

# Mantokuji Newsletter



June 2025

## Dates to Remember

June 29

Yagura Construction

Mantokuji O-Bon

July 11 (service) & July 12 (Festival)

## REVEREND'S MESSAGE

Aloha, everyone.

It is getting hotter by the day. The rain is less frequent and the days are getting longer. Summer is here!

I would like to share my experience at the UHSSWA conference hosted by Aiea Taiheiji on Oahu on April 26-27. This was my third in-person UHSSWA conference. It was inspiring to see participants from each temple pray together, exchange goods at the country store, and learn about the activities of each temple. We also enjoyed the opportunity to deepen our fellowship with members and ministers from other temples. At the banquet and luncheon, Okusan, Ruri and I sat at the same table with Rev. Yoshida, Rev. Fukagawa and their wives who had also brought their children with them. It was fun getting to know and interact with their children and it was also a good opportunity for our families to exchange our thoughts and information about parenting.

At the Dharma session, we learned "Baika" with Rev. and Mrs. Ishii as instructors. Baika was founded in 1952 to promote the teachings of Soto Zen Buddhism. It is an activity to learn and practice the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha and the two founders of Soto Zen Buddhism, Dogen Zenji and Keizan Zenji, through the singing of Go-Eika and Go-Wasan. It was a wonderful session, with everyone chanting the Baika together, and I felt we were all united, which exemplified the theme of the conference, Isshin: One Heart, One Mind, One Path.

Mantokuji used to have a Baika club that practiced this activity, but it has been inactive for a while. We recently had the opportunity to hold a workshop on Zoom and practice Baika. I started learning Baika after I came to Hawaii, so I am not a very good teacher yet and I am not a very good singer either, but if you like Japanese waka and singing, we can study together. Please let me know if you are interested in joining our baika group.

Now, O-Bon season is coming up on July 11 and 12. Please feel free to contact me if you have time to help us prepare for this big event or have any questions about the O-Bon services, Toba, Tanagyo, or the Bon dance.

Tomoki Hirasawa

**Our Mission:** Paia Mantokuji is a Soto Zen Buddhist temple founded in 1906 by Reverend Sokyo Ueoka and a community of Japanese immigrants. Our mission is to be a place of compassion, respect and kindness for all who seek truth through the teachings of Buddha, the practice of Zen meditation and arts, and the fellowship of the temple sangha.

**Our Vision:** Paia Mantokuji's short term vision is to stay in place in Paia, as a vibrant and relevant Soto Zen Buddhist Mission.

### Our Values:

Honor Traditions  
Respect Ancestors  
Embrace Inclusivity  
Nurture Fellowship  
Practice Compassionate Kindness  
Gratitude  
Appreciation & Humility  
Live the Dharma  
Embody Buddhism

### Paia Mantokuji Soto Mission

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### Mangan Team

Bobbie, Cathy & Isabelle

### Enclosed in this Issue



TOBA REQUEST FORMS

MAUI BUDDHIST TEMPLES  
O-BON SCHEDULE

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## FUJINKAI NEWS

The Fujinkai will be having their monthly meetings and clean up as follow:

**June 8, 2025 at 8:30am**

**July 13, 2025 at 8:30am** (clean up only)

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came to help clean the nokotsudo and temple grounds.

**Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Reverend Hirasawa, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, Isabelle Scholl and Nora Takeuchi.**

Thank you to the ladies and gentlemen who came to help prepare items to sell at the UHSSWA Conference's Country Store on April 26-27, 2025 held at Soto Mission of Hawaii Aiea Taiheiji.

**Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Reverend Hirasawa, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, Isabelle Scholl and Nora Takeuchi.**

## 58<sup>TH</sup> UHSSWA CONFERENCE

*APRIL 26-27, 2025, HOSTED BY SOTO MISSION OF AIEA TAIHEIJI*

Soto Mission of Aiea Taiheiji welcomed more than 100 participants from Hilo, Kona, Molokai, Wahiawa, Waipahu, Maui and Betsuin for the 58<sup>th</sup> UHSSWA Conference. The conference theme was Isshin: One Heart, One Mind, One Path . . .

Saturday began with a bento lunch in the social hall. It was followed by the

Opening Service and Memorial Service and the General Membership meeting in the temple. Next was picture taking and the always anticipated Country Store.

Each unit brought their signature items for sale . . . Maui took the famous Maui Specialty Chocolates mochi, Mantokuji's lima bean manju, okoshi, bell tower note cards, eyeglass cases, aprons, zen rocks, pickled mango and radish tawashi. All proceeds went to UHSSWA.



The dinner banquet was held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center in Waipahu, catered by Zippy's A Catered Experience. We were entertained by Aiea's taiko group, Somei Taiko. WOW! What an energetic performance! After Mantokuji's President Bobbie Arita gave her welcome address we had the annual candlelight ceremony to honor those who are no longer with us and to recommit ourselves to our pledge to cultivate faith, wisdom, compassion, a mind of charity and a reverence for all forms of life, to be the stepping stone to the Buddha's way. While they had us all standing, the dance instructors donned their hapi coats and everyone interested danced to Heiwa Ondo and Fukushima Ondo to close the night.

Sunday was breakfast on your own and on to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii for the Farewell Luncheon. After the Morning Service, special recognition of the jizoku and Installation of Officers, the Dharma Session focused on Baika. Bishop Shuji gave a history of Baika in Hawaii. Then we all participated in a hands-on session led by Reverend Ishii and Jizoku Ikuko Ishii.

Thank you to Aiea Taiheiji for their hard work to make the 58<sup>th</sup> UHSSWA conference a success even amid the construction of their Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center. It was a great weekend. We are looking forward to the 59<sup>th</sup> UHSSWA Conference on Molokai next year.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone,

There is no service this month, but still a lot of work to do as we prepare for next month's O-Bon. We will be processing your requests for this year's memorial toba and new lantern memorial ribbon(s) and have them ready in time for our July O-Bon service. You may also schedule a tanagyo (home visit and O-Bon prayer service) by Rev. Hirasawa. Please take note of the order form enclosed in this Mangan. Many hands will be needed on the 29<sup>th</sup> for Yagura Construction and Clean-up Day. Please let us know if you are available to help. And throughout this summer, the Mantokuji Board continues to work on grant applications and work plans for the fuel line/tank clean-up, sandbag structure repair, and possible bay ecosystem restoration.

We are grateful for any volunteer help, so give us a call and we'll make sure to assign you to a work task. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto,

President, Mantokuji Kyodan

## SPECIAL O-BON

### TOBA, TANAGYO AND MEMORIAL RIBBON REQUESTS

Buddhists remember their departed loved ones and family ancestors during the O-Bon season. Prayers and toba (memorial tablets) are also offered in their memory during the O-Bon Service which will be held on Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. At the O-Bon Service, Reverend Hirasawa will chant the toba memorial dedications and the merit dedications to the deceased.

If you would like to offer toba to family members who have passed away, and especially for those who are having their first O-Bon or Hatsubon, **please send in the Toba Request Form enclosed by June 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

This year, we are again adding the option to honor your departed loved ones. Like the chochins hung outside during O-Bon with memorial ribbons hanging from them, we will hang chochin in the temple to give others an opportunity to pay tribute and honor their departed loved ones with a Memorial Ribbon hanging from a chochin. On Sunday after the O-Bon Festival, we will dismantle the chochin in the temple and remove the Memorial Ribbons. These Memorial Ribbons will be burned in a ceremonial fire. **Please fill in your Memorial Ribbon requests on the form and send in by June 23<sup>rd</sup>.**



During O-Bon time, families may wish to hold a service in their homes to honor their deceased family members. This is a special opportunity for families to gather and remember deceased loved ones. If you would like to request an O-Bon House Visitation (Tanagyo), please fill out the bottom of the Toba Request Form with the date and time you would like Reverend Hirasawa to do your tanagyo. He will confirm date and time with you.

### HATSUBON (FIRST O-BON)

Hatsu Bon means "the first O-Bon" for those who had passed away within the last year from May 25, 2024 to May 23, 2025. We will be honoring the following who are having their Hatsubon during the O-Bon service on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

Randal Takatani - June 15, 2024

Itaru Saito - June 23, 2024

Gary Matoi - Nov. 10, 2024

Robert Takahashi - Dec. 7, 2024

Naomi Nemoto - Feb. 18, 2025

Wesley Kumasaka - March 30, 2025

Yuriko Nancy Fukagawa - April 17, 2025



## MANTOKUJI'S O-BON SERVICE ON FRIDAY, JULY 11<sup>TH</sup>

Mantokuji will have their O-Bon Service on Friday, July 11, 2025 at 6:00pm. There will be no dancing or food concession after the O-Bon Service. There will be no O-Bon Service on Saturday.

## MANTOKUJI'S O-BON FESTIVAL ON SATURDAY, JULY 12<sup>TH</sup>

Mantokuji is happy to announce their O-Bon Festival on Saturday, July 12, 2025. Here is the schedule of events for our O-Bon Festival:

3:00pm	Graveyard Service
5:30pm	Food Concession opens
6:00pm	Zenshin Daiko performance
6:30pm	Maui Taiko performance
7:00pm	Reverend Tomoki Hirasawa will perform a short blessing service at the yagura
7:15pm	Bon Dance

Additional parking will be available at the Paia Community Center and the Paia Hawaiian Protestant Church, both across the street from the temple.

We hope you will be able to join us for this festive occasion when we welcome back our ancestors as they temporarily return to visit their families during the O-Bon season.

## BON DANCE PRACTICE AT MANTOKUJI

Sensei Shannon Loo and Maui Minyo Kai members will be coming to Paia Mantokuji to conduct two Bon Dance practices on **Saturday, June 7 at 1:00pm** and **Saturday, June 21 at 1:00pm**.



## 2025 MAUI BUDDHIST TEMPLES' O-BON SCHEDULE

Date	Temple	Service / Dance	Phone
Jun 7 (Sat)	Puunene Nichiren	6:00pm / 7:00pm	871-4831
Jun 14 (Sat)	Wailuku Shingon	6:30pm / 7:30pm	244-3800
Jun 20 (Fri)	Wailuku Jodo	6:00pm / 7:00pm	244-0066
Jun 28 (Sat)	Kahului Jodo	6:30pm / 7:30pm	871-4911
Jul 11 (Fri)	Paia Mantokuji	6:00pm / No Dance	579-8051
Jul 12 (Sat)		No Service / 7:00pm	
Jul 18 - 19 (Fri/Sat)	Kahului Hongwanji	6:00pm / 7:30pm	871-4732
Jul 25 - 26 (Fri/Sat)	Makawao Hongwanji	5:00pm / 7:00pm	572-7229
Aug 1 - 2 (Fri/Sat)	Wailuku Hongwanji	6:30pm / 7:45pm	244-0406
Aug 9 (Sat)	Lahaina Community Bon Dance		
Aug 16 (Sat)	Paia Rinzaï Zen Mission	6:00pm / 7:00pm	579-9921
Aug 23 (Sat)	Kula Shofukuji	6:30pm / 7:30pm	

Lahaina temples have not yet announced their schedule.



# SPECIAL O-BON / HELP NEEDED

## IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP PREPARING MANTOKUJI'S O-BON!



Mantokuji's annual O-Bon Festival will be held on July 12<sup>th</sup>. It takes a whole community to put on this annual festival. Please come whenever you are able to help and for as long as you are able to! We really appreciate any kind of help that you can give us.

In preparation of O-Bon, on **Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**, we will be **constructing the yagura** and we will also be cleaning the temple and nokotsudo. Your kokua will also be needed to tidy the temple grounds and give the kitchen a thorough cleaning

On the day of the O-Bon Festival, we are also in need of parking attendants at Paia Community Center, the Hawaiian Protestant Church and Mantokuji grounds.

The work schedule is shown on the right. Please come out and give us your helping hands!

## SPECIAL THANKS

To **Neil Watanabe** for giving the Japanese Garden and hedge in front of the office a much needed manicure.

To **Kathleen Davis** for cleaning out behind the garage and taking care of recycling.

### Sunday, June 29

8:00am **Yagura Construction**  
General Clean-up Day

### Thursday, July 10

8:00am Prep food, set up hall

### Friday, July 11

8:00am Prep food, set up hall  
Set up chochins in temple and nokotsudo  
10:00am Set up tents  
6:00pm O-Bon Service

### Saturday, July 12

8:00am Prep food  
Set up concession area  
5:00pm Parking attendants  
5:30pm Food booths open  
9:00pm Clean up

### Sunday, July 13

8:00am Dismantle yagura and chochins  
Clean up

## REMINDER: 2025 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES & NOKOTSUDO/CEMETERY FEES

Thank you to those who have already sent in your dues and fees. A reminder to those who have not done so yet, please send them in at your earliest convenience.

The 2025 Membership Form was sent with the January mangan or can be accessed on our website at [www.paiamantouji.org](http://www.paiamantouji.org)

## DONATIONS MADE IN APRIL

We would like to sincerely thank you for your very generous donations.

### General Donations

Arthur Gumpfer, Tsukasa & Julie Kamekaneya, Paul & Gwen Ueoka.

Diane Orikasa	Use of Hall on 4.12.25
Nora Takeuchi	Use of Hall on 4.12.25
Sharon H Ueoka	Bazaar Donation
Betty Watanabe	In Memory of Gary Matoi
Betty Watanabe	In Memory of Takeshi Watanabe – 27 <sup>th</sup> Year Memorial Anniversary

PAIA MANTOKUJI SOTO MISSION  
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## June 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 7:30am-8:30am Zazen	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 1:00pm Bon Dance Practice
<b>8</b> 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 8:30am Clean-up 10:30am Fujinkai & Kyodan meetings	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 7:30am-8:30am Zazen	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:30-11:30am Ikebana 1:00pm Bon Dance Practice
<b>22</b> 7:30am-8:30am Zazen	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 8:00am Yagura Construction	<b>30</b>					

### Coming up in July (Tentative Schedule)

Sunday 6: O-Bon setup, committee meeting  
Friday 11: O-Bon Service  
Saturday 12: O-Bon Festival  
Sunday 13: Yagura dismantling, Clean up  
Sunday 20: O-Bon committee meeting & Evaluation

*Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations are  
scheduled during the month.*

**Nokustudo Hours**  
open daily, 9:00am – 4:00pm