



## An Obon Message from Reverend Hirosato Yoshida

Bon season is a time for us all to come together as family and friends to honor the life of our loved ones. Every single person in this world has a mother, a father, grandparents, great grandparents, and it leads to our ancestors. With each of its generations bringing life to the next, we exist.

Let us take the time to remember what our significant loved ones that passed on left us and appreciate it. Without them, we do not exist, but most importantly, it is their love that perpetuates beyond time that is engraved in our hearts and spirit.

In such spirit, please join us at the Bon service to honor your loved ones by dedicating a toba. If you are traveling, please stop by and ring the bell for your loved ones. If you are our local friends, dance the night away with joy and gratitude.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Bon service and Bon dance.

Mahalo in Gassho,  
Rev. Hirosato Yoshida



### What's in the News

- AAA Explorer Magazine – Bon Dance food, including Soto Zen's flying saucers, April/May/June issue
- Hana Hou Magazine, June/July issue on Bon Dances – with Kauai style traditions
- HTA (Hawaii Tourism Authority) Funding and support for the upcoming Soto Zen Bon Festival

### A Message from Gerald Hirata, President – Board of Directors

To Our Zenshuji Members, Friends, and 'Ohana,

In November of 2024, the Board of Directors made a decision that Scott Mangis is not the right fit for the future of the Soto Zen temple. We wish Scott and his family well in their future endeavors.

I am pleased to announce that a Tokudo Ceremony will be conducted on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to continue the training of three aspirants that will help move the temple forward. Cameron Williams, Kim Loh, and Todd Cowdery will take part in the formal ordination that will be officiated by the Reverend Hirosato Yoshida.

Mahalo for your support, encouragement and understanding.

If you have not seen the video that was broadcast on PBS-Hawaii, "Home is Here" March 26, go to YouTube.com and search "Flying saucers Kauai"



The Kauai Soto Zen Temple is the original home of the Flying Saucers!  
(Video shots courtesy of PBS-Hawaii)

## OBON is a time to remember...

In this issue, note the following and fill out your Obon requests forms. Send it in right away!

Deadline: **June 20, 2025**, one week before Obon (June 27-28)

Call in your request if late: 808-651-0728 (Evelyn) or 808-346-4650 (Gerald)

- (1) Toba Memorial Service -fill out a list of names for a **toba**
- (2) Chochin request – fill out the information for a **name-tag**
- (3) In Memory of : **person's name**
- (2) General Obon donation to help defray festival food costs, festival expenses
- (3) Columbarium donations for maintenance and upkeep
- (4) Membership dues (if it slipped by you in January) - dues supports our activities and events
- (5) Building fund - fixing shoji doors, replace temple and hall roofs

*Enclose the check-list form with payment, name in the back, and return in the self-addressed envelope.*

### [1] 2025 Obon Toba Services Friday & Saturday, June 27 & 28, 2025 5:30 pm

Dear Members and Friends,



Obon is a time for families to gather. It is a time to reflect upon our journey in life and to appreciate the people who came before and those who are still with us. Obon gives us an opportunity to say “Thank you” to those who gave us life. We should never forget that we exist because of our parents and the long line of ancestors who came before them. By lighting a candle and offering incense, we honor and extend our gratitude and hospitality to visiting spirits.

Names are written on a light wooden plate called a **toba**. During the service, the names are recited, honoring and remembering loved ones. Provide the names on the form below, and select the preferred service date, either Friday or Saturday. Rev. Hirosato Yoshida will officiate the services, with Temple assistants.

In Gassho, Evelyn Masaki 808-651-0728

Tobas may be dedicated to:

1. An individual, e.g. John Smith
2. Family, e.g. Jane & John Smith or Jane & John Smith Family
3. Family ancestors, e.g. John Smith Family Ancestors
4. An individual who passed since the last Obon, making this year a first Obon service called a Hatsu-Bon e.g. John Smith (H)

Please fill out the form on Page 5.

### [2] 2025 The Chochin Project: Remember your loved ones forever

This project was started in 2008, to remember our loved ones. For a one-time donation of \$25.00, a **commemorative name tag** of your honoree will be attached to a chochin and strung around the temple during our Obon festival. Every year hereafter, a chochin with the name tag will adorn the temple, i.e. in perpetuity. The **chochin** (lantern) is an iconic symbol of Obon, lighting the way home for our ancestral spirits who return to join us in a celebration of dance and joy. Nearly 600 chochins are strung around the temple and its surrounding area. Please fill out the form on Page 5.



Copyright © Mike Teruya 2016

For more information: call Gerald Hirata 808-346-4650



Giving  
THAT  
Grows

### Giving to the Temple

The Board of Directors extends its deepest gratitude to the many individuals who renewed their temple memberships for 2025 and those who made special gifts during the last quarter.

Your generosity enables the Kauai Soto Zen Temple to thrive—offering a place of homecoming for families with roots in our community, a place of learning for Kauai residents and visitors, and a place for spiritual practice for the growing Zen meditation group. Our Sunday services in the temple continue to add vibrancy, especially recalling the many months when the pandemic prevented us from gathering.

In just three years in 2028, we will celebrate two important milestones: the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our temple and the 50th anniversary of the rebuilding of our temple in Hanapepe. As we anticipate these celebrations, we are also mindful of the additional commitments necessary to ensure our future.

In the months ahead, the Board will be sharing more information on the important priorities for capital improvements and long-term funding. We are pleased to be working with temple and meditation group member Dianne DeLorenzo. She has been in the field of nonprofit fundraising and development for more than 40 years, and is a Certified Fund Rising Executive, receiving awards for her work with universities, medical, social services, and advocacy organizations. We are blessed to have someone with expertise to guide us. Thank you, Dianne.

To our Zenshuji 'ohana, "Mahalo nui," for your continued support and generosity.

**ENSURING OUR FUTURE** Please consider including a gift for the Kauai Soto Zen Temple in your Will or Living Trust. For more information on this or other ways of giving, please contact Gerald Hirata. All inquiries will be confidential.



New Year – Ringing of the Bell  
New Year's Blessing  
YEAR OF the SNAKE

Nagoya University of Foreign Studies  
Study Tour, Jan 2025

Martin Luther Kings Birthday  
January 15, 2025

Hanamatsuri-Buddha Day  
April 6, 2025

PBS-Hawaii airs an episode on  
Flying Saucers for the "Home is  
Here," series on Mar 26, 2025

Charity Walk, May 3, 2025  
\$2,800 raised + Grant \$



**Soto Zen Bon Festival**  
**June 27-28, 2025**  
**The largest, most colorful**  
**Bon dance festival on the**  
**island!**

### TOKUDO CEREMONY

Formal ordination rites for further Buddhist  
training of Cameron Williams, Kim Loh, Dr. Todd  
Cowdery, Monday June 2, 11 am  
Rev. Hiroshiro Yoshida, Officiant

Eco-Friendly?  
or  
Invasive?



Oregon State University Team  
returns to present their study  
on Kauai's Bodhi trees.  
"Bio-Ethics Panel Discussion"  
Thurs, June 26 at Kauai CC

Legacy Cooking Class



The Art  
Japanese  
vegetarian  
Cuisine

International Day of Peace  
Sept 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025



Where the ORDINARY  
becomes EXTRAORDINARY!

**U.S. Soto Shu**  
**CONFERENCE**  
**Oct 23-26**



# "Let's Bon Dance!"

*Everyone Welcome*

## June 27 and 28, 2025

5pm - 10pm | Soto Zen Temple  
Hanapēpē, Kaua'i

*"The Original Home of the Flyer Saucers"*

FREE Admission | Food | Activities | Exhibits  
Games | Special Performances  
Honoring Loved Ones

Visit our website for details and updates!



Obon season is a time when we honor and remember our departed loved ones and we welcome and encourage guests to take part in Celebrating The Spirit of Obon.

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



Americans with Disabilities Act

Kaua'i Soto Zen Temple | Hanapepe | 1-3500 Kaumualii Hwy. | (808) 346-4650 | [www.kauaisotozen.org](http://www.kauaisotozen.org)



**2025 Obon Toba Request Form****Donation per Toba: \$7.00****Checks payable to: Kauai Soto Zen Temple****Deadline: 20 June 2025**\_\_\_\_\_  
Donor's Name\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

Select the preferred service date: \_\_\_\_ June 27 (Fri, 5:30 pm) \_\_\_\_ June 28 (Sat, 5:30 pm)

List the name(s) of the individual(s) and/or family ancestors

1. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

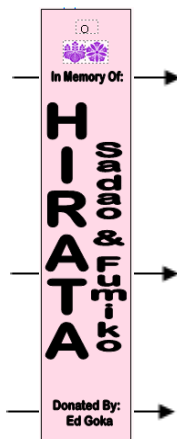
3. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ toba(s)  
(amount) (number)*More names may be recorded on the back of this sheet.***Chochin Project Request Form 2025****Donation per Chochin: \$25.00****Checks payable to: Kauai Soto Zen Temple****Deadline: 20 June 2025**

Requestor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



In Memory of: \_\_\_\_ include \_\_\_\_ omit

Name of Honoree:

\_\_\_\_\_

Donated By: \_\_\_\_ include \_\_\_\_ omit

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

YES, I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_ one \_\_\_\_ two (or more)

*More names may be recorded on the back of this sheet*