



Spring Memorial Ceremony

マキキ墓地春季招魂慰霊式

Shinto Ritual and Tamagushi Offering
in Memory of Meiji Pioneers



Gannenmono Memorial

Makiki Japanese Naval Cemetery

Kanyaku Imin Memorial

**Thursday, March 22, 2018
9:00 - 10:00 am
Makiki Cemetery**

IN MEMORY OF MEIJI PIONEERS

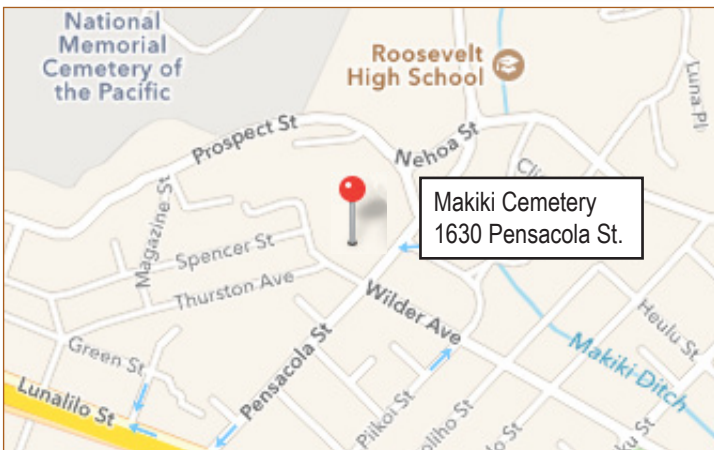
About three score years ago, in 1868, or the First Year of the Meiji Era, there arrived in Hawaii some 150 Japanese. They were the first immigrant group from Japan, although castaways had drifted to these shores in earlier times. The group was called "Gannenmono" because they came here in Meiji Gannen or the First Year of Meiji. Some of them returned to their native land while many others passed away in these Islands. Among those who have been called to the Great Beyond in recent years were Katsusaburo Yoshida, 79 years old, who died in Honolulu in December 1925, and Yonekichi Sakuma, aged 88, who died in Lihue, Kauai, on March 1927 (leaving on two of the original pioneers—Sentaro Ishii, 94 years, and Hanzo Tanagawa, 89 years.

Since the arrival of these pioneers, an intimate relationship has grown up between Hawaii and Japan, with the increase of the Japanese population in the Islands which numbers 130,000 today. We who are interested in the work of the pioneers, therefore, erect this monument as a lasting tribute to our Japanese pioneers to keep awakened in citizens of Japanese ancestry an appreciation of the pioneering spirit of their forefathers and a sense of obligation towards Hawaii Nei.

By JAPANESE FRIENDS OF HAWAII
Honolulu, Hawaii, May 8th 1927

At the Vernal Equinox signaling the advent of Spring each year, Hawaii Meijikai holds a traditional Shinto ceremony at Makiki Cemetery at the site of the Gannenmono Memorial, Makiki Japanese Naval Cemetery and Kanyaku Imin Memorial. We pay tribute to the 153 Gannenmono pioneers, 16 Meiji-era Japanese Navy sailors laid to rest there and 289 contract immigrant workers and others interred in a common *yosebaka* grave at Makiki Cemetery.

This year's ceremony will include some 20 members of the Saitama Young Shinto Priests Association and their families to assist with the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Gannenmono arrival.



**HAWAII MEIJKAI
ハワイ明治会**

Noboru Hayase, President • Tel: (808) 263-9854