

広報ひこね (英語版)

# Community Newsletter *KOHO HIKONE*

## May 2026



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**[Official Hikone Website]** **[New Facebook Page]**

Contact Info	Telephone Number
Hikone City Hall	0749-22-1411 (Switch Board)
Human Rights Policy Division (To Speak to Our English Interpreter, Please Call the Number on the Right.)	0749-30-6113
FACEBOOK	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/hikone.eng">http://www.facebook.com/hikone.eng</a>

You can speak with our English interpreter by phone at the number above or in person at Hikone City Hall.

**This English Version of *Koho Hikone* Is Issued Monthly.**

**This Foreign-Language Community Newsletter Is Available At:**

- Hikone Fukushi Center
- Hikone Bunka Plaza
- Hikone City Library
- Hikone City Hall (1F)
- AEON TOWN Hikone
- Nakachiku Kominkan
- Inae Branch Office
- “Gyomuyou Super” (Toga-cho)
- Beisia Hikone
- Inae-chiku Kominkan
- Mega Center TRAIAL Hikone
- Mega Don Quijote Toyosato
- Don Quijote Hikone
- Hikone City Hospital
- Hello Work Hikone

**Interpreting Services** (Available in English, Portuguese, Chinese, and Vietnamese)

**Onsite Foreign-Language Interpreting Services Are Available At Hikone City Hall!**

\*Please say “eigo tsuuyaku onegai shimasu” at the information desk of the city hall.

“えいご つうやく おねがいます”

City Hall Operating Schedule: Weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.

\*Please note that the availability of our English interpreter is subject to change.



**\*Please Contact Each Organization Before Attending.**

**Japanese Language Classes in Hikone**



Day	Time	Location	Organization Name	Fee
Saturday	2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Naka-chiku Community Center (Oyabu-cho, 2610)	Hikone Kokusai Kouryu-kai VOICE Katsurada-San Tel: 090-5156-6916	Free
Monday to Friday *Closed on holidays	① 9:30 AM to 10:50 AM ② 11:00 AM to 12:20 PM ③ 1:30 PM to 2:50 PM ④ 3:00 PM to 4:20 PM ⑤ Online Classes	Innovation Office Nayashichi (Shiro-machi 1-7-16)	SMILE Mizuno-San Tel: 070-5661-7345	200 yen per lesson
Please contact the institute for details about the days and times of its Japanese language courses.		Ohmi Furusato Hall (Kaidema-cho 1351-3)	Mother Lake Nihongo Gakuin (Japanese Language Institute) Tel: 0749-47-3447	Please contact the institute for details about the lesson fees.
1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	10:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Higashi-chiku Community Center (Daito-cho 1-26)	*This class is available for children only! Hikone UNESCO Association, Japanese Language Class “JUMP” Learning Japanese as a foreign language educational support for children Tel: 090-2384-9760	200 yen per lesson

# Public Notices & Information

## **Hikone To Launch Cost-of-Living Support Coupon Program!**

Hikone City will distribute 8,000-yen coupons to each eligible resident of the city to ease rising living costs and help boost the local economy. A list of participating stores and more details will be available at a later date through the city's community newsletters and official website.

### **[Eligibility Criteria]**

Individuals, regardless of age or nationality, whose addresses were registered in Hikone as of March 1, 2026.

\*Those who moved into the city after March 2, 2026 are NOT eligible.

### **[How to Use Coupons]**

The coupons can be used as digital or paper coupons. To use them as digital coupons, you will need to scan the QR code with your smartphone or another compatible device, load the coupon, and present it at a participating store. If you prefer to use them as paper coupons, please use them as issued.

### **[Distribution Method]**

The coupons will be mailed to all eligible household members at once by Japan Post's Yu-Pack service.

The coupons need to be handed over to a household member in person by a Japan Post delivery worker.

If no one is at home, a delivery worker may place a package containing the coupons in a parcel box.

### **[Important Note]**

The distribution of the coupons will be from late May to June, and the coupons will become usable in July.

However, some details are still tentative. Therefore, please contact the call center at the number provided below or visit Hikone City's official website.



**Contact: Hikone City Call Center for the Cost-of-Living Support Coupon Program,**

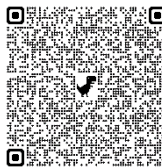
**Tel: 0570-033-242**

## **Hikone City Home Remodeling Assistance Program**

Hikone City offers a subsidy program for home remodeling work carried out by a construction company or an individual contractor operating in the city. Please note that certain terms and conditions apply, and it covers only a portion of remodeling costs.

### **[Subsidy Amount]**

10% of the total remodeling cost, up to 70,000 yen



### **[Application Deadline and How to Apply]**

Please apply online by scanning the QR code by July 31, Friday.

You can also request a company or an independent contractor to complete the necessary procedures on your behalf.

\*For more details, including eligibility criteria, please contact the relevant division of Hikone City Hall in person or by phone.

**Contact: Hikone Regional Economy Revitalization Division, Tel: 0749-30-6119**

## **Financial Assistance for Free Schools**

A free school in Japan is an alternative learning space for children who do not attend regular school. It offers flexible education outside the compulsory education system.

**[Eligibility]** Families residing in Hikone whose children do not attend regular school

**[Assistance Amount]** 50% – 100% of monthly fees (up to 40,000 yen per month)

### **[Important Notes]**

- Financial assistance will be paid once every three months (July, October, January, and April).
- To receive this assistance, applicants must submit an application form and a current status report, along with proof of using a free school service in Hikone.

**Contact: Hikone School Support, Human Rights, and Anti-Bullying Management Division  
(3F, Hikone City Hall), Tel: 0749-24-7978**

## **Vehicle Tax Reduction System for Persons with Disabilities**

The vehicle tax reduction system is available to persons with disabilities who own a kei car or a standard-sized vehicle. If you are an owner of a kei car and wish to apply for this tax deduction system, please contact the Hikone Tax Division by the due date of your kei car tax payment printed on the payment bill.

If you are an owner of a standard-size vehicle, please contact the Shiga Prefectural Government for more information.

### **[Important Points]**

- This reduction system applies to one vehicle per person with a disability, regardless of vehicle type.
- Eligible disability types, grades, and other details can be found on Hikone City's official website.

**Contact: Hikone Tax Division, Tel: 0749-30-6140**

## Important Points on the National Pension System

All residents aged between 20 and 60 who reside in Japan are required to enroll in the National Pension system, regardless of nationality. If any of the following applies to you, please complete the necessary procedures at your earliest convenience.

- You have recently become unemployed.
- You are no longer covered as a dependent under someone else's health insurance and pension coverage.

You are also required to complete the necessary pension procedures if your dependents have lost their health insurance and pension coverage.

### **[Pension Contribution Exemption Before and After Childbirth]**

Pregnant women can apply for a pension contribution exemption from 6 months before their due date.

Once approved, the exemption period related to pregnancy and childbirth will be treated as having been paid.

**Contact: Hikone Insurance and Pension Division, Tel: 0749-30-6136**

## June 14: Temporary Opening at Hikone City Hall for My Number Card Procedures

Date and Time: June 14 (Sun) from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: Hikone City Hall, 1F

\*Appointments can be made in advance by scanning the QR code or by calling the number below.

**Contact: Hikone Life Service Division, Tel: 0749-30-6151**

## Tips for Reducing and Recycling Waste: How to Drain Kitchen Waste

About 30% of household waste in Hikone City consists of kitchen waste.

The following tips show how to drain kitchen waste and why it is encouraged.

- Remove skins or unwanted parts of vegetables and fruits before rinsing them with water.
- Before disposing of kitchen waste in a burnable garbage bag, try to drain as much water as possible.
- Let tea bags, ground coffee beans, and fruit and vegetable skins dry overnight.

If a tea bad is drained:



**Approx. 26% Less!**



### **Benefits**

- Slow down decomposition of kitchen waste.
- Makes waste lighter and easier to carry.

## Crime Statistics for Hikone City and Inukami District (2025)

The following shows the number of reported cases for each type of crime in Hikone City and Inukami District in 2025.

- Bicycle Theft: 223
- Theft from Vehicles: 30
- Vehicle Parts Theft: 15
- Home Burglary: 72
- Special Fraud: 26
- Other Crimes: 446

According to the Hikone Police Department, imposter fraud, in which scammers pretend to be family members, has been on the rise. Please also beware of calls from telephone numbers starting with “+” or other international numbers.

## Effective Early May: Overhaul to Japan’s Weather Alert System



The Japan Meteorological Agency and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism will begin the operation of the new national weather alert system in early May.

The system has received many criticisms, describing it as difficult to understand how dangerous each warning and alert level is and complicated to see how to act in the event of a disaster.

The new system will have clear instructions of what to do for each warning and alert level in addition to the existing five-level scale, which will help the public take more swift and appropriate action.

### **[Hikone City Email Disaster Information System, etc.]**

When an Alert Level 3 or 4 is issued, please check the latest updates provided by the city.

The city offers an email-based disaster information system, along with other notification services.



### **[Mobile Application: Kikikuru (Danger Coming)]**

Kikikuru is a hazard forecasting mobile application operated by the Japan Meteorological Agency.

This app helps users understand the level of risk and take appropriate action in the event of a disaster.



Flood	Heavy Rain	Landslide	Storm Surge	Action
<b>Level 5</b>				<b>Take the best possible action to protect your life.</b>
<b>Complete evacuation from hazardous areas by Alert Level 4.</b>				
<b>Level 4</b>				<b>Evacuate immediately.</b>
<b>Level 3</b>				<b>Elderly people and others who need time should evacuate.</b>
<b>Level 2</b>				<b>Check evacuation routes and stay alert.</b>
<b>Level 1</b>				<b>Be aware of potential risks.</b>

**Contact: Hikone Crisis Management Division, Tel: 0749-30-6150**

# Upcoming Events & Fun News

## Pilot Project: Temporary Pedestrianization from Hikone Station to Hikone Castle

The street from Hikone Station to Hikone Castle, known as 'Ekimae Oshiro Street,' is familiar and well loved by both residents and tourists.

To create a more comfortable, walkable environment, the city will carry out a pilot project by reducing the road from two lanes in each direction to one and expanding pedestrian space as follows.

### [Project Period]

May 23, Saturday to May 31, Sunday

### [Street Subject to the Project]

Street from Asahimachi Nishi Traffic Intersection to the Gokoku Shrine Gate



### [Event and Activity Information during the Period]

Food trucks, a skate boarding class, low-speed vehicles, chalk art, and other events and activities will be hosted during the period. Please come to the street and experience this pilot project. Your honest feedback will be greatly appreciated.

**Skateboarding  
Class  
May 30**



**Low-Speed  
Vehicle Trial  
May 23 - 30**



**Food Trucks  
May 23 - 31**



**Chalk Art  
May 23 - 31**



## Hikone Eco Market “Yumebatake”

This market is a flea market. You may be able to find something special at a great value!

Day and Time: May 17 (Sun), 9:30 – 13:00

Location: Ohtemae Second Preserved Land (Hikone City, Konki-cho)

## Hikone Morning Market

May 17 (Sun) 8:00 AM – Noon

Location: Osue-Cho, Gokoku Shrine

With the three key elements of 'Food Safety,' 'Local Production for Local Consumption,' and 'Handmade,' you can find and buy locally grown produce, tofu, fish dishes, handmade accessories, and more at the Hikone Morning Market!

## **International Understanding Seminar: Italy**

An Italian guest speaker will introduce Italian lifestyle and culture, and talk about cultural differences between Japan and Italy.

Date and Time: June 13 (Sat), 10:00 – 11:30

Location: Kokusai Kouryu Salon (Hikone, Chuo-cho)

Capacity: 20 (first come, first served)

Applications will start on May 13, Wednesday. Please apply to join the seminar by phone, in person, or by email. Preschool-aged children and younger must be accompanied by their parent.

**Contact: Kokusai Kouryu Salon, Tel: 0749-22-5931, Email: hikone-il@za.ztv.ne.jp**

## **J League Soccer Matches at Heiwado HATO Stadium**

**[Reilac Shiga FC VS Renofa Yamaguchi FC]**

Date: May 6, Wednesday

Kick-off: 2:00 PM

**[Reilac Shiga FC VS Kagoshima United FC]**

Date: May 10, Sunday

Kick-off: 2:00 PM

**[Reilac Shiga FC VS Giravanz Kitakyushu]**

Date: May 17, Sunday

Kick-off: 3:30 PM



## **Firefly Viewing Activity**

**[Day and Time]** May 30 (Sat), 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

\*Viewing fireflies outside may be canceled depending on the weather.

**[Location]** Minami District Community Hall (Hikone, Kanro-cho)

**[Eligibility]** Anyone older than elementary school age

**[Capacity]** 40 participants

**[Fee]** 100 yen per participant

**[Application Period]** May 1 (Fri) to 11 (Mon)

\*Please call **0749-26-0510** to make an appointment.

## **Students Wanted: Techno College in Maibara City**

**[Eligibility]** Those who are actively searching for employment

**[A Number of Students Wanted for Each Course]**

• Numerical Control Machining Engineer Course: 10

• Electrical Maintenance Technician Course: 15

• Home Renovation Course: 10

**[Fee]** All courses are free of charge.

You will only need to pay textbooks and uniforms out of pocket.

**[Application Due Date]** May 15, Friday

**[How to Apply]** Please submit your application at a Hello Work office.



**Contact: Techno College Maibara, Tel: 0749-52-5300**

# Consultation Services

Consultation Service	Schedule	Location	Telephone Number
<b>Legal Consultation</b>	May 22 (Fri), 13:00 – 16:00 *5500 yen per person *Reservations available from May 13.	Hikone Community Development Promotion Division	0749-30-6117
<b>Akiya Bank (Vacant House) Telephone Consultation</b>	Mon – Fri 10:00 – 18:00	Akiya Bank Office	0749-23-2123
<b>Consultation for Recovery from Cancer</b>	Mon – Fri 9:00 – 16:00 *Priority given to people who have an appointment.	Municipal Hospital Cancer Support Center	0749-22-6050
<b>Consultation for Working During Cancer Treatment</b>	[Support for Finding a Job] June 3 (Web), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only. [Support for Continuing to Work] May 20 (Wed), 13:30 – 15:30 *Offered by reservation only.		
<b>Child Development (Disability) Consultation</b>	Mon – Fri 8:30 – 17:15 *Offered by reservation only.	Development Support Center (Hirata-cho)	0749-26-8282
<b>Language Development Consultation</b>	Mon – Fri 8:30 – 17:15 *Offered by reservation only.		
<b>Traffic Accident Consultation</b>	Tue · Thu ① 9:00 – 12:00 ② 13:00 – 16:00	Koto Joint Government Building	0749-27-2230
<b>Consumer Affairs Consultation</b>	Mon – Fri ① 9:00 – 12:00 ② 13:00 – 16:15	Hikone Consumer Affairs Center	0749-30-6144
<b>Human Rights Consultation for Foreigners</b>	9:00 – 17:00 on weekdays		0570-090-911
<b>Bullying Hotline</b>	Mon – Fri 9:00 – 16:45	School Support, Human Rights, and Anti-Bullying Division	0749-24-7977
<b>Consultation for Children and Adolescents (Social Withdrawal, Abuse, etc.)</b>	9:00 – 16:45 on weekdays	Hikone Children and Family Center “Hikomaru”	0749-26-0994
<b>Consultation for Women (Domestic Violence, etc.)</b>	9:00 – 16:45 on weekdays		0749-49-2251
<b>Labour Law Consultation</b>	May 22 (Fri), 18:30 – 20:00 (30 minutes per person) *Appointments will begin on May 1.	Proceed Arena HIKONE (Koizumi-cho)	0749-30-9228

## [Hotlines for Domestic Violence]

- Hikone Children and Adolescents Support Division: 0749-49-2251, Weekdays, 9:00 – 16:45
- Hikone Children and Families Consultation Center: 0749-24-3741, Weekdays, 8:30 – 17:15
- Chuo Children and Families Consultation Center: 077-564-7867, Every day, 8:30 – 22:00
- Shiga Gender Equality Center: 0748-37-8739, Tue–Sun, 9:00 – 12:00, 13:00 – 17:00 (\*Until 20:30 on Thursdays)

## [Hotlines for Child Abuse]

- National Consultation Hotline for Children: 189, 24 hours, 7 days a week
- Hikone Children and Adolescents Support Division: 0749-26-0994
- Hikone Children and Families Consultation Center: 0749-24-3741
- Child Abuse Hotline: 077-562-8996, 24 hours, 7 days a week

\*In case of emergency, do not hesitate to call the police at 110 or 0749-27-0110.

# Health and Wellness Information

Hikone Health Promotion Div. Tel: 0749-24-0816, Fax: 0749-24-5870

## June Health Check-ups for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers

Location: Kusunoki Center (Hassaka-cho)

Starting in April 2024, appointments for health check-ups for infants and young children must be made in advance through the mobile app 'Boshi Mo (母子モ).' If you visit the Kusunoki Center without an appointment, you may be asked to return after making one.



Target Age Group	Date	Eligibility
10 months olds	10 (Wed)	Children born between 2025, July 16 and July 31.
	16 (Tue)	Children born between 2025, August 1 and August 21.
1 and ½ years olds	12 (Fri)	Children born in 2024, November.
	19 (Fri)	
2 and ½ years olds	11 (Thu)	Children born in 2023, November.
	18 (Thu)	
3 and ½ years olds	8 (Mon)	Children born in 2022, November.
	15 (Mon)	

**Contact Info: Hikone Mother and Child Welfare Division, Tel. 0749-24-3931**

## World No Tobacco Day: May 31

May 31 every year is declared as World No Tobacco Day by the World Health Organization.

As part of their purpose for raising awareness of secondhand smoke prevention, Hikone Castle will be lit up in yellow green (a symbol color for this campaign) as follows.

Day and Time: May 29 (Fri) – 31 (Sun), Sunset until 10:00 PM