



IZUMO TAISHA NEWSLETTER

IZUMO TAISHAKYO MISSION OF HAWAII
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WELCOMING NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION: PREPARING FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY VISIT TO OUR SHRINE **JAN. 1 - 4th, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

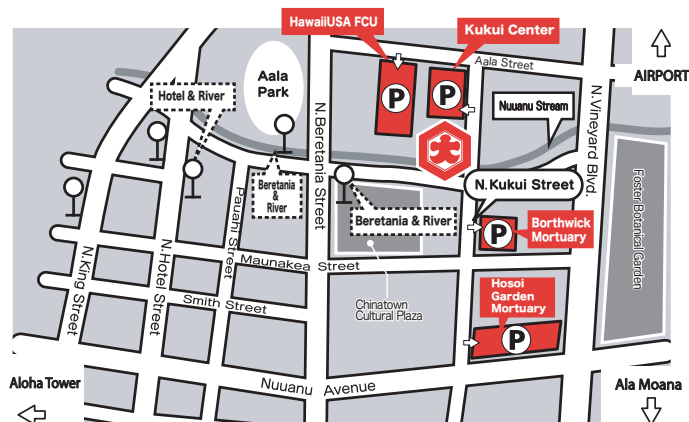
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we must now adjust to a "new normal" life which requires caring for each other in our daily life to avoid the virus. Izumo Taisha Hawaii is actively preparing for your safe and healthy visit and prayers at New Year's.

The water basin located at the approach to the Shrine is temporarily not being used. Instead, hand sanitizer has been substituted to cleanse and purify yourself. The ropes that rattle the bells fronting the Shrine's entrance have also been removed to further avoid contact by multiple hands.

In order to abide by the most recent Proclamation for social distancing by the Mayor of the City & County of Honolulu, visitations between January 1st to 4th will be allowed by appointment only, in 10-minute intervals, and with a 5-person limit per grouping.

Please visit this website and to make your appointment to visit (alternatively, please call the Shrine's office):

www.picktime.com/izumotaisha



Free parking will be available at Hosoi Mortuary, Borthwick Mortuary, Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union and Kukui Center on New Year's Day only.

The *torii* gate at the main entrance will be opened by a guard who will allow you on to the Shrine property to receive a short blessing and to purchase or pick-up *ofuda/omamori* (talismans and amulets). Passage through our property will be one-way going in and out, so that we can maintain social distancing. **Note that you may visit the Shrine for your short New Year's blessing between January 1st to 4th, as well as throughout the month of January. We respectfully ask that you either make an appointment on-line (www.picktime.com/izumotaisha) or by calling our office (538-7778).** In other words, you don't have to visit Izumo Taisha on New Year's Day necessarily, avoiding potential crowds and the risk of COVID-19 infection. We recommend that you plan your New Year's visitation in mid- to late January.

New Year's *ofuda/omamori* will be available from 8:30am to 4:00pm during the month of December (and throughout 2021) in our Office. We are also accepting pre-order and pick-up requests for *ofuda/omamori* through our website throughout the month of January. Although the physical appearance of this New Year's event may change, the spiritual element will remain unchanged. We are looking forward to seeing you at New Year's 2021!

2021 HATSUMOUDE SCHEDULE

Date	Time
Jan. 1 (Fri.)	12:00am - 5:00pm
Jan. 2 (Sat.)	7:00am - 5:00pm
Jan. 3 (Sun.)	7:00am - 5:00pm
Jan. 4 (Mon.)	7:00am - 5:00pm
Online Appointments Only	

Jan. 5 (Tue.) - 31 (Sun.)

Weekdays	Weekends (Sat. & Sun.)
9:00am - 3:00pm	9:00am - 3:00 pm
Online Appointments Only	Walk-ins Accepted

OCTOBER THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE HELD IN PRIVATE



On Sunday, October 11th, the priests conducted the Annual Autumn Thanksgiving Worship Service with officers from the Board of Directors in attendance as representatives. Because we cannot conduct any large gatherings, this year's celebration was not open to the public and the stage program including *mochimaki* (festive rice cake throwing for good fortune), celebratory food service, lucky numbers and other entertainment featuring *taiko* (drum performance), Japanese and Okinawan dance, a magic show, *karaoke* singing were all cancelled.

Even though these festive aspects of the celebration were cancelled, the serene Shinto worship service was still conducted. At the altar of the Shrine, there were offerings of the first harvest, including rice and taro grown in the yard of the Shrine together with other festive offerings. **Bishop Daiya Amano** recited a thanksgiving prayer and blessed all our members and worshippers, visitors to Hawaii from all around the world. We truly appreciate your kind donations sent by mail. Hopefully we can celebrate this tradition fully next year!

UNITED JAPANESE SOCIETY OF HAWAII CONDUCTS MOON-VIEWING CELEBRATION ONLINE

The United Japanese Society of Hawaii held their annual "*Tsukimi no Kai*" or moon-viewing celebration on October 1st in the evening via Facebook Live and YouTube.



Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, they conducted it virtually for the first time in their history.

Izumo Taisha performed its blessing service at the beginning of the celebration.

UJSH President **Frances Nakachi Kuba** participated in the service as the organization's representative, offering specially prepared *dango* (rice cake balls) and farm harvest such as sweet potato and squash to the altar and prayed for Autumn thanksgiving.

Moon-viewing is a traditional cultural celebration throughout East Asia. People appreciate the harvest and enjoy particular food, literary and artistic performance while viewing the "Harvest Moon".

After the virtual service, the evening rotated with Japanese music, cultural demonstrations and educational presentations. Many people watched the program throughout the world, from Japan to Brazil. Over 1,000 people joined the online program.

MAKE TIME TO STUDY DURING THIS PERIOD OF COVID-19 DEPRESSION: SHINTO PRAYERS TRANSLATION PROJECT UPDATE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we at Izumo Taisha had to close the *torii* gate for two consecutive months, from April to May 2020. Even after reopening, we still could not allow any large gatherings such as our Monthly Worship Service and Volunteers' Day. However, on the positive side of this situation, we now have enough time to reflect on the past and do some integral work. Toward that end, we have been trying to translate our important texts and

revise our Prayer Book which does not include a full English translation. This is a progress report regarding this project.

Shinto prayer text sometimes sound strange and incoherent. They are not logical sentences but a magical invocation. Shinto believes that sincere pronunciation of words cause physical action and spiritual influence. Spiritual life force energy of words is the reason why poems have been a significant part of life throughout Japanese history.

Now, you can find out what the priests are reciting at the services and you can even recite it by yourself with romanized and English translation!

PRAYER FOR CLEANSING AND PURIFICATION (祓詞 Harae no Kotoba)

NOTE: This is a prayer asking for the purification of sins as well as uncleanness and impurity called “*tsumi*” and “*kegare*” that pollute and defile a person’s spirituality. Mythology tells us that *Izanagi-no-Okami* cleansed and purified Himself in the water after He came back from the unclean underworld. Through His act of cleansing and purifying Himself, the designated *Kami* of cleansing and purification arose. This is the origin of *misogi* (ritual bathing) in Shinto.



Misogi (Ritual Bathing)

The purification ritual is an indispensable part of all Shinto ceremonies. Shinto ceremonies always begin with this typical ritual. At this time, this prayer is recited following the waving of sacred branch over the offerings, ritual instruments, attendees and the site. This blessing confers cleansing and purification. During this ritual, those in attendance participate with the priest, transforming their spirituality into a clean and purified spiritual state at the beginning of the worship services.

The prayer is often recited by the priest together with the congregation at our Monthly Worship Service. For individual appointed ceremonies, this prayer is recited solely by the priest.

TEXTS:

**Kakemaku mo Kashikoki Izanagi no
Oh-kami**
掛巻も恐き伊邪那岐の大神

**Tsukushi no Himuka no Tachibana no Odo no
Awagihara ni**
筑紫の日向の橘の小戸の阿波伎原に

**Misogi Harai Tamaishi Tokini Narimaseru
Haraido no Oh-kamitachi**
御禊祓い給いし時に生りませる祓戸の大神たち

**Kamunagaranaru Oh-michi no naka ni
Umaretearinagara**
惟神なる大道の中に生まれて在りながら

Sonomikage woshi Fukaku Omowazu te
其御蔭をし深く思わずて

**Sumekamitachi no Mimegumi wo
Oh-rokani Omoitarishi Toki ni**
皇神たちの御恵みを大呂加に思いたりし時に

Ayamachi Okaseru wa Saranari
過ち犯せるは更なり

Imamo Tsumi Kegare Aramu woba
今も罪穢有らむをば

Haraitamai Kiyometamae to Mousukoto wo
祓い給い清め給えと白すことを

Yaoyorozu no Kamitachi Tomoni Kikoshimese to
八百萬の神たち共に聞食せと

Kashikomi Kashikomi mo Mousu
恐み恐みも白す

TRANSLATION:

With awe and reverence, we humbly approach the
Kami in prayer
Our great ancestral *Kami*, *Izanagi-no-Okami*
When He who practiced *misogi* at *Awagihara*
of *Odo*, *Tachibana* of *Himuka*, in the country of
Tsukushi in ancient mythical times
From Him arose the great *Kami* of cleansing and
purification
Although we humans are born into the great *Kami*
way of righteousness
We are apt to easily be oblivious to this matter
As we barely recognize the *Kami*’s blessing and
grace
We are liable to make mistakes in failure
Now, if we have any sins, uncleanness and
impurity
we humbly beseech the *Kami* to cleanse and purify
us of all these faults
May the *Kami*, the Myriad of *Kami*,
Please hear these modest words
With awe and reverence, we humbly speak this
prayer



Welcome to Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii

ハワイ出雲大社 別名：出雲大社ハワイ分院
Since 1906 (明治39年鎮座)

明るい未来は心の余裕から

2020年の春以降、目に見えないコロナウィルスの蔓延に対応するため、私たちはマスクの着用や安全間隔を保ちながら、辛抱を重ねてまいりました。また、幾つかの国では、高性能のワクチンの開発も推められ、使用開始に向けての期待感も昂まっています。しかし、世界の各地に於いて、未だに感染者数が増加し外出が躊躇ちゅうちょされています。

この様なコロナ禍の下、私たちは2021年の正月を迎えるのです。新年を寿ことほぎ、より良い一年となる様に神様に祈り、神様のお蔭を授かりたいという気持ちは、昔も今も変わらないであります。将来に不安を抱き心配しながらではなく、年の始めに清々しく気分良く神社に参拝することは大切なことです。特に現在は健康と安全の為に、密集を避ける指示が監督官庁からも出されており、お互いの気配りが求められています。この様な状況は初詣に限ったものではなく、暫くは今の状態が継続するかも知れません。

現在、私たちの生活環境も変化を余儀なくされ、職場や学校に限らず趣味や楽しみの分野に至まで、全てがオンラインシステムになってしまったかの様です。世の中が徐々に変化するならば、その対応に準ずることも出来るのでしょうか、予想を超える急激な速さであればある程、その変化に対応できず取り残されてしまう人々も出てきます。その様な人々を救済する様な社会系統は、未だ充分であるとは言えません。ですから多くの人々が精神的にも肉体的にも大きなストレスを溜めて疲労し、日常生活にも支障をきたしているのです。実際にこのストレスが原因で、精神・肉体両面に亘る様々な問題が、個人的にも社会的にも表れているのは既に御存知の通りです。

この様な時だからこそ、私たちには“祈り”が役に立つのです。祈ることにより気持ちが落ち着き、心が安らかになり、まるで自分の心の内面、本当の自分の心を見出すことができるようになるのです。そして、自分の本当の心で神様と向き合えるのです。こうした神様との対話のはじまりが、神様を信じることに繋がるのです。信仰を持つということは、心に余裕を持つことが出来るという事です。心に余裕を持てるということは、チャンスが残っているということです。倍返しも、一発逆転も出来るのです。諦めるには早すぎますし、禍を転じて福となせるのです。

精神的、社会的な重圧や抑圧、また普段の生活の忙しさ等から生じるストレスによってその苦境から抜け出せないで悩み苦しんでいる人も多いかと思います。そんな時に、もうだめだ、限界だ、これでおしまいだ、と否定的に考えるのではなく、まだチャンスがある、何とかなる、と前向きに考えることによって未来は良くなるのです。気持ちが変われば行動が変わり、行動が変われば未来も変わるのです。今からでも充分間に合うのです。神様のお蔭を戴き、心に余裕を取り戻し、前向きな気持ちで素晴らしい明日を迎えましょう。

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SUPPORT US WITH AMAZON SMILE!

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii. For the holidays or just everyday, bookmark the link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/99-6006486> and support us every time you shop!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

You can find lots of information about Izumo Taisha. Please visit us!
www.izumotaishahawaii.com



<参拝のご案内>

社務所受付時間（御守授与、祈願受付等）
午前8時30分～午後4時まで。
開門中はいつでもご参拝いただけます。

<祈願のご案内>

初宮詣り、七五三、良縁成就、厄除、交通安全等のご祈願、結婚式、地鎮祭、家清め、事務所祓い、神葬祭等も受け付けています。
ご祈願は予約制ですので、電話またはE-mailにて受付時間内にお問い合わせ下さい。

<御祭神>

おおくにぬしのおおかみ 大國主大神 ハワイ産土神
うぶすなのかみ
(合祀) 沖縄神社・波上宮・普天満宮の御分霊、恵美須神社、アイエア・ワイアナエ氏神、稲荷神社、祖霊社

<祭日>

2021年 10月 10日(日) 例大祭(鎮座 115周年)
毎月 10日 月次祭