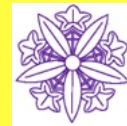


Daifukuji Soto Mission

Together With All Beings



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahakua, HI 96750

May, 2025

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.

Memorial Day Service & Blessing of the Graduates

Sunday, May 25, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Dharma Message by Reverend Hirosato Yoshida



All are cordially invited to Daifukuji's Memorial Day service. Prayers for world peace and a remembrance of our fallen soldiers and victims of war will be the focus of this service. Our featured speaker will be Rev. Hirosato Yoshida, who serves as a minister for both the Soto Mission of Hawaii Betsuin and Kauai Soto Zen Temple Zenshuji.

At the end of the service there will be a blessing of the following high school graduates of the Class of 2025:

Aiyanna Disharoon, Kristen "Keiko" Felte, and Mela A.N. Tokumura-Hanato-Wells

If you know of any other graduate whose parents or grandparents are members of our sangha, please inform Rev. Jiko as soon as possible so that an invitation can be sent. (808-322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org)

Everyone is invited to stay for a luncheon and program to be held in honor of the graduates. Let's embrace them with sangha aloha, leis, and blessings.

TOBA FORM ON PAGE 11. PLEASE TURN IN FORM BY MAY 31, 2025.

Please note that the next Kannon-ko service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on **May 28, 2025**, the 4th Wednesday of May. All are welcome.



The Family Sangha went on a field trip to the 'Akahiao Nature Institute.

Aloha from Rev. Jikō

Aloha Sangha members and friends,

Recently, a sangha member sent me a text message saying that Daifukuji is her “grounding sanctuary, a quiet, safe space for contemplation.” Her words brought a sense of quiet joy to my heart. With our country in turmoil, it’s comforting to hear that our temple is fulfilling its mission. Here we are on an island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Here, we gather, sit, volunteer our time, and refine our practice, supporting one another through the vicissitudes of life. We have our “grounding sanctuary,” our Sangha ‘ohana, and our treasured Buddhist teachings and Zen practice. The strong practice of our sangha creates a space that is welcoming and safe, a space which people can freely enter and leave feeling better equipped to face the challenges of everyday living. May we always be a refuge, a grounding sanctuary, an island of peace in the swirling waters of this world in which we all live.

Not only our zazen practice, but also seasonal observances such as Memorial Day and Obon bring meaning and peace to our lives. Every year, our sangha gathers to remember those who have died in wars; we also gather to celebrate our young people’s high school graduations. In the summertime, we gather to honor our ancestors and support those who are observing their loved ones’ first Obon. In this way, our temple serves our community with loving-kindness and compassion month after month, year after year.

Thank you, dear Sangha, for your love and support. *Namu kie butsu. Namu kie hō. Namu kie sō.*

In gasshō,

Jikō Nakade

Resident Minister



Mother's Day Ceremony and Tea

Sunday, May 11 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

On Mother's Day we will gather in homage to the women in our lives — our mothers, grandmothers, women teachers, and women predecessors across time and from around the globe.

At 9:30 a.m. a simple ceremony will be held inside the temple. If you wish, you may bring photos of your mother, grandmother and other significant women in your life. All photos will be displayed on tables set up in front of the Kannon altar. If possible, please bring a stand for your photo.

After the ceremony we will proceed to the social hall for refreshments. Please bring your own reusable tea cup or mug, plate, and utensils to help our temple be kind to the environment. Desserts & fruits for the refreshment table are welcome. (We are unable to offer lei making this year.)

This Mother's Day event is open to all. Questions? Please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.



We thank Joyce Yūkō with all our hearts for her years of service.

Aloha and Mahalo

Dear Daifukuji Fujinkai members,

Effective April 30, 2025, I will be stepping down as Fujinkai president and passing the baton to Susie Weaver, our current vice-president. I extend a warm welcome to Cindy Asada, who will be serving as the new vice-president.

My heartfelt gratitude and appreciation goes to Rev. Jikō and jizoku Mike Nakade for their guidance and to all of you for your support, compassion and kindness. It was an honor, privilege and pleasure to have served with all of the Fujinkai board of directors, chairpeople, and members throughout the years. I am so happy and proud to see how much our Fujinkai membership has increased.

I humbly ask that your continued support be given to a most vibrant, efficient and young team of officers. I wish you all good health, happiness, peace and love.

In gassho,

Joyce Yūkō St. Arnault

Interested in studying the precepts?

Please inform Rev. Jikō as soon as possible if you are interested in studying the 16 bodhisattva precepts. A new 3-month series of Dharma classes via Zoom will be starting in August, and culminating in a Soto Zen Buddhist confirmation ceremony in which participation is optional. Weekly classes will be held on Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. Contact Jikō sensei at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.



In Loving Memory

Mr. Wilfred Yamasawa passed away on March 30, 2025 at the age of 75. To his family, we express our deepest sympathy.

Mrs. Miyoko Sugai passed away on April 7, 2025 at the age of 101. To her family, we extend our sincere condolences.

Namu Shakamuni Butsu

Legacy Endowment Fund Update

Aloha Members & Friends of Daifukuji,



Your Daifukuji Soto Mission Legacy Endowment Fund continues to do well, and we are all enjoying our new, safer parking area in front of the Temple that was the first project your endowment helped to finance. The fund is on solid footing approaching \$1M in total assets dedicated to the preservation of our beloved temple & grounds. A basis has been established to ensure Daifukuji Soto Mission endures for what I hope are generations to come. As we consider the initial “building phase” of our endowment complete, I will be stepping down as Chairman.

I believe that many processes benefit from the addition of “new blood” from time to time, people that bring new ideas and a fresh perspective to the tasks at hand. The Endowment Fund Board of Trustees has unanimously voted to have Bobby Command serve as the new Chairman. As a long-time Director and previous sangha President, Bobby has a deep understanding of the maintenance needs of our temple. This will serve all of us well as the endowment progresses from its start-up phase to its “spending” phase and Bobby will ensure all funds are put to their best use. We are all lucky to have him step up & serve our Temple.

It has been a pleasure & an honor to work with all of you to help build our endowment. Thank you for your continued support of Daifukuji and your Legacy Endowment Fund.

In Gassho,

Wade Yasuda, (former) Chairman

Daifukuji Soto Mission Legacy Endowment Fund Board of Trustees

Bobby Command, Keith Olson, Avis Yamamoto, Brian Yamamoto

Information on the Legacy Endowment Fund can be found on our website

<https://www.daifukuji.org/endowment/index.html>

To request a brochure, please drop by the temple or call (808) 322-3524.

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



Stephen Shōdō Tanaka, Vice-president

I have been a Daifukuji member since my youth. Growing up across the street from Daifukuji made it very easy for my grandma to take me with her to watch her take part in temple activities while she kept an eye on me. I have served on the Daifukuji board for many years, and am also a member of the samu group, Fujinkai, Baikako, Dharma study group, maintenance committee, and the Soleful Strutters walking moai.

Linda Jōkō Calloway, Director



Aloha, my name is Linda Calloway. I was born in Chicago where I attended Loretta Academy and Roosevelt University. I began my working career as a flight attendant and 35 years later retired as a marketing and sales manager for TWA. My community service included serving on the Board of Directors for United Way of South Hampton Roads, Armed Services of YMCA and Children's Harbor. I've been living on island with my family since 2014 and became a member of Daifukuji. I currently serve on our Fujinkai and Daifukuji boards and participate in Zoom Dharma classes. My service to our community on island is working at Life Care Center of Kona on an as-needed basis. I hope to use my experiences to enhance our

Sangha to be the best that we can be as we practice the Buddha Way together.

Bon Dance News



To Bon Dance fans out there, here's a preview of what's coming up in June and July.

Bon dance practice sessions led by sensei Winnie Kimura will be held from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the temple's social hall every Tuesday evening in June starting June 3 and on the following Tuesdays and Thursdays in July: July 1, 3, 8, and 10.

Daifukuji Soto Mission's Bon Dance will be held on **Saturday, July 12** from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Obon Festival 2025 will be a community event held at the Makaeo Pavilion at the Old Airport on a Sunday this year. The date is Sunday, June 15 in the afternoon. Time to be announced.



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

Dharma Keiki - Sunday, May 4 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, May 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. All are welcome. By donation. Call (808) 322-3524 for information.

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.

Qigong - Thursday 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 - Qigong-T'ai Chi warm-up & walking on temple grounds at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. A good way to get some exercise and make new friends. For information, please contact Hannah Israel at (408) 421-8845 or Reverend Jiko at (808) 322-3524.

Samu Fridays - We welcome 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.

Zazen, Dharma Talk, and Vegetarian Potluck Dinner

Sunday, May 4 5:00 p.m. In-person and by Zoom Daifukuji Meditation Hall

The Daifukuji Zazenkaï invites members and interested persons to an evening of meditation, Dharma and fellowship. All are welcome. Contact Rev. Jiko for the Zoom link. rev.jiko@daifukuji.org

4:45 p.m. Arrival and sign in
5:00 p.m. Zazen (25 minutes), Kinhin (10 minutes), Zazen (25 minutes)
6:00 p.m. Dharma Talk by Rev. Jikō followed by Q & A
6:30 p.m. Vegetarian potluck dinner and fellowship in the social hall



Buddhadharma

by Michael Keller

I have been re-reading Adyashanti's *The End of Your World*. On p. 1 of this book, in speaking of awakening or enlightenment, Adyashanti says that during this experience, "the whole sense of 'self' disappears." His mention of this aspect of enlightenment has given rise to some thoughts about it.

From the standpoint of this aspect, there are several points during the day when everyone probably experiences enlightenment. Especially when a person is engaged in a manual or intellectual task requiring concentration, the sense of self usually drops from his or her mind. For example, planting flowers, putting dishes into a dishwasher or cupboards, planning a meal, these are activities when a sense of self, or "I-consciousness," may not be present. Normally a person is not aware of this absence.

There are instances, however, where a person is aware of the absence. In a different source than his book, in the *Sun* journal of 2007, p. 10, Adyashanti described such an experience he himself had. The essay on my website entitled "Zazen and Ego" describes a similar experience of my own. In my case, I was completely aware of the absence of a sense of "I" in my mind. When I saw this absence, I was very startled but not discomposed.

Some Buddhist sources seem to present enlightenment as occurring only during meditation, which is a relatively rare experience. Adyashanti, however, as well as I, are talking about an enlightenment that occurs outside of meditation. Also, Adyashanti, in the words of the editor of his book, "insisted that it is a myth that a spiritual awakening is a rare experience" (p. xiii).

It is likely that many zazen practitioners have enlightenment experiences. To realize that the self has no real existence is a great advantage in life.

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



Hatsubon (First Obon)

Throughout the summer season of Obon, Buddhists remember their departed loved ones and family ancestors. We offer prayers and toba memorial tablets in their memory. As a Sangha, we gather to offer our love and support to those who are observing their departed family member's first Obon, known as Hatsubon.

To date, the following are the names of the departed for whom this will be a first Obon:

Jan Bovard, Dr. Masato “Masao” Nakamoto, Shari Ann Ogi, Faith Schill, Doris Yanagi, Gilbert A. Kaneko of California, Kusato Okayama, and Miyoko Sugai.

All are invited to attend Daifukuji's Obon service on **Sunday, June 29 at 10:00 a.m.** The Dharma message will be given by Rev. Jigaku Takenouchi of Taishoji Soto Mission. Everyone is invited to stay for the fellowship luncheon following the service. Please join us.

The Significance of the Ō-Tōba 大塔婆

At the time of O-Bon, Buddhists offer long wooden memorial tablets called ō-tōba for the benefit of the deceased. The Japanese word “tōba” comes from the Sanskrit word “stupa.” In India, the relics of Shakyamuni Buddha were kept in burial mounds called stupas. Over time, the stupa developed into a variety of forms as Buddhism travelled across Asia. Among these forms was the five-storied pagoda.

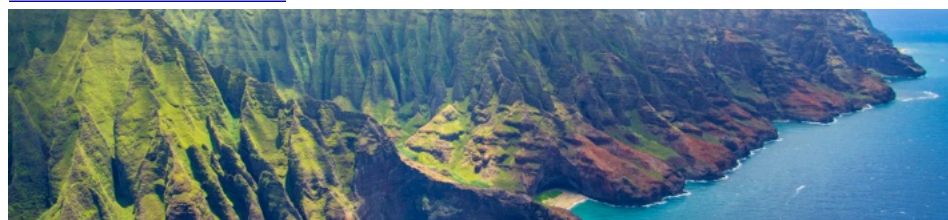


Ō-Tōba are the large wooden memorial tablets on which the names of the deceased are written.

The top section of the ō-tōba (“O” meaning “large”) is cut into a pagoda of five levels with each level depicted by a particular shape. Starting at the bottom, there is a square representing earth, then a circle representing water, followed by a triangle representing fire, a semicircle representing wind, and a jewel of fulfillment at the top representing space. Everything in the universe, including our human bodies, are made up of these five elements, which are constantly changing.

At the O-bon service, the tōba memorial dedications are chanted by the minister and the merit dedicated to the deceased. One may dedicate ō-tōba and kō-tōba by using the tōba request form on page 11. Please contact Rev. Jiko if you have questions.

Conference website: <https://sites.google.com/taishoji.org/10th-ussotoconference/home>



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
 Shakyō: Tracing the Sutras
 Lei Making Workshop
 Taiko Workshop
 Bon Dance Workshop
 More to come...

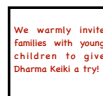
Additional Activities

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

Coming Up in June...

Dharma Keiki.....June 1 & 15
 Shakyō Session.....June 7
 Project Dana.....June 11
 Fujinkai Activity & Gift Shop Sale.....June 14
 Obon Festival at Makao Pavillion.....June 15
 Kannonko service.....June 18
 Temple & Grounds Clean Up.....June 22
 Obon Service.....June 29

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



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>



Welcome to Our Sangha

We extend a warm welcome to Michele Wong. Michele is a member of the Daifukuji Zazenkai.

New members are always welcome. For information, please stop by the temple to pick up a brochure or visit our website: https://www.daifukuji.org/membership_brochure.pdf

May 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...

April 2025							May 2025							June 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3				1	2	3
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26		18	19	20	21	22	23	24			22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30					25	26	27	28	29	30	31			29	30		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 UHSSWA Conference	28 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	29 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	30 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko	1 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko 7:00PM Temple Board	2 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm 5:00PM Fujinkai Board	3 Shakyo 9:30 am 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm
4 Zazenkai Event 5 pm Dharma Keiki 9:30 AM 7:45AM Baikako Practice 2:00PM Happy Strummers	5 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	6 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	7 6:00AM Zazen & Meeting 5:00PM Youth Taiko	8 9:00AM Library Staff Meeting 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko	9 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm 4:30PM Sangha Sisters	10 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm
11 Mother's Day Service 9:30 am 9:00AM Bring a photo of Mom 9:00AM Refreshments welcome	12 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	13 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	14 Project Dana 9:30 AM 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:30PM Orchid Club	15 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko	16 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	17 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm
18	19 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	20 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	21 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko	22 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko	23 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	24 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm
25 10:00 a.m. Blessing of Graduates Memorial Day Service Rev. Yoshida, speaker	26 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	27 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	28 Kannon-ko 10 am 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko	29 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko	30 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	31 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm

Daifukuji Soto Mission O-Toba and Ko-Toba Request Form

Please turn in by May 31, 2025

At Obon, Buddhists express their gratitude to their ancestors by making memorial dedications in the form of TOBA. The names of the deceased will be read by the minister during the Obon Service to which you are invited on **June 29, 2025**. Please send or bring your request form to Daifukuji no later than **May 31st** and make checks payable to **Daifukuji Soto Mission**. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

YOUR NAME _____
PHONE NUMBER _____ **E-MAIL ADDRESS** _____

O-TOBA (written on wooden boards)..... Donation \$10.00 per request

O-TOBA are offered in remembrance of:

1. Family ancestors as a group (Example: The Nakade Family Ancestors)
2. A deceased individual for whom this is a first Obon (hatsubon) (Example: The late _____)

PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY.

I dedicate the merit of these prayers to.....

1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
- _____

KO-TOBA (written on paper)..... Donation \$5.00 per request

KO-TOBA are similar to O-toba, but are written on paper instead of wood and are a second option. Please print names clearly. *I dedicate the merit of these prayers to.....*

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

Mail to: Daifukuji Soto Mission
P.O. Box 55
Kealahou, HI 96750

Your Name _____
Donation for Toba \$ _____
O-bon service donation \$ _____
(optional)
Total Enclosed \$ _____