



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



May 2025, Volume 33

Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

May 2025

- 1 Thr -Monthly Svc. for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 2 Fri -Japanese Program at St. Francis (10:30 am) 
- 4 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Okage sharing.
-Wailuku Church Spring Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 5 Mon -Happy Boy's Day!
- 7 Wed -KMH Kyoten Study Group on ZOOM (5 pm)
- 9 Fri -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 10 Sat -KMH Board Mtg 10:30 am @HNL Church ZOOM
- 11 Sun -Monthly Svc for Ikigami Konko Daijin Sama (9 am)
-Happy Mother's Day!
- 12 Mon-KMH CEOC Meeting on ZOOM (9 am) 
- 16 Fri -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 17 Sat -10th Anniversary of Honouliuli Wahiawa Kyokai Tour
*In collab with the National Parks Services (10 am)
- 18 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Okage sharing
-Hilo Church Spring Grand Ceremony (10 am)
- 21 Wed-KMH Kyoten Study Group on ZOOM (5 pm)
- 24 Sat -Hawaii Gunpla Workshop @HNL Church (12n-6p)
- 25 Sun -Monthly Mem. Svc. (9 am) 月例霊祭 *Share okage
- 26 Mon-Memorial Day visit Punchbowl (7 am meet@ flagpole)
- 30 Fri -Church clean-up (9 am)
-KMH Centennial planning mtg on ZOOM (5 pm)
- 31 Sat -Ehimemaru Memorial Clean-up at Kaka'ako (9 am)

June 2025

- 1 Sun -Monthly Svc. for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (9 am) 天地金乃神様 月例祭



Konko Sama Says... People often say that they have gained nothing for all their efforts. However, those who practice faith can make a clear profit. The people for whom you pray single-heartedly will not always be able to receive divine blessings. When this happens, you may think that you gained nothing for all your efforts, but this is not true. You receive blessings for your prayers. You also receive divine blessings when you practice faith for others. (*Gorikai III, Jinkyu Kyogoroku 188*)

Editor's thoughts: Sometimes, even when we try really hard and pray for others, it might feel like nothing good is happening. But that's not true! When we practice faith and pray with a kind heart, we also receive blessings — even if we don't see them right away. Helping others through prayer brings good things to our own lives too.

Sunday School Oath

I will advance my faith through understanding the Founder's teachings and will strive to become a more useful person to society.

Sincerity is the essence of my faith, and its basic principles are courtesy, kindness, and devotion in everything I do.

Happy Boy's Day! (5/5/25)

Brave and strong in heart and mind
Open to dreams of every kind
Young heroes growing day by day
Shining bright in every way!



Honouliuli
National Historic Site

2025

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY | 2015 - 2025

Commemorating 10 Years of Working Together to Preserve and Honor History.

Konko Mission of Wahiawa public tour will be held on Saturday, May 17th at 10 am to 11 am. See you!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! (5/11/25)

MAKES US FEEL SAFE AND LOVED
OPENS HER HEART TO CARE FOR US
TEACHES US RIGHT FROM WRONG
HELPS US WHEN WE NEED A HAND
ENCOURAGES US TO DO OUR BEST
REMINDS US EVERY DAY THAT WE ARE LOVED



HAWAII GUNPLA WORKSHOP

SAT. 5.24.25

12 PM-6 PM


Konko Mission of Honolulu
1728 Liliha Street

📍📧 #hawaiiGunplaworkshop

Hosted by Clayton Matsuoka & Michi's Toy Box



Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2025

- 6/18 Wed -KMH MWSS at HNL. Guest: Rev. Sachiko Yasutake (10 a-4 p)
 6/19 Thr -KMH Ministers Gathering w/Rev. Sachiko Yasutake (2-4 pm)
 7/4-6 Fri -KCNA/KMH Joint Conference in Sacramento CA
 7/19 Sat -KMH Ministers Gathering (10:30 am- 2 p)
 7/20 Sun -Back-to-School Service 9 am
 8/3 Sun -KMH Rotary Hanashikai at Wailuku Church 10:30 pm
 8/9 Sat -KMH Board Meeting 10:30 am @Honolulu Church ZOOM
 8/16 Sat -Introduction of Konko Mission of Wahiawa to Public (10 am)
 8/24 Sun -52nd Memorial Svc for the late Rev. Masayuki Kodama 9 am
 9/6 Sat -KMH Faith Enrichment Gathering on ZOOM (1:30 p-3 p)
 9/14 Sun -Honolulu Church Autumn Memorial Service 10 am
 -Late Rev. Sugako Yoshino 3rd Year Memorial Svc at HNL.
 9/21 Sun -Wahiawa Church Autumn Memorial Service at 10 am
 10/5 Sun -Autumn Grand Service at Honolulu at 11 am
 10/12 Sun -Autumn Grand Service at Waipahu at 11 am
 10/13 Mon -Autumn Grand Service at Wahiawa at 5 pm 
 10/19 Sun -HCRP Peace Prayer at Honolulu Church (4 pm)
 10/26 Sun -Autumn Grand Service at Wailuku Church (11 am)
 11/9 Sun -Autumn Grand Service at Hilo Church 11 am
 11/15 Sat -KMH 5th International Yatsunami Gathering (ZOOM HST)
 11/22 Sat -KMH Board Mtg 10:30 am @HNL Church
 11/30 Sun -27th Memorial Svc for the Late Rev. Kikue Kodama 9 am
 12/21 Sun -53rd Mem Svc for the late Rev. Haruko Takahashi 10 am
 12/28 Sun -End of Year Service 9 am
 12/30 Tue -34th Mochi Pounding at Wahiawa Church

The Wahiawa Kyokai Spring Grand Ceremony was held safely on April 13, 2025.
 The speaker for the evening was Rev. Edna Matsuoka (Wahiawa Church Associate Minister)



2025 KCNA-KMH Joint Conference

Hosted by Konko Churches of North America, Konko Missions in Hawaii
 Chair Church: Konko Church of Sacramento
 Co-Chairs: San Francisco, San Jose, Fresno

Theme: Praying-Anywhere, Anytime, for Anything

Event Schedule:

Youth Camp: July 1-4, 2025

Young Adult Seminar & Family Camp: July 2-4, 2025

Spirituality Bridge: July 3-4, 2025

Conference: July 4-6, 2025

Join us for an enriching experience of faith, connection and spiritual growth!

Attention KMH attendees! KMH will cover your \$135.00 registration fee—all you need to do is book your flight!

For more information, contact:

Rev. Koichi Konko 808-352-1549

Email: konko_ko1@hotmail.com

Location of the conference:

Applegate Jesuit Retreat Center

1001 Boole Road, Applegate, CA

www.uccr.org/applegate

Absolute deadline to submit your registration form: May 24, 2025



For Wahiawa Church attendees, if you are interested in attending the joint conference in Sacramento, California, we will help subsidize your airfare \$200! Please register by **May 24th**.

Email: konkowahiawa207@gmail.com

for the registration packet.

**EXTRA!
EXTRA!**

**EXTRA!
EXTRA!**

KCNA/KMH Joint Conference 2025 Fundraising Campaign

Zippy's Fundraising Tickets available at Honolulu, Waipahu and Wahiawa Church

\$11.00 per ticket with great choices tickets good till June 8, 2025



Reiko sensei and Edna sensei went to St. Francis for the Japanese Program on April 4th

Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

I would like to share a summarized version of the sermon I delivered for the Wahiawa Church Spring Grand Ceremony (aka: Godaisai).

Thank you for gathering here for our Spring Grand Ceremony. This is a sacred time to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Great Life Force, Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama, the Divine Parent of the Universe and Earth.

Who is Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama? What is Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama? I'll just call it Kami-Sama for short.

Just recently, I went to Karate practice like I do twice a week because my husband teaches it. I started karate 11 years ago when I met Clayton. There are a few black belt senseis I've met and still practice with, but there's one who scares the heck out of me. He last showed up 9 years ago. I remember he's fast, and his fists feel like stone. We practiced punching and blocking, but my white belt reflexes were too slow to keep up. His eyes are intense, and his energy is strict. I felt like a field mouse facing a cobra.

Somewhere in my mind, I feared he would randomly show up again... and guess what? He did! I was so scared my hands got sweaty, and my heart pounded. I really wanted to hide in the car.

The first time he came to class, I was a white belt. The second time he came randomly was when I was promoted to yellow belt. And now that I have recently been promoted to an honorary blue belt, I felt he may show up soon. My intuitions were right. It felt like Kami-Sama was testing me every time I moved up in rank. I was terrified he'd come and kick my butt seeing that I am now a blue belt. I felt my skills were going to be tested sternly.

He observed the class with his stoic gaze, and I thought he was going to leave because he disappeared after a while. But no, he didn't go home! —He went to get his *gi* (karate outfit) to join the class. My anxiety shot back up again! But then, I remembered to pray to Kami-Sama. Konko Daijin, the founder, taught us to pray anytime, anywhere, for anything. So, I prayed: *Konko Daijin, please give me protection today from that sensei. I really don't want to get my butt kicked.*

I also called out to my grandparents and ancestors for protection. I was so desperate for their help. My mom was surprised I called so many names, but I was really asking for all the help I could get!

I also prayed for the opportunity to learn from him. And guess what? I did learn! He taught me several important adjustments in my technique, and I truly appreciated it. He even taught me about energy—what

we call "ki" or "chi." He came close and stuck his index finger near the space between my eyebrows without touching me, and asked me if I felt something. I felt that strange wiggly energy pierce my head—it was definitely some kind of energy. He said he once saw a Taichi master who could make energy flow from his hand, like heat rising off a hot road. He actually saw the energy!

He explained that technique is not the most important thing in karate; it's about developing your "ki" or "field." He said that when you develop your core energy, even someone small can defeat a giant. He shared stories of students who could defend themselves using their elbows and legs, even if their hands were contracted.

Sensei said, "I can only teach this through theory. I can't teach you to develop your ki, but when you do, your strength will come from your core." I imagine it's like the Kami-Sama within us awakening! A big "Aha!" moment.

I felt like I learned something deep that day. Sensei was like a real-life Mr. Miyagi from *The Karate Kid*.

I want to talk about Kami-Sama and why it's so important to come to the Godaisai. If you couldn't make it today, you can choose another day to dedicate your time to Kami-Sama and say thank you.

Kami is energy—it's the force, the field, the sacred, eternal energy that sustains all life and existence. Kami has no beginning and no end. It's always been here. Kami is not a man or woman. Kami is the energy in everything—from humans and animals to plants, insects, and even this podium.

Kami-Sama's blessings are unconditional and for all living things, regardless of faith, background, or belief.

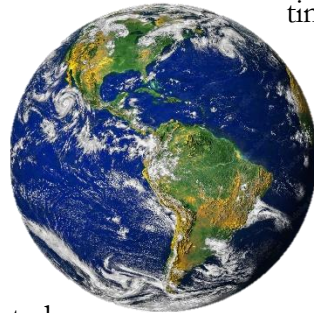
Let's reflect on just a few examples of these universal blessings: The air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, our normal bodily functions, sunlight, gravity, and the Earth's atmosphere—these are all profound blessings we often take for granted.

People might say, "You don't need to give thanks for those things." But I bet they'd think differently if they couldn't breathe, eat, or even go to the bathroom. Suddenly, those "gross" things we take for granted would be seen as blessings.

You might think winning the lottery is a huge blessing, but it's just a tiny bonus. The true blessings are in a normal day—when nothing bad happens to you. Because it only takes one accident or illness to put us in a bad situation.

Today, I want to focus on something we never really think about—the Earth's atmosphere. We don't usually go outside and say, "Atmosphere, you rock!" But it does!

The Earth's atmosphere blocks harmful radiation, regulates temperatures, burns up meteorites, and provides us with oxygen. Without it, life as we know it wouldn't be



possible. How often do we say thank you to the air? To the atmosphere?

Kami-Sama has kept all of this in motion without us even noticing. That's why we call it Kami-Sama.

I once read an article where astronauts described seeing Earth from space. They were overwhelmed by its beauty. But then they felt sadness because, despite its preciousness, we're not taking care of it. We pollute it, overuse its resources, and wage war. But let me tell you—Mars doesn't have a thick atmosphere like Earth. It's toxic to humans with too many extremes.

Earth is our only home, and it exists in the Goldilocks Zone—not too hot, not too cold, just right for life. We must take better care of it, not try to escape it. Kami-Sama desires a world of mutual care, peace, understanding, and kindness. From the vast galaxies to the tiniest cells, Kami-Sama is working tirelessly to keep life in balance. That's why for the grand ceremony, we pause to say: "Thank you, Kami-Sama, for all you do for me, for the Earth, and for the Universe." From big things to small things, Kami's presence is everywhere—even in the kindness of strangers.

What does Kami-Sama ask in return? Nothing! No service fee, no tip. Kami-Sama's love is unconditional.

Your mere presence at the church already means so much. The least we can do is express our gratitude and share the blessings we've received with others.

Out of 8 billion people, only a small percentage truly understand and acknowledge these blessings. If you came today with a grateful heart, congratulations! Your vessel to receive blessings has grown, like a big bowl ready to catch rain.

Coming to church is like growing up and learning to appreciate your parents. When we're kids, we don't understand all they've done for us. But as we mature, we can express our thanks.

The 4th Konko Sama, Reverend Kagamitaro Konko, once said in a radio sermon: "There isn't a single baby in the world that changed their own diapers." We were all once completely dependent on someone to care for us. And we are always under the care of Kami-Sama. Even as adults, Kami-Sama is still watching over us.

When we forget this and try to do everything ourselves, we struggle. Our "ki" weakens. But if we remember that Kami-Sama is always supporting us, we will find strength we never knew we had in times of need. We get 365 days to do as we please, but if we reserve these special days for Kami-Sama, we'll make Kami-Sama happy.

Developing a heart of gratitude takes time. Just like building "ki," our spirit needs daily practice. Wake up with gratitude and understand that we're more blessed

than we realize. End your day in gratitude, and look forward to tomorrow.

We don't need a disaster for spiritual awakening. But sometimes, that's exactly what it takes. Let me share a story about my friend's uncle, who went to the hospital one day for what was supposed to be just a routine check-up. The moment he entered through the hospital doors, he collapsed. The triage team rushed in immediately to perform life-saving measures. They started CPR and shocked his heart several times. He kept waking up...and then dying again. It happened multiple times. For a full hour — not just the usual 30 minutes — the medical team fought to save his life. They broke six of his ribs during CPR, but after an hour of relentless effort, they finally revived him.

Statistically, the survival rate for cardiac arrest inside a hospital is only about 20% — and if it happens outside, it drops to about 10%. To survive at all after such an ordeal was nothing short of a miracle. And in just a few weeks, he was well enough to be discharged from the hospital.

My friend told me, "Ho, Edna, you wouldn't believe the change I saw in my uncle.

One look at him, and you could tell — he was a changed man." Before the heart attack, he would always walk around scowling, always grumbling about his aches and pains. But after surviving that brush with death — after literally dying multiple times and being brought back to life — he was transformed. He hugged everyone so tightly. His face was peaceful, radiating an incredible aura of gratitude and calm. He stopped complaining completely. It was as if the experience of dying and being brought back made him realize that every moment of life, no matter how imperfect, is precious beyond words.

There are countless things to be grateful for, and this Grand Service reminds us of all the blessings we often overlook. Let's take a step closer to awakening the force within us.

Mother's Day is coming up soon! It's a special time to say "thank you" to your mom or anyone who has taken care of you and helped you grow into the awesome person you are today. When I was your age, I remember making cards and little gifts for my mom at school. I would bring them home and proudly give them to her on Mother's Day. Our teachers were helping us learn how important it is to be thankful for our moms, especially on this day. As we get older, sometimes we might forget to do these things — like calling our moms, having a nice lunch together, or giving them a small gift. But even a simple "thank you" can make them feel so loved and happy. Let's remember to show our moms how much we care in our own special way this Mother's Day!

Sincerely, *Edna*

