

BOYCOTT Shinnyo-en :: SAVE Memorial Day in Hawai'i

www.BoycottShinnyo.com

ATTN: Reverend Eitaro Hayashi

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Cc: State Senator Mike Gabbard
Former US Rep. Tulsi Gabbard
Hawai'i Gov. Josh Green, MD
Media and Elected Officials of Hawai'i



April 28, 2024

Aloha e Carry The Load ~

Founded by Veteran U.S. Navy SEALs, Clint Bruce and Stephen Holley, *Carry The Load* started as a mission to restore the true meaning of Memorial Day. Thank you for your honorable service to our heroes.

A Buddhist group, Shinnyo-en, is trampling on Memorial Day in Hawai'i. We have tried for FIVE YEARS to educate this generally kind, thoughtful group on the TRUE meaning of Memorial Day. Shinnyo-en refuses our polite, civil requests. We ask ONLY that they host their heart-warming family event on Saturday or Sunday. A true Buddhist organization seeks harmony and peace between people and cultures. Shinnyo-en is not following the teachings of Buddha.

We have suggested compromise ... together we would initiate a Memorial Weekend in Hawai'i. Civilians, family members on Saturday or Sunday. Monday reserved for our fallen troops. We see such change as Win/Win for all. Shinnyo-en refuses our respectful requests.

We also suggest Shinnyo-en could float lanterns on Memorial Day for ONLY the more than 53,000+ interned heroes lying at rest at Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific; and not include civilians. We would support such a change.

We have pointed out to Shinnyo-en staff, including Reverend Eitaro Hayashi, that Memorial Day is ONLY for "the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives in service to our country. These courageous individuals have given everything they had to defend our freedoms and way of life," as you so eloquently write on your website. This Japanese group ignores our requests for compromise. We believe Masako "Shinto" Ito does not understand this sacred American cultural practice. An honorable Buddhist would seek to be enlightened and empathetic to cultural observances of other people.

You list over 250,000+ participants. Please HELP us by asking your supporters to contact Shinnyo-en and SUPPORT our boycott of this year's event.

BOYCOTT Shinnyo-en
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BRIEF HISTORY

Shinnyo-en was founded by Shinjo and Tomoji Ito, establishing their first temple, Shinchoji, for their congregation in Tachikawa, Japan. The Itos welcomed the birth of Masako, their third daughter, in 1942, and who would succeed Shinjo as the spiritual head of Shinnyo-en. Tomoji passed in 1967. In 1970, Shinjo and Masako visited the USA, Hawai'i, and offered heartfelt prayers on behalf of the dead at the Pearl Harbor Memorial.

Shinnyo-en sanctuaries were established outside Japan, with the Hawai'i sanctuary opened in 1973. Masako completed her training in 1984, and was given the Dharma name of Shinso. Shinjo passed in 1989. Master Shinjo never held a ceremony in Hawai'i on Memorial Day.

Ten years later, Masako Ito held the first annual Memorial Day lantern floating on behalf of Shinnyo-en at Ke'ehi Lagoon in Hawai'i. Masako Ito did not speak with military families or consult with Veteran groups. Masako Ito violated cultural practices and traditions of American citizens by failing to understand the sacred significance of Decoration Day, which became the federal observation of Memorial Day:

Memorial Day honors the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives in service to our country. These courageous individuals have given everything they had to defend our freedoms and way of life. Memorial Day is not for Civilians. Civilians honor those who served.

Memorial Day reminds us of the high price of freedom and the debt of gratitude we owe to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. It is a day to reflect on their sacrifice and to honor their memory with gratitude.

Memorial Day is a special occasion to reflect on the service and sacrifice of these brave men and women and to express our deep gratitude for their dedication and devotion to duty.

[*courtesy of *Carry The Load*]

For history about Memorial Day, see Carry The Load:

www.carrytheload.org

Thank you and mahalo nui loa from the Aloha State,

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POSTER to share on social media and email



SUMMARY of Carry The Load Memorial Day Foundation

Our mission

Our mission is to provide active ways to honor and remember our nation's heroes by connecting Americans to the sacrifices made by our military, veterans, first responders and their families.



\$42,210,044

Raised Since 2011



261,594+

Participants



93%

of money raised goes towards
programs