

# SPIRITUAL PASSAGES

**About Toro Nagashi**  
This special Buddhist tradition means “lantern offerings on the water.” It was begun in Japan by the Shinnyo-en, a Buddhist order, in 1952 to honor their ancestors and to comfort the spirits of those who died in water.

**The Meaning**  
The floating lanterns carrying a single candle will light the way for their spirits to salvation or happiness. The water symbolizes the ties for those who died in water. Shinnyo-en leaders thought it was more appropriate for people in Hawaii.

**The History**  
While this special ceremony is usually held in July or August in Japan, the late founder of Hawaii’s Shinnyo-en, Shinjo Ito, decided to combine it with the remembrances of Memorial Day. Hawaii’s first Toro Nagashi was in 1999 at Keehi Lagoon and has since grew to attract Japanese visitors and non-Shinnyo-en members.

“They departed from the world but not from our hearts.”

**Becky Arakawa**  
*For her husband, Reggie, who died two months ago*

One of 1,350 lanterns floated out to sea at Ala Moana Beach Park last night during the ninth annual Lantern Floating ceremony. Several thousand people attended the event held by Shinnyo-en, a Buddhist sect in Hawaii.

