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The Power of Compassion

Rediscovering Your True Value

Saturday, March 8 -- 9:00am - 3:00pm
In-Person at Hawaii Betsuin Social Hall (1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu 96813)
OR Via ZOOM across the state: one site per district

Join us for an engaging and hands-on workshop with
D. Trinidad Hunt
International trainer, author, public speaker & contributor to 3
"Chicken Soup for the Soul" books, granddaughter of
Rev. Dorothy Hunt, author of "The Golden Chain of Love"



Every human being is a leader in their own little circle.

- Clarify your purpose - what do you want to achieve by the end of your lifetime
- Review & refresh your most important values
- Develop more meaningful interactions with others
- Deepen your experience of the Golden Chain
- Discover the Four Pillars that support the Golden Chain
- Realize the power of influence and inspiration in your life

 PLEASE REGISTER BY SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST
REGISTRATION LINK:
<https://forms.gle/87XTYgFNk4NZFi8CA>

Questions? Please contact **Debbie Kubota** (dekub88@gmail.com)

CHORAL FEST 2025

WHEN
September 20 - 21, 2025

WHERE
Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin
1727 PALI HWY, HONOLULU, HAWAII

MUSIC SELECTIONS TO INCLUDE:
TO MY DAUGHTERS—SURELY, WE WILL MEET
AGAIN SOMEDAY—WHERE, OH WHERE—UPON
CLOUDS—TO ALL WE OWE

**PLEASE REGISTER FOR CHORALFEST WITH
YOUR RESPECTIVE TEMPLES
LINKS FOR PRACTICE MATERIALS VIA GOOGLE
DRIVE WILL BE PROVIDED**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

CONDUCTOR:
Nola Nahulu

PIANIST:
Francis Okano

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:
9/20:
PM Practice
Dinner Program
09/21:
AM Practice
Music Service
Fellowship

DEADLINE TO REGISTER:
April 30, 2025

REGISTRATION FEE:
\$35



The White Way

Mo'ili'ili Hongwanji is the center of Shin Buddhist spiritual growth, learning, and compassionate service to our Community.

Temple Office: (808) 949-1659 mhm@moililihongwanji.org www.moililihongwanji.org
Project Dana: (808) 945-3736 info@projectdana.org



The Impermanence of Change

Rev. David Fujimoto

One of the core concepts of Buddhism is “impermanence.” Here at Mō’ili’ili Hongwanji we can see that happening right in front of us as gentrification is going on in our very own neighborhood.

I was growing up right down the road, I remember Kuni’s, the crack seed shop next door and Le Flowers. Soon, that building will be coming down for a bank. Right in front of the temple, the construction of a new Bill 7/Section 8 housing development will soon start. Things will definitely begin to look different around here whether we choose to accept it or not.

Though things change, it is in how we react to these changes. I wonder how the inhabitants of this area felt as progress was made to suit the needs of the area at that time. Today, we are in that position as we witness the changes, firsthand.

Even on the temple grounds so much is going on with renovations to the social hall and the courtyard area are in the final planning stages. While I was sad to see the many plants being uprooted, many are finding a new home or being replanted elsewhere on the grounds.

I recently saw a graph that outlined goal settings that eventually turn into a legacy. It laid out a system of goals that went from now to 101 days, a year, 5 years, 2051 and then leaving a legacy. In the impermanence of the area and the temple, we should consider what is the legacy we want to leave as footprints to the future of the area and the temple.

Today, we have the opportunity to support activities such as the Capital Campaign to leave our mark, our legacy to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to be benefactors of the Nembutsu Teachings, as we and past generations have had.

While things may change around us, one thing that is constant and still relevant now and into the future is the Nembutsu Teachings. If you already contributed, thank you very much! If you haven’t, please consider making your mark to ensure that the Nembutsu Teachings continue to spread amidst the changes that go around us.

REPORT TO SANGHA

Submitted by: Joanne Kealoha, President

A SUCCESSFUL SHINNEN ENKAI!

If you didn't attend the temple's Shinnen Enkai on February 16, you missed a great party! About 120 people (*a record number!*) filled the social hall for food, fellowship, fun—and a silent auction. We met several new members from 2024 who boosted our membership to 159—and at least three more joined in January. And our young members are taking on more leadership roles – Jayden Takiue was one of our MC's!

Our homegrown entertainment brought smiles to everyone—the Happy Strummers (with new members!), Dharma School students and their “Deep Thoughts,” comedienne Lynn Nakata and her straight man Robin Meade in “Kyodan Kokonatsu”, “Da Impersonator” by Roy Masuda, and our Sangha Singers (past and present MHM ministers and friends). Next year, we'll have an audition for performers so start rehearsing!

TEMPLE RENOVATIONS (PHASE 1) BEGIN

The first phase of renovations began on February 4 in areas that don't require a building permit. The CMU wall between the annex building and the neighboring property had been crumbling and was demolished except for one layer of CMU, which will be topped off with concrete and a vinyl fence. The sidewalk of the annex will be extended using permeable pavers. Landscaping was removed and will be replanted at the wall. *Mahalo, landscapers!* Permeable pavers will also be installed in the space between the annex and the social hall to create an open-air courtyard.

The rest of the renovations are pending building permits. Mel Takemoto, co-chair of the Renovation Committee, is also working with the developer of the neighboring property on a Memorandum of Understanding regarding cooperation between them and the temple on mutual construction work.

902-C UNIVERSITY AVENUE

902 University Avenue is the address for Moiliili Hongwanji, but **902-C** is the property that is surrounded on three sides by our temple (makai parking lot, annex, and main building) and the shared easement to our parking lot. An offshore investor group bought the property a couple years ago and, a year later, entered into a joint venture with a developer, Paul Lam, to develop the property using the City's “Bill 7” law that provides waivers and special consideration to build affordable housing rental projects.

One of the considerations is that Bill 7 projects are not required to be reviewed by the Neighborhood Board, but the developer and owner of 902-C agreed to meet with temple members on February 1 to make a presentation about what they're doing and to answer our questions.

Here's what we learned. A 3-story, 35-unit building will be constructed with no elevator and no parking. The large building will take up almost the entire property, aside from required setbacks on three sides and a lane on the fourth side for loading/unloading, a trash container, and parking for bicycles and e-bikes. The building will have only one set of stairs inside the building, leading to a hallway on each floor connected to studio and one-bedroom apartments. Tenant income must be less than 80% of area median income (AMI); rents will be limited to 30% of income. The developer invited qualified and interested temple members to apply.

A major concern for the temple is that some of the tenants will come with vehicles but have nowhere to park them and may be tempted to park in the temple's stalls. Preparing for that possibility, the temple contracted with a towing company to tow unauthorized vehicles from our property. Signs will be posted, and the temple will set up a program to identify authorized vehicles—so YOUR vehicles will not be towed!

RAYMOND TAKIUE, JR. ACCEPTED INTO PRE-TOKUDO TRAINING PROGRAM!

Moiliili Hongwanji's own Raymond Takiue, Jr. has been accepted into the Pre-Tokudo Training Program, along with two others from Hawaii. The training will prepare participants to qualify for the Tokudo training program in Japan in the fall. *Congratulations, Raymond!* Tokudo is the initial ordination that is a step before becoming a full-fledged Kaikyoshi minister. Let's all encourage Raymond in his quest to become a Jodo Shinshu minister!

FINAL YEAR OF THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

This year is the final year of a three-year Capital Campaign that was started in 2023 to raise funds for renovation of the temple. The renovations may be modest, but construction is costly. Some of you have already donated to the Capital Campaign, but we hope you will consider another donation to help us reach our goal of \$500,000. We're halfway to our goal and have until next February to reach it. Thank you for your generosity!

CAMPAIGNING FOR OUR TEMPLE'S RENOVATION—UPDATE 16

"Spreading the Joy of Gratitude, Peace, and Service to All"

365 Days and Counting to achieve our Campaign Goal!



It was undeniably evident, that on Sunday, February 16, Nancy Shimamoto, Chair of the Capital Campaign Committee had a message to deliver. She stood before the members gathered, twice. First in the Hondo at the Annual Membership Meeting; and the second in the social hall at the start of the event of the Shinnen Enkai with an important announcement...to remind us of what a Capital Campaign is! That it has a purpose, a goal, and a time frame. That the purpose is to raise funds for the renovation of parts of our aged temple. That the goal is to raise \$500,000; and the time frame is three years, from February 2023 to February 2026.

The launch of the campaign began at the Shinnen Enkai event on Sunday February 19, 2023. At that event, the then resident minister Rev. Umitani held the Daruma-san doll for the ceremonious coloring of an eye while Nancy colored in one eye. Therefore, it is hoped that the campaign goal be met, so that Bishop Umitani may return to hold the Daruma-san doll while Nancy colors in the other eye, symbolizing the successful completion of the Capital Campaign. Will the other eye be colored in at Shinnen Enkai February 2026? Daruma-san is winking with a smile!

On Sunday, February 16, 2025, **365 days** remain to achieve the goal of \$500,000. On that Sunday, donations totaled \$288,447. Nancy is determined that the \$500,000 capital campaign goal is to be met. She asked everyone to think of businesses, personal service providers, and any others we may ask for donations, especially those who may have an interest in Buddhist teachings of the Jodo Shinshu in the Moiliili community.

Since Nancy's presentations, the Capital Campaign total has risen to \$293,557. Let's all together seek to make it happen!

The Capital Campaign Team, Nancy Shimamoto, Joanne Kealoha, Reverend D. Fujimoto, Rona Fukumoto, Robin Meade, Martha Samson, Emma Kie, and Iris Wasa Uehisa

Renovating News

Reported at the February 2025 Board of Directors meeting:

1) that the executive committee approved moving forward with the ‘Notice To Proceed’ memorandum with Ralph S. Inouye Co., Ltd. (RSI), the general contractor for renovations. Projects that do not require City and County Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) approval are the “Common Area – Contractor installed courtyard and sidewalk extension pavers and drainage bed, cost estimate \$258,000”; and the “Repairing the Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) fence on the side of the Annex, cost estimate \$114,000”, together totaling \$372,000 that began at the beginning of February. Permission was granted by our neighbor to traverse their vacant lot to enable easier access to the work area behind the Annex, prior to our neighbor beginning construction set to begin in March 2025.

2) the neighbor’s property contractor had asked the temple to: **a.)** allow for the extension of their construction and our wall to enable this; **b.)** grant HECO easement rights on our property along the City and County driveway easement to University Avenue, and our property on the makai corner bordered by University Avenue and the City and County driveway easement; **c.)** give them permission to use the makai parking lot.

Responses to the neighbor’s property contractor were:

will partially grant your request for the mauka side of their property to remove parts of our wall to enable their crane’s stabilizer arms to extend and set down on our property with the following conditions: 1.) parts of our wall may be demolished only from the beginning of the wall at the driveway easement up to 32 feet in the ewa direction; 2.) the arms of the crane may extend into our property up to 10 feet from the wall in the mauka direction; 3.) the extended arms are to be surrounded by proper safety barriers per industry standards; 4.) the arms are to be retracted and related safety barriers removed during non-working hours, allowing parking by members and guests of the Temple in the impacted areas; 5.) upon removal of the crane, the impacted wall and pavement shall be restored to original or better condition within “suggested reasonable period for restoration to be completed”; 6.) compensation in the form of a donation would be most appreciated.

will be granting HECO easement rights to the current “driveway easement” crossing our property plus the additional easement rights via our property located between University Avenue and the “driveway easement” with hopes that power will be routed overhead to your building.

will not grant the use of our makai parking lot and hope to have our members, tenants, and volunteers have unimpeded use of our parking lot throughout the construction period. Prior notification to our Office if the driveway is to be blocked for any length of time.

it is requested you have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) drafted for “a.)” above, which we will review and amend before execution by both parties.

it is requested you provide us with a copy of your Certificate of Insurance with “Moiliili Hongwanji Mission” listed as “additional insured” for the period described in “a.)” above.

3) Board approved to execute and submit the Grant of Easement to the State Bureau of Conveyances.

From the Renovation Committee Report for February 2025

A Successful Hongwanji for Maui Shirt Project!

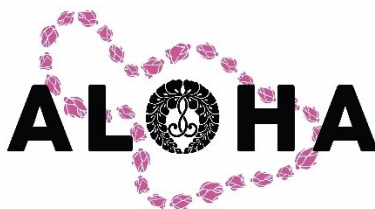
Aloha,

On August 8, 2023, wildfires broke out on the island of Maui, burning 17,000 acres and destroying 2,200 buildings. We remember and pay tribute to the 102 victims and the two that still remain missing. It hits close to home as Lahaina Hongwanji Mission and some of their Sanghas' homes were affected and destroyed.

Throughout the State of Hawai'i and world, we united as one and found ways to support the victims affected. Many businesses created their own fundraisers seeking monetary donations and items, with proceeds going to various organizations, groups, and individuals.

We wondered how we as a Hongwanji Sangha could help and support Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, their Sangha members and the communities of Maui Island. The idea of creating our own Maui Shirt came to life and the project was sponsored by Mō'ili'ili Hongwanji Mission.

Along with a local graphic designer – Keri Kubota, we created our shirt design, "A modern design while incorporating some Aloha, our Hongwanji Sagarifuji wisteria, and the Maui Island flower, the Lokelani."



We launched our project in November 2023 and concluded the project in September 2024. Our project was very successful as we received orders throughout the State of Hawai'i and continental US-California, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, New York, Florida and even internationally, from Japan. Our shirts were also sold at the Ho'onoko service at Honzan in Kyoto, Japan. Some temples placed bulk orders: Hilo Hongwanji Mission, Puna Hongwanji Mission, Wailuku Hongwanji Mission, San Diego Buddhist Temple Buddhist Women's Association, Mountain View Buddhist Temple Dharma School.

On February 7, 2025, we presented our proceeds to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund at the 113th Legislative Assembly Giseikai. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i will disperse the funds to Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, to their Sangha members and the community of Maui. Through donations and profit from the sales of the shirts & stickers, we raised **\$28,281.48!**

Much mahalo to Squeeze Play Hawai'i for printing our shirts and for supporting our project! A big mahalo to everyone for supporting this special project. It was very gratifying to see the worldwide support for this project.

Mahalo,
Ryne Masuda
Hongwanji for Maui Shirt Project Chair



Josh Levinson’s welcome message for PD Anniversary Service - January 26, 2025

Good morning, everyone, and welcome. It’s an honor to be with you as we celebrate the 36th anniversary of Project Dāna.

This milestone is a testament to the commitment of so many people in this room and beyond who have worked tirelessly to support our kūpuna and their caregivers.

This week, I was reminded in a profound way why Project Dāna’s work is so essential. An older person close to me had a major health scare – one that could have been fatal. Thankfully, someone he barely knew cared enough to knock on his door and check in. When she realized he needed help, she acted. That simple act of kindness and vigilance saved his life.

This story, like so many others, reflects the spirit of compassion and service that inspired Shimeji Kanazawa, Rose Nakamura, and the other visionary founders of Project Dāna. Thirty-six years ago, they recognized a universal truth: kūpuna need help, and people have the capacity and desire to provide it.

Today, Project Dāna continues to honor and amplify that vision, creating connections that improve lives, build communities, and remind us of our shared humanity.

Over the past year, I’ve had the privilege of supporting Project Dāna, working alongside the Project Dāna Advisory Council, the dedicated staff, and the teams here at Mō’ili’ili Hongwanji Mission and Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Together, we’ve worked to ensure that Project Dāna has a strong foundation to continue impacting the lives of kūpuna and caregivers for years to come.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the PDAC and Cyndi Osajima in recent years, Project Dāna’s finances are stable and strong, the staff team is energized and working hard, and we’ve implemented new systems to make the process of matching kūpuna and volunteers easier and more effective.

As many of you know, Maria Morales will be stepping into the role of Executive Director as soon as we find someone to fill her current position managing the Caring for the Caregiver program. Once Maria assumes this role, I will continue to support her and the Project Dāna team in a consulting capacity.

Maria is an extraordinary leader with a deep commitment to our mission, and you’ll have the opportunity to hear from her later this morning.

In closing, Project Dāna is more than a program – it’s a movement rooted in the values of compassion, gratitude, and community. As we celebrate 36 years of service, let’s recommit ourselves to this vital work. Together, we can ensure that every kūpuna in Hawai’i feels supported, cared for, and valued.

Mahalo nui, and congratulations to everyone at Mō’ili’ili Hongwanji Mission for all you have done to make this possible.

<p>Saturday, March 8, 2025, 10:00 am to 11:30 am Topic: Senior Medicare Patrol updates on Medicare Fraud & Scamming Speaker: Susan Labow, SMP Hawaii volunteer Location: Zoom and Waipahu Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (94-821 Kuhaulua Street, Waipahu, HI 96797)</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 10:00 am to 11:30 am Topic: Caring for the Caregiver: Supporting Those Who Support Others Speaker: Cecilia Fong, Griswold Home Care for Oahu Location: Zoom and Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813)</p>
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Please call or email if you are interested in attending or need more information:

Maria Morales
Program Coordinator
(808) 945-3736
cgs@projectdana.org

Save the Date!

12th Annual



MŌ'ILĪ'ILĪ
SUMMER * FEST

Honolulu's Largest Bon Dance!
Saturday, July 5, 2025
5:00pm – 10:00pm

new venue for 2025



WASHINGTON

MIDDLE SCHOOL

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stay tuned for more details!



**Kamehameha
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JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII



Mō'ili'ili Hongwanji Mission



Mō'ili'ili Community Center

Capital Campaign Donations

Brosnan Dumayas
In Honor of Madisyn Sim
Hudson Fukuki
Charlotte Hamai
James Hatashima
Norman Henry
IMO Ralph A. & June M. Henry
Donna Higashi
Karen Imai
In Appreciation of Alison Richards

Karen Imai
IMO Misae Nakamura
Vernon & Juliethe Kajiwara
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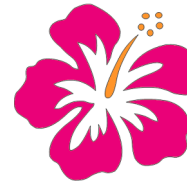
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David Motooka

To Happy Strummers

IMO Michiko Motooka

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Dell Nakamura

Wendy Nakanishi

IMO Frances Aoyama

Wendy Nakanishi

IMO Michi Motooka

Mae Nakashima

Ann Nakata

IMO Sunshine

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IMO Michiko Motooka

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Gary Watanabe

Jeanne Watari

IMO Michiko Motooka

Mae Yamamoto

Dale Yashiki

Karen Yokomizo-Sim

IMO Beatrice Yokomizo

Jo-Ann Yokota

White Way Newsletter

Kenneth & Janice Okumura

White Way Radio

Michael & Wendy Sorakubo

Kie Family

Morikubo Family

JCCH's Ohana Festival 1-11-25

Moiliili Hongwanji successfully participated in JCCH's Ohana Fest on Sat., January 11, 2025. We sold the following items: Shoyu Pork, Spam Musubi, Yatsumizuke, Hijiki, Pickled Onions, Sekihan & Mochi. Many thanks to Arlyne Takiue for spearheading the kitchen crew. All volunteers, including the Jaycees, worked hard preparing food from couple of weeks prior to the event. Our front line location at JCCH caught the attention of many who came to check out what was being offered at the festival. Our homemade food items quickly sold out. Many thanks to those who put in many hours preparing everything!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2025

- 2 9:00 AM** Remembrance & Hongwanji Day Service
- 9 9:00 AM** Spring Ohigan Service
w/Ms. Edythe Vassall
- 16 9:00 AM** Family Dharma Service
- 23 9:00 AM** Family Dharma Service
w/Mrs. Nancy Shimamoto
- 30 9:00 AM** Family Dharma Service

April 2025

- 6 HBC Hanamatsuri Service-MHM service cancelled**
- 13 9:00 AM** Hanamatsuri and Remembrance Service
w/ Rev. Alan Urasaki
- 20 9:00 AM** BWA Eshinni & Kakushinni Service
w/ Mrs. Marilyn Morikawa
- 27 9:00 AM** Earth Day Svc. w/Ms. Kaleo Samson Leo

May 2025

- 4 9:00 AM** Remembrance Service
- 11 9:00 AM** Mother's Day Service
- 18 9:00 AM** Gotan-E Service w/ Rev. Toyokazu Hagio
- 25 9:00 AM** Family Dharma Service
w/ Mr. Ryokichi Higashionna

WHITE WAY RADIO

Join us on Saturdays for White Way Radio on KZOO1210 at 7:45 a.m. for inspiring messages from a variety of speakers. We are truly grateful for our White Way sponsors who make it possible to share the Dharma on the air every week. If you missed it go to www.moililihongwanji.org, Buddhist Teachings.

March 2025

- 1** Rev. Yuika Hasebe/ Kanazawa Family
- 8** Rev. Kazunori Takahashi/ Mrs. Jo-Ann Yokota
- 15** Rev. Shigenori Makino/ Ms. Donna Higashi
- 22** Rev. Tatsuo Muneto/ John & Laura Moriyama
- 29** Rev. Toyokazu Hagio/ MHBWA

April 2025

- 5** Bishop Tatsuya Aoki/ Mrs. Wendy Nakanishi
- 12** Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara/ Nakata Family
- 19** Rev. Daido Baba/ Mrs. Karen Murakami
- 26** Mrs. Irene Nakamoto/ Mr. Arnold Matsuura

May 2025

- 3** Rev. Bert Sumikawa/ Hirai Family
- 10** Rev. Linda Nagai/ Yoshimura Family
- 17** Rev. Takashi Miyaji/ Michael & Wendy Sorakubo
- 24** Rev. Sol Kalu/ Mrs. Iris Wasa-Uehisa
- 31** Rev. David Nakamoto/ Roy & Amy Abe

Borrowed excerpts from Jikoen Hongwanji's January newsletter.

Tip #7 for Becoming Healthier Without Even Trying

Coming to temple on Sundays improves your health in three ways. First, the experience of gratitude. When you say Namu Amida Butsu, you are filled with kansha (gratitude). Numerous studies have shown that gratitude improves not only your physical health but your mental health as well. Second, the growth of your mind. Reverend's Dharma Messages always stimulate thinking and learning about Buddhist teachings. And third, the presence of friends. To greet friends and sit with them after the service, talking story, lift your physical and emotional spirit. You always leave Sunday Services with a smile on your face, a bounce in your step, and a little bit healthier.

With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

Moilili Hongwanji Mission extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of:

Frances Yoko Aoyama*	100	10/12/2024
Robert Takeo Yamamoto	80	10/27/2024
Yasuhiko Kawawaki*	97	12/14/2024
Grace Masayo Watanabe*	98	12/28/2024
Michiko Motooka*	96	1/4/2025
Katsuko Nakamura	96	1/18/2025
Richard Yoshino Nakano	86	2/4/2025

May the Onembutsu provide solace to family members during this time of sorrow.

(* Indicates Temple Sustaining Gojikai Member)



Rev. Ryoso Toshima, Hoonko speaker



Project Dana 36th Anniversary



Omotesenke Domonkai Tea Ceremony demonstration



Hongwanji for Maui Shirt Project



Kyodan Board



New Members L-R: Karen Imai for Alison Richards, Brian & Sandi Yamagata, Edwin & Valerie Murakami, Natalia Ramallo & Brett Schumacher, Dr. Lorraine Mito, flanked by Rev. Fujimoto & Joanne K.



Raymond Takiue, Jr. Pre-Tokudo Training



Dharma School performing Deep Thoughts



Happy Strummers performing Puamana with Kumu Anuheia Pat Takahashi & Alison Yasuoka as guests