

SHINSHU KYOKAI MISSION of HAWAII

1631 So. Beretania St. Honolulu, HI. 96826-1105
[Phones: Office – (808) 973-0150 / Dormitory – (808) 973-0155 / Fax – (808) 973-0157]

HISTORIC PRES. DIV.
DEPT. OF LAND &
NATURAL RESOURCES

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March 20, 2023

Alan Downer, Ph.D
Administrator
State Historic Preservation Division
601 Kamokila Blvd, Ste 555
Kapolei, HI 96707

Aloha,

My name is Russell K. Mukai, President of the Board of Directors for Shinshu Kyokai Mission of Hawaii, a Jodo-Shinshu temple. Shinshu Kyokai Mission of Hawaii (SKM) received notice of a hearing for the nomination of the monument, Hyo Chu Hi, located on our grounds.

SKM did not initiate this nomination nor did we know that it was being done. We have the following concerns.

1. The nomination papers list us as Shinshu Kyokai Buddhist Mission on page 1. Our temple is called Shinshu Kyokai Mission of Hawaii.
2. The monument is listed as public-private on page 8. This is private property not publicly owned property.
3. There are some discrepancies on what is carved on the monument in comparison to what is described in the nomination.

Side 1 - Next to temple says:

"February 15, 1907 Paid for by people who live in Honolulu"

Front says:

"Hyo Chu Hi"

"Calligraphy done by Taisho Togo Heihachiro"

Side 2 - Next to stairway to social hall says:

"Contracted by

Fukuoka Nomura Kihei

Yamaguchi Akita Moichi"

"Carvers

Kumamoto Kajimura Katsuji

Fukuoka Otsubo Sentaro"

4. The Narrative Statement of Significance on page 16 refers to Otsubo Monument Works in the first paragraph. In the second paragraph, it refers to the Otsubo Monument Works Sculptures nomination. References on pages 17-19 reference the Otsubo Monument Works. Is this Otsubo Stone Monuments nomination also tied to an Otsubo Monument Works nomination and also to an Otsubo Monument Works Sculptures nomination? If so, where are the other nominations? Is SKM to respond to these nominations also? SKM did not receive notification of any other nominations or hearings.

5. Is the nomination only for the Hawaii Register of Historic Places or is it also for the National Register of Historic Places?

6. According to HAR §13-198-4, SKM had 30 days from receipt of the notice of the hearing to respond and that information was supposed to be in the notice of hearing. That information was not in the notice of hearing. It also appears that notice of the hearing was to be made 45 days prior to the hearing. The notification letter is dated February 23, 2023. Is this correct? What is our response date supposed to be?

Because of the discrepancies, questions, and uncertainties with this nomination described above, Shinshu Kyokai Mission of Hawaii respectfully objects to this nomination to have our monument, Hyo Chu Hi, placed on the Hawaii Register of Historic Places or the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Russell K. Mukai
President, Board of Directors
Shinshu Kyokai Mission of Hawaii