



Weekend Scene

Island-style fun as seent hrough the camera's eyes

Washing and Wishing

Hawaii's Sinto shrines host a Japanese New Year's ritual



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Hundreds of people gathered yesterday morning at the Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha-Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu in Kalihi to receive traditional Japanese New Year's blessings for prosperity and success. Hawaii Kai residents Wiktor and Yuki Bulaj received a blessing in front of the Kotohira Shrine from Jennifer Ota, right, and Brooke Hasegawa. It was the couple's first visit to this temple.



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The shrine's Rev. Masa Takizawa read a prayer in Japanese.



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Tasung Yasu Yang and Aiko Shiono received a blessing from Hiroshi Yamaji in front of the Dazaifu shrine.



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Kalihi residents Miles and Chelsea Calunod and their 1 1/2-year-old daughter, Serra, washed their hands, symbolic of purification.



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Steven and Nobue Yoshida of Kapahulu and their 7-month-old son, Nathan, tied an Omikuji, or paper fortune, to a tree as a way of leaving their misfortunes at the shrine



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Sensei Rick Beal of the Nanka Kyudo Kai in Pasadena, Calif., performed the traditional Yumi Hajime with a Japanese bow and arrow. It was the first time the "first draw of the New Year" ritual was conducted here.