



Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

Shiwasu - the last month of the year

Shogatsu is the most important holiday in Japan. It is a Shinto holiday, a tranquil time for every family and the best loved of Japanese holidays.

December, also known as *Shiwasu* (literally, teacher busily running around) is a very hectic month.

Tradition has it that all people must cleanse themselves of the old year before entering the new one.

First, people must forget their unpleasant memories at *Bonenkai* Yearend parties - with a little help from *sake*.

Then, they must complete all on-going projects by *Shigoto osame* or the final day at the office, usually December 29.

At the end of every year, Japanese homes are meticulously cleaned in an effort to drive out any impure influences that may have taken up residence during the previous year. It's considered inauspicious to drag old business, clutter and dust into a brand new year.

Purification is the key objective and the end result is a clean and uncluttered house to welcome the

Toshigami or the new year gods on New Years day.

Finally, all debts must be paid by the end of the year.

Following the purification of one's mental, emotional and physical self, the office, home, and finances, all *Shogatsu* decorations like *Kadomatsu* and *Shimenawa* are displayed.

Japan is known as the most fastidious country in the world. This obsession with cleanliness comes from Shinto and its numerous rites of purification.

Another *Shiwasu* tradition is *Oseibo*. *Oseibo* originated with the custom of placing offerings on ancestors' graves which over time morphed into more general gift-giving.

Oseibo gifts are intended to be an expression of thanks to someone who has shown you kindness during the year. They might be given to clients, superiors at work, your doctor or landlord. Traditionally, the gifts exchanged as *oseibo* are consumables.

For many Japanese, *oseibo* seems to have been overtaken by the exchange of Christmas presents.

While *oseibo* carries the nuance of public obligation, Christmas gifts are more private expressions usually given to family members or close friends, not business associates.

Everywhere in Japan in December you'll see elaborate displays of Christmas decorations and Christmas-themed treats intended for gift-giving. At the same time, you'll also see displays of the traditional *oseibo* items like beer, ham, rice, and a variety of fancy packaged foods.



View shrine photos at www.flickr.com/photos/kotohiradazaifu

MAHALO for your generous donations

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MAHALO VOLUNTEERS

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Hidetaka & Risa Kojima
Aki Kuioka
Diane Lam
Pamianne Lam
Daniel & Yumiko Lee
Maggie Lee
Shaynen & Angelica Low



Volunteer Kei Sakamoto receiving a Yakudoshi blessing at the shrine.

Roof Project 2013



The shrine completed its Roof Restoration Project for 2013 with painting of the kitchen's flat deck roof by David's Roofing & Painting.

On 11/11, the roof was power-washed. A few days later, a fabric coating with Tropical Silicone was applied and left to dry.

On 11/20, a top coat of H.A. Solargard Elastomeric Coating was applied to provide waterproof protection and to reflect light and heat away from the roof.

Our heartfelt Mahalo goes out to our many donors for making these maintenance projects possible.

A big mahalo also goes out to Vice President Bob Harada for coordinating the various maintenance and beautification projects.

JALPAK Hawaii Omamori

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha-Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu has an exclusive Marathon Finisher's omamori that will be given to hundreds of JALPAK clients that participate in the Honolulu Marathon this Sunday, December 8, 2013.

This is the second year that the shrine has collaborated with JALPAK to create an event-specific omamori

The omamoris were consecrated in ritual by Rev Takizawa on December 5.



Shichigosan 2013



We would like to extend our Mahalo to all that participated in our Shichigosan and Jusan Mairi blessings for 2013.

The special Blessing began on October 20 and ended on November 24 with a total of 422 children from Oahu, neighbor islands, Japan, Mainland and Europe

Our sincere Mahalo goes out to the instructors of the Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation, Marilyn Naitoh, Yasumi Gojo, Naomi Teramoto, Miyoko Hanahra, Keiko Doughty, Yuko Takahashi, Kei Sakamoto, students of Kamehameha Schools and the devoted officers and directors of the shrine - especially to Dr. Shinken Naitoh who flew in from Maui every weekend to help out at this event.

Shichigosan and Jusan Mairi blessings for 2014 are scheduled for October 19 - November 23.

Upcoming Events



Come celebrate Hatsumode 2014 at Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha – Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu and embrace the spirit of the Japanese with a traditional New Years blessing from Midnight to 5:00 pm.

Hatsumode 2014 will feature Shishimai Lion Dance, Kagami-biraki Sake and complimentary bowls of Ozoni Mochi soup.

PARKING:

Damien School on Houghtailing St. Free Shuttle runs continuously between Midnight ~ 2am and 10am ~ 3:30 pm.

www.e-shrine.org

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We need your kokua on Dec 31, Jan 1,2,3,4 ,5.

If you are able to volunteer for a few hours on any of the above date(s), please contact Irene at **841-4755** or **Kotohira@hawaiiantel.net**.

Whether you have lots of time to volunteer or only a few hours, consider making the kind of impact that only you can make.

Become a part of the 94-year old tradition of the shrine !!

A Piece of History



Mochi was thrown to members at the opening of the new hall that was relocated from it's original site on H-1, near Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center. The above photo was taken on September 26, 1962



Relocation of the Hall building was completed on September 13, 1962.

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