



Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha

Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

JULY 2023

Throughout the centuries, *Kotohira-gu* has been a shrine dedicated to seafaring, marine safety, agriculture, industry and prosperity.

Kotohira-gu or its nickname *Konpira-san* is said to have been founded on Mount *Zozu* in the 1st century to enshrine *Oomono*

nushi no Mikoto.

A blessing for a new boat was performed on June 24 for an avid fisherman at his home in Aiea Heights so that he and his crew may have safe and bountiful boating excursions.

Boat blessings may be performed

at the shrine, at your home or the harbor where your boat is docked.

Congratulations and may your boat be filled with laughter and warm memories as you discover and explore the wide expanse of earth's infinite beauty.

DONATIONS

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Mahalo Nui Loa for your most generous donations to Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha • Hawaii Daaifu Tenmangu, a 501(c)3 nonprofit church.

Your donation is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Our Federal ID# 99-6007158

Back-To-School Blessing

August 6 (Sun) 10 am - 1 pm

The Back-To-School season is a time filled with capturing the last days of summer, assembling school supplies, coordinating new wardrobes and adjusting to new schedules.

This is a time that brings about a variety of emotions for parents, teachers and students as a new school year begins.

The shrine offers a special

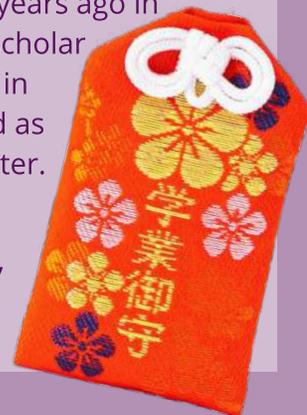


blessing seeped in ancient tradition honoring students of all ages so they may enjoy learning, take delight in new discoveries and persevere in their studies.

Receive a blessing any time between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Reservations are not required. Event is free and open to the public. Street parking on Olomea Street.

Dazaifu Tenmangu was established over 1,100 years ago in Fukuoka. The shrine is dedicated to the great scholar and statesman, Sugawara Michizane, who died in the year 903 and subsequently became revered as a *kami* because of his great wisdom and character.

It has become the most famous shrine of pilgrimage for students and those in education, culture and the arts, especially calligraphy.



CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 6** **10 am - 1 pm**
Back-To-School Blessing

SEPTEMBER

- 1** **8:30 am (ONLINE ONLY)**
Reservations accepted for
Shichigosan, Totose no Oiwei,
Jusan Mairi

- 3** **2:00 pm (INTERNAL)**
Autumn Thanksgiving Festival

OCTOBER

- 15** **10 am - 1 pm**
Cleanup & Prep for Shichigosan

- 22 • 28 • 29** **9:30 - 3 pm**
Shichigosan, Totose no Oiwei,
Jusan Mairi

NOVEMBER

- 4 • 5 • 11 • 12 • 18 • 19** **9:30 am - 3 pm**
Shichigosan, Totose no Oiwei,
Jusan Mairi

- 19** **12 pm**
Shichigosan Breakdown & Cleanup

TSUKINAMISAI Monthly Service

The monthly Tsukinamisai service was performed on Sunday, July 2 amidst Tanabata decorations.

There are no public Tsukinamisai on months with events. August 6 is the Back-to-School Blessing and September 3 is our Autumn Festival. Rev. Takizawa will be performing Tsukinamisai on August 1 and September 1, internally.

As such, our next Tsukinamisai will be held on **Sunday, October 22 from 2 pm.**



The shrine's deepest condolences and prayers are with the family of the late Hideyoshi Takasawa through this time of unimaginable loss.

Hide was the owner of Pacific Hi-Tak and J-Shop and a longtime supporter of the shrine.

GOKITO



Shingan Joju is a ceremony that has been in existence for thousands of years for the realization of one's wishes.

A long distance *Happo Fusagari* blessing was performed on 7/11.

Happo Fusagari is a concept from *Onmyodo* which literally means "being blocked in 8 directions."

The eight directions are East, West, South, North, Southeast, Southwest and Northwest.

Onmyodo is a system of natural science, astronomy and divination that was developed in Japan in the 6th century.

Onmyodo is influenced by



Taoism Buddhism and Confucianism that was popular in the 6th century.

Blessings are meant to encourage resilience to help cope with the stress and adversities of the year.

TANABATA

From ancient times, the Japanese have embraced the awes of nature by celebrating the changing of the seasons.

Tanabata gained widespread popularity among the general public and by the 18th century was being observed by most of the population.

Popular customs relating to *Tanabata* varies by region but all involves the writing of wishes.

Bamboo is thought to have become part of the *Tanabata*

tradition for its propensity to grow straight and tall, with upward stretching branches bearing the wishes to heaven.

The present-day *Tanabata* is actually a combination of several festivals:

- 1) Chinese tradition called *Qixi* which dates back 2600 years ago - - where young people wished for skills in sewing, craftsmanship and penmanship.
- 2) Ritual of *Tanabata-tsume* where shrine maidens wove fabrics for the *kami*
- 3) Chinese legend of the two

lovers who cross the Milky Way to meet once a year.



GIFT GIVING

The Japanese love to give gifts.

They give *omiyage* when returning from trips and bring food and other gifts when visiting your home.

In Japan, there are two times of the year when gift giving is obligatory.

These are *Ochugen* or summer gift which is given sometime in July or mid-August.

The other is *Oseibo* or winter gift which is to express gratitude for all they have done for someone during the year.

Gift giving is said to find its roots in Shinto. Gifts in the form of food and drink offerings were given to the *kami* to pray for a bountiful harvest, safety of their family, healthy development of their child or just a token of appreciation for life.

The modern day *Ochugen* and *Oseibo* still consists of food and drink, with ham and beer being the most popular items.

After offering these gifts to the *kami*, the food or drink were shared with others. It was thought that food and drink shared with the *kami* was like humans having a meal together

for fellowship.

The Japanese take gift-giving seriously. They are also known to give gifts in return when they receive gifts. This is called *okaeshi*.

Okaeshi gifts are usually half the value of the originally received gift.

In Japan, if you send a guest home with leftovers in a plastic container, they will return the plastic container with something in it - cookies, rice cakes, etc.

Gifts are covered with a sheet of paper called *Noshi-gami* which has a decorative *Noshi*, type of gift (e.g., *Oseibo*, *Ochugen*), *Mizuhiki* ribbon and the name of the sender.



Standard Noshi paper

Noshi, the folded decoration is an auspicious decoration and



Various designs of Noshi

given as a token of good fortune.

Noshi was originally dried abalone, sliced and stretched out like a ribbon. With time, folded paper was used to symbolize the abalone.

Noshi is always used in formal gift giving.

During the Edo period, souvenirs were purchased during pilgrimages to the Grand shrines of Ise and Kotohira-gu. This practice lives to this day

Gift giving in Japan is an act of appreciation, a show of respect and an observance of traditions dating back to the 1700s.



PROPERTY DAMAGE

A homeless male unlawfully entered the shrine property in the early hours of June 14.

He rummaged through the old *omamori*, scattering them around the little hut and proceeded on

to the back area where recyclables were stored.

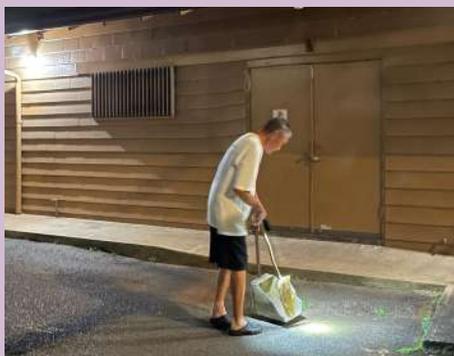
He then attempted to enter the basement meeting room and when unable to - began kicking the door and throwing glass bottles throughout the property.

When cautioned by Rev. Takizawa, the male jumped the Kama Lane fence and continued to throw cinder blocks and

concrete blocks that he found in the empty lot behind the shrine into the preschool playground, the 2nd floor windows and at Rev. Takizawa.

The police were called and a police report filed.

This is the second time that this male entered the property unlawfully. The photo below is from the last time he trespassed.



HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT
801 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

This card verifies that a report has been filed with the Honolulu Police Department.

Classification: Misc. Prop. Damage
Report number: 23-247245
Date initiated: 06-14-2023
Initial Officer: A. KAPOKAPU is assigned to the _____ Police Station.
Kalihi

For more information on obtaining reports, verification letters, and applicable fees please contact the Records and Identification Division at (808) 723-3258. Certain restrictions may apply to the release of any report.

(front)

HPD-443 (R-11/20)



MAINTENANCE

Rows of thickly planted shrubs is a handsome way to define boundary lines but like all shrubs, hedges need daily watering, fertilizing and pruning.

As leaves multiply, a hedge can get so thick that sunlight is unable to penetrate it, preventing proper growth.

For the past 2 years, the hedges along Olomea have been pruned to encourage rejuvenation.

The thickest stems were removed or cut at the base of the plant to stimulate new growth and repeated for 2 years that is said to have a healthier shrub that's reduced in size and maintained at around 8 feet in height.



Honolulu's homelessness crisis is getting worse.

In Hawaii, more and more of the homeless population are beginning to arm themselves. This homeless person flashed a 3-foot branch cutter when cautioned about urinating on the sidewalk in front of the shrine.



The feral cats are once again destroying the lawn and plants and using the backyard as their litter box.

Crushed chili pepper was spread throughout the back area and along the Olomea wall where the cats enter the property.

Chili pepper is said to be a natural and non-toxic solution that is safe for both humans and animals.

