

# Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

MAY 2021

A solemn ceremony was held to express gratitude and to reflect on the many gifts that we receive from nature and the friendships, kindnesses, generosity and guidance received from everyone who has touched and shaped our lives.



In compliance with the State's COVID-19 Tier 3 regulations, the festival was performed on Sunday April 25 with the shrine's Directors.

International travel is still difficult and priests from Dazaifu Tenmangu Fukuoka were not able to participate again this year.

The ceremony began with a moment of silence by Dr. Shinken

Naitoh for the 3,200,000+ global victims of COVID-19.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus a pandemic.

It's been a year since, with hopes that the FDA-authorized vaccines will begin to mitigate transmission and immunize the populations.

Challenges continue under COVID 19 and reminds us of how interdependent we are.

As COVID-19 affects our world - - we continue to pray.



# DONATIONS

Thomas & Linda Agawa  
Gail Aoki  
Bill & Keiko Doughty  
Bryson Goda  
Miyoko Hanahara  
Hanayagi Dancing Academy  
Hawaii Foundation  
Hawaii Senbukan Karate  
Arthur K. Isa  
Rodney & Sharon Isa  
James & Melba Kurashige  
Steve Miwa  
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh  
Nisei Building Maintenance  
Craig & Diane Nishida  
Akiko Sanai  
Danielle Sato  
Gary & Linda Shinsato  
Robert Stallings  
Naomi Teramoto  
Glenn & Junko Yonemura

*Koi Nobori* carps have been a vital part of *Tango no Sekku* since the Edo period.

The *Yaguruma* arrow-spoked wheels at the top turns in all directions - keeping children of the home out of harm's way.

The 5-colored *Fukinagashi* streamers symbolizes the five elements: Blue for water, green for wood, white for metal, yellow for earth and red for fire.

*Koinobori* carps are meant to "swim" or billow in the skies to symbolize strength, determination and success.



# CALENDAR

## JUNE

- 6 9:00 am (CANCELED)**  
Chinowa for People & Pets
- 13 3:00 pm (INTERNAL)**  
Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service

## JULY

- 1 - 7 8:30 am ~ 4:00 pm**  
Tanabata tanzaku writing
- 4 3:00 pm (INTERNAL)**  
Tsukinami-sai

## AUGUST

- 1 10:00 am (CANCELED)**  
Back-To-School Blessing
- 3:00 pm (INTERNAL)**  
Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service

# 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu believes that education is crucial to the development of future leaders.

The Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu Scholarship was created in 2012 to award scholarships to qualified applicants attending an accredited high school, university, or vocational school in Hawaii, regardless of race, religion, sex or national origin.

This is our 10th year since inception and we are happy to award 5 outstanding students.

## **Kody Watanabe**

Kody Ichiro Watanabe is a senior at Iolani School and will be attending UH Manoa in the fall as a Pre-Engineering major with plans to become a lawyer.

Kody will also have the privilege of continuing his baseball journey as a Rainbow Warrior! A star athlete, Kody also enjoys surfing and hiking.



## **Landon Kimura**

Landon Kimura is presently a senior at Moanalua High School and is gifted in athletics - playing Infield for the Baseball team and a Wide Receiver for the Moanalua Menehunes.

Landon will be pursuing a degree at Oregon State University in the fall.



## **Skye Miyauchi**

Skye is a senior at McKinley High School and will be graduating with honors this May.

Skye has received numerous awards and accolades in academics while challenging himself in performing arts as president of the MHS Dance Club and the chess club. He will be attending UH Manoa in fall.



# SCHOLARSHIP 2021

## Becky Sun Isa

Becky is attending Kapiolani Community College (KCC) to attain certification in Para-Optometry.

The ParaOptometry program at KCC is an on-campus course with a mandatory 1-year apprenticeship employment with an Ophthalmologist.



## Dorthea Yoakum

Dorthea Miki Mei Yoakum has been studying Japanese classical dance with HDAHF since she was two-and-a-half years old.

Dorthea is a sophomore at Mid-Pacific Institute and enjoys playing basketball and volleyball and has played for her school varsity teams in both sports.



# Past Scholarship Recipients

2012

Bryson Teruo Goda  
Kai Aaron Igarashi  
Lukas Mattice  
Tatiana Omokawa

2013

Jeffrey Ga Min Fujioka  
Geraldine Gambalan  
Lukela Los Banos  
Jill Mari Nishida  
Daniel Christopher Song

2014

Stacie Akemi Hata  
Calvin Mai  
Melvin Monces  
Scott Tsubasa Okamura

2015

Alexandria Carlyle  
Milena Sayaka Naitoh  
John Sunahara  
Dane Yamada

2016

Kazuumi Fujioka  
Kyle Ling  
Stuart Pang  
Bethany Faye Schwartz  
James Yonemura

2017

Cassandra Carlyle  
Cherie Ishihara  
Skye Sakashita  
Staci Tsuruko Shimamoto  
Jensen Yasui

2018

Gavin Desamito  
Victoria Hallett  
Taylor Suzuki  
Kylie Tamashiro  
Micah Tong  
Katherine Yoakum

2019

Joseph Agag  
Dakota Rei Chun  
Kilala Hall  
Brenna Imada  
Zeph Kaneshiro  
Jordan Kimura  
Konner Uratsuka

2020

Keng-Hsien Chao  
Rayce Manriki  
Kaylee Rafol  
Jasmine Umeno



# GOKITO Private Blessings

Death is full of painful milestones. In Japanese religions, memorial services are held for the departed (after they have been cremated or buried) during specific years to reflect on and acknowledge the moments and memories shared.

A 1st Memorial service was performed for shrine friend Terry on April 26. The ceremony was video recorded for the family who were unable to attend in person.



In Shinto, the terms for these memorial services are made up of the relevant number of the anniversary year plus the ending *-sai* or festival. In the case of the 1st anniversary of death, the service is called *Ichinen-sai* or 1st year festival.

In Buddhism, the rites are named with the number plus the ending *-kaiki* which roughly translates to "period of mourning." The 1st death anniversary would be called *Ichi-kaiki*.

Funerals in Japan are extremely complex and vary greatly between traditional to the simpler, more modern approach. Funerals also differ according to region, background, family history and religion.

Wakes are held on the eve of the

funeral - usually within 1 - 2 days from the day of death.

According to the *Zennihon Kankon Sosai Association*, the average amount of funeral gifts given by mourners in Japan in their 40s - 80s are as follows. Younger people are expected to give less:

- Grandparents \$300 - 500
- Parents \$500 - 1,000
- Siblings \$500 - 1,000
- Uncles/Aunts \$200 - 300
- Relatives not listed above and In-laws \$100 - 300
- Friends \$100 - 200
- Neighbors \$50 - 100
- Colleagues at work \$50
- Superiors at work \$100

Mochi with two layers are called *Kasane-mochi* or *Kagami-mochi*.

*Kasane-mochi* consists of two *mochi* of slightly different sizes that are placed on top of each other. It is often used as offerings at shrines.

*Kagami-mochi* is *Kasane-mochi* with decorations and is often offered to the *Toshigami* or *kami* of the New year.

*Kagami-mochi* consists of: *Shiho-beni* white paper with a red edge which is placed on the bottom. This symbolizes protection within the four corners of the home.

*Urajiro* - a fern native to Japan is placed on top of the *Shiho-beni* paper.



*Urajiro* fern symbolizes longevity.

An orange with leaves is placed on the top of the *kasane-mochi*. The orange symbolizes fertility and many descendants.

Rev. Takizawa takes pride in making the shrine's *kasane-mochi*.

The bottom layer is shaped with a slightly flatter top whereas the top layer is shaped rounder and fuller with an indented bottom.



## SKOSH

**Meaning:** Little or few

**Origin:** During the occupation of Japan at the end of World War II, US forces borrowed some vocabulary words from Japanese.

One of the more popular words were - *sukoshi* meaning little or few of quantities, time and distances.

Americans dropped the vowels *u* and *i* from *sukoshi* and pronounced it *skosh*.

*Skosh* appears in a 1955 article by Arthur Norman entitled "Bamboo English: The Japanese influence upon American Speech in Japan."

The term *Bamboo English* referred to a strange Japanese-English pidgin spoken by US servicemen when talking to the Japanese on military bases.

US fighters brought the term *skosh* to the Korean War in the early 1950s and then back home to the US. It's been part of military slang since.

# PRESERVING TRADITIONS

The Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation welcomed a new natori - Hanayagi Mitsusae (Jasmine Umeno) with a formal *sakazuki* exchange ceremony on May 2.

*Sakazuki* is a special, flat cup used to drink sake during rituals - to seal promises, vows and deals.

The most familiar *sakazuki*

exchange is probably the *Sansakudo* ritual at a Shinto wedding where the bride and groom sip *sake* in *sakazuki* three times to pledge marriage.

The traditional type of *sakazuki* is one made of unglazed clay.

From about 1711, lacquered *sakazuki* was used by the aristocrats at the imperial court and the upper echelon of the warrior class.

It wasn't until the early 1800s that porcelain *sakazuki* was produced for the masses.



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Mahalo to all who have made contributions through this program !

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# MAINTENANCE



Ficus plants have vigorous, invasive root systems and grow into large trees, making them unsuitable to plant in residential gardens. Even in pots, the roots grow out of the drainage holes.

The roots growing out of the potted Ficus plants are pruned annually to ensure that it has no opportunity to grow to its genetic potential.

Here at the shrine, Ficus plants are maintained at a certain height for visitors to tie their *omikuji* fortunes on.



Two tiny, days-old nestlings were found chirping in their nest. The nest was removed from the tree prior to pruning and returned to a safe branch on the tree.

According to the Audubon Society, it's best to walk away and not feed the fledglings when there is presence of a parent bird.

