

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha

Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

September 2016



The back-to-school season is a time filled with capturing the last days of summer, assembling school supplies, coordinating new wardrobes and adjusting to new schedules. This is a time that brings about a variety of emotions for parents, teachers and students as a new school year begins.

The shrine offered a special blessing steeped in ancient tradition honoring students of all ages so they may be blessed with the spirit of learning, persevere in their studies and be safe and free from violence and crime. The Otaku Summer Festival was combined with the annual blessing with Anime-related vendors, entertainment and delicious by the Animagid Cafe.

Kicking off the event was a service officiated by Rev. Takizawa and attended by President Shinken Naitoh, Kell Komatsubara - chair of the Otaku Summer Festival and volunteers.

MAHALO VOUNTEERS

Preparations 8-6-2016

Jessica Fishel
Victoria Hallett
Galen Komatsu
Kell Komatsubara
Mike Lee
Matt Maeda
Marilyn Naitoh
Shinken Naitoh
Craig Nishida
Diane Nishida
Gary Shinsato
Linda Shinsato
Jonathan Sison
Wayne Takenaka
Val Tsutsumi



Back-To-School Blessing & Otaku Summer Festival 8-7-2016

Lois Arakaki
Nick Arakawa
Renee Carlyle
Puna Choo
Gayle Fujihara
Victoria Hallett
Kathy Hamada-Kwock
Bob Harada
Stacie Hata
Odie Kepo'o
Kien Kicho
Asami Kobata
Robert Kono
Canaan Kutzen
Milton Kwock
Matt Maeda
Marilyn Naitoh

Shinken Naitoh
Mei Nakai
Marvin Nakajima
Craig Nishida
Diane Nishida
Ryukyu Matsuri Daiko
Rich Salcido
Nicolo Santos
Danielle Sato
Bethany Schwartz
Gary Shinsato
Linda Shinsato
Jonathan Sison
Sharon Toma
Pam Verrey
Kaede Yanagihara



MAHALO

for your donations

Tom & Linda Agawa
James Brown
Bill & Keiko Doughty
Pat Fujisaki
Hanae Gouveia
Bob Harada
In Memory of Kama &
Kamado Isa
Kyoko Isa
Rodney & Sharon Isa
Kell Komatsubara
Cory Kubota
Kunishima Ohana
James & Melba Kurashige
Mike Lee
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Jeanette Nakata
Jon Nakata
Akiko Sanai
Tatsu Sasaki
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Wayne & Corrine Takara



A blessing was performed on July 28 for the Windward Laundromat Express, opening in mid-August in Kaneohe.



Graffiti season is here !!!!

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Reservations accepted for
Shichigosan & Jusan Mairi
- 4 3 pm
Tsukinamisai Service
- 25 3 pm
Autumn Taisai Festival

OCTOBER

- 23/29/30 9 am - 1 pm
Shichigosan & Jusan Mairi
- 23 3 pm
Tsukinamisai Service

In 1920, a Gobunrei (spirit of the deity of the main shrine) from Kotohira-gu in Kagawa-ken, Japan was brought to Hawaii by Rev. Hitoshi Hirota, Yasubei Motoyasu, Bunichi Tanaka (a carpenter who lived on Kama Lane), Kyujiro Taguchi (owner of Japanese American Groceries on Akepo Lane) and Gennosuke Okamoto.

A residence at 1256-A North King Street was converted into a shrine where Rev. Hirota performed the traditional rites and rituals embraced by the first generation Isseis.

Kotohira-gu, long known as the guardian deity of fishing, prosperity and commerce, quickly grew in popularity and membership.

On November 3, 1920, the shrine on the corner of Wolter Lane and North King Street was recognized by Kotohira-gu, Japan as a

legitimate branch of the famous shrine in Kagawa-ken.

On February 20, 1924, the shrine was acknowledged by the Territorial government as a non-profit church and officially began its religious activities as the first Kotohira-gu on American soil.



Reverend Hitoshi Hirota

Kapalama was developed as one of the first residential areas of Honolulu and in the 1920s, consisted of mixed ethnic neighborhoods bound by pasture lands. The area around the Kapalama Post Office was predominantly Japanese.

Many Japanese farmers, flower growers and poultry and hog farmers worked and lived near Kam IV Road while those in business and industrial ventures worked and lived along North King Street.

Rev. Hirota, the first Chief Priest was born in 1883 in Shikinobu-mura, Hiba-gun, Hiroshima and moved to Hawaii on August 17, 1917 at the age of 34 to serve at Izumo Taishakyo Mission.

His wife Kotome and daughter Miyora arrived in Hawaii on May 30, 1918 and lived with Rev. Hirota

Photo of Rev. Hirota's son - Robert Shigemaru Hirota Awaya taken in 1958.

According to Robert's son who resides in California, Robert was never able to reunite with his mother and sister after the adoption. He remembered little of his birth parents or Hawaii, being a 1-year old at the time of Rev. Hirota's death.



at 1039-E Pua Lane in Palama.

In 1919, stricken with illness and no longer able to fulfill his duties, Rev. Hirota retired from Izumo Taishakyo Mission.

At the insistence of numerous community members, Rev. Hirota helped to establish Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha in 1920, where he served as Guji until his untimely death in 1925, at the age of 42.

The Hirotas second child, Robert Shigemaru was born on 4/12/1924, a year before Rev. Hirota's passing.

Upon Rev. Hirota's death in 1925, Robert was adopted by his

paternal aunt and lived in Hiroshima.

Kotome and Miyora returned to Japan in April 1926, never to be heard from or to be reunited with Robert.

Robert was married in 1949 in Tokyo and became *muko-yoshi* or the adopted son of his wife's parents Atae and Sumi Awaya - former residents of Palama who returned to Tokyo to start a thriving dressmaking business.

Robert, his wife Yoshiye and two children emigrated to California in 1960.

Robert passed away at the age of 82 on April 9, 2007.



Photo taken in 1926 at Kotome Hirota's Farewell party at the shrine. The woman wearing a kimono in the first row is Kotome, Rev. Hirota's wife. The young girl standing on the right of Kotome is Rev. Hirota's 13-year old daughter Miyora, carrying her 1-year old brother Robert.

TROPICAL STORM DARBY

Tropical Storm Darby wreaked havoc on Oahu on July 24 with torrential downpours. Darby flooded Kalihi stream, creating a lake of mud on Dillingham Boulevard and other areas of Kalihi and Kapalama. Heavy ponding closed the School Street exit of H-1 and Nimitz Highway along Marukai.

The shrine's 200 gallon subterranean tank filled up within 15 minutes, resulting in a potential flooding of the basement meeting room.

Rev Takizawa and the shrine's neighbors - Rudy, Sherrie and Justin Santiago used buckets to bail out water from the overflowing tank for nearly 2 hours, in a desperate attempt to minimize damage to the meeting room.



Maintenance

Mahalo to Mike Lee and Craig Nishida for installing a new submersible pump in front of the meeting room. The old pump was replaced with a larger, faster sump pump on July 31 to ensure sufficient power to pump the water out before it can back up and overflow.

Mahalo Bob Harada, Kell Komatsubara, Galen Komatsu and Rev. Takizawa for cleaning up the hall on July 30.

