

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha

Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

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Dazaifu Tenmangu - shrine of air travel

Dazaifu Tenmangu's precinct spans over 3,000 acres and includes numerous structures. Its *honden*, or main shrine, was first built by Yasuyuki Umasake in 905, two years after the death of Michizane Sugawara or Tenjin, the deity of Dazaifu Tenmangu.

A larger structure was constructed by the Fujiwara clan in 919 but was destroyed in a fire during a civil war.

The Momoyama-style shrine visitors see today dates from 1591 and is an Important Cultural Property. The grounds also contain two ponds, a bridge, a treasure house and the Kyushu National Museum.

There are auxiliary and branch shrines of many other kami

in addition to the main shrine.

Millions visit the shrine in early spring to view the 6,000 *ume* plum trees belonging to 167 varieties.

One tree, known as *Tobiume*, stands directly to the right of the main shrine and is said to be the first to bloom each year.

Legend has it that after Michizane left Kyoto in exile, he yearned so much for this tree that it uprooted itself and flew to Dazaifu Tenmangu.

As such, Dazaifu Tenmangu became revered as the shrine of air travel safety and is revered by travelers and those in the airlines, travel, and

aerospace industries.

Here in Hawaii, off-island travel requires airplane or boat.

Our Air Travel Safety omamori will provide that extra insurance for your next trip to return home safe and sound.



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China and the dreaded Year of the Sheep



According to the China News Service, many couples have been trying desperately to conceive a baby in the fortuitous Year of the Horse. Seemingly, no one wants a baby born in 2015, the dreaded Year of the Sheep. In Chinese culture, the sheep are meek creatures, raised for nothing more than slaughter.

In a famous scene from the film "Wall Street." Gordon Gekko played by Michael Douglas describes Ivy League MBA types as "sheep" and asks Bud Fox "ever wonder why fund managers can't beat the S&P 500? 'Cause they're sheep, and sheep get slaughtered." A "sheep" in Wall Street lingo is an investor who has no strategy or focus in mind and simply listens to others for financial advice, often missing out on the most meaningful moves in the market as a result.

Doomed Sheep babies, therefore, will grow up to be followers rather than leaders and are destined for heartbreak and failed marriages. In addition, the Chinese believe that they will be unpopular, unlucky in business and the acquisition of wealth.

It's unclear how the Sheep came to acquire its baaaaaa-d reputation. Those born in the year of the sheep are said to be diplomatic, loyal, generous and kind - virtues thought to be useless to the Chinese, in the dog-eat-dog real world.

Each of the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac has its virtues and faults. The undisputed favorite is the dragon, followed by the tiger and the horse - all animals closely associated with success, power and wealth.

According to the Chinese lunar calendar, the Year of the Sheep begins Feb. 19, 2015. Many mothers-to-be have inquired about early delivery via Caesarean section to ensure a horse-year birth.

Words to Live By Itadakimasu, Gochisosama

Itadaki-masu said at the beginning of a meal is an expression of thanks to the preparer and to the many forces of nature that helped or was sacrificed in order to create it. Itadaki or itadaku is the root of Itadaki-masu.

Itadaki refers to the top of a mountain or the top of one's head. In ancient times, offerings made to the gods were done placing the offerings high above one's head. *Itadaku*, on the other hand means "I humbly receive this". We are allowed to live only through the sacrifices of other forms of life, both animate and inanimate. We often take these things for granted despite our indebtedness to them.

Gochiso-sama, said after a meal is an expression of thanks for the preparer's devotion in preparing that meal, utilizing his or her efforts, time and thoughtfulness. *Go* is an honorific prefix and *sama* is an honorific suffix. The root of the word gochiso-sama is *chi-so*. *Chi* literally means "rushing on horseback," and the character *so* is "to run on foot." In other words, *chi-so* is an expression of thanks to a host who has run around gathering materials to prepare the meal.

Kukui Nut Health Omamori

From the amazing properties of the kukui comes its *kaona*, its spiritual import.

The kukui is a symbol of enlightenment, hope, renewal, protection, guidance, good health and peace.

In ancient times kukui was woven into the thatched house to confer its blessings. We have inserted a kukui nut in every omamori as a symbol of its *mana* spiritual powers to impart healing energies and to strengthen the body, soul and spirit to bring out a positive outlook to battle illnesses.

The spiritual significance of the Kukui Nut Tree inspired the creation of our Health Omamori.



Japan Religious Committee for World Federation

On Sunday December 7th, some 100 World War II survivors gathered at the main lawn of the Pearl Harbor Memorial to observe the 73rd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In attendance were four of the nine remaining survivors of the USS Arizona. During the ceremony, a peace prayer by the Japanese Religious Committee for World Federation was featured and a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m.

F-22s from the Hawaii Air National Guard 199th Fighter Squadron and Air Force 19th Fighter Squadron conducted a fly over.

Members of the Japan Religious Committee for World Federation visited the shrine on December 4 to perpetuate their mission of religious tolerance and world peace.

Heading the committee this year was Father Chitoshi Noshita of the Catholic Diocese of Nagasaki. Also in attendance were representatives from Iwashimizu Hachimagu, Kawasaki Daishi, Yasaka Jinja, Jinja Honcho, Rissho Kosei Kai and other religious organizations.



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Yuko Takahashi
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Mochi Making

The annual mochi making was done on Saturday, December 6 in preparation of Hatsumode.

Over 2000 bowls of Ozoni was served on New Years day 2014.

Due to the overwhelming number of bowls of Ozoni that is served, mochi is always made in early December and frozen for use on new years day.

Ozoni finds its roots in samurai culture and dates to the end of the Muromachi period (1336–1573).

Upcoming Events

Visit www.e-shrine.org for updated information

