



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

April, 2025

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.



Hanamatsuri Buddha Day Service 花祭り

Sunday, April 13, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Service, Egg Hunt, Lunch & Fellowship

Meaning "flower festival," Hanamatsuri is a joyous celebration of the Buddha's birth which occurred 2,600 years ago in Lumbini Garden in southern Nepal. A small wooden pavilion called a hanamido is adorned with fresh flowers; inside, a small statue of the baby Buddha is placed in a basin of sweet, heavenly tea which service attendees pour over the statue. The Dharma message will be given by ethnomusicologist **Cynthia Morris**, who will be speaking about the development of Buddhist music in Hawai'i.

There will be a spring egg hunt for the children after the service, followed by a vegetarian meal prepared by the members of the Daifukuji Zazenkaï. All are invited to stay for lunch and fellowship. We request that you bring your own set of reusable tableware to help Daifukuji be as eco-friendly as possible.

The Zazenkaï is requesting donations of desserts for the Hanamatsuri meal.

Donations of flowers for the altars and hanamido flower shrine may be dropped off on Friday, April 11 or by 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 12.

Hanamatsuri is a special occasion to be shared with all. Feel free to invite friends and relatives. The children always enjoy the spring egg hunt after the service. The gift shop will be open. Donations of canned food for the Food Basket are always appreciated.



Children always enjoy the spring egg hunt after the service.

Fujinkai members attending the UHSSWA conference will be meeting after lunch to go over travel and conference details. Important information will be distributed.

A Message from Rev. Jikō



Aloha Sangha members and friends,

At the 13th Annual HAIB Buddha Day celebration which was recently held at the Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, ten Buddhist groups from around Hawai'i Island were represented. During the service, our Dharma Keiki 'ohana, members of the Happy Strummers group, and friends from Nechung Dorje Drayang Ling (Wood Valley Temple) all together presented the song "The Three Refuges" composed by Betsy Rose. The service was a joyous celebration of the Buddha Shakyamuni's birth. On behalf of the Hawai'i Island chapter of the Hawai'i Association of International Buddhists, I wish to thank all who attended the service and offered their help. A special mahalo goes to our guest speaker, the Rev. Paul Ananda Normann, whose powerful Dharma message was the highlight of this celebration. If you missed the service, you may watch it on Kona Hongwanji's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/1Eyuhxjs2o?si=YoM1-xgn7-TGZ7eY>.

On Sunday, April 13 we at Daifukuji will be holding our own Buddha Day service at 10 a.m. Everyone will have the opportunity to pour sweet tea over the baby Buddha. Our Zazenkai meditation group has a special vegetarian meal planned. For the keiki, there's going to be a spring egg hunt. I look forward to this special springtime gathering of our sangha and encourage you to bring the *keiki* in your life to this festive and joyful celebration of the birth of our great teacher Shakyamuni Buddha.

Namu kie butsu. Namu kie hō. Namu kie sō.

In gasshō,

Jikō Nakade



In Loving Memory

Kusato Okayama

February 16, 2025

Age 84

To the family of the late Kusato Okayama, we express our sincere condolences. We will always be grateful for the electrical work which Ku so generously donated to Daifukuji over the years.

Namu Daihi Kanzeon Bosatsu



Congratulations

On February 24th, Bobbie Lloyd-Anderson and Dave Anderson received the sixteen bodhisattva precepts and their Buddhist names in a Soto Zen Buddhist confirmation ceremony held in the Kannon meditation hall.

We warmly congratulate Dave Jōwa (Pure Peace) and Bobbie Yōwa (Peaceful Rays of Sunlight). The ceremony was officiated by Rev. Jikō.

Welcome to Our Sangha



It is with joy and gratitude that we welcome Meiko Blosser and Chi Colberg as new members of Daifukuji Soto Mission.



Introducing Chi Colberg

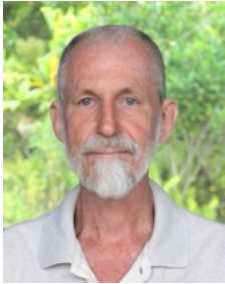
We are pleased to introduce Chi Colberg, who is our newest gift shop volunteer. Chi came to the island seeking a peaceful life and wishing to rediscover her religious roots in Buddhism. Originally from the east coast, Chi's professional career includes working as an attorney for Mintz and Nutter, McClennen & Fish in Boston, Massachusetts. She later served as corporate counsel for The Home Depot in Atlanta, Georgia.

A proud parent of four, Chi finds immense joy watching her children grow into compassionate young adults.

We thank Chi for volunteering her time in service to our temple. Mahalo, Chi!

Meet the Daifukuji Board of Directors (continued from last month's newsletter)

Steve Hōshin Mann, Assistant Treasurer



I began sitting Zazen at Daifukuji twenty years ago, and took the precepts in 2009. I served as Zazenkai secretary, and for a while as temple handyman. I work in the orchard as part of the samu crew. I've served on the Board for two terms as correspondence secretary, and am starting my second term as assistant treasurer. Daifukuji's been welcoming and supportive, a source of community for me and Clear, something I greatly appreciate. I want to help maintain it as a vibrant and healthy institution. I'm happy to do that through the paperwork roles that seem to come my way, or in any other way that my time and aptitude permits. I appreciate the opportunity to serve.

Akemi Iwamoto, Director



Aloha! My name is Akemi Iwamoto, and I am honored to serve as a new member of the Daifukuji Board of Directors. For the past 20 years, I have also had the privilege of serving as the Artistic Director (fancy name for leader, hee, hee) of the Kona Daifukuji Taiko Group.

The Daifukuji Soto Mission has been a meaningful part of my family's journey for generations, with deep roots on my father's side. Throughout my life, the temple has served as a second home to me. My connection began in early childhood when I attended Sunday School from kindergarten through high school graduation—perhaps my parents' way of channeling their rambunctious child's energy! I think it worked. Haa, haa, haa. During my youth, I became a member of the Kona Daifukuji Taiko Group in middle school and continued through young adulthood. Years later, when family obligations called Reverend Tamiya back to Japan, he invited me to return and lead the group.

Through life's many demands and transitions, Daifukuji has remained a constant source of calm, always reminding me to pause, breathe, and appreciate the present moment. The temple has been an invaluable treasure to both my family and me. Serving as a board member is my way of giving back to a community that has enriched our lives in countless ways.

Carlo Taizan Mireles, Director



A Daifukuji member since 2004, I undertook my Soto Zen Buddhist Lay Confirmation ceremony in 2010 and was named Taizan by Reverend Jiko. "Taizan" means "Peaceful Mountain," inspiring me to be strong, stable and broad like Mauna Loa and have the calm and tranquil strength of a mountain. The honor of serving on the Daifukuji Board allows me to give back to my sangha and to Reverend Jiko, whom I deeply appreciate and respect. In Gassho



April Activities (More activities listed at <https://www.daifukuji.org/activities.html>)

Dharma Keiki - Sundays, April 6 and April 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. There is a ZOOM option for the first Sunday. A Dharma program for children of preschool age to grade 3 and their parents. Siblings welcome. By donation. Bring a healthy snack to share. Contact Rev. Jiko at rev.jiko@daifukuji.org for information. To register, please go to: <https://forms.gle/Azubjv2fbmEHUJZk6>.

Zazen (Meditation) - Zazen is offered in person and via Zoom every Wednesday and Friday from 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m. Wednesday zazen is followed by 20 minutes of chanting. Sunset meditation is held on Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Practitioners are asked to arrive 10-15 prior to the starting time. Contact Rev. Jiko at rev.jiko@daifukuji.org to receive the Zoom link for the morning zazen sessions. <https://www.daifukuji.org/zazen.html>

Shakyo (Tracing the Sutras) & Shabutsu (tracing pictures of buddhas) - Saturday, April 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. All are welcome. By donation.

Sangha Sisters Women's Spirituality Circle - Meetings are held in person on the second Friday of the month at 4:30 p.m. Call Susie at (808) 936-5817 for information.

T'ai Chi - All classes are one hour and held inside the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. \$5.00 per class. Call or text instructor Philip Kakuho Hema for schedule and other information: (808) 345-1492.

Soleful Strutters - T'ai Chi warm-up & walking on temple grounds at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. For information, please contact Hannah Israel at (408) 421-8845 or Reverend Jiko at (808) 322-3524.

Samu Fridays - We welcome new volunteers for temple cleaning and grounds maintenance on Friday mornings from 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Coffee hour & fellowship follows. Bring a snack to share.

Yoga with Liz - One-hour classes are held on Mondays from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. in the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. No fee, but donations accepted. Bring a mat or towel. Call instructor Liz Aschenbrenner: (808) 345-1270 or liz217a@hotmail.com.



Pancake Breakfast Mahalo

by Susie Seien Weaver and Andrea Shōen Shea

Thank you, everyone, for your amazing support of our Fujinkai at the February pancake breakfast. Many people volunteered with ticket sales, shopping, cooking, serving, and set up and clean up. We also received innumerable donations of ingredients and money. The day before the breakfast, a dedicated group came and made manju which quickly sold out at the breakfast. Generous donations of plants, sushi vinegar, and crafts were also sold that day. It was a fun gathering of our sangha and our local community.

This year we pre-sold 286 tickets and sold 112 at the door. Additional donations were received. After expenses, we made about \$5000 for the Daifukuji Fujinkai. Mahalo to all!



Donations for Country Store



A Country Store fundraiser is going to be held at the 58th UHSSWA Conference on April 26th at the Soto Mission of Aiea Taiheiji on Oahu. A group of 20 from our Daifukuji Fujinkai will be participating in this conference.

The Fujinkai is looking for donations of Kona coffee, mac nuts, avocados, and bananas for the Country Store special donation drive, which is a fundraiser for the UHSSWA.

If you are able to help the Fujinkai, please call Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or Joyce Yūkō St. Arnault at (808) 329-3833. We humbly ask that donations be delivered to Daifukuji by the morning of April 25. Thank you very much.



Buddhadharma

by Michael Keller

Zazen practitioners develop the ability to see the world without judgements of quality or morality, and to accept the manifold conditions and events of life just as they are.

In Buddhism, as I understand it, the entire world is Buddhadharma, or Buddha nature, in which everything is spread out in equal value and worth.

Shunryu Suzuki is best known for the collection of talks in *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*.

There is a lesser-known collection of his talks in *Not Always So*. In this collection, Suzuki Roshi frequently underscores this vision of the uniform value of everything in life.

For example, he says, “. . . Buddha nature is found in the realm of the absolute where there is no good and no bad.” This realm cannot be found by thinking or reasoning. The intuition of it comes when the thinking mind, personal self, or ego are laid aside during zazen. Then the vision of it comes, unspeakable and indescribable.

The goal of zazen may be said to be the virtual elimination of personal self in daily life. As Roshi says, “. . . Our effort is to get rid of self-centered activity.” And again, “Usually . . . we are involved in judgments, so we say ‘this is right, that is wrong,’ ‘this is perfect,’ and ‘that is not perfect.’ That seems ridiculous when we are doing real practice.”

The intuition that everything, just as it is, is the Buddhadharma or Buddha nature, is of immense value in times of personal turmoil or social unrest. May all who sit zazen come unshakably to this intuition.

To read more essays by Michael Keller, visit his website <https://www.zazenessays.com/>.



Do you have a high school graduate in your family?

On Sunday, May 25, 2025, there will be a sangha blessing of the high school graduates who are the children and grandchildren of temple members, as well as members of Kona Daifukuji Taiko.

The blessing will take place following the morning's Memorial Day Service which will begin at 10:00 a.m. The Dharma talk for this service will be given by Rev. Hirosato Yoshida of the Soto Mission of Hawaii in Honolulu. The service and blessing will be followed by lunch. All are invited. Our wish is to congratulate the graduates and surround them with sangha love and blessings.

Invitations will soon be sent to the graduates and their families. As soon as possible, please inform Rev. Jiko if you know of a high school graduate whose parents/grandparents are Daifukuji members. You may reach Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.



Interested in studying the precepts?

Every year Rev. Jikō offers a weekly three-month study of the sixteen Bodhisattva precepts via Zoom. This study culminates in a Soto Zen Buddhist confirmation ceremony for those who choose to participate.

If you are interested in studying the precepts please let Rev. Jikō know by the end of April. This will help her in planning Dharma classes for the rest of this year.

You may reach her at (808) 322-3524 or rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.



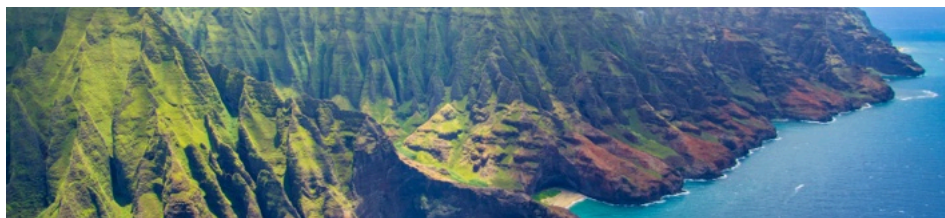
Front row: Rev. Jikō, Joyce, Michiko, Deacon Jikai, Yuki, Edna. Back row: Phil, Warren, Ann, Stephen.

Arigatō

Setting up the 33 Kannon bodhisattvas is a tedious task since the pieces require careful handling. Arigatō to Wayne and Mike for carrying the tables; to Joyce and Michiko for arranging the flowers; to Yuki, Edna, and Ann for meticulously covering the tables and setting up the statues; to Phil, Warren and Stephen for helping with many tasks, and to Rev. Jikō and Amy for room and altar set up. We also thank the Yoshiyamas, Henrietta, Joyce, Kathleen, Shirlene, Michiko and Baron for the lovely flowers & greenery.

Click the following link to check out the conference website:
<https://sites.google.com/taishoji.org/10th-ussotoconference/home>
 Look for the early bird registration discount.

To register your child for our Dharma Keiki program, please go to: <https://forms.gle/Azubjv2fbmEHUJZk6>



10th U.S. Soto Conference

Hosted by the Hawaii Soto Mission Association

October 23-26, 2025
Soto Mission of Hawaii
1708 Nuuanu Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96817



VISIT THIS LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION
SIGN UP TODAY!

Join the US Soto Conference, connecting Soto Zen Buddhist communities across Hawaii and the mainland US. Engage in diverse classes and activities, network with fellow practitioners, and explore a wide range of topics. There's sure to be something for everyone.

Classes and Presentations

Introduction to Zazen
 Shishobo: The Four Wisdoms
 The Many Faces of Kannon
 New Buddhist Music
 Sutra Writing Workshop
 The Roots and Varieties of Buddhist
 Manga and Anime
 A Record of Persistence and Assimilation:
 Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawaii
 Soto-Shu Music in Hawaii
 Dharma Keiki: A Buddhist Program for
 Children
 Project Dana: A Program for our Kupuna
 (Elders)
 More to come...

Activities

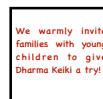
Zen Cooking
 Baika
 Zazen
 Calligraphy
 Art Project Workshop
 Juzu Making Workshop
 Shakyo: Tracing the Sutras
 Lei Making Workshop
 Taiko Workshop
 Bon Dance Workshop
 More to come...

Additional Activities

Marketplace
 Social Mixer
 Banquet Dinner
 Tour Oahu's Four Soto Zen Temples
 Luau Dinner Show
 More to come...

Coming Up in May...

Shakyō Session.....May 3
 Dharma Keiki.....May 4
 Mother's Day Ceremony, Tea, and Lei Making.....May 11
 Memorial Day Service; Graduates' Blessing.....May 25
 Kannon-ko Service (4th Wednesday).....May 28



DHARMA KEIKI

("Keiki" means "children" in Hawaiian.)
BUDDHIST TEACHINGS FOR KIDS & THE YOUNG AT HEART
 Supported by the Hawaii Soto Mission Association and administered by the
 Hawaii Soto Mission Head Office

First Sunday of the Month via Zoom
 Twice a month in person at Daifukuji Buddhist Temple

9:30 a.m. HST - 10:15 a.m. HST Via ZOOM

- Registration is required and must be done online.
- A waiver and release of liability form must be signed.
- Adult participation is required. Zoom sessions will not be recorded by the host. Participants must agree to not record nor screenshot any part of the program or its participants.
- Children learn Buddhist teachings through music, meditation, songs, stories and mindful movement in a multi-cultural setting - Hawai'i!
- Material is presented by experienced teachers.
- This program is offered free of charge. If you wish, you may make a donation to the Buddhist temple or center of your choice.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT REVEREND JIKO. Call (808) 322-3524 or send an email to: rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

TO REGISTER, PLEASE GO TO: <https://forms.gle/Azubjv2fbmEHUJZk6>



Mahalo to Bishop Shuji

Our sangha thanks Bishop Shuji Komagata of Hawaii Soto Mission for his warm and friendly Dharma message given on the occasion of Daifukuji's Spring Higan and 33 Kannon service on March 16. Bishop Shuji's talk will soon be available on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/DaifukujiSotoZenHawaii>.

April 2025

- Sangha Sisters

Youth Taiko

Adult Taiko

Major Service

Dharma Keiki

Temple Board

Fujinkai

Kannon-ko Service

Project Dana

Zazen

Samu

Special Events

Baikako Practice

Dharma Study

Happy Strummers

Work

Offsite Backup

Bon Dance Group

Teen Sangha

Orchid Club

Adult Taiko

Family Service

Major Service

Home and 17 more...

March 2025							April 2025							May 2025																			
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S													
						1							1	2	3	4	5									1	2	3					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8							6	7	8	9	10	11	12						4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15							13	14	15	16	17	18	19						11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22							20	21	22	23	24	25	26						18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29							27	28	29	30											25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31																																

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>30</div> <div>Public Welcome</div> <div>Temple Tour 10 a.m.</div>	<div>31</div> <div>8:30AM Yoga with Liz</div> <div>5:00PM Youth Taiko</div> <div>6:00PM Sunset Meditation</div>	<div>1</div> <div>9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai</div> <div>6:00PM Zen Taiko</div>	<div>2</div> <div>6:00AM Zazen & Service</div> <div>5:00PM Youth Taiko</div>	<div>3</div> <div>9:00AM Library Staff Meeting</div> <div>9:00AM Tai Chi</div> <div>11:00AM Zoom Dharma Study</div> <div>6:00PM Zen Taiko</div> <div>7:00PM Temple Board</div>	<div>4</div> <div>6:00AM Zazen</div> <div>8:00AM Samu</div> <div>10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Shakyo 9:30</div> <div>8:00AM Zoom Dharma Study</div> <div>10:15AM Youth Taiko</div> <div>11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm</div>
<div>6</div> <div>Dharma Keiki 9:30 AM</div> <div>7:45AM Baika Practice</div> <div>2:00PM Happy Strummers</div>	<div>7</div> <div>8:30AM Yoga with Liz</div> <div>5:00PM Youth Taiko</div> <div>6:00PM Sunset Meditation</div>	<div>8</div> <div>9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai</div> <div>6:00PM Zen Taiko</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Project Dana 9:30 am</div> <div>6:00AM Zazen & Service</div> <div>5:00PM Youth Taiko</div> <div>6:30PM Orchid Club</div>	<div>10</div> <div>9:00AM Tai Chi</div> <div>11:00AM Zoom Dharma Study</div> <div>6:00PM Zen Taiko</div>	<div>11</div> <div>6:00AM Zazen</div> <div>8:00AM Samu</div> <div>10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm</div> <div>5:00PM Sangha Sisters</div>	<div>12</div> <div>8:00AM Zoom Dharma Study</div> <div>10:15AM Youth Taiko</div> <div>11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm</div> <div>2:00PM Zazenkai Food Prep</div>
<div>13</div> <div>Buddha Day Service</div> <div>Hanamatsuri 10 a.m.</div> <div>12:30PM Fujinkai Conference Meeting</div>	<div>14</div> <div>8:30AM Yoga with Liz</div> <div>5:00PM Youth Taiko</div> <div>6:00PM Sunset Meditation</div>	<div>15</div> <div>9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai</div> <div>6:00PM Zen Taiko</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Kannon-ko 10 am</div> <div>6:00AM Zazen & Service</div> <div>5:00PM Youth Taiko</div>	<div>17</div> <div>9:00AM Tai Chi</div> <div>11:00AM Zoom Dharma Study</div> <div>6:00PM Zen Taiko</div>	<div>18</div> <div>6:00AM Zazen</div> <div>8:00AM Samu</div> <div>10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm</div>	<div>19</div> <div>8:00AM Zoom Dharma Study</div> <div>10:15AM Youth Taiko</div> <div>11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm</div> <div>2:00PM Beginners Ukulele</div>
<div>20</div> <div>Dharma Keiki 9:30 am</div>	<div>21</div> <div>8:30AM Yoga with Liz</div> <div>5:00PM Youth Taiko</div> <div>6:00PM Sunset Meditation</div>	<div>22</div> <div>9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai</div> <div>6:00PM Zen Taiko</div>	<div>23</div> <div>6:00AM Zazen & Service</div> <div>5:00PM Youth Taiko</div>	<div>24</div> <div>9:00AM Tai Chi</div> <div>11:00AM Zoom Dharma Study</div> <div>6:00PM Zen Taiko</div>	<div>25</div> <div>6:00AM Zazen</div> <div>8:00AM Samu</div> <div>10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm</div>	<div>26</div> <div>UHSSWA Conference</div> <div>10:15AM Youth Taiko</div> <div>11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm</div>
<div>27</div> <div>UHSSWA Conference</div>	<div>28</div> <div>8:30AM Yoga with Liz</div> <div>5:00PM Youth Taiko</div> <div>6:00PM Sunset Meditation</div>	<div>29</div> <div>9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai</div> <div>6:00PM Zen Taiko</div>	<div>30</div> <div>6:00AM Zazen & Service</div> <div>5:00PM Youth Taiko</div>	<div>1</div> <div>9:00AM Tai Chi</div> <div>11:00AM Zoom Dharma Study</div> <div>6:00PM Zen Taiko</div>	<div>2</div> <div>6:00AM Zazen</div> <div>8:00AM Samu</div> <div>10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm</div>	<div>3</div> <div>8:00AM Zoom Dharma Study</div> <div>10:15AM Youth Taiko</div> <div>11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm</div>