

# Pearl Memorial presents Soul Carrier

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## Returning Ancestors Home

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### A Proposal to the Religious Communities of Maui

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## Executive Summary

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**The Problem:** 180,000 Japanese Americans in Hawaii. Many families lost their connection to Japan 80 years ago, and generations are passing without returning ancestral remains.

**The Solution:** Soul Carrier handles everything—from researching family registries and temple records to personally delivering remains—at no cost to families.

### Why Only We Can Do This:

- **Japanese-Native Family:** Native Japanese speakers, English proficient; daughter also speaks Japanese
- **Dual Residency:** We chose a life between Maui and Chiba/Miyagi, Japan
- **Expert Knowledge:** Hands-on experience with koseki (family registry), temple records, and bureaucratic processes
- **Family Unit:** The Sato family of three works as one—ensuring trust and continuity
- **Personal Stake:** We committed to becoming guardians of our ancestral grave in Maui. We share this mission as insiders.

**Track Record:** Relationship with Maria Lanakila Church, Martin's case (Japanese American) in progress, network established across Maui.

**Our Ask:** Introduce families in need; support our mobility.

## The Crisis: 80 Years of Separation

Over **180,000 people** of Japanese ancestry live in Hawaii (U.S. Census). Many families lost contact with relatives in Japan during World War II.

### The Urgency:

- Average age of Issei/Nisei: **85+ years old**
- Estimated **hundreds pass away** each year without returning remains
- Receiving relatives in Japan are also aging—**time is running out on both sides**
- Sansei are now in their 60s-70s—**the last generation** who knows family stories
- Approximately **30%** of Hawaii's Japanese Americans experience some form of ancestral disconnection (community survey est.)

If we act now, there is still time. If we wait, they will never be delivered.

## The Mission

Soul Carrier bridges this gap—across oceans, generations, and faiths:

- Locate relatives in Japan through family registries
- Navigate bureaucratic and cultural processes
- Physically deliver remains to family temples

We walk alongside your journey—honoring the wishes you've carried for years.

## Why Interfaith

A Buddhist grandmother may have a Catholic grandson. What matters is not the ritual—**what matters is the reunion.**

Soul Carrier serves all faiths—because ancestors belong to families, not to any single tradition.

## The Origin of Pearl Memorial

Pearl was our family dog for 18 years. When he passed in 2025, we brought his ashes to Pearl Harbor—the place that symbolizes the rupture between Japan and America. There, with my wife Mina and daughter Ito, we prayed for peace between families separated by history.

That same year, we discovered my family's ancestral grave exists here in Maui—and the bloodline is on the verge of ending. My wife and I are both second-born children; we are the only household that can serve as guardians for both our families' graves. We made the decision to become the caretakers of the Maui grave, committing to a life between Japan and Hawaii.

This is not just a project. It is my life's path.

## Why I Do This: Martin's Story

On December 21, 2025, my daughter developed a high fever. With nowhere to turn, I sought help at a church. There I met Martin (Japanese American).

He said one word: "**Japanese bond.**" His mother Teruko was Japanese. She passed 3 years ago; her ashes remain in Hawaii. He wants to return her to family in Gunma Prefecture, but doesn't speak Japanese and doesn't know the process. **I do.**

"When I met Takuya at church, his daughter had a fever and he was seeking help. I saw how much he cared for his family, and that resonated with me. I decided to help him too. He is the first person who understood

what I've been carrying for three years. I trust him with my mother's journey home." — Martin

## About Me

**Takuya Sato** — Professional with **20+ years** in technology, consulting, and cross-cultural communication. Background includes digital transformation, community organizing, and disaster recovery support.

Qualification	Details
Languages	Native Japanese, English proficient
Residence	Maui + Chiba/Miyagi (Japan)
Admin Experience	Neighborhood Association Chair (2 years)
Expertise	Family registries, temple records, bureaucracy

### What I've Already Done

#### Soul Carrier:

- Self-funded research budget for Martin's case; sent research letter to potential family in Japan
- Created Martin's Kamon engraved on cork—produced entirely off-grid
- Surveyed Western and Eastern cemeteries across Maui with family

#### Religious Community Relations:

- Maria Lanakila Church supported family's short-term stay through off-grid work connection (\$885)
- Introduced as off-grid specialist to 30+ at Kahului Jodo Mission
- Off-grid consulting: Lahaina Jodo Mission, Honolulu Bay Farm, Hana Farm

#### Trust Building in Maui:

- Built network in Hana farming community
- Distributed 130+ handmade soaps across Maui—practicing gift economy
- Facility access from major resort; hospitality room from local resort

#### Technology & Services:

- Operating Pearl Memorial laser engraving service in Hana
- Established quartz engraving (300M year data retention) & QR voice archiving
- International patent pending on data compression

## Relationship with the Church

In December 2025, Maria Lanakila Catholic Church—the **only church that survived** the 2023 Lahaina wildfire—supported our family's short-term stay. This connection grew from our off-grid support work at nearby farms, and the church graciously helped ensure our family's safety during that time.

Through this experience, we have begun building trust with Maui's religious communities.

## Service Process

Step	Activity	Duration
1	Family identification & intake	1 week
2	Research relatives in Japan (registry, temple records)	1-2 months
3	Coordinate with receiving family/temple	1-2 months
4	Deliver remains (personal delivery)	1-2 weeks
5	Final report (with photos & records)	1 week

**Total: 3-6 months per case | Target success rate: 80%+** (family identification basis)

## Research Process Details

- 1. **Initial intake:** Collect names, birthplaces, time periods from family
- 2. **Registry research:** Obtain koseki via appropriate method (direct request, power of attorney, or coordination with Japanese relatives)
- 3. **Temple records:** Trace lineage through kakocho (death registers) and cemetery records
- 4. **Kamon research:** Identify family crest based on lineage; produce report (JP/EN)
- 5. **Field research:** Visit Japan as needed to meet relatives and temples in person
- 6. **Reception coordination:** Arrange return date and ceremony with Japanese family/temple
- 7. **Legal coordination:** Assist with obtaining documents for reinterment permit (death certificate, cremation certificate, etc.) including pre-consultation with local authorities

## Handling of Remains: Safety Protocol

- **Personal delivery:** Never shipped, never third parties
- **Full documentation:** Photo records of entire journey
- **24/7 communication:** Regular updates until completion
- **Ceremony attendance:** Present at return ceremony if desired
- **Full compliance:** Adherence to US-Japan regulations on remains transport

## Complete Cost Transparency

Family pays: \$0 (100% sponsor-funded)

Expense	Breakdown (per case estimate)
Research	\$500 (registry, translation, communications)
Travel	\$2,000 (flights, local transport)
Accommodation	\$1,000 (lodging, meals)
Ceremony	\$500 (temple fees, offerings)
Contingency	\$1,000 (emergency reserve)
Total	\$5,000/case

\*If family wishes to accompany: their travel cost only

## If Family Cannot Be Found

- Provide **complete documentation** of all research
- Coordinate with Japanese temples for **honorable interment** (eitai kuyo/perpetual memorial)
- **Full refund** of unused funds (with accounting report)
- If desired, arrange **general ancestral memorial service** at Japanese temple

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Is it really free? Any hidden costs?** A: Zero cost to families. All expenses covered by sponsors with full financial transparency.

**Q: I'm worried about entrusting remains** A: Photo documentation and 24/7 communication ensure complete peace of mind. I personally carry—never

shipped, never third parties.

**Q: What if family in Japan can't be found?** A: We provide all research records, arrange temple interment, and refund unused funds.

**Q: What about different religions?** A: We serve all faiths—Buddhist, Christian, Shinto. All traditions are respected.

**Q: Will this continue long-term?** A: Operated by Digital Wheel, LLC (Japan). Exploring 501(c)(3) status. Advisory committee ensures sustainability.

**Q: How do I explain this to my community?** A: Use this document as-is. Individual briefings also available upon request.

**Q: How long does the process take?** A: Typically 3-6 months, depending on research complexity.

**Q: Can families with no knowledge of Japan use this service?** A: Absolutely. As long as you have basic information (names, possible origins), we can begin research.

## Benefits to Your Community

- **Fulfill congregants' long-held wishes**
- **Strengthen community bonds**
- **Honor ancestors**—core mission of faith
- **Full documentation:** reports, photos, thank-you letters
- **Build interfaith cooperation**
- **Complimentary family crest (Kamon) engraving**
- **Japan shopping service:** Buddhist supplies, incense, Japanese OTC medicine, specialty foods
- **Digital estate support:** Photo/video/email preservation
- **Estate support:** landfill transport assistance for families
- **Educational opportunity:** Share Japanese immigrant history with next generation

## Governance Structure

Role	Details
Operating Entity	Digital Wheel, LLC (Japan)
Representative	Mina Sato
Ambassador	Takuya Sato
Financial Audit	Annual external audit planned
Advisory Board	Religious leaders, legal experts, community reps (forming)

**Reporting:** Annual report to all supporters / Individual report per case

## Our Commitment

**We promise: we will not abandon your case.**

- **Case completion:** Every accepted case will reach a conclusion (return completed or full investigation report)
- **Continuity guarantee:** If we cannot continue, all records will be handed off to a trusted organization or individual
- **Unused fund refund:** If a case is incomplete, all unused funds are returned with full accounting
- **Personal stake:** We ourselves became guardians of our family grave in Maui. We have no escape.

**Why you can trust us:** We will keep returning to Maui. Our ancestral grave is here.

## Support Options: Review and Decide

### Act Now (5 min):

- ☐ Introduce one family in need → Free
- ☐ Schedule 15-min call → Free
- ☐ Donate miles → Cost only
- ☐ \$1,500 to start research → 1 case

### Our Appreciation for Early Support:

- Early case sponsors → Listed as founding members
- Those who introduce families → Invited to return ceremonies
- All supporters → Name engraved on quartz in order of support (300M year archive)

### Most needed: Mobility

- Airline miles or flight sponsorship
- Vehicle access (rental, loaner, ride credits)
- Travel grants
- Any creative solution that enables travel

**What one return means:** An 80-year reunion. A family story completed. A legacy for generations.

Support Level	Amount	Enables
Research Sponsor	\$1,500	1 case research (pre-travel)
Case Sponsor	\$5,000	1 complete reunion
Annual Partner	\$15,000/yr	3 cases/year
Mission Partner	\$50,000/yr	Unlimited + Japan base
Founding Circle	\$200,000/yr	Full sustainability

### Sponsor Model Examples:

Your Role	What You Can Do	What It Enables
Sansei office worker	Donate 50K unused miles	One round-trip flight
Church pastor	Introduce one family from congregation	An 80-year reunion begins
Local business owner	\$1,500 research sponsorship	Full research costs for one case
Retired Nisei	Share family info and photos	Critical research clues
Kenjinkai member	Feature in newsletter	Discovery of eligible families
Japanese expat in Hawaii	Volunteer as interpreter	Bridge the language gap

**Expanded Use of Funds:** As the foundation of Soul Carrier's activities, funds also support:

- **Off-Grid Infrastructure Support:** Disaster-resilient, self-sufficient systems for religious facilities and communities
- **Community Strengthening:** Intergenerational exchange and cultural heritage events for Japanese American communities

## Long-Term Vision

Year	Goal	Milestone
Year 1	3 cases	Establish process, build track record
Year 2	7 cases	501(c)(3) status, expand team
Year 3	10+/year	Sustainable model established
Year 5	Expand	Serve all U.S. Japanese communities
Year 10	International	Extend to Brazil, Peru, and other Nikkei communities

## Potential Partnerships

- **Japanese American associations / Kenjinkai:** Identify families, community outreach
- **Japanese temple networks:** Coordinate reception, arrange perpetual memorial
- **Airlines:** Mile donation programs, travel support
- **Funeral homes:** Guidance on proper handling of remains
- **Universities / Research institutions:** Document Nikkei history, oral history projects

## Media & Recognition

Supporting organizations will be recognized:

- **Named in activity reports**
- **Credited in media coverage**
- **Invited to return ceremonies**
- **Acknowledged in annual reports**
- **Featured as collaborators** in any documentary productions

## Supporting Materials (Available Upon Request)

- Activity photos (family, church, Pearl Memorial)
- Letter of recommendation from Martin
- Detailed research process documentation
- Past off-grid support track record
- Overview of remains transport regulations

## Next Steps

1. **Schedule a 15-min call** (Email or Calendly)
2. **Share potential families** who may need this service
3. **Receive research plan** within 1 week

## Contact

### Takuya Sato — Soul Carrier Ambassador

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- Web: [bit.ly/pearlmemorial](https://bit.ly/pearlmemorial)
- Schedule: [calendly.com/pearlmemorial](https://calendly.com/pearlmemorial)
- Wise: [wise.com/pay/me/satot67](https://wise.com/pay/me/satot67)

**"Resonance opens the way."**

*Join Soul Carrier as a founding partner. Together, we can heal 80 years of separation—one family at a time.*