



Bishop's Office Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

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Third Quarter, 2018

Issue No. 25

Bishop's Message: **Bishop Shugen Komagata**

With the many Buddhist temples scattered throughout this island chain celebrating the Bon Dance every weekend from mid-June to the end of August, we are extremely fortunate to be blessed with comfortable weather throughout the summer.

For us, Bon is synonymous with family. It is a time to cultivate and nurture the spirit of family togetherness. Bon is a time to reflect upon our journey in life and to show our appreciation to all the people who have been part of our individual journey. This may mean offering prayers to our departed parents and grandparents. Sometimes it means offering prayers to family members who pass before we were born.

Bon services have already started at several of our Hawaii Soto temples. Here at Soto Mission of Hawaii in Nuuanu, the Bon services consist of O-Toba dedication services. "O-Toba" means "large Toba" in Japanese. The word "Toba" goes back to the Indian Sanskrit word "stupa," which means "monument" or "memorial shrine." Originally in India, the stupa was built to enshrine the Buddha's remains. The practice of "stupa building" or "stupa dedication" changed as Buddhism moved from India to China, Korea, later to Japan, and finally to Hawaii. The stupa itself later became the symbol of the Buddha-Dharma, and the site where the stupa was built often became the holy site of a temple. In Hawaii and throughout the world, the stupa is more commonly known as the "pagoda."

It is heartwarming to often see families spanning three to four generations attending the Bon services in Hawaii. Sometimes, family members from out of state travel to Hawaii annually to attend Bon services. The offering of prayer is the sincerest way to express their gratitude for all the many blessings they have received thus far in their lives.

The entire Bon experience is a beautiful Buddhist tradition because it has deep meaning for both young and old. The Bon tradition lives on because children attend services, visit gravesites of ancestors, and participate in Bon dances together with their parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, other relatives, and friends. As these children grow to adulthood, they, in turn, continue this tradition which bonds them to family members of the immediate past generation and to all ancestors in the family.

During this Bon season, let us meditate upon our lives and families—as well as the lives of all living beings—and try to discard any negative feelings that we may have toward others. Let us extend the warm and positive energy of love and compassion to others. It is essential to honor life while offering respect and appreciation to departed loved ones in the family.



2018 SOTO MISSIONS BON DANCE SCHEDULE

<u>Temples</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>End Time</u>	<u>Other Information</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Mantokuji Soto Mission of Paia, Maui	July 13 & 14	Fri. & Sat.	7:30 PM	10:30 PM	Bon Dance	Paia, Maui	579-8051
Daifukuji Soto Mission (Kona)	July 14	Sat.	7:00 PM	10:00 PM	Bon Dance	Kealakekua, Kona	322-3524
Wahiawa Ryusenji Soto Mission	July 20 & 21	Fri. & Sat.	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	Taiko performance by Ryugen Taiko	Wahiawa	622-1429
		Fri. & Sat.	7:00 PM	10:00 PM	Bon Dance		
		Fri. & Sat.	throughout		Fukushima Ondo & Niigata Ondo by Wahiawa Ryusenji Yagura Gumi		
Taishoji Soto Mission (Hilo)	August 4	Sat.	7:00 PM	10:30 PM	Bon Dance	Hilo	935-8407
Guzeiji Soto Mission of Molokai	July 28	Sat.	6:30 PM	9:00 PM	Bon Dance	Molokai	658-0943
			8:00 PM	8:30 PM	Taiko performance by Hawaii Matsuri Taiko		
			throughout		Fukushima Ondo by Hawaii Matsuri Taiko		
Kauai Soto Zen Temple - Zenshuji	August 3 & 4	Fri. & Sat.	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	Taiko performance by Taiko Kauai	Kauai	335-3521
		Fri. & Sat.	7:30 PM	10:30 PM	Bon Dance		
Waipahu Soto Zen Temple Taiyoji	August 3 & 4	Fri. & Sat.	7:00 PM	10:00 PM	Bon Dance	Waipahu	671-3103
			throughout		Fukushima Ondo by Waipahu Taiyoji Yagura Gumi & Hawaii Matsuri Taiko		
		Fri.	8:00 PM	8:30 PM	Taiko Performance by Hawaii Matsuri Taiko		
		Sat.	8:00 PM	8:45 PM	Okinawan Bon Dance by Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai		
Soto Mission of Aiea - Taiheiji	August 10 & 11	Fri. & Sat.	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	Taiko performance by Somei Taiko & Hawaii Matsuri Taiko	Aiea	488-6794
		Fri. & Sat.	7:00 PM	10:30 PM	Bon Dance		
		Fri. & Sat.	throughout		Fukushima Ondo by Aiea Taiheiji Yagura Gumi		
		Sat.	9:00 PM	9:45 PM	Okinawan Bon Dance by Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai		
Soto Mission of Hawaii	August 17 & 18	Fri. & Sat.	7:00 PM	10:00 PM	Bon Dance	Honolulu	537-9409
		Fri. & Sat.	throughout		Fukushima Ondo by Honolulu Fukushima Bon Dance Club		
		Fri.	8:30 PM	9:00 PM	Taiko performance by Hawaii Matsuri Taiko		
		Sat.	8:30 PM	9:15 PM	Okinawan Bon Dance by Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai		