



# Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

## Shiwasu - the last month of the year

*Shogatsu* is the most important holiday in Japan. It is a Shinto holiday, a tranquil time for every family and the best loved of Japanese holidays.

December, also known as *Shiwasu* (literally, teacher busily running around) is a very hectic month.

Tradition has it that all people must cleanse themselves of the old year before entering the new one.

First, people must forget their unpleasant memories at *Bonenkai* Yearend parties - with a little help from *sake*.

Then, they must complete all ongoing projects by *Shigoto osame* or the final day at the office, usually December 29.

At the end of every year, Japanese homes are meticulously cleaned in an effort to drive out any impure influences that may have taken up residence during the previous year. It's considered inauspicious to drag old business, clutter and dust into a brand new year.

Purification is the key objective and the end result is a clean and uncluttered house to welcome the

*Toshigami* or the new year gods on New Years day.

Finally, all debts must be paid by the end of the year.

Following the purification of one's mental, emotional and physical self, the office, home, and finances, all *Shogatsu* decorations like *Kadomatsu* and *Shimenawa* are displayed.

Japan is known as the most fastidious country in the world. This obsession with cleanliness comes from Shinto and its numerous rites of purification.

Another Shiwasu tradition is *Oseibo*. *Oseibo* originated with the custom of placing offerings on ancestors' graves which over time morphed into more general gift-giving.

*Oseibo* gifts are intended to be an expression of thanks to someone who has shown you kindness during the year. They might be given to clients, superiors at work, your doctor or landlord. Traditionally, the gifts exchanged as *oseibo* are consumables.

For many Japanese, *oseibo* seems to have been overtaken by the exchange of Christmas presents.

While *oseibo* carries the nuance of public obligation, Christmas gifts are more private expressions usually given to family members or close friends, not business associates.

Everywhere in Japan in December you'll see elaborate displays of Christmas decorations and Christmas-themed treats intended for gift-giving. At the same time, you'll also see displays of the traditional *oseibo* items like beer, ham, rice, and a variety of fancy packaged foods.



View shrine photos at [www.flickr.com/photos/kotohiradazaifu](http://www.flickr.com/photos/kotohiradazaifu)

# MAHALO for your generous donations



Thomas & Linda Agawa  
Stephanie Akena  
Andrew Aiu-Yoshikawa  
Yuko Arai  
Margret Arakaki  
Tadayuki Arimoto  
Emi Brown  
Susan Bueno  
Joe & Kazumi Cabangsag  
Chiko Canon  
Kumi Chiba  
Motoe Clawson  
Koji Ezaki  
Reuben Felipe  
Amber Fereti  
Paul & Momoyo Fowler

Jerry & Joan Fujita  
Lindsey & Amy Dang  
Jade Fujimoto  
Tamami Grieg  
James & Yuko Habit  
Bob Harada  
Steve Harris  
Blaine Hasebe  
Lance Hata  
Cheryl Higa  
June Higaki  
Kevin Higaki  
Donald & Rei Holmes  
William & Naoko Holyfield  
Kainua Hopkins  
Kevin Hotema  
Jonathan & Amy Hung

JulieAnn Lum  
Kawika & Eileen Maeda  
Takakazu Maeda  
Yayoi Marshall  
Jay & Narumi Matsumiya  
Barry & Takako McCorkell  
Ayako McGrath  
Mike & Kelly Meyer  
Jacob Miyashiro  
Naoko Miyashiro  
Kim Miyoshi  
Donna Lynn Monteiro  
Asami Morishita  
Nana Morrison  
Etsuko Morita  
Shiken & Marilyn Naitoh  
Tomoko Naka  
Jennifer Nakamura  
Yoshiro Nakamura  
Sumie Nishibarta  
Craig & Diane Nishida  
Cherlyne Nishita  
Dan & Christy Nishita  
Eric & Maya Nouchi  
Diane Ogasawara  
Debbie Okada  
Azusa Okamura  
Lisa Okamura  
Akane Omura  
Michihiro Onodera  
Aiko Ortega-Shibuya  
Scott & Seiko Oyama  
Sidney & Rie Pang  
Brady & Dawn Perreira  
Yoko Quitan  
Akiko Sanai  
Renee Sato  
Kanako Schempp  
Grant & Hanae Schroeder  
Naoko Seki  
Jill Shibata  
Kohei Shibata  
Faye Sueoka  
Keith & Julie Sueyoshi  
Namiko Synan  
Jade Takehiro  
Cher & Blayne Takemoto  
Nobu Takimoto  
Julian Tanioka  
Franci Terada  
Masayo Terao

Roosevelt Towata  
Yuki Tran  
Gavin & Denise Tsue  
Sean & Nari Uezu  
Ejo Urakami  
Traceylen Urakami  
Tammy Walther  
Satoko Winning  
Sachiko Wong  
Miho Woody  
Lynn Yamada  
Lisa Yamamoto  
Yoko Yano  
Nahoko Yasuda  
Ashley Yokoyama  
Chieko Yoshihara  
Kari Ann Yoshino  
Bill & Akiko Ziezulewicz

## MAHALO VOLUNTEERS

Keiko Doughty  
Alyssa Fujihara  
Gayle Fujihara  
Bryson Goda  
Yasumi Gojo  
Kathy Hamada-Kwock  
Miyoko Hanahara  
Bob Harada  
Stacie Hata  
Arthur K. Isa  
Lorraine Kadota  
Kamehameha Schools  
Elaine Komatsu  
Marilyn Naitoh  
Shinken Naitoh  
Diane Nishida  
Jill Nishida  
Diane Ogasawara  
Kei Sakamoto  
Bethany Schwartz  
Yukiko Shishido  
Yuko Takahashi  
Naomi Teramoto  
Sharon Toma

Kyoko Isa  
Chisayo Igarashi  
Mayumi Ikutame  
Dawn Inouye  
Hikaru Ishijima  
Kristal Ishikawa  
Tommy Ishikuni  
Nana Isono  
Shinji Ito  
Kirk & Deanna Iwamoto  
Eri Iwasaki  
Marcia Izawa  
JALPAK Hawaii  
Jacob Jiskra  
Juie Jones  
Lorraine Kadota  
Tracy Kaita  
Ari Kajita  
Tiffany Kalahiki  
Yoshiko Kaneshiro  
U'ilani Kapuaakuni  
Vicky Sasano Kim  
Ray & Naoko Kimura  
Kyoko King  
Peter & Laurie Kawamura  
Hidemi Kitamura  
Aya Koike  
Hidetaka & Risa Kojima  
Aki Kuioka  
Diane Lam  
Pamianne Lam  
Daniel & Yumiko Lee  
Maggie Lee  
Shaynen & Angelica Low



Volunteer Kei Sakamoto  
receiving a Yakudoshi  
blessing at the shrine.

## Roof Project 2013



The shrine completed its Roof Restoration Project for 2013 with painting of the kitchen's flat deck roof by David's Roofing & Painting.

On 11/11, the roof was power-washed. A few days later, a fabric coating with Tropical Silicone was applied and left to dry.

On 11/20, a top coat of H.A. Solargard Elastomeric Coating was applied to provide waterproof protection and to reflect light and heat away from the roof.

Our heartfelt Mahalo goes out to our many donors for making these maintenance projects possible.

A big mahalo also goes out to Vice President Bob Harada for coordinating the various maintenance and beautification projects.

## JALPAK Hawaii Omamori

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha-Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu has an exclusive Marathon Finisher's omamori that will be given to hundreds of JALAK clients that participate in the Honolulu Marathon this Sunday, December 8, 2013.

This is the second year that the shrine has collaborated with JALPAK to create an event-specific omamori

The omamoris were consecrated in ritual by Rev Takizawa on December 5.



## Shichigosan 2013



We would like to extend our Mahalo to all that participated in our Shichigosan and Jusan Mairi blessings for 2013.

The special Blessing began on October 20 and ended on November 24 with a total of 422 children from Oahu, neighbor islands, Japan, Mainland and Europe

Our sincere Mahalo goes out to the instructors of the Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation, Marilyn Naitoh, Yasumi Gojo, Naomi Teramoto, Miyoko Hanahra, Keiko Doughty, Yuko Takahashi, Kei Sakamoto, students of Kamehameha Schools and the devoted officers and directors of the shrine - especially to Dr. Shinken Naitoh who flew in from Maui every weekend to help out at this event.

Shichigosan and Jusan Mairi blessings for 2014 are scheduled for October 19 - November 23.

## Upcoming Events



Come celebrate Hatsumode 2014 at Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha – Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu and embrace the spirit of the Japanese with a traditional New Years blessing from Midnight to 5:00 pm.

Hatsumode 2014 will feature Shishimai Lion Dance, Kagami-biraki Sake and complimentary bowls of Ozoni Mochi soup.

### **PARKING:**

Damien School on Houghtailing St. Free Shuttle runs continuously between Midnight ~ 2am and 10am ~ 3:30 pm.

**[www.e-shrine.org](http://www.e-shrine.org)**

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP**

We need your kokua on Dec 31, Jan 1,2,3,4 ,5.

If you are able to volunteer for a few hours on any of the above date(s), please contact Irene at **841-4755** or **Kotohira@hawaiiantel.net**.

Whether you have lots of time to volunteer or only a few hours, consider making the kind of impact that only you can make.

Become a part of the 94-year old tradition of the shrine !!

## A Piece of History



Mochi was thrown to members at the opening of the new hall that was relocated from it's original site on H-1, near Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center. The above photo was taken on September 26, 1962



Relocation of the Hall building was completed on September 13, 1962.

**[www.e-shrine.org](http://www.e-shrine.org)**