



KAUA'I SŌTŌ ZEN

January 2025

P.O. Box 537 · 1-3500 Kaumuali'i Highway · Hanapēpē · HI · 96716
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Message from Reverend Hirosato Yoshida

Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu, Happy New Year!

As we welcome the new year, 2025, I have hopes that this year will be another year of excitement. Last year, our family welcomed our daughter, Hina Meila Yoshida to this world in June. I have not had the chance to bring her to Kauai but I hope that I can bring her with me on one of the occasions. The year of the snake is said to have an implication of bringing opportunity for new change and rebirth. Kauai is a place of beauty and rich culture. Bringing the unique essence of Kauai and appreciating the rich history of the temple, but open to new challenges to build a bridge from the past to the future.

With the Buddha's teachings of compassion, interdependence, and mindfulness in mind, let us share the teachings to those in need that this sharing is the process of building the new bridge to the future. Once again, Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing everyone during our many services and events planned throughout the year.

In Gassho,
Rev. Hirosato Yoshida



The Kauai Soto Zen Temple is the first Zen temple to be established in Hawaii and the Americas in 1903.

Our Story

In the summer and fall of 1899 when McBryde Sugar Company started, five hundred Japanese immigrants settled in Wahiawa villages, Camps 1-5. More workers followed in the winter and spring of the following year, to be joined by Portuguese, Puerto Ricans, Chinese, Koreans, Spanish, Filipinos, and Okinawans.

Our Home

In "Kauai's Biggest Little Town," Hanapepe, a new temple was built in 1978, planned, designed, and constructed by temple members and friends of the McBryde community.

Our Vision

To serve our community that includes everyone, regardless of age, race, creed, religion, gender, background, rich, poor, or political beliefs. We promote peace and harmony to enrich the lives of everyone.



President's Message

To Our Zenshuji Members, Friends, & Ohana,

2025. New year, new beginnings. We are looking forward. In three years, our temple in Hanapepe will be 50 years old, which means Zenshuji will have served our Kauai community for 125 years. With your continued support you can help us move Zenshuji into a new era.

Do not forget. Your membership dues (\$100) help us support our programs and events. You get discounts on t-shirts, other sale items and various temple services. Fill out your Omamori requests. Respond to the New Year's Mahalo Luncheon. No charge for the luncheon. It's our way of saying "Thank you." However, we need to track attendance with a kitchen count.

Big challenges are ahead. Reverend Scott Mangis will be leaving Zenshuji. His one year training period has ended and so will his tenure. It is with regret, so we wish his family well in their future endeavors.

For our off-island Zenshuji ohana, please target June 27-28, 2025, our Obon festival. It's a good time to come back home once again!

ALOHA! With Gratitude,

Gerald Hirata

MAHALO to the Members of our Board

- President Gerald Hirata
- Vice President Roy Miyashiro
- Secretary Evelyn Masaki
- Treasurer Ed Goka
- Patty Asakawa-Ellis, Jane Kimata,
- Russell Kuboyama, Cameron Williams
- Sandy Nakagawa Tateyama

KAUAI SOTO ZEN TEMPLE ZENSHUJI CALENDAR 2025 FOR YOUR INFORMATION

EVENTS 2025 Kauai Soto Zen Temple Zenshuji Activities

+ Island wide event * State-wide Soto Shu event Zazen every Sunday at 9am

Jan	19	Sun	10 am	New Year Blessing Service- Rev. Yoshida
	19	Sun	11 am	New Year Party (Mahalo Luncheon)
Feb	2	Sun	10 am	Nehan-e Service – Rev. Yoshida
	* 22	Sat	9:30 am	Hawaii Soto Mission Minister’s Meeting
	* 23	Sun	9:30 am	Hawaii Soto Mission Assn Spring Conference
Mar	9	Sun	10 am	Spring Higan Service – Rev. Yoshida
	23	Sun	TBA	Zen Workshop, Open House
Apr	+ 6	Sun	9:30 am	Kauai Buddhist Council Buddha Day Service
	* 26-27	Sat-Sun	TBA	United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women’s Assn Conf. (Host: Aiea Taiheji)
May	TBA			Mother’s Day – Memorial Day, Open House
Jun	27-28	Fri-Sat	5-10 pm	Soto Zen Bon Festival & Service – Rev. Yoshida
Jul				
Aug	TBA			Open House
Sep	21	Sun	TBA	United Nations International Day of Peace
	21	Sun	10 am	Fall Higan Service – Rev. Yoshida
Oct	19	Sun	10 am	Darumaki and Ryosoki
	* 23-26			Hawaii-U.S. Soto Conference
	* TBA	TBA	TBA	Hawaii Soto Mission Assn Fall Conference
Nov	TBA			Open House
Dec	+ 7	Sun	9:30 am	Kauai Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service
	31	Tue	11:30 pm	Joya-no-Kane (Ringing of the Bell)

Funeral and Memorial Services:

Call Evelyn for arrangements (808-651-0728).

Families may want to schedule a memorial or inurnment services on those Sundays when Rev. Yoshida is scheduled to come to Kauai.

Memorial Service Year for 2025

1st year services for those who passed away in 2024

3rd year services for those who passed away in 2023

7th year services for those who passed away in 2019

13th year services for those who passed away in 2013

17th year - 2009; 23rd year - 2003; 27th year – 1999; 33rd year-1993; 50th year - 1976

Makuragyō Services:

Call Evelyn or Gerald. The Minister should be compensated for their service.

Please save this calendar for reference
Call to confirm the date of an event
MAHALO!

NEW YEAR'S BLESSING SERVICE

Conducted by: Reverend Hirosato Yoshida,
Place: Kauai Soto Zen Temple
Date: Sunday, January 19, 2025
Time: 10:00 am

& MAHALO LUNCHEON

Place: Zenshuji Social Hall
Date: Sunday, January 19, 2025
Time: 11:00 am, No charge
Fun, food, & entertainment!



Year of the Snake

Our resident astrologist, Frecki Okada will give you a preview of what is to come in the next year!



Please join us! We invite our members, friends, supporters, and volunteers who have helped us during the year! Please complete the tear-off information, cut it, and enclose it in the self-addressed envelope by

Deadline: January 10, 2025



Ringling of Temple Bell

December 31st, New Year's Eve, 11:30 pm 108 rings on the bonsho (large bell). You'll get your turn! **Meet at the bell tower.**

Enjoy a Soto Zen tradition – *mochi & ozone* to start the New Year right!

OMAMORI for Sale

Omamori or ofuda are paper amulets that are good luck charms that are blessed to bring positive spirits and protection for someone possessing them.

1. **Personal safety & protection - \$3.00** 2"x2.5" amulet that fits in your wallet or purse.
2. **Car safety and protection – \$7.00** 2"x 3.5" and can be hung or placed on the dashboard area of your car. "Kauai Zenshuji" tag.
3. **House safety and protection - \$5.00** 2.75" x 7.5" placed somewhere near the entrance to your front door, in the foyer or even the back of the door itself. "Kauai Zenshuji" tag.



Use the following to help you calculate:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Personal protection (wallet size) | Quantity _____ | x \$3.00 = _____ |
| 2. Car protection | Quantity _____ | x \$7.00 = _____ |
| 3. House protection | Quantity _____ | x \$5.00 = _____ |
| | | Total = _____ |

Postage (Neighbor islands, U.S. mainland: Add \$5.00 _____
We'll make arrangements for delivery on Kauai.

Record this information on the tear off sheet. Thank you!



ZAZEN

EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:00 – SUTRA CHANTING, TEA & TALK

Dogen Zenji

Buddhist priest, writer, philosopher, founder of the Soto Zen school in Japan.

“Do not follow the ideas of others but learn to listen to the voice within yourself. Your body and your mind will realize the unity of all things.”



In Zen meditation, we sit in silence to reconnect with the voice within, our truest nature. As Dogen Zenji reminds us, clarity arises when we let go of outside distractions and turn inward. This practice is not about achieving or striving but about realizing the unity of all things already present. You are always welcome to join us in meditation and discover the stillness that transforms body, mind, and spirit. --Cameron Williams

“You cannot find water by digging ten one-foot wells, to truly find water you must dig down ten feet.”

I was sitting my first “serious” ten-day meditation retreat in Taiwan when I first heard these words by the Indian-Burmese teacher S. N Goenka. I was 26, and until that time, I had dabbled and experimented along my spiritual path in an untethered way. My grandmother was both a Buddhist and a Daoist, but we never spoke about it when I was young, instead I wandered in my own way for many years. Goenka-ji’s teaching landed in me like a deep truth that I was finally ready to receive. I allowed Zen to infuse my life and my heart, and it felt like coming home. Almost a decade later, in 2022, I ordained as a monk in Taizan Maezumi Roshi’s White Plum lineage (a branch of Soto Zen). Maezumi Roshi’s key teaching is: “Appreciate your life!”, a lesson that benefits me every day. I am grateful for our Hanapepe temple and the refuge it provides for all of us in the community. --Kim Loh



Your Sunday meditation hosts, ordained monk, Kim Loh, above, and Cameron Williams, right, at a retreat in Two Arrows Zen Center, Torrey, Utah.

GENEROSITY: Giving to the Temple

As members of the Soto Zen (or Buddhist) community, we aspire to emulate the Six Perfections—the first of which is giving. Our Kauai Soto Zen Temple was built and has been sustained by the generosity of individuals and families giving their time, talent, and treasure. Annual membership gifts and special donations support the essential operations of the temple. With all of us giving what we can, we will maintain our rich history and ensure our future.



ENSURING OUR FUTURE: The Gift of Giving

Many individuals include a gift for their temple in their Last Will and Testament or their Living Trust. Please consider including Kauai Soto Zen Temple in your estate plans. For more information, please contact Gerald Hirata. All inquiries will be confidential.



Have you seen the inside of the Zenshuji's Columbarium? My husband, Chris, and I are fairly new members and volunteers to the lovely Soto Zen Temple. Our initial interest was to attend Zazen on Sundays but we soon learned of the other features of the Temple such as the majestic Kannon statue that stands beside the Bodhi tree, the wonderfully brilliant events such as Obon and Peace Day, and Legacy cooking and Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) workshop classes, but the Columbarium is wondrously extraordinary with the statue of Buddha overseeing our ancestors. Maybe your parents or grandparents reside in this Columbarium and you haven't had the opportunity to visit in a while; hoping a few pictures help you recollect the serenity.

We need volunteers to help clean and freshen the Columbarium weekly. If you get a chance to visit, contact the Temple at (808) 335-3521 or email kauaisotozen@gmail.com for further inquiries. We look forward to meeting you here!

Mahalo, Patty Asakawa-Ellis



We would like to thank our donors in our next newsletter, so please be sure to include how you would like your name to be listed. Please be sure to send the form below with your donations and gift.



PLEASE CUT THE FOLLOWING AND RETURN IN THE SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE



Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email _____

Check the areas that apply:

- Membership Dues (\$100, Y2025) In Memory Of Building Fund Columbarium
- Omamori General Donation Other (please specify) _____
- Interested in the Gift of Giving? (please contact me)

Omamori Order:

Personal Qty # _____
 Car Qty # _____
 House Qty # _____

Total: \$ _____
 ___ Add \$5.00 for mailing

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Kauai Soto Zen Temple

TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ _____

Will attend the Blessing Service
 Will attend the Mahalo Luncheon _____ # attending the Luncheon

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