

Shichigosan Children's Festival

Shichi-Go-San is said to have originated in the Heian Period (794-1185) among court nobles who celebrated the passage of their children into middle childhood.

The ages 3, 5 and 7 are consistent with Japanese numerology, which dictates that odd numbers are lucky.

Over time, this tradition passed to the samurai class who added a number of rituals. Children who were required by custom to have shaven heads until 3 were allowed to grow out their hair in a ritual called *kamitoki*.

The *hakamagi* ritual allowed boys of 5 to wear *hakama* for the first time, while girls of 7 replaced the simple cords they used to tie their kimono with a traditional obi in the *obitoki* ritual.

By the Meiji Period (1868-1912), the practice was adopted by commoners and included visiting a shrine to wish for a long healthy life.

3 year old girls began to wear a *hifu* vest while 5 year old boys wore *haori* and *hakama*, traditional garments of the samurai warrior class. 7 year old girls wore kimono outfits with elaborate *obi* sashes.

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha-Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu was the first to initiate a Shichigosan blessing with complimentary kimono dressing in hopes of

perpetuating a tradition that is spiritually enriching and culturally exciting.

Since 1994, the shrine has blessed over 4500 children - a feat only possible because of the tireless generosity of our volunteers.

A heartfelt mahalo goes out to shrine officers, Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation instructors and devoted volunteers for their kokua week after week, during Shichigosan season.

Shichigosan blessings continue until November 24.



Ofuda, Omamori, Ema, Chitose-ame, Shrine's 2013 Shichigosan tote and Goodies



Chitose Ame or Thousand year candy is a traditional candy given to children upon completion of their Shichigosan blessing as an expression of wishes for a long, healthy life.

Chitose Ame is shaped like a long thin stick and comes in a long white paper bag decorated with symbols of longevity and is documented to have first been sold in the Asakusa district during the early Edo Period.

The shrine's Chitose Ame is from Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka and is handmade using traditional methods without fillers or preservatives.

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

MAHALO for your generous donations



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Tree Trimming

The overgrown ficus trees on the H-1 side of the shrine was trimmed on November 8 by Sherwood Tree Trimming Service.



Michi & Katsu's Blessing



Michi and Katsu were blessed by Rev Masa Takizawa in a private ceremony. Get well soon!

Congratulations

Below is a thank you letter received from a student in Japan who visited the shrine with his family and received an ema, Education omamori and personal protection omamori on March 23, 2013.

The student wrote to say that he was accepted to Kyoto University, known for their incredibly difficult entrance exam. Congratulations!!!



金刀比羅神社 ハワイ太宰府天満宮様

平成24年3月23日に
お詣りさせて頂きました [redacted] と
申します。
今年、ご利益を貝易わり
無事志望大学に合格することが
できました。

浪人生活を目前とした春休みに
参拝させて頂き、
これからどんな厳しい日々が
待っているのかと不安もありましたが
気の引き糸帝にスタートを切ること
ができました。

本来でしたら、お礼詣りに
伺わなければよかったのですが
今年は娘の受験が控えており
お手紙で失礼させて頂きました。

本当に、ありがとうございました。



Blessing of the Omamori

In a solemn ceremony conducted on November 6, Rev. Takizawa blessed 350 omamori amulets hand-crafted by Hospice Hawaii volunteers.

The special omamori will be given to hospice patients undergoing palliative care.



A Piece of History

After the war, the shrine faced another crisis on June 1, 1948, when federal officers raided the shrine under the "Trading with the Enemy Act 1917", making arrests and seizing the Kotohira Jinsha property.

On March 4, 1949, an announcement for the sale of the Kotohira Jinsha property appeared on local newspapers.

The shrine immediately solicited the services of the law firm, Robertson, Castle & Anthony and filed a suit on April 4, 1949 against U.S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark, the State of Hawaii and the Federal Alien Land Office for infringement of First Amendment rights, misusing Section 9 of the Trading with the Enemy Act against a civilian organization not under the influence of the Japanese government and damages for wrongful seizure and detention.

President Harry Truman appointed Senator J. Howard McGrath, Attorney General of the U.S. on August 24, 1949 and Kotohira Jinsha's lawsuit against the Attorney General's office became known as Kotohira Jinsha vs McGrath.

The case was heard in District Court on May 17, 1950 and a favorable ruling for the shrine was made on May 18, 1950 by Judge Frank McLaughlin.

The shrine was able to continue all activities on their property in Kapalama. Members jubilantly celebrated the Autumn Thanksgiving Festival on Sunday, October 29, 1950, nine long years since the last festival in 1941.

The lawsuit by Kotohira Jinsha was the first ever initiated by a Japanese

American organization in the history of the U.S., paving the way for similar lawsuits by other JA organizations.

On July 31, 1965, a Kensho Kinenhi stone memorial was erected in honor of shrine members who persisted against overwhelming odds in a lawsuit against discrimination by the Federal Government.

It was also meant to serve as a constant reminder of the hardships

and indignities suffered at the hands of a nation misguided by wartime hysteria, racial prejudice and fear.

To mark the start of a new beginning, Kotohira Jinsha officially changed its name to Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha on May 11, 1951. New By-laws were adopted and membership once again flourished as all activities were re-established with the return of Rev. Misao Isobe in 1952.



Ceremony performed on Saturday, July 31, 1965 by Rev. Kunisuke Sakai to commemorate the shrine's victory and to express gratitude to those who were instrumental in initiating measure for the return of the shrine property

Mochi making

12/7 Saturday
9:00 am



Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service 月次祭

December 8 Sunday
3:00 pm



Hatsumode 2014



Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu