



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

113 East 30th Street New York, NY 10016 212-686-2520 www.firstzen.org

會協禪一第國美

Film Series

Aloha Buddha

The Story of Japanese Buddhism in Hawai'i

© 2011 Radiant Features. Produced by Lorraine Minatoishi-Palumbo

Friday, June 20, 2014 7:30 – 9:00 PM

113 East 30th Street New York, NY 10016

Japanese immigrants first came to Hawai'i in 1868 to work on American sugar plantations. They constructed nearly 300 Buddhist temples throughout the Hawaiian Islands, representing many different sects, including Jodo Shin-shu, Shingon, Nichiren, Higashi Hongwanji and Soto Zen. In some cases, they built Indian style temples, filled them with Christian church pews and sang modified hymns which praise the Buddha instead of Jesus. Today the Buddhism which they created is fading, its temples are closing down and its aging congregations are dying off. *Aloha Buddha* documents the history of Japanese immigrants in Hawai'i and the modified form of Buddhism which they created in their new home. Lorraine Minatoishi-Palumbo wrote her Ph.D. dissertation on the Japanese Buddhist temples of Hawai'i. For many years, Buddhism was the majority religion in Hawai'i, but the Hawaiian Japanese community suffered large dislocations during World War II, and this contributed to a long decline in Hawaiian Buddhism. While Buddhism was and still is central to the life of the Japanese communities in Hawaii, it is going through a prolonged transformation. This documentary includes restored archival film material and was funded in part by a grant from the Hawaii Council for the Humanities.

Admission is free.

