Daifukuji Soto Mission

Together With All Beings







79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealakekua, HI 96750

January, 2025

(808) 322-3524 <u>www.daifukuji.org</u>

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.



New Year's Day Blessing Service "Welcoming the New Year Together" Wednesday, January 1 10:00 a.m.

ALL ARE INVITED

Let's begin 2025 with the Three Treasures in our hearts and blessings for everyone's health and safety. During the service, individual blessings will be given by Reverend Jikō. After the service, attendees may ring the temple bell and enjoy hot noodles and sangha fellowship inside the social hall

Assorted omamori (Buddhist charms for one's purse and vehicle) and ofuda (blessing cards for home and office) will be available for \$5. The white Hawaii Kannon omamori are \$6 each and wallet omamori are \$2 each. Omamori for dogs and cats will be available for \$5.

No pre-orders will be taken. You may purchase omamori after the blessing service or stop by the temple to purchase your omamori & ofuda at another time. Payment will be accepted by cash, check, or credit card on January 1st.

As the new year begins, we gladly welcome new members & membership renewals.

Please use the 2025 membership form that's on the last page of this newsletter.







Mahalo for Being My Shōyū

Aloha Sangha members and friends,

As the old year draws to a close and a new year hovers on the horizon, I wish to gasshō and say to each one of you, "Mahalo for being my shōyū." Don't worry - I am not calling you "soy sauce," although I do like soy sauce a lot. The term "shōyū," which appears in chapter three of the sutra *Shūshōgi*, means "excellent friends." In Japanese, the kanji characters are 勝友.

In the *Shūshōgi*, it is written: "We take refuge in the Buddha because he is the great teacher. We take refuge in the Dharma because it is good medicine. We take refuge in the Sangha because it is an excellent friend." Our sangha is indeed made up of excellent friends (shōyū) who walk the path of the Buddha together, with love and compassion for one another and with the common aspiration of freeing all beings from suffering caused by greed, hatred, and delusion. We always practice the Buddha Way together with all beings, awakening time and time again to the realization that we and all beings are not separate. We are, in fact, greatly interlinked and this is why we must strive to live in ways that benefit all beings, not just ourselves and our own families.

Imagine what our lives would be without our dear shōyū. I hope that the photos and happy faces on this page convey what a thousand words fail to express. With a grateful heart, I look forward to starting the Year of the Snake 2025 together with my wonderful shōyū. That's all of you — my true Aloha Shōyū! Together, we can create a brighter, calmer, more peaceful and loving world. My family joins me in thanking you for your kindness and wishing you a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you on New Year's Day, the Fujinkai's Hatsumairi, the New Year's party, and at other services and events to come. *Namu kie butsu. Namu kie hō. Namu kie sō.*





In gasshō, Reverend Jikō Nakade



The Nakade 'Ohana



A Message from Fujinkai President Joyce Yūkō

Dear Rev. Jikō and family, Fujinkai members and Sangha Friends,

Joyce & Cherokee In reflecting upon the past year, I begin by expressing my deepest sympathy to those whose loved ones passed away in 2024, including the family of the late Bishop Shugen Komagata. I know that our good memories of our temple members and friends will remain in our hearts always.

The year 2024 was certainly a busy and exciting one here at Daifukuji. I would like to express my heartfelt thank you to all of you for making our many activities and events great successes. To our vibrant Fujinkai advisors, Rev. Jiko and Michael Nakade, thank you for your leadership and guidance. To the Fujinkai executive board, district representatives, chairpersons and members, *arigato gozaimasu* for your dedication, hard work, time, participation and generous donations. Over the course of a year, the Daifukuji Fujinkai welcomed ten new members, who will be recognized at our Hatsumairi service on January 12th. We are fortunate to be a growing temple group.

As we look forward to greeting the Year of the Snake, with the snake being a symbol of wisdom, transformation, and intuition, I wish everyone — you and your families, our community and world — good health, peace, and much love. Happy New Year to all!

In gassho, with much gratitude,

Joyce Yūkō St. Arnault

Daifukuji Fujinkai's New Year's Gathering (Hatsumairi 初参り)

Sunday, January 12, 2025 10:00 a.m.

It's always a joy to begin a new year together. All members of the Daifukuji Fujinkai are cordially invited to the Fujinkai's first service of the New Year, which will be held on Sunday, January 12 at 10:00 a.m. The service will be followed by a brief meeting, lunch and activities. For Hatsumairi planning purposes, a general headcount is needed. District representatives will soon be contacting group members.

The annual dues of \$10 will be collected. Fujinkai members 85 years of age and up are exempt from paying dues. Tickets for the group's February 15, 2025 pancake breakfast fundraiser will be distributed. Tickets are \$10 apiece. The members of the Daifukuji Fujinkai have supported the temple in numberless ways for over a century. They engage in educational workshops, community service, conferences, and field trips, and hold an annual fundraiser to defray expenses for their members. Membership in the Daifukuji Fujinkai is open to all adults and new members are always welcome. For information, go to https://www.daifukuji.org/activities/Fujinkai_Brochure_2022.pdf, or contact Joyce at (808) 329-3833 or Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

New Members



The Daifukuji Fujinkai welcomes new members Jayne Omori, Cynthia Matsumoto, Anne van Leynseele, and Martha Denney.

Our various temple groups are always happy to receive new members. For information about group activities, please visit https://www.daifukuji.org/activities.html. Information regarding temple membership may be found online at https://www.daifukuji.org/membership_brochure.pdf or by calling the temple office at (808) 322-3524. Our Sangha welcomes you!



2025 Hawaii Soto-Shu Calendars

The 2025 Soto-Shu calendars will be arriving soon, featuring pictures of Soto Zen temples around the globe. Daifukuji has ordered 150 calendars, which will be offered without charge on a first-come-first-serve basis.

An email announcement will be sent out to temple members when the calendars arrive. We hope to have them available at the New Year's blessing service, Fujinkai Hatsumairi, and New Year's party. Daifukuji members, if you live outside Hawaii and wish to have one mailed to you, please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

Pancake Breakfast: A Fundraiser for the Daifukuji Fujinkai Saturday, February 15, 2025 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Daifukuji Social Hall Tickets \$10 (available after January 12)



Please mark your calendars for the Daifukuji Fujinkai's pancake breakfast fundraiser. Tickets will be available through Fujinkai members and the temple office after January 12, 2025. Tickets will also be sold at the door. Each ticket is good for one complete breakfast platter and coffee, tea, and juice. The ever-popular miso soup is included. Manju and other items will be sold.

The Fujinkai humbly asks for your support. Proceeds will be used to fund conferences, field trips, and other educational activities and community service projects sponsored by the Daifukuji Fujinkai.



January Activities (More activities listed at https://www.daifukuji.org/activities.html)

Dharma Keiki - Two Sundays, January 5 and January 19 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.

Shakyo (Tracing the Sutras) & Shabutsu (tracing pictures of buddhas) - Saturday, January 11 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.

Raymond Baltero's ukulele classes for beginners are filled. Please wait for the next round of classes.

We warmly invite families with young children to give Dharma Keiki a try!







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 Z00M

- 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



Board Nominations for 2025 & 2026 Term

by Bobby Command, Nominations Committee

It's time once again to reach out to our sangha and ask if you are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors of the Daifukuji Soto Mission. As we are a significant-sized, tax-exempt organization, there are business decisions that must be made by an elected board of directors, which can be as large as 15 members. We currently have 11 board members but one has decided to move onto other things and so that leaves us with 10. While it sounds like a lot of work, being on the board certainly is not a heavy lift. The board meets on the first Thursday of every month for about an hour and a half by Zoom, and, occasionally, in person. Except for being at the New Year's Party, the only other duties are to be willing to chair an occasional committee, which adds a few more hours to this commitment. Daifukuji is an important part of our larger Kona sangha and your small commitment would ensure that we are around to serve our friends well into the future. Any dues-paying temple member may nominate a dues-paying member, but their nomination must be received no later than two weeks prior to the general membership meeting on January 26, 2025. If you would like more information about this fulfilling opportunity, please feel free to call Bobby Command at (808) 895-2416.



Zazen and Peace by Michael Keller

I have been attending a Dharma discussion group that is reading Shohaku Okumura's *Living by Vow* (2012). There is a chapter in that book on the Buddhist "three refuges" of Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. Reading the chapter occasioned in me some thoughts about sangha.

A Buddhist sangha is the community of people following the Buddha way within a particular Zen monastery or neighborhood Zen Center. I have been a member of four sanghas: the San Francisco Zen Center at Green Gulch Farm in California, the San Francisco Zen Center at Tassajara also in California, the Houston Zen Center, and the Daifukuji Soto Zen Temple in Hawai'i.

A feeling of comradeship naturally develops within a sangha. Interpersonal quarreling does occur, however, if personal interests clash. Quarreling is resolved when the parties eventually come around to following Chogyam Trungpa's expression of bodhisattva behavior. He says, "The bodhisattva vow is the commitment to put others before oneself."[1] In other words, quarreling stops when ego is put aside. (The quote is from *The Heart of the Buddha*, 2010.)

In a broad definition of sangha, a community that follows the same religious path, there are Hindu sanghas, Christian sanghas, and Muslim sanghas. In an even broader definition, a sangha is a community pursuing the same goal. It could be said that this is the entire human community. All people aim for happiness and contentment, even if some in misguided ways.

If that very broad community of human beings is going to get along, the same thing is required as with narrower communities. To use Chogyam Trungpa's words, "the commitment to put others before oneself," or a certain degree of egolessness, is required.

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



Mahalo, Gustavo!

Hall Kitchen Improvements

Our hall kitchen has been spruced up with a fresh coat of paint, thanks to the generosity of Dharma Keiki dad and professional painter, Gustavo Leite, who donated his time and labor. We thank Gustavo, as well as the crew of volunteers who prepped the walls by scrubbing off the mold, mildew, and dust — Lori Uchimura, Midori Satoh, Huong Lam, Michael Nakade, Ann Nakamoto, Teri Hollowell, Stephen Tanaka, Warren Ikeda, Joyce St. Arnault, Barb Bosz, and Betsy Morrigan.

With the walls looking great, the Daifukuji Board decided to have new kitchen flooring installed. Miyabi Interiors was chosen for this job, which will be completed before the end of 2024.

Okagesama de, our Sangha will be able to celebrate the New Year with a much improved kitchen.



Clean Up Mahalo from Shaun

December 1st was a cool and sunny morning in Kona, a perfect cleanup day. We had over fifty people from most of the temple groups come out and help.

The kitchen had just been repainted so all the things from the upper and open shelves were stored in the social hall. No problem, the Happy Strummers group made a great lunch working around all that chaos. Thank you, Happy Strummers.

At the end of the day we had two large loads of green waste and only a few bags of rubbish. It is so nice to see us putting less and less material into the landfill.

We had such a good crew. People knew how to do the regular clean-up tasks and there were people willing to take on some of the different additional tasks.

Mahalo to everyone who helped with the December clean up.

Aloha,

Shaun Roth, Cleanup Chair





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

More to come...

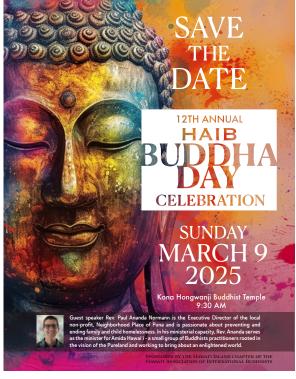
Introduction to Zazen
Shishobo: The Four Wisdoms
The Many Faces of Kannon
New Buddhist Music
Sutra Writing Workshop
The Roots and Varieties of Buddhist
Manga and Anime
A Record of Persistence and Assimilation:
Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawaii
Soto-Shu Music in Hawaii
Dharma Keiki: A Buddhist Program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

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...





We thank Rev. Ananda Normann for blessing Daifukuji's Bodhi Day service with his moving words of compassion and wisdom. He will deliver the keynote message at the HAIB Buddha Day service on March 9, 2025.

Coming Up in February...

Shakyō SessionFebruary 1Zazenkai GatheringFebruary 8Nirvana Day Service (Nehan-e)February 9Project DanaFebruary 12Pancake BreakfastFebruary 15Baika WorkshopFebruary 16Kannon-ko ServiceFebruary 19

All are invited....

ZAZENKAI GATHERING

Saturday, February 8, 2025

4:30 pm Zazen Intro. (for those new to the practice)

5:00 p.m. Zazen (meditation)

6:00 p.m. Potluck and fellowship

January 2025

Adult Taiko Sangha Sisters Temple Board Samu Work Youth Taiko Fujinkai Special Events Offsite Backup Family Service Adult Taiko Kannon-ko Service Baikako Practice Bon Dance Group Major Service Major Service Project Dana Dharma Study Teen Sangha Home and 17 more... Dharma Keiki Happy Strummers Orchid Club Zazen

December 2024

S M T W T F S

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

12 23 24 25 26 27 28

29 30 31

January 2025

S M T W T F S

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

19 30 31

26 27 28 29 30 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	= 8:30AM Yoga with Liz = 5:00PM Youth Taiko = 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	= 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai = 6:00PM Zen Taiko	All Welcome New Year's Blessing 10 NO ZAZEN	No Dharma Study Mg:00AM Tai Chi 6:00PM Zen Taiko 7:00PM Temple Board	= 6:00AM Zazen = 8:00AM Samu = 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	No Dharma Study 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm
Dharma Keiki 9:30 AM 7:45AM Baikako Practice 3:00PM Happy Strummers	 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation 	= 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai = 9:30AM Shakyo = 6:00PM Zen Taiko	Project Dana 9:30 am = 6:00AM Zazen & Service = 5:00PM Youth Taiko = 6:30PM Orchid Club	 9:00AM Library Staff Meeting 9:00AM Tai Chi 11:00AM Zoom Dharma Study 6:00PM Zen Taiko 	=6:00AM Zazen =8:00AM Samu =10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm =5:00PM Sangha Sis- ters	Shakyo 9:30 am 8:00AM Zoom Dharma Study 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop
Fujinkai Gathering 10 A Hatsumairi	13 M 8:30AM Yoga with Liz = 5:00PM Youth Taiko = 6:00PM Sunset Medi- tation	- 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai - 6:00PM Zen Taiko	Kannon-ko 10 am = 6:00AM Zazen & Ser- vice = 5:00PM Youth Taiko	9:00AM Tai Chi 11:00AM Zoom Dharma Study 6:00PM Zen Taiko	= 6:00AM Zazen = 8:00AM Samu = 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm = 4:00PM Fujinkai Board	8:00AM Zoom Dhar- ma Study 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm
Dharma Keiki 9:30 AM 7:45AM Baikako Practice	= 8:30AM Yoga with Liz = 5:00PM Youth Taiko = 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	= 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai = 6:00PM Zen Taiko	= 6:00AM Zazen & Ser- vice = 5:00PM Youth Taiko	= 9:00AM Tai Chi = 11:00AM Zoom Dharma Study = 6:00PM Zen Taiko	=6:00AM Zazen =8:00AM Samu =10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	Help Needed Party Set Up 10 AM 8:00AM Zoom Dharma Study 10:15AM Youth 11:00AM Gift Shop
New Year's Party 11 AM =11:00AM Gen. Mem- bership Meeting		= 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai = 6:00PM Zen Taiko	= 6:00AM Zazen & Ser- vice = 5:00PM Youth Taiko	9:00AM Tai Chi 11:00AM Zoom Dharma Study 6:00PM Zen Taiko	= 6:00AM Zazen = 8:00AM Samu = 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	=8:00AM Zoom Dhar- ma Study =10:15AM Youth Taiko =11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm

Daifukuji Soto Mission 2025 Annual Membership Form



Please check one of the following	: :		
Membership renewal			Homosey # Tolking to the State Council
New member	4 C41 4 1	г 1 1: 1	ı·
Not a member but wish to be	e a supporter of the templ	e. Enclosed is my dona	tion.
Members of your household who	consider themselves mer	nbers of Daifukuji Soto	Mission:
1			
1Last Name 2		Year of Birth	Occupation
	First Name	Year of Birth	Occupation
Last Name 4.	First Name	Year of Birth	Occupation
Last Name 5.	First Name	Year of Birth	Occupation
Last Name	First Name	Year of Birth	Occupation
(Please add names on a separate s	heet if necessary.)		
Mailing Address Street Address (if different from mail			
Street Address (if different from mail	ling address)		
Phone Number	Cell Phone Numbe	r	
E-mail Address			
*2025 Annual Membership Due	S		
\$60.00 per household	\$		
* Temple Operation Fund Donation (ijihi)	\$		
Fund Donation (ijihi) Helps with cemetery and column	mbarium maintenance	 utilities insurance n	ninister's salary office
equipment & supplies, basic ma			
equipment & supplies, suste in	annonanos, anar & Rice	men supplies, newsie	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
*Annual Sunday Services Donat (Gobutsuzen)	tion \$		
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$		

Please make checks payable to: Daifukuji Soto Mission. Kindly remit by June 1, 2025.

Membership forms and donations may be dropped off at the temple office or mailed to: **Daifukuji Soto Mission, P.O. Box 55, Kealakekua, HI 96750.**

Your donations sustain our temple & programs. Whatever amount you can donate beyond the membership dues is greatly appreciated. Thank you very much for your generosity & support. In Gassho