

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

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Kanreki and Yakudoshi Blessings

In Asian cultures, the aging process is celebrated with the honor and recognition it deserves.

In the U.S., we worship youth and looking young and entering our 60s is approached with dread and humor about being “over the hill” or having one’s “foot in the grave.”

Becoming 60 gives us an uneasy feeling that we have moved into unknown territory.

For most of us, the first half of life was defined by our work; in the second half, we may not have a clue as to who we really are.

Kanreki is a time to re-evaluate our lives - when we may begin to face our mortality, get serious about what we want our lives to be about, make transformative changes and reaffirm a sense of gratitude for the goodness and richness of our years.

The 60s also heralds the need for us to cultivate new relationships to our bodies. For many of us, our bodies no longer do what they used to. They don’t respond with the grace and ease they once did.

Kanreki is a time to:

- take stock of how life is working for you
- let go of what no longer serves you
- Make transformative changes
- create your legacy

The Kanreki Blessing can be wonderfully life-affirming. Instead of seeing the 60s as a time of loss, see it as a time to listen to the callings of your soul.

Embrace and celebrate the blessings of life – it is a time of personal renewal and empowerment.

Now is the time to continue on your miraculous journey living life by

your heart.

Yakudoshi years, similar to Kanreki are said to hold many physical and emotional challenges, especially Dai-yaku (Major Yaku) years which are 42 for men and 33 for women.

Crisis is an opportunity for growth and Yakudoshi is a time to look within yourself, recognize and acknowledge the changes, take stock of your life and set new goals.

Yakudoshi blessings are meant to reconnect your spirit within to help you through the challenges and may be performed at either the traditional Japanese age system of *kazoe* or western system of *man*.

The annual Kanreki & Yakudoshi Blessings were performed on Sunday, February 16.

MAHALO for your generous donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa
Aloha Koi Appreciation Society
Doughty Ohana
Elyse Farley
Elaine Fukuoka
Hanayagi Dancing Academy HF
Bob Harada
Rodney Harano
Arthur K. Isa
Kyoko Isa
Jean & Jacie Katsuda
Kyle Kawahata
Mike T. Lee

Steve Miwa
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Fumiko Sakakibara
Jay & Pauline Sakashita
Akiko Sanai
Alan Sasaki
Shirasaki Hachimangu
Irene Takizawa
Val Tsutsumi
Clyde Yamashiro

JAPANESE SUPERSTITIONS

When dining at Japanese restaurants, *Takuan* or pickled radish is never served as single piece or as a threesome. Two pieces are the norm.

This custom began in the Edo Period (1603 - 1868) when *Takuan* was a staple in most *samurai* households.

The Japanese word for one piece is *hito-kire*, which sounds like the expression for killing another human being. Same goes for three pieces or *mi-kire*, which sounds like the expressions to kill oneself.

It is documented that the only time three pieces of *takuan* was served to *samurai* was prior to committing *seppuku* or *hara-kiri*.

Japanese wordplays are subtle and the basis for many of the superstitions.

Shrine Visitors

Dr. Jay Sakashita and students from his Religion class at Leeward Community College visited the shrine on February 10.



Shichi-nensai Service

The Shichi-nensai or 7th year Memorial service was conducted for Karen Fujishima Lee (Hanayagi Mitsuaki II) on February 8 at the shrine.

Mike Lee, relatives, fellow Natoris and Bob Harada representing the shrine gathered to remember and celebrate Karen's time with us.

Every opportunity to gather in remembrance is an opportunity to thank the deceased for having been a part of our lives, to give us the strength to accept what is past, to appreciate what is present and to look forward to good in our future.



8th Aloha Koi Show & 9th Japan Nishikigoi Expo

The 8th International Aloha Koi Show & 9th Japan Nishiki Koi Expo was held at the Waikiki Aquarium on February 14.

The event is sponsored by the Aloha Koi Appreciation Society (AKAS), whose mission is to promote, create, and expand the hobby of keeping and appreciating koi, and provide the general public with educational information and opportunities to see varieties of koi,

Rev. Takizawa performed the opening blessing attended by AKAS President James Kinney, Dr. Andrew Rossiter, Executive Director of the Waikiki Aquarium, Futoshi Mano of the Dainichi Koi Farm of Niigata and Taro Kodama of Kodama Koi Farms in Mililani.



HDAHF Blessing

The annual New Years blessing for the Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation was performed on February 22.

The academy was established 68 years ago by Hanayagi Mitsuaki I to preserve and perpetuate Nihon Buyo classical dance, Nagauta and other traditional Japanese art forms.

Instructors announced the birth of a new Shihan Dance Master - Hanayagi Mitsujyuro (Bryson Goda) and a new Natori Instructor - Hanayagi Mitsufujika (Alyssa Fujihahara).



A house blessing was performed at a new Kakaako condo unit on February 19.

Many of you have gone to a home or business and have had to leave soon after because of a "bad" feeling. Maybe you decided not to rent that apartment because of bad "vibes". Inanimate objects such as houses, buildings, and businesses take on the predominate energy of the individuals living or working in them.

Every home, building, piece of furniture, and clothing carries the energies of those who made the object, who sold it, and those who previously owned it. Their energies are impregnated into the objects and spiritual cleansing or purification is a method of eliminating these unwanted energies.

The Ie-barai is a traditional purification rite meant to cleanse all old, stagnant or negative energies from your home, replacing it with positive and uplifting energies to bring balance and harmony to the home.

House Blessing



Shrine Maintenance

The *Kegyo* of the shrine's roof cracked and fell off a few months ago.

Kegyo is a decorative roof plaque that is placed on the gables of roofs to hide the end of the beam and to protect them from the elements. It was thought to protect the wooden structure from fire if fish motifs or design elements related to water were used.

Kegyo is an important part of Japanese architecture and was imported to Japan from China around the 8th century. The shrine's *kegyo* was created using waves and cloud motifs by shrine members in 1981.

The cracked *kegyo* was repaired and restored by **Bob Harada** and **Ivan Sugai** on January 31.

A big mahalo also goes out to **Val Tsutsumi** for her donation of ficus trees and **Mike Lee** for transplanting them into large pots for use during *Hatsumode*, when thousands of *omikuji* fortunes are tied to the shrine's potted ficus trees.

Several potted ficus trees fell victim to carbon dioxide suffocation from air-

borne pollutants - gases, such as nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide and tiny solids called ultrafine particulate matter. Not only are the ultrafine particulates from vehicles a killer of plant life, they are the biggest threat to public health.

Thousands die each year as a result

of respiratory, cardiovascular and neurological disease from exposure to ultrafine particulate matter.

Air Pollution is one of the larger mirrors of man's follies, and a challenge we need to overcome to see a tomorrow on this planet.



Branches blackened by vehicle emissions and ultrafine particulates



A Japanese tourist left her wallet containing several hundred dollars in the shrine in early February.

Miraculously, the wallet went undetected until found by Rev Takizawa.

The wallet was reunited with its owner later that day.



UPCOMING EVENTS Visit www.e-shrine.org for details

All events are free and open to the public

**HONOLULU Festival**

The shrine will be at the Honolulu Festival Convention Center site on:
March 7 Saturday - 10 am - 6 pm
March 8 Sunday - 10 am - 3 pm



**Tsukinami-sai**
月次祭
April 5, 2015
Sunday
3:00 pm

Spring Thanksgiving Festival
春季感謝祭

April 12, 2015 Sunday
3:00 pm