

# Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

June 2022



The Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation's Board members and Natori instructors, lead by principal Hanayagi Mitsujyuro and president Jensen Toma visited the shrine for a blessing on 6/19. The Foundation will be celebrating 75 years of artistic excellence with a dance concert at the Mamiya Theatre on 6/26.

# DONATIONS

Corniche Kabushiki Kaisha  
Bill & Keiko Doughty  
Bryson & Reiko Goda  
Hanayagi Dancing Academy  
Hawaii Foundation  
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*Tanabata* is one of Japan's five seasonal festivals.

Originating in China as *Qixi* and first observed in the

8th century, the festival marks the annual meeting of *Orihime* (Vega) the weaver star and *Hikoboshi* (Altair) the Cow herd star.

*Tanzaku* tags and pens will be available in the shrine from July 1 - July 7 between 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.

Write your wishes on one of the *tanzaku* tags of various shapes and hang them on the bamboo branch.

Mahalo to **Diane Nishida** for crafting the *tanzaku* tags.



# CALENDAR

## JULY

- 1 - 7 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**  
Tanabata Wish Tags available in the shrine
- 3 3:00 pm (INTERNAL)**  
Tsukinamisai Monthly Service

## AUGUST

- 1 Back-To-School Blessing (CANCELED)**
- 2:00 pm (INTERNAL)**  
Tsukinamisai Monthly Service

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 8:30 am (ONLINE ONLY)**  
Shichigosan, Totose no Oiwai, Jusan Mairi, Seijin Shiki reservations accepted

# GOKITO Private Blessings



Getting a new job is always a moment of great significance. Wishing you all the best for your career ahead !!!



Private blessing to express gratitude for the safe completion of a home construction.



A belated Kanreki blessing was performed for a shrine friend



Welcome to Hawaii !!

Dance Master Hanayagi Kusumitsu visited the shrine on 6/22 with Dance Master Hanayagi Mitsujyuro (Bryson Goda).

Kusumitsu sensei is a featured dancer in HDAH's dance concert celebrating 75 years of artistic excellence on 6/26. He was born in Kumamoto and has dance studios in both Tokyo and Kumamoto. Having trained under 3 Iemoto Grand Masters - - Hanayagi Jusuke III, IV and V, Kusumitsu Sensei received his Natori Dance Instructor's license at the age of 15 and Shihan Dance Master's license at 26.

# KOMAINU

Guarding the entrance of Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha • Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu are two *Komainu*, literally, Korean Dogs.



The word *Koma* is an ancient Japanese word for the *Goguryeo* Dynasty of Korea which ruled northern Korea from 1 BCE to 7 CE and *inu* is dog.

The shrine's *Komainu* is said to have been shipped from Yamaguchi-ken and assembled in

Honolulu in 1935 and is the largest set that exists in the United States.

The *Komainu* at the shrine is said to be unique in design and thought to have been crafted in Shunan city in east central Yamaguchi-ken.

The shrine *komainu* resembles those that are named *Tokuyama Komainu* which can be seen at Tainan Jinja in Taiwan and Ima Hachimangu, Kumano Jinja and Sata Hachimangu in Yamaguchi-ken

The *Komainu* are typically male and female and includes one with an open mouth and one with a closed mouth.

The open mouth is pronouncing the word "ah" and the closed

mouth is pronouncing the word "um" which symbolizes "OM" the "alpha" and "omega" of the Sanskrit alphabet.



The *Komainu* is thought to have originated in Egypt, Mesopotamia or India but the ones that were imported to Japan during the *Heian* period (794-1185 CE) originated in China during the Tang dynasty (618-907 CE) and was transported to Japan via the Korean peninsula.

# KOMAINU

Those imported from China were originally lions which eventually evolved into *komainu* or Korean dogs in Japan.

Many scholars claim that the *Komainu* which were fabricated after the 1700s is an imaginary animal which was a cross between a lion and rhinoceros - two animals which were not native to Japan.

*Komainu* grew in popularity during the 1700s when many shrine and temples began erecting them as guardians of the shrine or temple sanctuary.

There are many animal decorations guarding shrine precincts such as oxen in front of Dazaifu Tenmangu shrines, foxes in front of Inari shrines, etc.

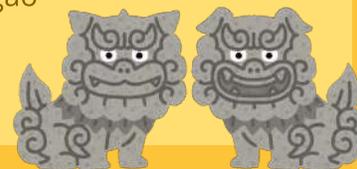
*Komainu* are believed to symbolize the eradication of evil and the protection of the area around the *kami*.



From right to left:  
Hiroshima-ken  
Hatsutarō Yoshioka, Magoichirō Aoki, Ishimatsu Ogitani, Gisaku Fujishima, Iwata Ozaki, Takeichirō Nakanishi, Iwano Nakanishi, Akitarō Yoshioka, Mansaku Kaizuka, Ganichi Ueda, Kanroku Miwa



From right to left:  
Yamaguchi-ken  
Soichirō Ichiriu, Kamejiro Hasuike, Seiichi Nishihara, Hirozuchi Sakumoto, Shimo Sakumoto, Miyozuchi Komeya, Torakichi Kaji, Tsunejiro Murakami, Kouchi Kuromoto, Kyutarō Nomura, Takejiro Nakazuka, Shigeru Higashino, Masanori Kawamoto, Eiichi Nagao



# MAINTENANCE



Summer is upon us and pruning must be done to remove weak, over hanging branches for safety and to reduce any growth and to control root spreading.



On an almost daily basis after the shrine closes - - trespassers have used the shrine's mailbox as a stepping stone to enter the property from Kama Lane for a shortcut to Olomea Street.

There are signs that are clearly posted for No Trespassing that states that trespassing on private property is actionable. Despite, any mailbox installed is flattened in about 6 months by fence jumpers.

Given the steep financial and legal consequences that trespassers have, it's a daily struggle for the shrine to keep fence jumpers off the shrine property.



The shrine's Dwarf Pineapples are beginning to mature again this year.

The Dwarf Pineapple is native to Surinam. This family line from Hilo has been extended for about 4 years and has been a delightful addition to the shrine yard.