



# **SOTO MISSION OF HAWAII**

## **BETSUIN NEWSLETTER**

**March 2021**

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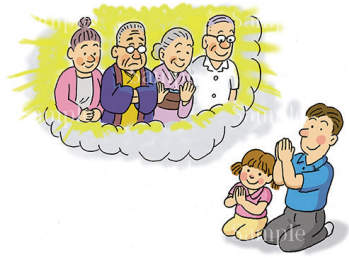
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**Soto Mission of Hawaii**  
**1708 Nuuanu Ave. Honolulu, Hawaii 96817**  
**Phone 808.537.9409**  
**Homepage: [www.sotomission.org](http://www.sotomission.org)**  
**Email: [info@sotomission.org](mailto:info@sotomission.org)**

# Spring Higan Service

On March 21, 9:30 AM we will be observing our annual Spring Higan Service. This is a service dedicated to your loved ones and ancestors who has passed on and now live in the world we call "Higan", meaning the other shore. In contrary, this world is called "Shigan" in Japanese. This is a time when we express our gratitude and love and bring them back to this world through our actions by practicing the teachings that they left in us.



If you are able to come to the temple to join us, please do so. However, if you are unable to come, we will be live-streaming the service on our homepage, [www.sotomission.org/live](http://www.sotomission.org/live).

We ask for your offering and donation to extend your gratitude towards your loved ones by dropping off a donation at the temple or by making donation with the use of credit card on our homepage.

## Board of Directors for 2021-2022

On Feb 7, Bishop Komagata installed new board of directors and officers who will be your representatives, taking care and protecting the temple in making important decisions. They have 2 year terms (2021-2022). We introduce to you our new Board of Directors (list in alphabetical order)

Frank Childs  
Thomas Itagaki  
Ken Ito  
Eric Kanda (President)  
Keiko Kawagishi  
Pualani Kondo (Secretary)

Milton Kwock  
Lynn Maurer  
Eric Matsuda  
Martin Matsuura (Treasurer)  
James Y. Sato



# **Let's Learn about Soto-shu:**

## **[Practices in Japan] Higan Activity**

### Visiting the temple

It is customary at this time to visit the temple to present offerings of pounded-rice cakes (mochi), sweets, fruit, and so on to the principal image of Buddha as well as the family ancestors.

It is also the custom at Higan to visit the family grave to express our gratitude to the family ancestors. For those people living far away from the family grave, it is especially good to visit the temple and family grave during Higan. This is a good way to learn the warm-heartedness customarily expressed during Higan of giving rice cakes covered with bean jam to the neighbors and one's relatives.

### Visiting the family grave

A visit to the family grave first begins with cleaning the grave stone and grave site. It is particularly important to scour places that easily become dirty such as water basins and flower vases. Older wooden stupas are mindfully removed and disposed of according to temple instructions. Once the grave has been cleaned, fresh offerings of water, incense, and favorite delicacies of the deceased ancestors' are made. The temple priest is then asked to chant a sutra at the grave, at this time, we join our hands in wholehearted prayer.

Following the visit to the grave site, it is proper to remove the food offerings. No one likes to see spoiled offerings and they are also unsanitary. It is also good to clean up the special grave site for graves that are no longer tended by family members and offer incense and flowers. In Japan, this is thought to express the beauty of one's heart and mind.

(Article from Sotoshu Shumuchō)

### A thought from Rev. Yoshida

I think that the practices held in Japan and in Hawaii are similar yet different. We certainly take our roots from Japan because most of our ancestors came from Japan and brought these traditions to Hawaii. Over the last 100 years, some tradition were kept and others changed to adapt to a new way of life in Hawaii. However, I still feel that these traditions of visiting the grave and temple still remains as a strong part of our Buddhist practice even today in Hawaii.

When I go to the grave site for services, I often see families

bringing flowers and some even brings bento and enjoy the “conversations” with their loved ones. The form we choose to express our thoughts may be different because of cultural and environmental differences but the root of the teaching remains the same. We pray for our loved one’s peace and happiness, we express our gratitude to our loved ones, and we join our hands together to help one another in our cooperative efforts to find peace within oneself and to express our compassionate thoughts for another.

The way we express and practice the Buddhist teachings have evolved and will continue to evolve but I hope that the current generation will teach the next about these practices with the core teachings of appreciating our loved ones during the season of Higan.

## **Help Needed: Volunteers to clean the Nokotsudo**

We are looking for volunteers who would be able to come to the temple during the weekday to help clean the nokotsudo, including changing the water in vases, disposing of dried flowers and wiping the counter. If you are able to assist us, please call or come to the temple to let us know about your availability. Thank you

## **Supporting Aiea Taiheiji and their Legacy-Endowment Bond Project**

At Aiea Taiheiji Soto Mission, they are working on building an activity center for the members of Soto Mission of Aiea and the Aiea Community. Their goal is to raise \$1,000,000 to build the activity center. We would like to share in this exciting project and support Aiea Taiheiji to fulfill and make their dream project come to life. Please take a moment to see if you are able to support them. Here is an excerpt from their pamphlet that explains about this project.



The Soto Mission of Aiea is excited about the plans to construct the new Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center, a multipurpose building at the Soto Mission of Aiea. This project is the shared vision of Rev.

Shuji Komagata, the Taiheiji Board of Directors, and members of Taiheiji.

To fund the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center, Taiheiji is offering an investment opportunity for its members and



supporters in the form of the Legacy-Endowment Bond. This bond offering is intended to be mutually beneficial to all parties involved:

- For Temple Members and Supporters:

Investment opportunity to purchase a 20-year bond that will pay 3% fixed annual interest, with return of principal investment amount IN FULL at the end of the 20 year period.

- For Taiheiji:

Raise \$1,000,000 through bond purchases by end of 2021 to fund the construction of the multipurpose building.

The Legacy-Endowment Bond is underwritten by the Hawaii Kansha Foundation, a private family foundation with deep ties to Taiheiji dating back to the 1960s. The Hawaii Kansha Foundation has made a generous pledge valued at \$2,000,000 to ensure the success of the Legacy-Endowment Bond.

With everyone's support, the Legacy-Endowment Bond will eventually be able to help create Taiheiji's Endowment Fund, providing sustainability and assurance that Taiheiji will be able to continue its mission in perpetuity.



*Sketch of Taiheiji and the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center*

# Taiheiji Legacy-Endowment Bond Timeline

Jan 1, 2021 to Dec 31, 2021	Bond Available for Purchase Payments of pledges accepted (Payments will not begin to earn interest until 1/1/2022)
Jan 1, 2022	Taiheiji Legacy-Endowment Bond is Issued Bond Purchases begin to earn 3% Annual Interest
Year 2022	Construction of Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center begins

## ANNUAL INTEREST RETURN SCHEDULE

(Example Scenario of what investor will receive based on \$10,000 Bond Purchase)

Feb 2023	Year 1: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2024	Year 2: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2025	Year 3: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2026	Year 4: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2027	Year 5: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2028	Year 6: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2029	Year 7: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2030	Year 8: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2031	Year 9: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2032	Year 10: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2033	Year 11: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2034	Year 12: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2035	Year 13: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2036	Year 14: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2037	Year 15: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2038	Year 16: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2039	Year 17: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2040	Year 18: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300
Feb 2041	Year 19: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to Investors = \$300

Dec 31, 2041 Taiheiji Legacy-Endowment Bond Maturity Date

Feb 2042 Year 20: 3% Annual Interest Return Paid to  
Investors & Initial Principal Investment Amount  
Returned to Investors in Full = \$300 + \$10,000

Total amount an investor will receive over 20-year period  
based on a \$10,000 Bond Purchase = \$16,000

Please be sure to designate your beneficiary when purchasing the Legacy-Endowment Bond!

\*This bond offering is an investment. It is not a donation. All interest received would be fully taxable. If you are able to help and for more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/3kaUitP> for a video and/or call Aiea Taiheiji at 488-6794.

## **Past Live-Streamed Services**

Did you know that you can watch the past major services that were held at the temple as live-stream after the service? We have been archiving the services. You can head over to the temple's YouTube page at <https://bit.ly/3aEZ1Rs>.

## **Daily Morning Service and Prayers**

We would like to remind you that the ministers conduct services every morning for our temple members who passed on and those who are still living. We make special prayers for those wishing for blessings and encouragement through the spiritual power of Shakyamuni Buddha and our ancestors. If you would like to request a special prayer made for you or a deceased loved one during the morning services, please call the temple to make a request.

## **Acknowledgment of Donations**

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their generous donations in January.

### **Kannon Ko Donations**

Jean Maekawa, Bernice Koike, Linda Unten, Wayne & Ann Uradomo, Thomas & Chiye Itagaki, Sally Nozaki, Toshio Ozeki, Keiko Kawagishi, Jamie Peterson, Mona Sawai, Katherine Higuchi

### **Memorial Service / Funeral / General Donations**

Jon & Cynthia Nishimura, James & Toshiko Sato, Kenneth Inuma, Ronald Nakamura, Lois Yamamoto-Purdy, Joyce Fukata, Linda Unten, Sharon Nozaki, Patricia Katayama, Mitsue Nakagawa, The Aikido Ohana, Ryuko Kokuzo, Emiko Uehira, Ellen M. Nishimura, Katherine Higuchi, Stanley Hashiro, Sandra Kakiuchi, Harry & Lillian Wakabayashi, Dara Luangphinit, J. A. Nakagawa, Martin Matsuura, Kathleen Puou, Milton Kwock, Jun Miyasaka, Bette Terada, Reine Kikuchi, Michiyo Tsubata-Okihiro, Grace & Milton Saito, Deborah Saito, Clyde & Alison Hanamoto, Jean Miyata, Mark & Sharon Bryant, Lay Lim, Warren Craig, Warren & Karen Motosue, Karen Prestige, Hiromi Shimada, Dorothy Takeshita, Marin Furukawa, Masae Hayashi, Robert & Bernice Koike, Uno Family, Vaughn & Gwen Kunishige, Onomoto & Imai Families, Anthony Fujii, Duane Hamada, Sharon Maekawa, Stacy Miyake, Jean Higuchi, Ruby Mizue, Richard & Mieko Onomoto, Jamie Peterson, L Suzukawa, Ross Tanoue, Monique Tran, Glen Yamasaki, Patti & Duane Young