitude to the *kami* who oversees agriculture and for welcoming the ancestral spirits who protect their descendants.

The custom of displaying *kado-matsu* at both sides of the entry to homes was to welcome the *Toshigami* or New Years *kami* and ancestral spirits.

There are actually two different *Matsu* pines used for *Kadomatsu*.

Kuromatsu or black pine is referred to as *Omatsu* (male pine) and has a darker colored stem with firmer needles that last longer. *Omatsu* is used for the *kadomatsu* displayed on the left.

Displayed on the right is *Mematsu* (female pine) or Red pine. Red pine has softer needles and is not as hardy as the Black pine.

As with Girl's Day dolls, the male *matsu* is placed on the left and the female *matsu* on the right.

There are also two different styles of *Kadomatsu*.

The most popular style is *Soto Kazari* where the second tallest *bamboo* is placed on the outer side. This is meant to draw negative energies and misfortunes within the home to the outside and is usually displayed by families.

The second type is *Uchi Kazari* and the second tallest bamboo is placed on the inside. This is meant to draw good fortune from the outside in and is used by businesses to attract customers.

Kadomatsu in the *Kanto* or Tokyo area has tall bamboo and shorter *matsu* pines whereas *Kadomatsu* in the Kansai or Osaka area has taller *matsu* pines than bamboo.



Decorations are to be displayed at the entry of your home from December 13 and removed on January 7.

Most of what we see locally is not *kadomatsu* but *Shogatsu kazari* as only one side of the *Kadomatsu* pair is displayed. These are also to be removed on January 7.

For proper disposal of *kadomatsu*, please place them in a paper bag, sprinkle salt and discard it with your trash.

Osechi Ryori

Shogatsu is the time when most Japanese carry out certain religious rituals, though many of them may not realize what they do has religious significance.

Foods in *osechi ryori* are cooked in such a way that they can last many days, and many of the foods in *osechi* have meanings.



Kobumaki
(rolled kelp with fish) The word *Kobu* rhymes with *yorokobu* or happiness



Kuromame
(black beans) means you will work hard. Being able to work hard is a good thing in Japan. It also connotes being healthy enough to work hard.



Kazunoko
(herring roe) is a symbol of fertility and is eaten so families will be blessed with many children and the prosperity of all descendants.



Kuri Kinton
(sweet chestnuts and sweet potato stewed with sugar) are a bright yellow gold, connoting wealth.



Ebi (shrimp)
The shape of bent prawn is associated with elderly people. They symbolize the hope for good health and longevity.



Kohaku Namasu (Red and White pickled Daikon) Giant radish and carrots are also presented in festive colors of red and white symbolizing good fortune.