



Where ancient traditions thrive

# Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

Volume 5, Issue 2

Spring is the most glorious time of the year when the landscape transforms into an explosion of vibrant color. Spring symbolizes birth, renewal, of life, regeneration.

The shrine celebrated the annual Spring Thanksgiving Festival on Sunday, April 19 from 3:00 pm.

Officiating the ceremony was Rev. Masa Takizawa, assisted by Rev. Naoya Shimura of Hawaii Ishizuchi Jinja and Rev. Akihiro Okada of Daijingu Temple of Hawaii and Ryuji Hoshino.

A miko mai was performed by Natsumi Ikeda.

Rev. Nobuhiko Baba and Rev. Shigeyukji Ariyoshi flew in from our

## Spring Thanksgiving Festival

main shrine, Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka to join in the festivities.

President Shinken Naitoh greeted members and guests and extend the shrine's deepest gratitude to the many people who came together to make the festival a success.

A big mahalo also goes out to the students of the Hanayagi Dancing Academy and Hanayagi Mitsuemisensei for coordinating their performance and Honolulu Fukuoka Kenjinkai and its president Dr. Bertrand Kobayashi for their support.

4月19日（日）当宮では福岡の本宮より馬場宣彦禰宜と有吉重行権禰宜をお迎えしての春季感謝大祭が執り行われました。

夜半からの雨も止み境内の緑も一層輝きを増した中、祭典が厳かに斎行されました。

直会では花柳ダンシング・アカデミーの日舞、坂井久美子さんの詩吟、ベッシー田神さんのカラオケやマジシャン・モトさんのマジック・ショーで賑わった。



## MAHALO for your generous donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa  
Daryl Cachola  
Titus Chan  
Daijingu Temple of Hawaii  
Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka  
Ryan & Michi Fitzgerald  
Clark & Gayle Fujihara  
Toshiko Fujisaki  
Junko Hajime  
Hanayagi Dancing Academy  
Hawaii Foundation  
Bob Harada  
Ryuji Hoshino  
Hawaii Ishizuchi Jinja  
Mitsuru & Pam Igarashi  
Kyoko Isa  
Robert & Jean Ishihara  
Max Iwazaki  
Izumo Taishakyo Mission  
Bert Kaizuka  
Yumi Kaneko  
Marie Kawamoto  
Masao Kawamura  
Sachiko Kele  
John & Toyoko Kluvo  
Dr. Bertrand Kobayashi  
Elaine Komatsu  
Ernest & Chiyoko Lau  
Carol Lee  
Gary Lee, Jr.  
Richard & Eleanor Matsunaga

Roy Morioka  
Kara Muramoto  
Ellen Nagatori  
Gary & Marlo Nakata  
Pat & Jeanette Nakata  
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh  
Gary & Marlo Nakata  
Pat & Jeanette Nakata  
Masateru & Hatsuko Nakazato  
Nakazato Fish Market  
Craig & Diane Nishida  
Diane Ogasawara  
Mitsunobu & Mihoko Ohashi  
Kimberly Padua  
Rogue City Productions  
Kenneth & Kumiko Saiki  
Kumiko Sakai  
Jay & Pauline Sakashita  
Nobuo & Aileen Sato  
Miyono Shimoda  
Tetsuya Shimomura  
Alice Sugimoto  
Chester Sugimoto  
Sugimoto Ohana  
The Honolulu Times  
Mayumi Togashi  
James & Roberta Uesugi  
Yasuko Uyehara  
Eiko Wong  
Richard Yasukochi

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit church.  
All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

### MAHALO Give 5 Campaign

*February March April*

Ryuji Hoshino • Arthur Isa • Arthur MJY Isa

### MAHALO Festival Volunteers

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Rev. Shigeyuki Ariyoshi  | Kyoko Isa            |
| Travis Asato             | Yumi Kaneko          |
| Rev. Nobuhiko Baba       | Shalene Kerfoot      |
| Hanayagi Dancing Academy | Marilyn Naitoh       |
| Hawaii Foundation        | Shinken Naitoh       |
| Bob Harada               | Nakazato Fish Market |
| Ryuji Hoshino            | Axel Obara           |
| Arashi Igarashi          | Mitsunobu Ohashi     |
| Kai Igarashi             | Rev. Akihiro Okada   |
| Pam Igarashi             | Rev. Naoya Shimura   |
| Natsumi Ikeda            | Daniel Song          |
| Arthur Isa               | Naomi Teramoto       |
| Arthur Isa, Jr.          | Eiko Wong            |



Mahalo to **Axel Obara** for donating his talents and time to construct cabinets for the shrine meeting room and Shinsenjo.



Mahalo to **Mike Lee** (husband of the late Hanayagi Mitsuaki II) for donating his talents and time to construct storage for the shrine meeting room.



Rev. Takizawa performing a car blessing on Chester Sugimoto's new vehicle

### 2009 Shrine Calendar

June

7 Pet Blessing Festival and Chinowa Ring of Renewal ペット清祓いと茅の輪くぐり

July

5 Tsukinamisai Monthly Service 月次際

August

1 Clean-up & Prep 掃除と準備

# Spring Thanksgiving Festival

## お祭りあれこれ



# Kanetsugu Naoe (Tenchijin)

The shrine received an Email inquiring as to why the character 愛 “ai” or love was used by Kanetsugu Naoe on his *kabuto* helmet in the TV drama *Tenchijin*.

Kanetsugu Naoe was born Yoroku Higuchi in 1560, the son of Higuchi Kanetoyo, a low ranking samurai of the Uesugi clan.

Kanetsugu’s father Kanetoyo Higuchi was the vassal of Masakage Nagao, lord of Sakato Castle and brother in law of Kenshin Uesugi. Masakage Nagao was also the father of Kagekatsu Uesugi, who was later adopted by Kenshin Uesugi.

Extremely intelligent from birth, Kanetsugu quickly became a high ranking vassal to two generations of Uesugi lords - Kenshin and Kagekatsu.

In the civil war that was fought between Uesugi vassals following Kenshin's death (Otake no Ran battle), Naoe Kanetsugu supported Uesugi Kagekatsu.

In 1579, Kagekatsu emerged as the victor of the Otate no Ran.

Kanetsugu’s support and loyalty to Kagekatsu Uesugi in this war, would forever change his fate.

Upon the death of Naoe Nobutsuna, lord of Yoita Castle, Kagekatsu Uesugi ordered Nobutsuna's widow to marry Kanetsugu.

Kanetsugu (who at the time had changed his name from Yoroku Higuchi to Kagekatsu Higuchi) became Naoe Kanetsugu and the inheritor of Naoe Nobutsuna's domain.

Kanetsugu’s wife Osen was three years older than him and a staunch and loyal supporter of the Uesugi clan.

Kanetsugu is said to have loved her deeply and refused to take concubines, a practice which was expected of high ranking samurai at the time.

During and after the Otate no Ran battle, Nobunaga Oda converged upon Uesugi Kagekatsu's territories and nearly wiped the Uesugi clan off the map.

Tokugawa Ieyasu, who feared that the Uesugi might go to war with him, demanded that Kagekatsu stop increasing the size of his army.

Eventually, the Uesugi clan arranged an alliance with Ishida Mitsunari, one of Toyotomi Hideyoshi's former administrators, against the Tokugawa.

In the events that led up to the Battle of Sekigahara, Naoe Kanetsugu moved swiftly in an attempt to jeopardize Tokugawa Ieyasu's holdings in Japan's Kanto Province.

After a brisk siege, he managed to take Hataya Castle. However, two



daimyo lords of the North, Date Masamune and Mogami Yoshiaki, successfully countered Naoe Kanetsugu and defeated him in the Battle of Hasedo.

After the decisive Battle of Sekigahara in 1601, which resulted in victory for the Eastern army, the Uesugi clan was transferred to Yonezawa where Kanetsugu received a fief worth 60,000 koku and eventually retired.

Kanetsugu was well known for wearing a helmet affixed with the kanji 愛 “Ai” which means love.

The character “Ai” in this case does not mean “love” but is taken from the deity of war, Atago Gongen.

There are also other theories that suggest the character “ai” represents Aizen Myo-o, the deity who transforms worldly lust to into spiritual awakening.

Though Kanetsugu is not as famous as many other samurai from this time, he still played an important role in supporting Ishida Mitsunari during the Sekigahara campaign.

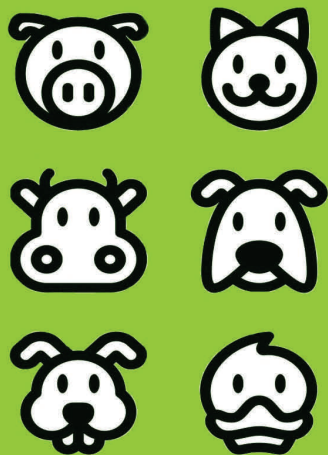
Today a statue of him can be found in front of the Yoita History and Folk Museum in Niigata Prefecture.

Kanetsugu was also well read and left many poems and haiku.

Kanetsugu died in Edo in 1619 at the age of 60. It is documented in the Uesugi clan annals that many samurai and peasants mourned his passing.



# Pet Blessing June 7 9 am - 3 pm



Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha  
Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu  
[www.e-shrine.org](http://www.e-shrine.org)

## Pet Blessing Festival & Chinowa Ring of Renewal

This year we will be combining two summer events - Pet Blessing Festival and Chinowa (Ring of Renewal) and performing them on **Sunday, June 7** from **9:00 am to 3:00 pm**.

The format will be the same in years past, except, there will now be one large ring to accommodate both humans and pets at the annual summer blessing.

Chinowa Kuguri is Japan's oldest religious tradition. For centuries, the Japanese have observed Chinowa Kuguri by stepping through a chinowa, a large ring made of reeds to rejuvenate the vital force that heals and energize the physical, emotional and spiritual life force for the second half of the year.

The ancient chinowa ritual at the shrine is the only one to be conducted outside of Japan.

As usual, the Chinowa ring will be specially crafted with ti leaves for its cultural and historical significance to Hawaii.

Reservations are not required. The event is free and open to the public.





Students from Sensei Jay Sakashita's Religion class at Leeward Community College visited the shrine on Tuesday, February 10.



Students from Sensei Candy Cann's Religion class at Leeward Community College visited the shrine on Friday, March 20.



Ashley Atkinson of Knox College, Illinois shadowed Rev. Takizawa for two days in March as part of her thesis in Shinto.



Actors of Rogue City Productions rehearsing a take from their new ninja movie filmed at the shrine on April 26

*Read our newsletters online*  
[www.e-shrine.org](http://www.e-shrine.org)