

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
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October 29, 1964

(30m)

Dear Roshi Sama:

By now you have had a good chance to talk with Tai San and Kai San in the cool air of autumn at Ryutakuji. I do not press you for any sort of decision, but simply report on the progress of your intimate friends here in Hawaii.

The big news is that [redacted] is returning to work, at the same job she had when she became sick last April, a nurse in a convalescent home. She is quite unsure of her ability to make a success of it, and privately Anne and I have some doubts, but it is a big step for her to accept the position, renew her nurse's license, get her chest x-ray, and so on. If she can't hold the job, it will not be long before she finds another and is able to keep it. She is no longer taking medication, and is being transferred from out-patient status at the State Hospital to a similar status at a mental health clinic here in town (which means she is finally discharged from the State Hospital). She continues to live with us, and to be our treasure and our joy.

We have purchased a mechanical tiller (a kind of plow) for use at Pupukea, to help us with the weed problem, and to till the soil around the fruit trees and in the garden. We had 13 people there hard at work last Saturday. We finally rented the cottage to a Navy couple on a month-to-month basis for \$70.00 per month, which will be a little less than half the monthly payments on the note, a big help.

Superficially, our meetings are a great success, growing week by week. Every night people come ~~xxxx~~ for zazen, even those occasional nights when Anne and I have to go out. Regular meetings on Wednesday have between 12 and 15 attenders now; fewer on Sundays, but on our all-day Zazenkaï each 2nd and 4th Sunday we always have five or six right through until 4:00 PM. The members themselves are very sincere, and this is the problem. They are not content to sigh, "Ah! All is one!" -- they work very hard on their susokukan, and some reach the point where everything seems very bare and dark and empty. I know this is a good thing, but they have no teacher; I do not dare advise anything except to continue. Some become frightened and some discouraged. I keep a calm face, but inwardly I feel very uncertain.

Roshi, do you think it would be possible for you to visit us for sesshin this coming January? Vacation between university semesters will begin around January 26; we could have a five-day sesshin and several days of getting reacquainted. It would give you a chance to evaluate the situation here; I could even arrange an interview for you with people at Queen's Hospital if you wished. Please consider this seriously. Missing Kai San was a big disappointment to our members; they really need to meet a good monk, and perhaps you need to see Koko An and its situation for yourself. We will cover all costs, of course.

Anne and I are both well, and send love. With gassho