

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha • Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

FEBRUARY 2025



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CALENDAR

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Arthur & Becky Isa
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Michiyo Nomura
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Akiko Sanai
Misuzu Sato
Glenn Shimabukuro
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Robert Stallings
Nelson & Gail Tamashiro
Sharon Tanigawa
Lucy Tsu
Loukie Wong

MARCH

3 2 pm

Sake Appreciation Festival

APRIL

5 10 am

Cleanup and preparations

6 2 pm

Spring Thanksgiving Festival
Scholarship Awards

MAY

4 2 pm

Tsukinamisai Monthly Service

24 8 am (INTERNAL)

Memorial Day Service



Setsubun literally means "the changing of the seasons.

When seasons change, people are at their most vulnerable physical state and often catch colds, influenza and other illnesses.

Setsubun is meant to purge the home of negativity and to keep disease and misfortunes away and was observed on Sunday, February 2.

SAGICHO - burning of the old omamori and ofuda

The annual *Sagicho* was performed on Sunday, January 19.

Sagicho is an ancient ceremony originating in China to express appreciation to and purify by burning old **Juyohin** which includes *ofuda*, *omamori*, *kumade*, *hamaya*, porcelain decorations and *hamayumi* that were blessed at a shrine or temple.



Renewal is central to Japanese tradition and as such, we renew

Juyohin such as *omamori* and *ofuda* at the beginning of the year.

When you visit the shrine at *Hatsumode*, we would appreciate your depositing old *omamori* and other *juyohin* in the hut by **January 7** of each year.



All plastic casings and metal decorations are painstakingly removed prior to *Sagicho*, to prevent toxic fumes from harming the environment.

This year the shrine collected 46 shipping boxes full of old *juyohin* which required around two weeks to prepare them for proper purification and burning.

Mahalo Nui to all that participated in *Sagicho* for their *kokua* in prepping and burning all the items.

The winds were blowing at around 14.2 miles per hour - - creating rather dangerous conditions for the burning of the old *omamori*.

Wind speed play a vital role in fire control. Even a gentle breeze can fan flames, while stronger gusts can scatter embers far and wide.

A small number of *omamori* was burned for ceremonial purposes, leaving the rest to be burned over the next month, under safer conditions during early morning

Visit our website at www.jinja.us

hours.

With the overwhelming number of items that are turned in, we are no longer able to accept items that were not blessed at a shrine or temple. That includes:

- *kadomatsu*
- *Ihai* tablets (for proper disposal, *Ihai* tablets should be returned to the Buddhist temple that performed your ancestor's funeral)



MAHALO VOLUNTEERS

Art Isa	Marilyn Naitoh
Arthur Isa, Jr.	Shinken Naitoh
Becky Isa	Craig Nishida
Juston Isa	Diane Nishida
Tom Jannuzzio	Linda Shinsato
David Jimenez	Naomi Teramoto

- *Mochi*, Salt, Sand, *Saiwaigami*, New Years decorations (*shime kazari*)
- Souvenirs and *omamori*-like items from retail stores
- personal items - clothing, letters, jewelry, books, dolls, plush, etc.

Please discard packaging from the *omamori*, explanation cards, newsletters and calendars from shrines and temples.

Mochi should be consumed.

If you are unable to bring old *omamori* to the shrine or if you have new years decorations, *kadomatsu*, *mochi*, etc that you would like to dispose - - place the items in a bag, sprinkle Hawaiian salt or any sea salt over it, thank the *omamori* for their protection and discard it with your regular trash.

Mahalo for your kokua in perpetuating the traditions of *Sagicho*.

Mark your calendars for
SAGICHO 2026

Drop off old *omamori* by Wed
1/7/2026

Sagicho ceremony 1/18/2026
Sunday 1:00 pm

GOKITO Private Blessings

Four shrine friends celebrated their Milestone birthdays with a private blessing on 2/11.

Milestone birthdays or *Toshi Iwai* are significant landmarks in our lives. They represent transitions and various stages of maturity.

Whether its turning 21 reaching the challenging years of *Yakudoshi* or celebrating the rare milestone of turning 100 - each milestone birthday is an opportunity to reflect on the journey traveled and to look ahead with gratitude and optimism.

Here are some major *Toshi Iwai* birthdays :



KANREKI - (60 years old) Kanreki is observed upon completion of the Chinese zodiac cycle. It is customary to wear red clothing to signify re-birth.

KOKI - (70 years old) Koki originated from a famous Chinese poem written

over 1300 years ago by Tu Fu which expressed how rare it was to turn 70. It is customary to wear a purple garment.

KIJU - (77 years old) The kanji characters for Ki means happiness and is written using the characters for longevity.

Purple is the color for Kiju celebrations.

SANJU - (80 years old) Sanju is written using the characters for "8" and "10." Sanju is celebrated by wearing gold-colored clothing and expressing gratitude for having the fullness of life and wisdom accrued over the years.

BEIJU - (88 years old) Beiju is considered especially auspicious as it signifies a lifetime of treasured experiences, achievements and cherished memories. It is also referred to as the "rice birthday" as it's written using the kanji for "rice" and "longevity."



Annual *Kanai Anzen* Family blessings were performed for shrine friends for a bright, healthy and peaceful year.



A *Shingan Joju* blessing was performed for a shrine friend for the realization of one's wishes

The shrine's fire extinguishers were serviced and certified on 2/24. All components were examined to make sure they're mechanically functional and safe to use.

Our usual inspection company AU's Fire Extinguishers was recently purchased by Alert Alarm/National Fire Protection becoming the largest full-service Fire and Security company in Hawaii.



A 17th year Remembrance Service was performed for a dear friend.



MAINTENANCE

The storm on 1/30 caused water to be trapped in the Shrine's exterior junction box, exterior electrical meter and main 220v line.

Water in a junction box can be dangerous because water is a conductor of electricity, which can lead to short circuits, overheating and electrical fires.

Hiroshi Denki was called, who in turn called HECO to resolve the potentially life-threatening water damaged items.

During the early hours of 2/1, Rev. Takizawa witnessed a loud boom and the sound and smell of short circuiting from the electric ity meter in the hall patio.

It was later determined by HECO that water not only infiltrated the junction box but also the electric



meter and the 220v electric panel.

Temporary measures were taken by HECO on the night of 2/1. Linemen worked diligently through the night to run a "service drop" or a temporary service line from the nearest utility pole on Kama Lane to the hall's electrical panel, restoring power.to the hall and second floor parsonage.

In the coming weeks, HECO will be digging a trench from their utility pole on Kama Lane to the shrine's electricity meter after the proper permits are approved by the City.

Water damage to electrical wiring is a serious issue that can cause a plethora of problems.

Mahalo to Hiroshi Denki and HECO for working around the clock.



View event photos at: www.flickr.com/kotohira-dazaifu

MAINTENANCE

Heavy rain fell over all of Oahu on January 30 at a rate of over 3" per hour.

With the rain came damaging wind gusts of around 63 mph coming from the westerly Kona direction.

These "Kona storms" usually

bring heavy rains, flash floods and landslides.

Water pooled in the shrine's hall requiring cleanup and mitigation, the night of January 30.

This is the second time in 30 years that the hall experienced flooding due to Kona storms.



The annual cleaning of the light fixtures and replacement of the light bulbs in both shrines was done on 2/2.

An energy efficient bulb not only saves energy and money, but is brighter and lasts longer than incandescent bulbs.

