



### Visitors from Hawaii



Marking the end of the school year, a twenty member entourage from Hawaii’s Hongwanji Mission School (HMS) eighth grade class took part in a 12-day Japan Study Tour visiting Fukuoka, Okinawa, Hiroshima, and Kyoto. During their stay in Kyoto, they started each day by attending morning service at Hongwanji. (left picture)

They also travelled to sister-school Keiai High School in Fukuoka where they were hosted by students and their families for a memorable homestay experience.

Prior to the study tour, Hawaii students interacted with their counterparts in Japan via webcam over the school year building new friendships. Visits to Hongwanji affiliate Keiai Jr High School, Heian Jr and Sr High School Attached to Ryukoku University, and Soai Jr and Sr High School allowed Hawaii and Japan students the opportunity to finally meet in person.

HMS student, Allyson Kuwana (14) shared that it was her great-grandfather who immigrated to Hawaii. “My family and I are devout Jodo Shinshu followers and we gassho to in front of our family butsudan every morning. Hongwanji is a very special place for me. I look forward to coming on the homestay program when I become a student at Pacific Buddhist Academy.”

(Hongwanji Journal, June 1, 2014, p.8)

### Sharing the Experience



#### Honeymoon visit to Hongwanji for Gotan-e

New York Buddhist Church minister’s assistant Matthew Wise and his husband, Jim Lubin, were married in March 2013. The newlywed spent their honeymoon in Japan and visited Hongwanji to attend the Gotan-e observances and share the news of their happy marriage to the Buddha. Attended by a Hongwanji staff, one of the highlights of their visit to Hongwanji was the tea ceremony in the Hiunkaku.

(Hongwanji Journal, July, 1, 2014, p.7)



### Experiencing the special Hoto Keishoshiki

Joining the Jodo Shinshu members from throughout Japan in the celebration of the *Hoto Keishoshiki* were also members from North America, Europe, Taiwan, and Nepal. Kathmandu Hongwanji members Susan Tamang and Giri Sudarshan donning the traditional *Dhaka topi* hat were among those from overseas.

(Hongwanji Journal, June, 20, 2014, p.8)

