



Kauai Soto Zen Temple
Zenshuji

President's Message
June 20, 2020

Dear Members, Family, and Friends,

This has been an unusual year because of the corona virus. In mid-March the entire Bon dance season on the island was cancelled by the Kauai Buddhist Council.

All temple activities were cancelled or suspended. Our Zenshuji's Obon festival was scheduled for June 19-20. Facing a public health crisis, we have adjusted and are living by new rules and guidelines.

The challenge we face is to restore some normalcy in our lives again. With your patience and support, we will manage through this crisis.

One change we will initiate is the use of technology. It will help to strengthen our connections with all of you. In keeping our bond, we will incorporate the following: rely on U.S. Postal Service mailings by doing two mailings, one at New Year and the other at Obon; send short newsletters via email and post on the website, 3 or 4 times a year; post notices on Facebook; keep current, timely information on the website – this is crucial. We've been working closely with a web consultant to develop the site and make it easier to manage and maintain.

We are currently updating our roster so please fill out the Contact Form. If you know of other family members or friends that may want to be on the contact list, provide that information as well.

Recently we installed high-speed internet connection. This will enable us to broadcast services, events, and other activities live on the Internet.

We are currently planning a virtual Obon memorial service, conducted by Rev. Hirosato Yoshida of the Soto Mission of Hawaii, on August 22, 2020, Saturday morning at 10:00 am. We will have a camera and broadcast the service live. We are also planning some kind of Bon dance activity (singing, dancing, taiko) later that day in a live broadcast. More information will be sent via email and posted on the website.

Obon is a journey that takes us back to our home town. Since the temple has its roots in McBryde's Wahiawa Camp 3, we will feature a section on our website called **WAHIAWA**, with photos, history, and stories of that special place. We want you to share your memories.

Please take care of yourselves, stay well and follow safe practices. And MAHALO NUI LOA, for your continued support. We depend on it.

Stay tuned and visit our website for current information.

A Japanese proverb says, "The bamboo that bends is stronger than the oak that resists." In this pandemic era, persistent resilience is ongoing and requires action over time. Like the bamboo, bend and do no break.

In Gassho,

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