

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

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View event photos at www.flickr.com/photos/Kotohira-dazaifu

Back-To-School Education Blessing

A new school year is a new beginning. New adventures await as students and teachers prepare for school. Excitement for new possibilities and fear of the unknown mingle in their hearts.

Whether your children are starting kindergarten, entering high school, or leaving the nest for college, we invite you to have them specially blessed at our annual Back to School Education Blessing, as they go out to face the world.

Our special Blessing is offered to bring positive blessings to students, teachers and support staff as they begin this new school year - so they

are surrounded by love, hope, vision, and protection and the courage to persevere in all they undertake and the gift of joy and wonder in all things.

Sugawara no Michizane, the kami of Dazaifu Tenmangu, was a 9th century scholar and nobleman who was falsely accused of improprieties at court and sent into exile, where he died before being exonerated.

Later, his spirit was deified and today is venerated as the deity of learning and arts at the 11,000 or so Tenmangu shrines dedicated to him throughout Japan.

Dazaifu Tenmangu in Fukuoka is the main shrine of all the Tenmangu

shrines in Japan and we are the only branch shrine of Dazaifu Tenmangu outside of Japan.

This year, our Back to School Education Blessing was held on August 3 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Joining us again was Rei Uetake of Obu city, Aichi prefecture, who has been coming to Hawaii with his mother for the past 10 years to attend our Back-To-School Education Blessing.

A big Mahalo goes out to Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation and our many volunteers who helped to make this special blessing available to the community.

MAHALO for your generous donations

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MAHALO Volunteers



Dazaifu Tenmangu and Kirin Beer

Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd. was established on February 23, 1907, taking over The Japan Brewery Co. which started marketing Kirin Beer in 1888.

In its history of more than 100 years, Kirin Brewery has gone through a series of hard times, including recovery from a devastating earthquake in 1923 and from the postwar chaos in the late 1940s.

Japan Brewery Co. Ltd., the forerunner of Kirin Brewery, was established on the site of the former Spring Valley Brewery in Yokohama in July 1885.

The company was founded by W. H. Talbot, E. Abbott, and a few other foreigners residing in Yokohama - all of whom held a conviction that beer would become popular with Japanese people.

At the advice of Thomas Blake Glover, a Scottish merchant and who would later join the board of Japan Brewery, Yanosuke Iwasaki - president of Mitsubishi - and eight other Japanese bought interests in the company.

Japan Brewery began producing German-style lager beer on February 23, 1888, using then state-of-the-art brewing machines and steam engines, and assisted by a skilled German brewer.

Thomas Blake Glover came to Japan in 1859 to manage the newly established Nagasaki office of a British trading house. He later participated in establishing businesses that would become pillars of Mitsubishi's early growth and diversification.

Glover was born the son of a coast guard officer in 1838 and grew up in Aberdeen, Scotland. He joined Jardine, Matheson & Co. after finishing school and worked in the company's Shanghai office before taking up his assignment in Japan.

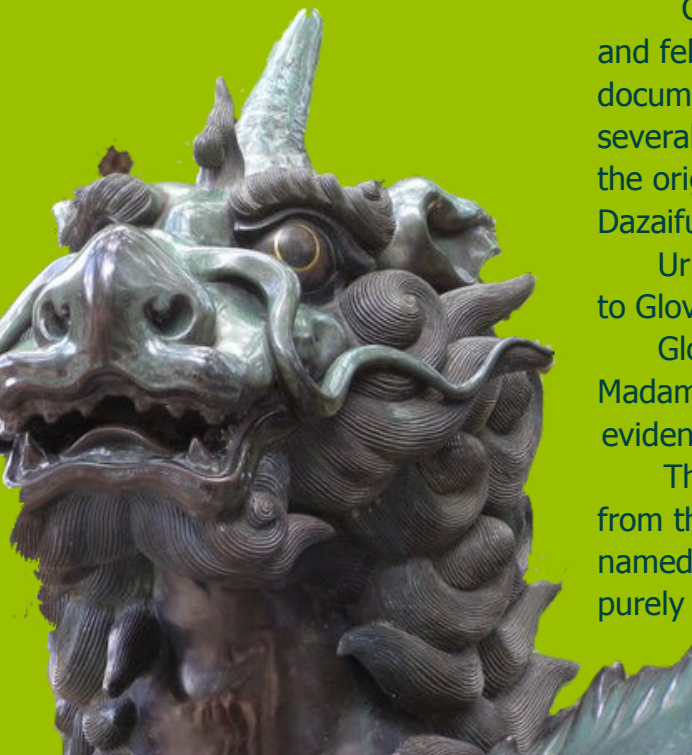
Glover contributed immensely to the industrialization and modernization of Japan. Emperor Meiji recognized that contribution by awarding him with the Order of the Rising Sun - Gold and Silver Star.

Glover visited Dazaifu Tenmangu in Fukuoka numerous times and fell in love with the kirin statue on the shrine grounds. It is documented that he attempted to purchase the kirin statue on several occasions and is thought to have redesigned the motif for the original Kirin beer label to that which was similar to the kirin at Dazaifu Tenmangu.

Urban legend has it that the moustache on the kirin is a tribute to Glover, who sported a similar one.

Glover has also been linked with Giacomo Puccini's opera *Madame Butterfly*, which is set in Nagasaki, but there is no historical evidence that supports this claim.

The Glover-*Madame Butterfly* connection was possibly derived from the American Occupation forces stationed at Sasebo, that nicknamed the former Glover House the "Madame Butterfly house" purely on the basis of the panoramic view over Nagasaki Harbor.



Hassaku

Hassaku or the first day of the eight lunar month refers to a variety of observances held to ask the kami for a plentiful harvest.

Hassaku is said to be the 210th day after the beginning of spring, and a time when strong typhoons are starting to brew around Japan and farmers begin fearing for their crops.

In ancient Japan, the ceremonies held at the seasonal changes were important for strengthening the bonds with the gods as well with the community.

In the old lunar calendar, the very first day of a month, when there was no moon, is called SAKU 朔 or *tsuitachi*. The first day of the eighths month is hachigatsu sakuhi 八月朔日, which was eventually shortened to Hassaku.



Rice that was cultivated at the shrine was offered along with sake



Shichigosan

Reservations accepted from Monday, September 1

Online Reservations at:

<http://www.e-shrine.org/shichigosanjusanmairi.html>

or email us at:

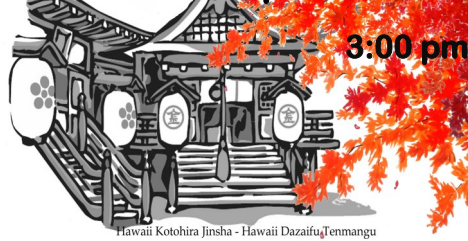
Kotohira@hawaiiantel.net

Upcoming Events Visit our website for details www.e-shrine.org

Tsukinami-sai and Choyo no Sekku

September 7
Sunday
3:00 pm

Autumn Thanksgiving Festival 秋季感謝大祭 September 28



3:00 pm

Tsukinamisai

October 19 Sunday
3:00 pm

