

HAWAII FEDERATION OF JUNIOR YBAS

Serendipity

秋

AUTUMN EDITION 2021

HAWAII | HONOLULU | MAUI | OAHU | KAUAI



Table of Contents*

**Click the underlined text to navigate to the designated page!*

03 <u>Credits</u>	04 <u>Important Dates</u>	05 <u>President's Message</u>
07 <u>Letter from the Editor</u>	10 <u>United of Hawaii Report</u>	12 <u>United of Honolulu Report</u>
15 <u>United of Kauai Report</u>	16 <u>United of Maui Report</u>	17 <u>United of Oahu Report</u>
18 <u>Dharma Corner</u>	20 <u>United Contact</u>	21 <u>Federation Contacts</u>

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NAHO UMITANI AND THE UNITED OF HONOLULU
JAIMEE YOKOYAMA AND THE UNITED OF MAUI
MADISON DOO AND THE UNITED OF KAUAI
KANA SUZUKI AND THE UNITED OF OAHU

◀ **IMPORTANT DATES** ▶

OCT
17

**STATE DHARMA SCHOOL
GATHERING** on October
17th, 9:30 AM on Zoom

YESS CAMP 39 on October
23th and 24th on Zoom

OCT
23

NOV
6

**2021 FALL NEMBUTSU
SEMINAR** on November 6th,
9:00 AM on Zoom

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President's Message

Hi Everyone~!

I can't believe that this is my last year in Jr. YBA and I am so honored to be Federation President this year. Hopefully, this year we can start transitioning to go "back to normal" with our possible in-person Winter Fed meeting and our 65th convention that we are planning for in person. I am so excited to see you all again!

Some of you may know that I am currently a candidate for the Miss Kona Coffee Scholarship Pageant. The journey is truly remarkable and it has given me a lot to contemplate about myself. So, I ask you all this; What impact do you want to make on the world? "Every generation has the obligation to free men's minds for a look at new worlds . . . to look out from a higher plateau than the last generation," [Ellison Onizuka]. We currently live in a very advanced and ever changing society. I believe that at one time or another, we have all thought, "I want this to change," or "I want people to be aware of this,". I encourage all of you to try to take any chance you get to do what you want!

President's Message

Don't let anyone pressure you to do or not do something. And if it turns out to have been a bad idea, so what? Then you've learned a lesson that you can only learn from. No matter how beaten down you may feel that you can't make a difference in the world, you can. Even if it's small scale, that's okay! At least you tried. We are all trying our best in one way or another. Always remember that you have all your YBA members and advisors that have your back as well!

Hope everyone has an awesome Fall Federation Meeting!

***P.S. What do you call a boomerang that won't come back? ... a stick!**

Manami Alspach [Federation President]



Picture of Federation President Manami Alspach. | Photo/Manami Alspach

Letter From the Editor

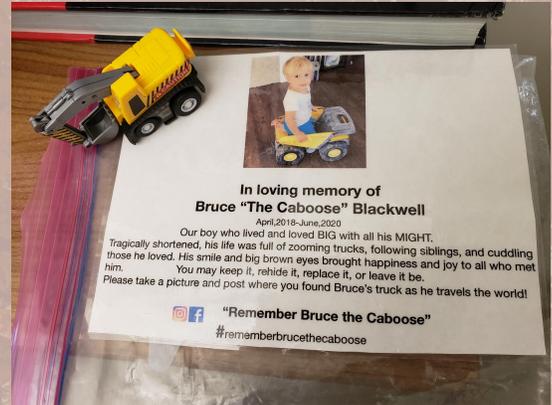
Hey guys!!

I hope you are all doing well and had a great start to the school year! After the hot and humid summer season, Autumn arrives! The leaves of many trees turn yellow, red, crimson, and reddish, showing their colorful foliage before they flutter to the ground. As we watch leaves fall, we are reminded about the cycle of Impermanence mirrored in our lives and in Buddhist Teachings.

For many, Autumn is a time for releasing burdens whether materialistic or intrinsic. We are also reminded of impermanence: the idea that nothing stays the same. Our world is constantly changing as everything in this world continually goes through the cycle of creation and destruction, life and death, success and hardship, etc. Realizing this is important to finding a balanced perspective in life. Becoming aware of the impermanence can fuel one's passion for living in the present.

Letter From the Editor

Two months ago, I was introduced to a tragic story through one of my teachers at Pacific Buddhist Academy. It was a toy truck that has been on the PBA campus since the beginning of summer. This toy belonged to a boy named Bruce "the Caboose" Blackwell who unfortunately, passed away last year at the young age of two.



Mysterious Package? | Photo/Chad/Chihiro Okawa

I was deeply inspired to honor Bruce because of how his parents remembered him: "Our boy who lived and loved big with all his might. Tragically shortened, his life was full of zooming trucks, following siblings, and cuddling those he loved. His smile and big brown eyes brought happiness and joy to all who met him." I can't imagine the pain parents must feel when losing a child, so I wanted to do something special. Because Bruce liked trucks, his parents sent a few of his toy vehicles across the US and internationally to perpetuate the journey that he wasn't able to experience in his life. To sustain Bruce's journey, Bruce's parents asked that wherever we found the toy, to snap a picture and post it on social media.

Letter From the Editor

During a temple service, I captured a serious, yet meditative picture to reflect upon his life. I asked the students to participate in a two minute silent meditation so that they can be aware of the situation and reflect on what they are grateful for.



Remembering Bruce the Caboose. | Photo/Chad/Chihiro Okawa

Taking away from this story, I encourage all of you to live each day filled with gratitude since we can never anticipate what will happen in the near future. Let's all face this new year with reflection, positivity, and open mindedness to help grow our Sangha and form connections!

どうぞよろしく申し上げます。

I look forward to working with all of you!



Picture of Federation Vice President Chad/Chihiro Okawa. | Photo/Chad/Chihiro Okawa

**In Gassho,
Chad/Chihiro Okawa**

United of Hawaii

Hello everyone!

I hope this report reaches you well. As that time of year rolls around again, it's important to look back at the things we've accomplished thus far.

While adjusting to the "new normal" has been difficult, we've been trying to make the best of it. That includes continuing our usual Feed the Hungry program. Although we can't hold the same buffet style as before, the bentos we make are second to none!

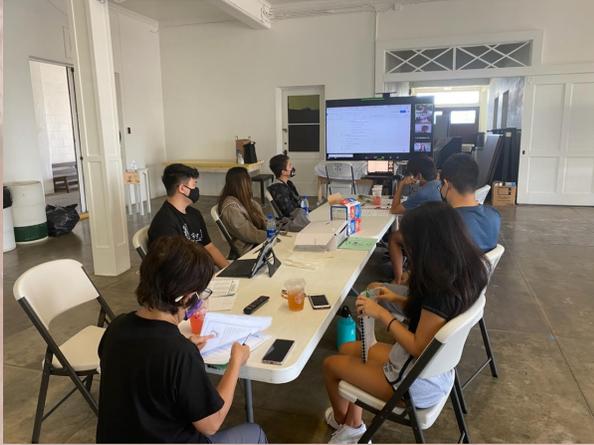


Making Bentos for Feed the Hungry. | Photo/Kieran Maesaka

A couple of our members also participated in an interfaith program to pack donated foods and groceries.



United of Hawaii Members make Bentos for Feed the Hungry. | Photo/Kieran Maesaka



Planning for the Next Convention. | Photo/Kieran Maesaka

Our upcoming convention (hosted by the United of Hawaii) is also in the making so be on the lookout for that! The last one we attended during the summer proved to be so much fun, we're hoping to do the same for all of you.

Be sure to sign up because we're all very excited for this!

So take care and remain strong everyone!

Kieran Maesaka (United of Hawai'i : President)



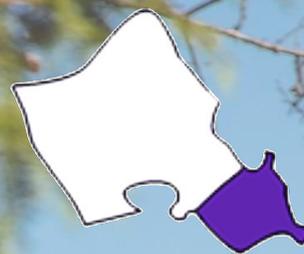
Picture of United of Hawaii Members. | Photo/Kieran Maesaka



Picture of United of Hawaii President Kieran Maesaka. | Photo/Kieran Maesaka



United of Honolulu



Hi Everyone!

I hope the start of the school year is treating you well. Now that we've finished hosting the 64th State Convention, the United of Honolulu has had more time to do the temple and community projects we wanted to do last year!



Helping the BWA. | Photo/Naho Umitani

In the month of June, we focused on wrapping up our Convention to-dos. We mailed thank you letters, mailed contest checks/certificates, and organized our very messy convention folder. We also assisted the Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) in loading Bazaar items into trucks. These items were then donated to Savers.

With the help of the Oahu Key Clubs, we were able to finish loading everything in less than 15 minutes! Afterwards, the BWA ladies offered us delicious refreshments. It was the first time many of us had temple refreshments in a while!

In July, we had a Post-Convention Beach Celebration with the United of Oahu. Aunty Gay kindly let us use her Waialua Beach House. Juniors spent the day eating, swimming at the beach, talking, playing games, and watching the sunset. "There was a nice hammock," said Caden.



Post-Convention Beach Celebration at Aunty Gay's Beach House. | Photo/Naho Umitani

We also held our Adopt a Highway Service Project. Around two years ago, the United of Honolulu adopted the Kamehameha Highway, specifically between Kualoa Ranch and Holokai Road. However, with the Covid-19 Pandemic, we were unable to clean our highway until now! After picking around six bags of trash, we ate Zippy's bento at the Kualoa Beach Park. We also went swimming at the beach, again!

During August, we held our Installation Service through Zoom. The United of Honolulu officers for 2021-2022 are; Naho Umitani (President), Emma Fujikawa (Vice President), Riho Umitani (Treasurer), Brady Blum (Secretary), Karli Koyanagi (Councillor), and Wyatt Fujikawa (Councillor). We are looking forward to another great year!



Adopt a Highway Service Project. | Photo/Naho Umitani



Installation Service. | Photo/Naho Umitani

In September, we participated in the “Ring Your Bell for Peace Day” service hosted by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, United Nations Association of Hawaii, and KTUH Radio. Juniors rang the bell for five minutes alongside hundreds of other participants to promote peace. Federation President Manami did a great job presenting the Opening Remarks!



On October 8, we hosted an online Panda Express Fundraiser. Juniors, families, and friends ordered Panda Express online for takeout or delivery at locations nationwide. 28% of the sales were donated to us! “The honey-walnut shrimp was so good!” said Riho. We hope you all got Panda Express on the 8th!

October 8th Panda Express Fundraiser! | Photo/Naho Umitani

Please take care, and see you at the Winter Federation Meeting! The United of Honolulu has been looking forward to hosting the meeting (hopefully in-person)!



A photo of United of Honolulu President Naho Umitani. | Photo/Naho Umitani

**Naho Umitani
(United of Honolulu: President)**



Ring Your Bell For Peace. | Photo/Naho Umitani

United of Kauai

Hey everyone!

I hope you're all doing well! The United of Kaua'i has been doing the best we can with our current situation. We've begun holding in-person meetings every month, where we talk about upcoming events, recruiting new members, and community service ideas. We have continued to recycle cans and plastic bottles collected by temple members and families.



Beach Cleanup. | Photo/Madison Doo

In July, our United members came together at Fuji Beach for a successful beach clean-up. We also had a Subway and Starbucks lunch for our graduates, wishing them the best of luck in their endeavors. As summer came to an end and the school year started once again, our members have kept busy. I hope you're all staying safe and wish you all the best of luck with the new school year!

Thank you!

Madison Doo (United of Kauai: President)



Celebrating Our Seniors. | Photo/Madison Doo



Participating in the "Ring Your Bell For Peace" Event. | Photo/Madison Doo



Picture of United of Kauai President Madison Doo. | Photo/Madison Doo

United of Maui

Hello All,

Hope the first quarter of school is going well. So far with our United, we have been working on fundraising for HBY and so far so good. Since our last meeting, we had decided our new officers and had received our Maui United shirts to wear. We would also like to congratulate and thank our past officers for their last years with us before pursuing their dreams. Hope you all a fun and safe fall break!

Thank You,

Jaimee Yokoyama (United of Maui: President)



Celebrating our Past Officers| Photo/Jaimee Yokoyama



Getting our new shirts!| Photo/Jaimee Yokoyama



We got the fit lol

Picture of United of Maui President Jaimee Yokoyama | Photo/Jaimee Yokoyama

United of Oahu

Hi Everyone!

I hope you all are having a great start to the new year! I am so excited to see what this year is going to bring. Before the summer ended, we sent our seniors off with a few goodies. The United of Oahu started off our year by installing our new officers and are excited to have Chihiro on our federation board.



United of Oahu Installation Service. | Photo/Kana Suzuki

We have been working hard on planning a HBY bake sale fundraiser through virtual meetings. As always, we are so grateful for all of the support we receive from all of the members each year. Also, we have started planning for a resolution to present a little later in the year to promote gender neutrality and are looking into a Peace Day project. Continue working hard, stay safe, and hope to see you soon!



**In Gassho,
Kana Suzuki (United of Oahu: President)**

Picture of United of Oahu President Kana Suzuki. | Photo/Kana Suzuki

Dharma Corner

Dependent Organization and the Three Marks of Existence

Dependent origination, also known as conditioned co-arising teaches us why we all suffer.

- Everything that exists is dependent on something else.
- Nothing exists independently. Everything is conditioned.
- This develops into the concepts of interdependence and the interconnectedness of all things in later Buddhist thought.

The Three Marks of Existence is a theory that highlights Dependent Organization.

These are philosophies that occur in everyday life.: Impermanence, Nonself, and Suffering

The first mark is impermanence.

- Everything in this world continually go through the cycle of creation and destruction.
- Our world is constantly changing: young people will eventually grow up; those people who are now flourishing will inevitably decline.
- All things are impermanent

Dharma Corner

Dependent Organization and the Three Marks of Existence

The second mark is non-ego or non-self.

- Everything is constantly changing.
- Nothing that exists has a permanent existence.
- There is no permanent, unchangeable self nor do our belongings have any permanent existence.

The third mark of the dharma is called suffering.

- Life Is dukkha
- Impermanence-> everything has a temporary existence and limitations.
- We have become attached to this impermanent self and world.
- The realization that everything has limitations makes us more attached.
- Suffering is divided into major suffering like sickness and old age, materialistic desires, and being human “Bambu.”



Statue of Buddha. | Photo/David Bartus

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Thanks for Reading!



Follow the Instagram Accounts!!

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