

# Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha • Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

May 2023



The shrine welcomed Governor Seitaro Hattori and a delegation of 38 assemblymen, cabinet officials and staff members from the Fukuoka Prefectural government

Dazaifu Tenmangu  
 Bill & Keiko Doughty  
 Bryson & Reiko Goda  
 Shin Xong & Yuki Ho  
 Chad Iha  
 Rodney & Sharon Isa  
 James & Melba Kurashige  
 Bryant Lau  
 Look Ohana  
 Yae Miko

Steve Miwa  
 Kaori Miyatake  
 Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh  
 Craig & Diane Nishida  
 Akiko Sanai  
 Chad & Karisa Sano  
 Gary & Linda Shinsato  
 Robert Stallings  
 Tei Takizawa  
 Bent Uyehara



Traditions  
 deepen roots,  
 strengthen life,  
 and express  
 appreciation

Bill Doughty

## CHINOWA FOR PEOPLE & PETS

Come celebrate all creatures at our annual Chinowa for People & Pets.

On **June 4**, leashed or caged pets and their people of all faiths are welcome for a complimentary blessing steeped in ancient tradition.

Reservations are not required.

## JUNE

**3 1 pm**

Chinowa cleanup & preparations

**4 9:30 am - 1 pm**

Chinowa for People & Pets

## JULY

**1 - 7 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**

Tanabata Wish Tags available in shrine

**2 2 pm**

Tsukinamisai Monthly Service

## AUGUST

**5 1 pm**

Back to School Blessing Cleanup & Preparations

# Hawaii • Fukuoka Sister State Relationship

Throughout the years, the State of Hawaii has established close working relationships with foreign governments and federal agencies, non- governmental organizations and national organizations.

These relationships serve to raise Hawaii's profile internationally, attract cooperative programs and stimulate our economy.

In November 1979, the Japan - American Conference of Mayors and Chamber of Commerce Presidents held a meeting in Fukuoka City, Japan where a sister-state relations between Hawaii and Fukuoka was suggested.

On September 25, 1981 Governor George Ariyoshi and Governor Hikaru Kamei signed documents establishing the first sister-state relationship for Hawaii.

There are now 24 sister state and

city relationships between Hawaii and Japan.

2021 marked the 40th year, however due to COVID, the celebrations were postponed to a later date.



A delegation of over a 100 people from Fukuoka arrived on 4/19, which included 7 priest and *miko* from Dazaifu Tenmangu.

on 4/20, the shrine welcomed 39 members of the delegation including Governor Seitaro Hattori,



Prefectural Assembly members and City Council members.

Mahalo nui to the 7 miko and priests from Dazaifu Tenmangu for assisting Rev. Takizawa.



# GOKITO Private Blessings



Yakudoshi or Challenging Years are said to hold many physical and emotional challenges, especially Dai-Yaku or Major Yaku years which are 42 for men and 33 for women.

Crisis is an opportunity for growth and Yakudoshi is a time to look within oneself, recognize and acknowledge the changes, take stock of your life and set new goals.

Contact the shrine for a Blessing - preferably before your birthday.

## MEN

Pre Yaku

24 40 60

Major Yaku

25 42 61

Post Yaku

26 43 62

## WOMEN

Pre Yaku

18 32 60

Major Yaku

19 33 61

Post Yaku

20 34 62



Congratulations on the birth of your little bundles of joy!





Big Congratulations to Shania Reverio (shrine dancer) on an awesome feat! Shania made a hole in one at Ted Makalena's 4th hole (Par 3, 120 yards) using a 6-iron.

A "hole in one" occurs when a golfer hits their ball into the cup on the green with just one stroke.

It's the most exciting thing for a golfer during a round of golf !!!

A 50th day memorial service was conducted for a shrine friend on May 23.



A temporary altar was set up in the area between the two shrines.



Also conducted was the *Goshi-sai*, a rite marking the deceased's joining with their ancestral spirits.



# TANGO NO SEKKU - Boy's Day

*Tango no Sekku* or Boy's Day is a celebration held on the 5th day of the 5th month.

"Tan" of *Tango* 端午 means the "beginning." "Go" of *Tango* was originally written using the character for "five." Thus, *Tango* 端五 referred to the first day of the Horse, which was the 5th day of the 5th month.

*Tango* was originally a ritual for girls to purify themselves prior to planting rice.

Rice planting was performed in early May and the girls took baths

with *yomogi* mugwort and *shobu* iris leaves to symbolically purify themselves before spending the night together in a special shack.

Rice planting was considered a sacred activity and rice a sacred gift from the *kami* - - one that sustains life for humans.

It wasn't until the Edo period (1603 - 1867) that *Tango no Sekku* became a celebration for boys of the warrior class.

A dessert called *Kashiwa mochi* is usually eaten on Boy's Day.

The tradition of eating *Kashiwa mochi* is said to have begun around 1860 in the Tokyo area.

*Kashiwa mochi* is a mochi filled with red bean paste and wrapped in a *Kashiwa* (Japanese Emperor Oak) leaf.

The *Kashiwa* leaf symbolizes numerous descendants. Thus the leaves were used by the samurai families so they would be blessed with male heirs.



This is the 28th year that *Koi Nobori* were billowing above the shrine in celebration of *Tango no Sekku* or Boy's Day. Carps are flown in hopes that children will be spirited, courageous and determined like the carps that swim upstream.

# GOLDEN WEEK

Golden Week is a cluster of holidays that is observed from 4/29 to 5/5. The holidays celebrated during Golden week are:

## **SHOWA DAY - April 29**

Showa Day honors the birthday of the late Emperor Hirohito who reigned during the Showa Period.

## **CONSTITUTION MEMORIAL DAY - May 3**

This day celebrates the day that the Constitution of Japan was enacted in 1947.

## **GREENERY DAY - May 4**

Greenery Day is a day dedicated to nature. Along with the changes in the law regarding Japanese national holidays, the day and name were changed to Greenery Day.

## **CHILDREN'S DAY - May 5**

Children's Day celebrates the health and happiness of all children. The original holiday was Tango no Sekku or Boy's Day.

It is said that about 40% of the total population travels domestically and internationally during Golden Week.

Ernest Satow wrote in his memoir "A Diplomat in Japan" (1921) that the Japanese are great travelers.

"Ever since the third Tokugawa shogun (Iemitsu) established the rule that each *daimyo* must pass a portion of the year in Edo, the great highroads had become important means of internal communication," Satow continues. The most famous of those Great highroads, the *Tokaido* was much traveled and

celebrated in art.

The history of travel in Japan dates back to 700 CE. The two oldest continuously running *ryokans* in the world are: Nishiyama Onsen Kei-unkan in Yamanashi which was founded in 705 and Hoshi Ryokan in Ishikawa Prefecture, founded in 718.

There are travel guides from the 8th century that documents travel for tourists, specialties of the township, *omiyage* souvenirs that one must purchase and rest stops that serve special drinks and snacks.

For the Japanese, *Omiyage* souvenirs were an integral part of the travel experience - tangible memories that they were able to share with family and friends.

# COVID emergency in the US ends on May 11, 2023

After a three-year long public health emergency, the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) laid out the changes that will take place after May 11.

## **IMMEDIATE CHANGES**

- People with private health insurance may have to pay for COVID tests, both over the counter and lab, depending on their insurance plan.
- Seniors with Medicare Part B will start paying for over-the-counter tests, though the program will cover lab tests
- Hospitals will lose flexibility to expand capacity in response to surges.
- The federal government can no longer require labs to report COVID

test results to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

## **LONGER-TERM CHANGES**

- COVID vaccines and antivirals such as Paxlovid will remain free to everyone regardless of insurance status until the current federal stockpile runs out.
- Expanded telehealth through Medicare will also remain in place through December 2024 under federal spending legislation passed in December. However, it will end after that without congressional intervention.

The Food and Drug Administration will still have the authority to rapidly authorize COVID vaccines, tests and treatments through its separate emergency powers.

Millions of people are also at risk of losing health insurance throughout Medicaid this year as federal protections that kept people covered during the pandemic come to an end.

These protections were once tied to public health emergencies, but Congress then decided to phase that out separately.

Thus, States can start kicking people off Medicaid as early as April 2023 if they no longer meet eligibility requirements for the public health insurance program.

The Health and Human Services Department plans to open a special enrollment period so these individuals can apply for coverage through the Affordable Care Act.