

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha

Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

July 2017

Tanabata is one of Japan's five seasonal festivals originating in China and first observed in the 8th century.

The festival marks the annual meeting of Orihime (Vega) the weaver star and Hikoboshi (Altair) the cowherd star.

The shrine celebrated Tanabata July 1 - 7.



MAHALO

for your donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa
Natsuko Asuncion
Eientei Animations
Carly Fujinaka
Kumiko Futatsuiwa
Bryson Goda
Bob Harada
JoAnn Hino
Mitsuru & Pam Igarashi
James & Melba Kurashige
Mike Lee
Matthew Martin
Steve Miwa
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Craig & Diane Nishida
Lynn Tomi-Paulo
Akiko Sanai
Gary & Linda Shinsato
The Sake Shop
Yurika Tan
Joy Tomita
Koji Tomita



Mahalo Nui to **The Sake Shop** for their donation of a drink cooler.

The cooler was transported to the shrine on 6/25 and placed in the meeting room.

MAHALO

Bob Harada
Malcolm Leong
Craig Nishida
Rudy Santiago
Gary Shinsato



In the American calendar, there is no day more significant than the 4th of July.

May we never forget the price paid for our freedom and that true freedom is accepting that we alone are responsible for our lives.

This is the spirit on which our great country was built.

Instagram: [kotohiradazaifu](#)



Lynn Van Deren and her students from Sacred Hearts Academy visited the shrine on June 30 for a lecture on Shinto.



Happy Birthday to Rev Takizawa and shrine President Dr. Shinken Naitoh, the two July Monkeys !!

Hope this is the beginning of your greatest and most wonderful year.

There was an attempted burglary of the shrine on Friday, June 23 at approximately 9:30 pm.

The would-be burglar(s) entered the shrine precinct by jumping the fence from the Olomea Street/Honolulu Ford corner, tore off the screen and proceeded to remove the top jalousie panel of the basement bathroom window when the suspicious activity was noticed by this writer.

The intruder fled immediately after being discovered and cautioned. HPD was called to file a police report.

Kama Lane - between the shrine and King Street has had five burglaries within a one-month period. All 5 homes were invaded between 11 pm ~ 4:30 am on a Friday night (early Saturday morning).



HPD officer dusting for prints



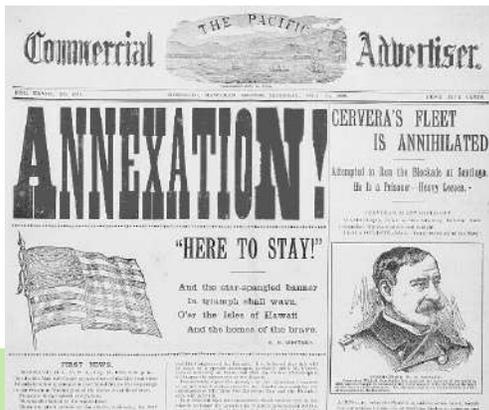
Meeting room window without a screen and missing the top jalousie panel

July Tidbits 7-7

7-7 is Tanabata, a Japanese and Chinese festival that celebrates the annual meeting of celestial lovers.

July 7 also holds great significance in the history of Hawaii. It was the day of the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands.

Upon the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani in 1893, the Committee of Safety led by Lorrin A. Thurston established the Provisional Government of Hawaii to govern the islands in transition until the expected annexation by the U.S.



President Grover Cleveland, who was strongly against annexation withdrew the annexation treaty and recommended the restoration of Lili'uokalani as queen.

Natives of the Hawaiian Islands, who strongly opposed annexation, organized protests in response to annexation attempts. They rallied behind two groups: Hui Aloha 'Āina (Hawaiian Patriotic League) and Hui Kālai'āina (Hawaiian Political Association).

On July 4, 1898, the U.S. Congress passed the Newlands Resolution which officially annexed Hawaii.

It was signed into law by President McKinley on July 7, 1898.

Despite the efforts and protests of the opposition, a formal ceremony was held and the flag of the



President Sanford Dole being sworn in at 'Iolani Palace

Kingdom of Hawaii over 'Iolani Palace was lowered and the flag of the United States was raised on August 12, 1898.

Sanford B. Dole, former Supreme Court Justice was elected as the first and only president of the new regime.

Hawaii's strategic location to support the Spanish–American War in the Philippines made annexation especially important to American interests.

Lord of the Bon Dance

The traditions of *Bon* or *Obon* were imported to Hawaii in the late 19th century with the Japanese *Isseis*.

Bon Dances were first performed in the fields and around the homes of the Japanese laborers during the months of July and August.

It wasn't until the 1930s that various temples began offering *Bon* rituals followed by Bon Dancing.

The Bon Dance is a way of expressing gratitude to ancestors and loved ones no longer here. It is also a way of reflecting upon the preciousness and fragility of this life.



Photo of an Iwakuni Ondo drummer taken sometime in the 1940s

Each Bon Dance club specializes in the music and dance of one of the prefectures of Hawaii's immigrants.

One of the two live songs performed at local Bon Dances are - *Soma Bon Uta* (*Fukushima Ondo*) and *Iwakuni Ondo*. The *Iwakuni Ondo* and style of bon odori is one of the oldest genres represented in Hawaii.

During the *Tokugawa* Era (1603-1868) the *Tokugawa* government created a social order called *Shinokosho* - the Four divisions of society, that would stabilize the country. This system was based on Confucianism and composed of samurai (*shi*), farming peasants (*nō*), artisans (*kō*) and merchants (*shō*).

Samurai were placed at the top of society because they set a high moral example for others to follow. Farmers came second because they produced the most important commodity, food. Third were artisans because they produced nonessential goods.

Merchants were at the bottom of the social order because they generated wealth without producing any goods.

As such, in a castle town like *Iwakuni*, samurai and peasants never danced together or shared the same music or dances during *Obon*.

The samurai class danced to *Nanjo Odori*, farmers to *Iwakuni Ondo* and townfolk to *Konuka Odori*.

Since most Japanese immigrants from *Iwakuni* were farmers, *Iwakuni Ondo* was the dance of choice for the *Isseis* from *Yamaguchi* prefecture. *Iwakuni Ondo* was endearingly known as *Chongare* or *Chongari* by the *Isseis*.

A singer of *Iwakuni Ondo* stands in the *yagura* tower holding a Japanese umbrella and sings a unique song with a 7 - 5 cadence.

The songs chronicle history, current events, entertainment and politics.

The most popular song in Hawaii until

the 1970s was "Ah-442 Butai" or The 442 Infantry Regiment.

The umbrella is said to help extend the singer's voice down to the crowd.



James Kunichika singing Iwakuni Ondo

The foremost authority and individual attributed to the preservation and perpetuation of *Iwakuni Ondo* was **James Toshiichi Kunichika**.

Kunichika was born on January 1, 1915 on Kauai. His mother was from *Iwakuni* and often sung *Iwakuni Ondo* at various temples on Kauai.

Kunichika followed in her footsteps and became a singer of *Iwakuni Ondo* in 1935 at the age of 18.

Upon moving to Honolulu in 1937, Kunichika honed his skills in singing and composing verse under the *Iwakuni Ondo* Group.

In 1951, Kunichika and Goichi Fukunaga formed the *Iwakuni Odori Aiko Kai*. Kunichika grew the group from 30 members to over 200.

Kunichika has earned accolades such as the Pan-Pacific Festival's Silver-sword Award for cultural excellence, Living Treasures of Hawaii in 2006 and has had his music recorded and archived by the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, the Bishop Museum and the State



Kunichika's granddaughter Kelli Miyata Yamamoto dancing to Iwakuni Ondo

Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Behind every great man stands a great woman. Kunichika's wife, Katherine, also a descendant of *Issei* from *Iwakuni* supported his love of *Iwakuni Ondo* and its time-honored traditions which span 6 generations.



James & Katherine Kunichika

The shrine's enduring legacy was built and perpetuated by such passionate and devoted officers like James & Katherine Kunichika.

Katherine passed away in 2004 after 61 years of marriage with James. James left this world in 2012.

Maintenance



Maintenance projects continue throughout the month of July - - Shrine door Restoration Project by **Fred Higa Jr.**, Painting by **Bob Harada**, lock repairs by **Arthur Isa**, Electrical upgrades by **Hiroshi Denki** and Security Camera upgrades by **Mike Lee** and **Gary Shinsato**



CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 5 1 pm
Education Blessing Prep
- 6 10 am ~ 2 pm
Back-To-School Education Blessing

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Accepting reservations for Shichigosan & Jusan Mairi
- 3 3 pm
Tsukinamisai & Choyo no Sekku
- 23 1 pm
Autumn Taisai Prep
- 24 3 pm
Autumn Thanksgiving Festival