

## Other Important Information

### **Delegate Orientation**

For those who will be first-time delegates to the 'Aha Makua, a delegate orientation is being planned in early June. More information to follow.

**Schedule** See the enclosed *Tentative 'Aha Makua Program Schedule*.

**Meals** All registered delegates and visitors will be given a name tag. Please be sure to wear your name tag at all times during the 'Aha. *It is your meal ticket; do not lose it.* We will NOT be selling individual meal tickets.

**Special Diets** Vegetables will be served with all meals, but we regret that we are unable to accommodate special dietary requirements.

**BYOC!** Bring your own cups! In a continuing effort to be good environmental stewards, we are asking all attendees to please bring your own cup.

**Handbooks** In an effort to be good stewards, the 'Aha Handbook will not be printed but will be available online. Notice will be given when handbooks are available. Delegates and visitors may choose to print out the handbook or download it to an electronic device. If you plan to use a laptop, please be sure to check the capacity of your battery or bring an extra one as it will not be possible (or safe) to string extension cords throughout the meeting rooms.

**No Smoking** Waipahu UCC's campus is *non-smoking*. Please respect this and smoke only off campus.

# 2026 'Aha Makua Information

June 11–13, 2026

Hosted by the West O'ahu Churches



Photo by Marilyn Hasegawa

**Theme** Building Bridges - *Kūkulu Uapo*

*Romans 14:19*

*So then, we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.*  
(NASB)

**Location** This year's 'Aha Makua will be hosted by the churches of West O'ahu at Waipahu UCC, 94-330 Mokuola St., Waipahu, O'ahu.

**Keynoter** **The Rev. Shari Prestemon** is the Associate General Minister and Co-Executive of Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Rev. Prestemon has served as a Peace & Justice Intern for one year with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines in Dumaguete City. She has participated in and led multiple study trips to Palestine and Israel and has journeyed with Global Ministries delegations to Haiti, Columbia, Germany, Indonesia, and East Timor. She partnered extensively with Global H.O.P.E. when Hurricane Katrina devastated Back Bay Mission and the Gulf Coast region in 2005. Of her experiences Prestemon says, "I have personally witnessed the life-giving, life-changing power of our

ministries in so many places and ways. What we do together as Church makes God's love real in the world and has tremendous, inspiring impact. I feel incredibly blessed to be in a position where I can nurture and strengthen this amazing work."

### **Registration**

This section pertains only to the 'Aha Makua. A separate registration packet for the annual meeting of Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches, State Sunday School Association and Christian Endeavor has been mailed to Hawaiian churches. For 'Aha Iki information, go to [www.hcucc.org](http://www.hcucc.org).

- **All who will attend must register by May 11, 2026.** One form for each registrant and full payment (\$165 per person) must be received at the Hawai'i Conference Office by the close of business on this date to guarantee your registration. (Please note that the deadline for 'Aha Iki registration is the same.) Churches are encouraged to register all delegates at the same time, including the youth/young adult delegate (see below under Voting Delegates).
- **Late Registration:** A late registration fee of \$30 will be assessed for registrations received after 4 p.m. on May 11.
- **Retired Ordained Clergy** with standing in an association of the Hawai'i Conference may have 'Aha Makua fees waived. Housing costs and airline reservations are on your own.
- **Online Payment:** Registration and credit card payments can be completed online at <https://ezregister.com/events/43215/>. Both payment and form must be completed by **May 11.**

### **'Aha Youth Program**

There will be a youth track at the 'Aha Makua. For more information, please refer to the enclosed insert in the registration packet.

### **Scholarships**

To donate or request financial assistance enabling all our churches to attend the 'Aha Pae'āina, please contact your Association directly.

### **Housing**

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Best Western The Plaza Hotel (3253 N. Nimitz Hwy, Honolulu). Please make reservations by calling the hotel at (808) 836-3636 or emailing at [reservations@bwhonolulu.com](mailto:reservations@bwhonolulu.com) and using the group code: HCUCC Group Block.

We were able to secure a rate of \$192.00+tax per night, no resort fee, breakfast buffet included (7:00am – 9:00am), and parking discounted to \$22+tax per vehicle per day.

*To take advantage of this special rate, the hotel must receive your reservation by May 11.* Before leaving the hotel, please return your keys and pay for all hotel and incidental charges. Hawai'i Conference is not responsible for any of these expenses.

### **Transportation**

#### **Airlines**

Delegates and visitors are responsible for their own flight reservations and payments. Up to \$75.00 of **one-way** airfare is reimbursable for neighbor islanders. Receipts must be submitted to Lori Yamashiro at the Hawai'i Conference Office **by June 22, 2026.**

### **Shuttles**

**Arrivals:** Shuttles will be arranged from the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport to Waipahu UCC for those who fill out the transportation portion of the registration form and *turn it in by May 11.* Vans will meet only the flights for which we have scheduled pick-ups. If your plans change and you don't need a ride, please call Lori Yamashiro at 808-292-5249 so van drivers aren't kept waiting.

We will *NOT* run continuous shuttles. Pick-up times will be arranged only for those providing arrival information on the registration form. Prior to your arrival, you will be notified of your shuttle pick-up information. Please be patient if the van is not at the airport when you arrive.

**Departures:** We will *NOT* run continuous shuttles for departures from Waipahu UCC to the Airport. If you requested transportation to the airport on your registration form, a listing of departure shuttles will also be posted at the registration table. We cannot guarantee any transportation after 2 p.m. on Saturday.

### **Parking**

Limited parking will be available at Waipahu UCC.

### **Meeting Information**

#### **Business**

Each delegate will be asked to vote on important issues and therefore it is vitally essential for your church's delegate(s) to familiarize themselves with information about the business items. Updated information can be found on the Conference's website at [www.hcucc.org](http://www.hcucc.org) under Quick Links "2026 'Aha Pae'āina."

#### **Voting Delegates**

To be a voting delegate, you must be in one of these categories:

1. Local churches with standing in an association of the Hawai'i Conference are entitled to:
  - a. **One lay delegate** for the first 200 members and an additional delegate for each 100 members or major fraction thereof, up to a *maximum of five.* (For example, a church with 251 members is entitled to two delegates: one lay delegate for the first 200 members plus one lay delegate for the major fraction [51] above 200. Note that the number of church members is determined by *2024 UCC Yearbook* listing.)
  - b. **One youth/young adult delegate**, 30 years of age or younger.
2. **Ordained, Licensed, or Commissioned ministers** with current standing in an association of the Hawai'i Conference.
3. **Members of Hawai'i Conference Council and Chairs of standing and special committees.**
4. **Presidents of Associations and recognized affiliate organizations** (Woman's Board of Missions, State Sunday School Association, Christian Endeavor Association, State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches, Council of Samoan Churches, Hawai'i Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries).