



HAMAKUA JODO MISSION OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026



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"Honoring Tradition, Embracing Community"

DISCOVER, CELEBRATE & EXPERIENCE JAPANESE HERITAGE!

HONOKA'A HERITAGE CENTER & HAMAKUA JODO MISSION PRESENTS:

JAPANESE CULTURAL HERITAGE DAY

NOVEMBER 1, 2026
10AM - 2 PM

ORCHID WORKSHOP
10 AM

IKEBANA DEMONSTRATION
11 AM

TEMPLE & CEMETERY TOUR
11:30 AM

BONSAI DEMONSTRATION
12:00 PM

AIKIDO PRESENTATION
12:30 PM

BON DANCE
1 PM

TAIKO PERFORMANCE
1:45 PM

KEIKI ACTIVITIES, FOOD TRUCKS & EXHIBITS
10AM - 2PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! FREE EVENT

HAMAKUA JODO MISSION
44-2947 KALOPA RD., HONOKA'A, HI 96727

FOR MORE INFO, CALL HAMAKUA JODO MISSION (808) 775-0965 OR HONOKA'A HERITAGE CENTER (808) 437-1947

HONOKA'A HERITAGE CENTER AMA OLUKAI FOUNDATION HAMAKUA JODO MISSION

Join us at the temple on Sunday, November 1, 2026, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for Japanese Cultural Heritage Day, a special celebration of Japanese culture, traditions, history, and community!

In partnership with the Honokaa Heritage Center, we're bringing together a wonderful lineup of cultural activities and experiences for all ages. Enjoy hands-on workshops, historic temple and cemetery tours, cultural

demonstrations, live performances, and a mini bon dance, too!

Whether you're looking to explore Japanese traditions, learn something new, or simply enjoy a fun day with family and friends, there's something for everyone. Bring the keiki, invite your friends, and come celebrate the cultural heritage that continues to connect generations in our community.

Best of all, this event is **FREE** and open to the public. Mark your calendar and join us for a memorable day of learning and culture!

Event Schedule

10:00 am - Orchid Workshop
11:00 am - Ikebana Demonstration
11:30 am - Temple & Cemetery Tour
12:00 pm - Bonsai Demonstration
12:30 pm - Aikido Presentation
1:00 pm - Bon Dance
1:45 pm - Taiko Performance

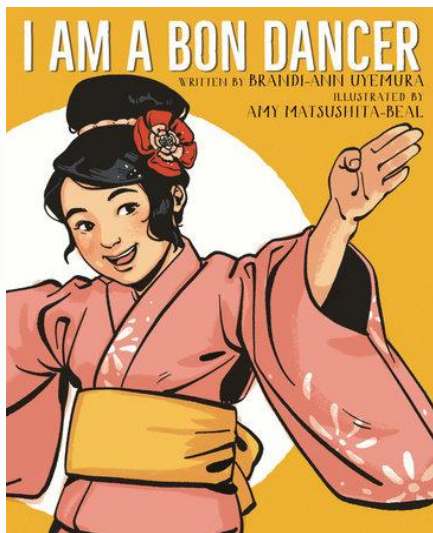
Enjoy even more throughout the day with fun keiki activities, educational exhibits, vintage lacquerware and dishware sale, delicious eats from local food trucks, and a book signing too!

We're excited to welcome local author Brandi-Ann Uyemura, who will be joining us for the day with a special meet-and-greet and signing of her book, *I Am a Bon Dancer*.

Brandi-Ann, a fifth-generation Japanese American writer from Oahu, is passionate about sharing stories that celebrate culture, identity, and family history.

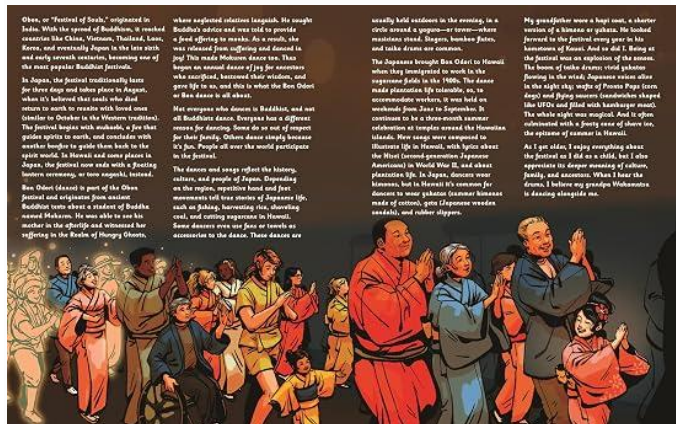
Her debut children's picture book, *I Am a Bon Dancer*, is inspired in part by childhood

memories of attending bon dance festivals with her grandfather in Kauai.



Beautifully illustrated by Amy Matsushita-Beal, the book follows a young Japanese American girl attending her first Obon festival.

Feeling shy and unsure about joining the dance, she finds encouragement from her grandfather and discovers the deeper meaning behind the tradition - a way to honor loved ones who have passed away and connect with generations of ancestors.



This heartwarming story celebrates Japanese heritage, family bonds, and the beauty of sharing cultural traditions with the next generation.

Join us at Japanese Cultural Heritage Day to meet Brandi-Ann, hear more about the inspiration behind her book, and take home a wonderful story for readers of all ages!

Copies of *I Am a Bon Dancer* will be available for purchase at the Honoka'a Heritage Center's booth during the event.

WITH APPRECIATION & GRATITUDE

The preservation of our cemetery and the protection of our ancestors' final resting place have always been matters of great importance to our temple. Over time, persistent rainfall, storms, earthquakes, and hurricanes have contributed to gradual erosion along the cemetery's perimeter.

Recently, this erosion has become increasingly pronounced, raising concerns about the long-term stability of the area bordering the neighboring gulch. Without appropriate preventive measures, we fear that portions of the cemetery could eventually give way, putting our ancestors' graves at risk.

Addressing this concern has required careful consideration, professional guidance, and the identification of practical solutions to help protect this sacred ground for future generations.

Recognizing the seriousness of this concern, we brought the matter to the attention of the Hawaii Council of Jodo Missions during a Kyoku Convention and sought their assistance and support. We also welcomed input from insurance professionals, County officials, landscaping professionals, and a University of Hawaii Extension agent to explore possible solutions.

Although we learned that erosion cannot be stopped entirely, we were advised that planting vetiver grass could help stabilize the soil and mitigate its progression. Implementing this solution, however, would require hundreds of vetiver grass slips, along with gardening tools and considerable hands-on effort from our volunteers.

In previous newsletters, we put out a call for donations of vetiver or referrals to growers who might be able to provide the plants at a discounted bulk rate.

As we explored cost-effective solutions, securing the necessary funding, materials, and labor remained a challenge. We remained committed to finding a practical way forward to protect our ancestors' final resting place.

Then, our call for help was answered. Brian and Carole Horiuchi stepped forward with extraordinary generosity, recognizing the urgency of our concerns and the importance of protecting our cemetery for generations to come.

Their donation will cover the cost of the vetiver we need, as well as any gardening tools necessary for our volunteers to begin planting. Their willingness to take action has given us renewed hope and the means to begin addressing this long-standing concern.

We are deeply grateful to Brian and Carole for hearing our call and responding with such compassion. Their generosity is more than a financial contribution; it is a commitment to preserving the dignity of our ancestors and safeguarding the resting place of those who came before us.

We are pleased to share that we have connected with a local vetiver farm and have begun the process of obtaining and planting vetiver along the cemetery's perimeter. We will continue to keep our readers informed as this important project progresses.



HJM volunteer Pickens Kehrner holding vetiver sections

To Brian and Carole, thank you for helping us protect a place that holds so much history, love, and meaning. Because of your generosity, we can move forward with greater confidence that our ancestors' final resting place will receive the care, dignity, and respect it deserves.

We will forever be grateful for your kindness and for helping us honor those who came before us. *Okagesama de!*

DRIVEWAY SIGN INSTALLED



If you've visited the temple recently, you may have noticed a new sign at the bottom of the driveway. The sign clearly states our hours of operation and serves as a reminder that unauthorized entry onto temple grounds outside of these hours is not permitted.

Anyone entering the property after hours without authorization may be reported to law enforcement and issued a formal trespass notice.

We kindly ask for your kokua in keeping our temple grounds safe and secure by reporting any trespassing or suspicious activity. Your awareness and cooperation are greatly appreciated!

OTHER NOTEWORTHY HAPPENINGS

- Our next Beautification Work Day is scheduled for Sunday, October 25, 2026 starting at 8:00 am.

Please **RSVP** if you will be volunteering on that day so we can include you in our lunch headcount and notify you if there are

any last minute changes due to inclement weather.

- We have continued our ongoing decluttering efforts underneath the temple and in one of the storage sheds, where decades of large accumulated items have been stored over the years.
- Although Hurricane Nolo caused no damage to the property, the heavy rain left our grounds so saturated that vehicles experienced significant skidding and difficulty maintaining traction while driving across the front lawn.
- Mahalo to Kobie Kaholoaa-Aguilar for helping us with weedwhacking a section of the driveway area earlier this month!
- All our maintenance equipment has been serviced with the help of HJM member and volunteer Pickens Kehr.

From diagnosing and repairing issues to performing routine maintenance, oil changes, and tune-ups, his hard work helps ensure everything is in good working order. We are very grateful for his kokua!

DID YOU KNOW?

Have you ever wondered why we remove our footwear before entering the temple? This simple custom offers an opportunity to reflect on respect, mindfulness, and how we approach a sacred space.

In Japanese culture, removing shoes before entering a home or certain buildings is a long-standing tradition rooted in cleanliness and consideration for others.

At Buddhist temples, this practice also reflects our care and respect for the space where we gather for services, learn about the Buddha's teachings, and remember loved ones.

Removing our footwear can serve as a gentle reminder to pause and set aside the distractions of daily life before entering. Beyond keeping the temple clean, it

encourages us to enter with a calm mind, a respectful attitude, and a grateful heart.



Photo credit: Sarah Anderson

The next time you remove your footwear before entering the temple, take a moment to reflect on this simple gesture. Sometimes, the smallest gestures reflect the deepest values we carry in our lives.

NOVEMBER 2026 NENKI MEMORIAL SERVICES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
11/08	Katsumi Nakagawa	43rd
11/19	Richard Matsumoto	23rd
11/24	Tsuneichi Takahashi	13th
11/26	Haru Okunami	50th
11/29	Kiyoko Okunami	17th

Please contact the HJM Executive Team at hamakuajodoexecteam@gmail.com or call (808) 775-0965 if you would like to schedule a *nenki* memorial service.

****If you come across any errors, we kindly ask that you notify us so we can promptly update our records. We have identified discrepancies in certain entries and greatly appreciate the assistance of individuals who bring these issues to our attention. Thank you for your cooperation!*

REMEMBERING MEMBERS OF THE PAST



Here's a flashback photo that beautifully ties into our theme of remembering and honoring members of the past! Taken in 1960 outside the Paauhau Sugar Company Ltd. office, this photograph features a group of Paauhau elders, all of whom were also members of our temple. They gathered for this photo before boarding a bus bound for Hilo, where they would attend a celebration commemorating the 75th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Hawaii.

The celebration marked an important milestone in Hawaii's history. Although the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the Hawaiian Islands in 1868, large-scale Japanese immigration began on February 8, 1885, when the *City of Tokio* arrived in Honolulu carrying the first group of government-sponsored contract laborers from Japan.

Recruited to work on Hawaii's sugar plantations, these immigrants helped lay the foundations for the state's Japanese American community. Their contributions, along with those of the generations who followed, left a lasting mark on Hawaii's plantation communities and society.

Pictured from left to right are Mitsu Kato, Shige Tojio, Masaichi Seo, Mrs. Seo, Hisayo Oketani, Tame Higaki, Toyozo Doi, Toraichi Nishimura, Tsuta Takahashi, Tokutaro Tojio, Makiyo Nishimura, Iwa Hasebe, and Kamiyo Nishimori.

At the time of this celebration, Paauhau was home to some of the oldest retired Japanese sugar plantation workers in the Hawaiian Islands. Among them were Toyozo Doi, age 91; Tokutaro Tojio, age 90; and Masaichi Seo, age 89. These respected elders were regarded as patriarchs of the community, admired for their dedication, strong work ethic, and outstanding leadership.

Today, their legacy lives on in the generations that followed them. Many of these elders' final resting places are in the HJM cemetery, while the urns of others are enshrined in our temple's hondo.

As we look back on this photograph, we are reminded that remembering those who came before us is not simply about preserving the past, but also about honoring the enduring connections that continue to unite our temple community today.

IN APPRECIATION



We want to thank those who graciously gifted us with monetary donations:

Roland & Ivy Kaneshiro, and Brian & Carole Horiuchi.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We realize the ongoing topic of seeking volunteers may sound like a broken record to some of our readers. We wish it were different. In an ideal world, HJM would have enough volunteers or the financial resources to hire staff to maintain the property, eliminating the need to continually ask for help. Unfortunately, that is not our reality.

Since the temple's beginnings, its upkeep has depended on the generosity and hard work of volunteers, and that support remains essential today.

It is easy to notice what needs attention at the temple, but it takes time, effort, and participation to make things better. Even a few additional volunteers would make a HUGE difference.



Photo credit: Linda Thompson

If you are unable to join our monthly Beautification Work Day nor are available to help on other days, please consider supporting HJM through a financial contribution. Donations help us purchase tools and supplies, provide lunch and refreshments for volunteers, and cover the ongoing costs of maintaining our property.

HJM is a shared responsibility, and every contribution matters. Whether you can offer a few hours of your time, lend a helping hand when needed, or make a donation, your support helps ensure that our temple remains a place our community can continue to cherish for generations to come.

Mahalo nui loa to all who continue to support HJM. We sincerely hope more of you will join us! For volunteering opportunities, please contact us at (808) 775-0965 or via email at: contact@hamakuajodominion.org

CONTRIBUTIONS & SUBMISSIONS

If you have a special memory, story, or photo you'd like to share in an upcoming newsletter, we'd love to hear from you!

Submissions of any length are welcome, and photos may be submitted in JPEG or PNG format. Word documents are also accepted. We welcome your ideas, suggestions, and feedback, too!

Please send your contributions by the 15th of the month to the following email address for consideration in an upcoming issue of our newsletter: contact@hamakuajodominion.org

UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICES SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
10/25/26	Beautification Work Day	8:00 am
11/01/26	Japanese Cultural Heritage Day	10:00 am - 2:00 pm

These are events and services that have been confirmed by HJM's Executive Team. If you have made arrangements for a service or event and do not see it listed, please leave a message at (808) 775-0965 or send an email to: hamakuajodoexecuteam@gmail.com

***This calendar is being provided to avoid visitors from stopping by during private functions/services, and to prevent double bookings.*

Mahalo for reading & your continued support!

*- The Hamakua Jodo Mission
Newsletter Committee*

*"In the end, people won't remember
your salary. They'll remember the value
you created." - Steve Jobs*

For those of you that have email addresses but receive our newsletters via USPS, please consider saving a tree and a stamp by receiving them electronically. Sign up by sending an email to: contact@hamakuajodominion.org

2026 DONATION LETTER CAMPAIGN DRIVE

By now, many of you who have an address on file with us may have received a recent letter from HJM humbly inviting you to consider making a donation to our temple. We recognize that there are numerous organizations currently reaching out for support. In a close-knit community such as ours, it is often the same generous individuals who are asked to give time and again. We do not take this lightly, and it is with humility that we ask you to consider extending your kokua to our temple.

It has been nearly two years since we last conducted a major donation campaign. During that time, we have continued to care for our temple as best we can, but there remain important repairs, ongoing maintenance needs, and day-to-day operational expenses that require attention. Your support will directly help us sustain and preserve our historic temple for current and future generations.

We also continue to work toward a long-term goal: the purchase of the land from Kamehameha Schools. This is a significant undertaking, one that will take years of thoughtful planning, steady fundraising, and the collective strength of our community. While the goal is substantial, every contribution, no matter the size, moves us closer to securing a permanent home for our temple.

We are deeply grateful for your support and for your thoughtful consideration at this time. Your generosity, in all its forms, truly makes a difference!

Yes, I want to help **Hamakua Jodo Mission** with a donation.

Donation amount enclosed: ___\$20 ___\$50 ___\$100 Other \$_____

Please complete the section below for proper donation acknowledgment and kindly return this form along with your charitable donation to:

Hamakua Jodo Mission
P.O. Box 7
Honokaa, HI 96727

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

_____ I would like to have my donation remain anonymous.

_____ I would like to be added to the Hamakua Jodo Mission mailing list to receive your monthly newsletter by **email**. My email address is listed above.

To save a stamp and envelope, you may donate online at www.hamakuajodomission.org by clicking the "Donate" button, or by scanning the QR code below:



Mahalo for your support!

Hamakua Jodo Mission
P.O. Box 7
Honokaa, HI 96727



Hamakua Jodo Mission

*The First Sanctioned Buddhist Temple Built in
Hawaii*

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