

Mantokuji Newsletter



MAN GAN
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May 2026

Dates to Remember

May 24
Memorial Day
and
Eitaikuyo Services

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone,

The month of May falls between Mantokuji's biggest and busiest events, March's Bazaar and July's O-bon. This period usually gives us time to re-energize after one event and prepare for the other; however, the pounding waves along the Mantokuji shoreline remind us that there is never a time to just relax and be satisfied with the status quo. While the Board was disappointed that the set of State House and Senate bills to establish a streamlined process for a 5-year pilot program to restore and protect Mantokuji Bay did not make it pass committees for a vote, the team continues to work with Oceanit and Oceanit Research Foundation consultants to move forward with alternative, nature-based solutions for the Bay. We have reached out to Council members Nohe U'u-Hodgins and Yuki Lei Sugimura for assistance and they have agreed to do what they can to help us. Please know that Mantokuji's administrators remain committed to our work and honor our duties and responsibilities to the temple. We believe that you, our sangha, share the same commitments and dedication.

We will end May with our Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Service on Sunday, May 24 at 10:30 am. Reverend Masataka Hoshino will be here from Betsuin to conduct the service. Please gather with us as we remember and pray for our deceased loved ones and predecessors. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto
President, Mantokuji Kyodan

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

P.O. Box 790207,
Paia, HI 96779

Tel: (808) 579 - 8051
E-mail: info@paimantokuji.org
Web: www.paimantokuji.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Mantokuji/

Mangan Team

Bobbie, Cathy & Isabelle



Hanamatsuri
Service,
April 5

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FUJINKAI NEWS

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

May 17, 2026 at 8:30am

June 7, 2026 at 8:30am

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came on March 22, 2026 to clean the nokotsudo and temple grounds.

Kay Hanano, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Nora Takeuchi and Neil Watanabe.

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came on April 3 & 4 to prepare for the joint Hanamatsuri Service at Mantokuji on April 5 and who came to help prepare for the Hanamatsuri lunch that day.

Kathleen Davis, Kay Hanano, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, Isabelle Scholl and Nora Takeuchi.

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came on April 12, 2026 to help with the clean up of the nokotsudo and temple grounds.

Kathleen Davis, Kay Hanano, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, and Neil Watanabe.

KYODAN MEETING REPORT

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

Below are some of the topics that were discussed at the meeting.

- Sandbag Repair – CMAC completed work on gravel filler and black tarp covering in the first week of April 2026.
- Kaimana report on Fuel Line Tank assessment submitted to DLNR and we are waiting for approval of amended seal-in-place plans.
- Legislative bills HB2490 and SB3190 did not pass House and Senate committees for vote.
- Oceanit and Kyodan president, Eric Moto, met with Council members Sugimura and U'u Hodgins on Thursday, April 9, 2026 to discuss a request for County grant funds. Council members agreed to begin work on a \$2.5 million grant application for Mantokuji Bay restoration project (sand replenishment / revetment structure).
- Brennan Tanaka and his fellow scouts began work on his Eagle Scout Project after a blessing by Reverend Kodai Haga of Rinzai Zen Mission.
- Lloyd Sodehani is donating \$2100 to help fund the project.
- Forms and documents were sent to immigration attorney and Bishop Komagata for R-1 VISA application for Reverend Jiten Kurosawa and his wife. Rev. Kurosawa will be an employee of the Bishop's office assigned to Mantokuji as resident minister. Salary and health insurance will be processed through Betsuin.
- The 47th Annual Bazaar March 1 and March 8 grossed \$34,527.75.
- Monies collected for the Lahaina fires and monies from the 2023 online auction will be distributed to Lahaina Jodo Mission, Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, Lahaina Shingon Mission, Waiola Church and Lahaina United Methodist Church.
- Mantokuji member, Tokuko Abe, passed on Friday, April 3, 2026.
- Maui Arborscape will remove the fallen kiawe tree and clean the crowns on 13 palm trees on April 22, 2026 for \$4, 062.83.
- Thank you to Jonathan Collins for fabricating the double hall doors for the cost of materials, donating his time.
- Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Service will be held on May 24, 2026 at 10:30am officiated by Rev. Hoshino of Betsuin.

Next Kyodan meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 7, 2026.**

Please join us for future meetings and be involved in these important decisions.

JOINT HANAMATSURI SERVICE HOSTED BY MANTOKUJI

HELD ON APRIL 5, 2026



Mantokuji welcomed Reverend Seiya Chisaka of Toenji Temple in Japan and Reverend Kodai Haga (Sen) of Rinzaï Zen Mission and Hawaii Soto Mission Shoboji's minister Reverend Masataka Hoshino to officiate the joint Hanamatsuri Service on April



5. Hanamatsuri, which translates to flower festival in Japanese, is a celebration commemorating the birth of the Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama. Paia Mantokuji and Rinzaï Zen temples once again joined together for this celebration.

All the attendees offered incense and flowers to the Buddha and poured amacha tea over his statue housed in the hanamido adorned with flowers as the ministers chanted Hannya Shingyo and Yokubutsu No Ge. It was a very beautiful occasion. Reverend Hoshino gave the sermon:

"Good Morning everyone, and Happy Buddha Day.

I usually start my message by saying, "I am so happy to be here." But today feels a little different.

It has only been three weeks since we said goodbye to Rev. Hirasawa. We still miss him and his family. If we asked the Buddha, he might say, "Parting is inevitable. Therefore, cherish the time you have together."

He always shared his knowledge generously, and today, we are here to celebrate his birth.

Every ritual is performed with a certain meaning. Buddha Day is a day to celebrate life — every life: animals, insects, people, and even a life yet to be born.

It also gives us an opportunity to renew ourselves.

In Japan, we call this day Hanamatsuri — the Flower Festival. That is why we create a special altar (hanamido) decorated with flowers. Pouring sweet tea over the Baby Buddha is a symbolic act of purification. We wash away the past and welcome a new season.

This is also the season of cherry blossoms in Japan. I know many locals visit Japan to see the cherry blossoms. But for Japanese, Cherry blossoms have a deeper meaning, more than just beauty.

Cherry blossoms bloom for only a few days. Because of this, they have become a symbol of impermanence. In that sense, we can say cherry blossoms are a very Buddhist flower.

Buddha Day gives us good impression.

But as a child, I didn't like this day. The "sweet tea" wasn't really sweet---it was actually bitter. And the story of the Buddha's birth sounded like a fairy tale to me. Heavenly music played, birds sang, flowers bloomed . . . The baby Buddha took seven steps and pointed toward the sky. Compared to other Buddhist stories, it sounds unrealistic. I didn't understand why people believed in this story. But as I grew older, I noticed that there are other unrealistic stories and people get a little crazy around the world at this time of year.

Some people believe that rabbits bring eggs during Easter. Others become very mindful when they eat during Ramadan. The Jewish festival of Passover is also celebrated around this time.

People all over the world have their own unique ways of marking this season. This is not a coincidence. After a long winter of cold and darkness, we need something to remind us of blight and hope. And not only the winter outside, but also the winter within our hearts.

To be continued next page.

JOINT HANAMATSURI SERVICE HOSTED BY RINZAI ZEN MISSION (CONT')

We saw Rev. Hirasawa and his family off to Japan this past winter. This was my second time saying goodbye to Rev. Hirasawa. We trained together at Sojiji, so we were friends even before he came to Hawaii. He left Sojiji after one year of training. This was the first farewell. Even after his leaving, we kept in touch with each other. Actually, I am the one who brought him to Mantokuji. I think I should get more credit for this!

Although I was looking for a minister, I never intended to recruit him. To tell the truth, he was the last person I expected to come to Hawaii. He had a stable job at a city hall in Japan. I couldn't believe he would leave that life behind. The job at the city hall was stable. Because of that, I felt responsibility for him.

I was happy to welcome him, but at the same time, I worried — Was he truly happy here? Was he satisfied with his life in Hawaii? Once I asked him, "Which life do you prefer?" He said, "Life here is harder, and there are many things I cannot do. But people always say 'thank you' in the end. So I would rather be here." At his previous job, customers often came with complaints about taxes and payments, even when it wasn't his fault. Through him, I learned how stressful it is to work at the city hall and I realized that I had taken being thanked for granted.

Year by year, my concern about him faded away, and I realized they had been unnecessary at the farewell party. So many people came. And I realized how deeply he was loved.

Buddhism teaches that each moment is unique and will never come again. That is why each moment is precious. Through this Buddha Day service, we reconnect with those precious moments.

We cannot avoid sadness. We cannot always control what happens to us. But we can choose how we respond.

If we can learn to care for our minds, we can care for our lives, and in turn, care for the world around us.

Rev. Hirasawa showed us Mantokuji is a place of warmth and kindness. Whoever comes here will be welcomed, supported and never alone.

Through this Buddha Day service, let us cherish each moment we share, because once it passes, it will never come again. Thank you."

Following the service we all enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch with Rinzai Zen's famous pig's feet soup and Mantokuji's one-of-a-kind nishime and more. Thank you to all who shared desserts and other items.

The day ended with the Hanamatsuri tradition of playing Bingo. Everyone went home with a full stomach and smiling with a prize!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL DAY AND EITAIKUYO SERVICES

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026 AT 10:30AM

You are cordially invited to attend the Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo (Perpetual Memorial) Services to be held on:

Sunday, May 24, 2026 at 10:30am

The Memorial Day Service is observed to honor our veterans and victims of all past wars and the current wars in Ukraine and Gaza and to pray for peace and understanding in our world so that we may live in harmony with one another.

At the same time, we will be holding the Eitaikuyo or perpetual memorial service to remember those who have passed away, and have no family members left to visit them. As their extended family, let us join together to offer incense and prayer for them.

DONATIONS MADE IN DECEMBER

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

General Donations

Effie Cameron, June Kato, Hideo & Joyce Kawahara, Dawn Komine, Susan Morohashi, Eric Moto, Nagasako Family & Jean Akana, Joyce Masuda, Ken & Alma Nakano, Oceanit Research Foundation, Ajay Pandey, Jean Pozsar, Sandra Shimomura, James Suehisa, Wanda Taira, Daniel & Jane Takahashi, Sharon Taniguchi, Phyllis Tempo & Martin Rosenblum, Ronald & Vivian Ueoka, Albert & Glenda Ujiie, Betty Watanabe, Joy Yamane.

Harold & Kathy Fujii	In Memory of Yukie Ueoka
Janet Fukuda	Bazaar Donation
Jeral & Karlynn Fukuda	In Memory of Clara Sodetani
Allan & Cathy Murayama	In Memory of Yukie Ueoka
Leonard & Merlyn Nagata	In Memory of Tsutomu & Fumiko Nagata
Norman M Nagata	Bazaar Donation
Erwin, Aimee, Jason, Jeremy & Jenna Shibata & Family	In Memory of Jonathan F. A Shibata

Donations received for the Spring Ohigan & Kaisan Rekijyuki Service on Sunday, March 15, 2026

Tokuko Abe, Tetsu & Kana Anan, Miwako Curtis, Ronald & Kay Fukumoto, Kay Hanano, Risa & Anna Hiester, Julie Higa, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Deacon & Tomoe MacMillan & Family, Eric Moto, Judith Matoi, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Norman Nagata, Ken & Alma Nakano, Diane Orikasa, Yukie Pye, Emiko Saito, Mark & Lois Sato, Chihiro Suzuki, Ann Takakura, Nora Takeuchi, Neil & Joyce Watanabe.

SPECIAL THANKS

To **Jonathan Collins** for fabricating the double doors for the hall to replace the weathered ones. They are beautiful!

NEW MEMBERS

The Mantokuji Sangha extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Harold & Kathleen Fujii

We are always grateful to have new members. For information about membership, please contact the temple.

IN MEMORIAM

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of:

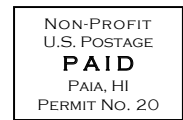
Tokuko Abe, 96 years old, passed on April 3, 2026.

We pray for her and give our love and support to her family in this time of great loss.

Namu Kie Butsu, Namu Kie Ho, Namu Kie So



PAIA MANTOKUJI SOTO MISSION
P.O. Box 790207
Paia, HI 96779



May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 8:30am Clean-up, O-Bon Newsletter Making	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:30am Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Services	25	26	27	28	29	30

Nokustudo Hours:

The nokotsudo will continue to be open on Saturdays and Sundays in May, 9:00am – 3:00pm.

If you need the nokotsudo opened outside of these hours, please call 808.283.6125.

Coming up in June (Tentative Schedule)

Sunday 7: Kyodan & Fujinkai Meetings, Clean up

Sunday 28: Yagura Construction, Clean-up,
O-Bon Committee Meeting