

# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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Edited: showing only Bishop Matsumoto's message from headquarters update

### MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ERIC MATSUMOTO

#### "In gratitude, separated by an ocean, but connected in the Nembutsu"

Due to circumstances, many were not able to pilgrimage to the Main Temple to participate in the 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial and attend the 14<sup>th</sup> World Buddhist Women's Convention in Kyoto, but even though we were separated by an ocean, both those who were able to attend and those who were not were in essence united with their thoughts focused on the Great Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha as Shinran Shonin was being honored. From what I have heard, many people in Hawaii were thinking of fellow members who were in Japan, and those who journeyed to Japan as they participated with tear in their eyes in a moving Service, and in a Convention at which old acquaintances met and new friends were made, were thinking of fellow members in Hawaii. As I heard these comments from both sides of the ocean it brought about a warm feeling inside of me which made me think "We are a Sangha." Although as a State-wide organization, we choose to participate in the May Service held on May 15<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the BWA World Convention which was held May 16-17, the 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Services will continue throughout certain periods of the year at the Main Temple, and thus, there are opportunities for people to still attend. However, certain special considerations and arrangements may not be available as it was in May. Finally, to those who did the pilgrimage to Japan especially the Ministers, Group Leaders, BWA Leaders including Donna Higashi and Janet Honda and Rev. Takata of HQ, who was involved in the coordination and planning, I wish to express my appreciation and to those who were not able to go to Japan, please know that Amida Buddha is everywhere and with us at all times and enjoy a few photographs of the Service and Convention found elsewhere in this Update that were contributed for all of us to see and enjoy. Thank you.

In gassho, Eric/Horaku