

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha • Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

APRIL 2023



The Spring Thanksgiving Festival was performed on Sunday, April 16

MAHALO for your generous Donations

John Clark
Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka
Bill & Keiko Doughty
Bryson & Reiko Goda
Anthony Fujii
Nicholas Fujii
Sakaye Fujii
Miyoko Hanahara
Mitsuru & Pam Igarashi
Art Isa
Rodney & Sharon Isa
James & Melba Kurashige
Yae Miko
Steve Miwa
Irina Monk
Ben Moriyama
Scott Murashige
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh

Craig & Diane Nishida
Akiko Sanai
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Robert Stallings
Kevin Sugimoto Ohana
Takenoko Sushi
Lena Young



MAHALO for Festival Offerings

Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka
Mitsuru & Pam Igarashi
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Takenoko Sushi, Hilo
Masa & Irene Takizawa

CALENDAR

MAY

- 7 2 pm**
Tsukinamisai Monthly Service
- 28 8 am (Rev. Takizawa only)**
Memorial Day Service
(Punchbowl, Makiki Cemetery,
Moiliili Cemetery)

JUNE

- 3 1 pm**
Chinowa preparations
- 4 9:30 am - 1 pm**
Chinowa for People & Pets

JULY

- 1 - 7 8:30 am - 4 pm**
Tanabata tanzaku wish tags



Visit our website at www.jinja.us

SPRING THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL

The Spring Thanksgiving Festival is a time to remember the bounties that we receive from nature and the friendships, kindnesses, generosity and guidance received from everyone who has touched and shaped our lives.

Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu was



established in 1952. 2023 marks the 71st year since the *Gobunrei* (essence of the *kami*) was authorized for worship by Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka and brought to Hawaii.

The pandemic erupted in February 2020, just ahead of the 2020 Spring Thanksgiving Festival.

The Spring Festival of 2020 and 2021 was performed solo by Rev. Takizawa.

With easing restrictions and a decline in cases - - the 2022 festival was performed in the presence of our Officers and Board members.

We were finally able to resume normalcy and welcomed two priests from Japan - Rev. Tomoya Maki and Rev. Koshi Mita from Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka.

Much mahalo to Board members: president Bryson Goda for presenting the awards, Marilyn Naitoh for manning reception, Diane Nishida and Linda Shinsato for MC-ing and Shinken Naitoh, Gary Shinsato, Craig Nishida and Art Isa with logistics and cleanup.

2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

Nathan Yoshida - currently a senior at Kalani High School where he's a part of the band program playing french horn, mellophone and trumpet

Ellie Ikemura - a star athlete at Mililani High school will be attending Washington State University to major in Pre-Med

Brendan Choy - currently a senior at Mid-Pacific Institute and on his way to Washington State University to become a Veterinarian

Kenji Sugimoto - graduating with honors from Moanalua High School and attending UH Manoa to major in Computer Science

Kadin Watanabe - currently president of Maryknoll's Japanese club is an avid gamer and golfer



Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha • Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu believes that education is crucial to the development of future leaders.

The Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu Scholarship was created in 2012 to award scholarships to qualified applicants attending an accredited high school, university or vocational school regardless of race, religion, sex or national origin. This year marks our 12th year and we are delighted to award five outstanding students.

Volunteer Awards

2023 Scholarships



This year, we would like to acknowledge 3 outstanding individuals that have been a vital part of the shrine for many years.

Our deepest gratitude goes out to **Bryson Goda**, our president and **Bill & Keiko Doughty** for their outstanding dedication.

This recognition is a symbol for all shrine supporters, that we are an organization of volunteers, working together in service to the community, in a unified goal of the preservation and perpetuation of our cultural and spiritual heritage.

Past Scholarship Recipients

2012

Bryson Teruo Goda
Kai Aaron Igarashi
Lucas Mattice
Tatiana Omokawa

2013

Jeffrey Ga Min Fujioka
Geraldine Gambalan
Lukela Los Banos
Jill Mari Nishida
Daniel Song

2014

Stacie Akemi Hata
Calvin Mai
Melvin Monces
Scott Okamura

2015

Alexandria Carlyle
Milena Sayaka Naitoh
John Sunahara
Dane Yamada

2016

Kazuumi Fujioka
Kyle Ling
Stuart Pang
Bethany Schwartz
James Yonemura

2017

Cassandra Carlyle
Cherie Ishihara
Skye Sakashita
Staci Shimamoto
Jensn Yasui

2018

Gavin Desamito
Victoria Hallett
Taylor Suzuki
Kylie Tamashiro
Micah Tong
Katherine Yoakum

2019

Joseph Agag
Dakota Rei Chun
Kilala Hall
Brenna Imada

Zeph Kaneshiro
Jordan Kimura
Konner Uratsuka

2020

Keng-Hsien Chao
Rayce Manriki
Kaylee Rafol
Skye Miyauchi
Kody Watanabe
Dorthea Yoakum

2021

Kody Watanabe
Landon Kimura
Becky Isa
Skye Miyauchi
Dorthea Yoakum

2022

Stirling Sakashita
Danielle Sato
Madisen Yasui
Tiffani Muramoto
Sara Tash



Gokito Private Blessing



Kotohira-gu is renowned as the patron *kami* of seafarers and water-related activities.

This centuries-old ritual is meant for the captain, crew, and friends to have safe and bountiful boating excursions.



A longtime supporter of the shrine from Massachusetts finally made her way to Hawaii to receive a blessing in person.

She will be attending a university in Kyoto for a year to further her knowledge of Japanese language and culture..



The street light in front of the shrine on Olomea was vandalized in late December 2022.

Olomea Street is a highway access road so the State was called for repairs. The stolen controller and battery was replaced and repaired on April 10.

The State claims they're struggling to keep up with repairs and replacements caused by vandals and thieves.

Maintenance



A feral cat was stuck in the back of the storage unit behind the shrine.

Rev. Takizawa determined the source of the cries and attempted to remove the cat.

Unable to move the storage unit as is, all its contents were removed to lighten its load.

Metal rods and digging sticks were used to move the storage unit a mere 7 inches to no avail. Finally the feeder of the feral cat was called to assist.

After several attempts, an emaciated cat appeared.

Feral cats are one of the most devastating predators of Hawaii's wildlife. They also spread a lethal parasite (*Toxoplasma gondii*) that contaminates freshwater and marine environments.



A non-skid paint was applied to the steps to increase traction and slip resistance.

All cracked and flaking no-slip sand paper was removed. The surface was sanded to create a rough surface and the marine-grade non-skid paint was applied.

Maintenance



Cleaning an prepping was done on April 13, in preparation for the 71st Spring Thanksgiving Festival



The purple and red and white maku curtains used for the Spring Thanksgiving Festival is a gift from Chief Priest Nobuyoshi Nishitakatsuji of Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka in 2012.

The maku curtains commemorate the inception of Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu in Hawaii in 1952.

Purple maku curtains are hung for celebrations. Red and white maku curtains symbolize an auspicious occasion.