

# HONOLULU DIAMOND SANGHA

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2747 WAI'OMA'O ROAD • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816 • (808) 735-1347  
E-mail: [info@diamondsangha.org](mailto:info@diamondsangha.org) • Website: [www.diamondsangha.org](http://www.diamondsangha.org)

January, 2017

Dear Honolulu Diamond Sangha Members and Friends,

At the opening of our Dharma assemblies we chant:

*The Dharma, incomparably profound and minutely subtle,  
is rarely encountered even in hundreds of thousands of millions of kalpas;  
We now can see it, listen to it, accept and hold it.*

It's impossible to imagine how all our lives would have flowed down completely different paths without the Dharma, without the sacrifices and dedication of Anne and Robert Aitken, without Koko An and our current Dharma home, the Pālolo Zen Center. Because of your past generosity and the hard work of Sangha members, our temple has remained a place of vigorous Zen practice. All of us have done our best, by checkbook and sweat equity, to honor the trust the Aitkens and all Dharma ancestors have placed in us, to support our spiritual home.

For most temple maintenance, upkeep, and repairs we rely on the talents and energy of Sangha members. The grass is mowed, aging joints traversing the irregular and often muddy expanse of lawn. We depend heavily upon our few key paid staff. Our Administrator and Temple Keeper do so much that is essential for the daily running of the temple and its programs. They keep a watchful eye on our books, carry out clerical duties, run our residential program, and provide a welcoming presence on behalf of us all. Our teachers have freely given of their passion, energy, and dharma.

And, we need your financial support. Your pledges allowed us to continue caring for our inheritance during 2016. Repairs were made, some needing immediate attention and others long overdue. Lawnmowers, weed whackers, and other equipment were maintained and repaired as needed. Capital improvements included painting the residence hall, the front of the building, and the front steps. LED lights were installed in the zendo and we began the changeover in the teacher's quarters. The screens in the zendo were replaced. Over the years the large stairs leading up to the residence hall suffered damage from water and termites, and are now repaired.

Additionally, in 2017 Honolulu Diamond Sangha members and friends will undertake a project of much needed renovations and repairs of our Residence Hall. A separate fundraising effort will begin soon to help pay for this much needed and long overdue project. But right now we need your annual pledges as much as ever to maintain our temple and our regular practice programs.

Each of us has something to contribute to this effort, depending on our talents, time and means. All the time and energy given freely by Sangha members is essential for maintaining and safeguarding the Sangha's financial resources, but the Honolulu Diamond Sangha can only continue to provide a place of practice for all of us because of your annual pledges. Please pledge as freely as you are able for 2017.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Kathy Ratliffe, President

Dorsey Cummings, Treasurer