

- To assist churches in obtaining information on resources to improve and broaden their missions.
- To foster & encourage attendance at General Synod.

On Sustaining The Richness Of Hawaiian Traditions & Cultural Values:

- To foster and encourage participation in the *Aha Pae`aina* by helping to develop agenda that incorporate cultural values & tradition & opportunities for fellowship.
- To foster greater understanding of Hawaiian values, traditions, customs & their relevance in our Christian faith.

On Leadership & Ministries in Hawaiian Churches:

- To foster, encourage, and promote leadership training in Hawaiian churches.
- To administer funds entrusted to the SCHCC under the Reverend Richard W. Wong & William Keli`ihoomalu Trusts.
- To assist churches in establishing and maintaining Church Profiles.
- To collect & circulate information regarding ministries of Hawaiian churches, their results & impact.

On Behalf Of Lokahi:

- To promote interaction and exchange among all churches.
- To serve as a channel of communication to the Conference on concerns, questions, and needs of Hawaiian churches.
- To serve as a catalyst for beneficial change that could affect all Hawaiian churches.

On Keeping Safe & Well Our Hawaiian Places Of Worship:

- To administer funds entrusted to SCHCC for maintenance and repair of small Hawaiian churches.
- To provide input to the Conference Foundation on the level of funding needed to maintain and repair small Hawaiian churches.

On Healing The Hawaiian Soul:

- To actively participate with other organizations in promoting understanding in a process of reconciliation w/in the Hawaiian community & HCUC churches.

OUR MISSION/VISION

Our Mission is to advocate, at all levels, on behalf of all Hawaiian churches holding membership in the Hawai`i Conference United Church of Christ.

We envision a community which celebrates its biblical roots while sustaining the richness of Hawaiian traditions and cultural values; which strives to create opportunities for spiritual growth, leadership, and commitment for a common vision; and which nurtures all people to become instruments for building a better world and community.

We embrace and cherish our Christian faith as we respect our cultural heritage and ultimately seek the peace that comes with living comfortably in both.



Founded 1948

An affiliate organization
of the Hawai`i Conference UCC

STATE COUNCIL OF HAWAIIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES

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We advocate on behalf
of member
Hawaiian Churches

WHO WE ARE

The State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches (the “SCHCC” or the State Council”) is an affiliate organization of the Hawai`i Conference UCC (the “HCUCC” or the “Conference”). It is part of the Conference Council with both voice and vote but receives no operating funds from the HCUCC.

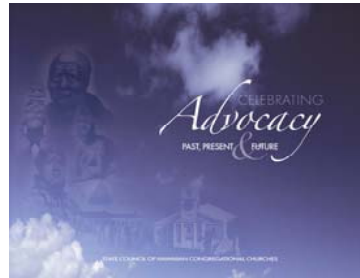
The State Council was initially formed in 1948 as a loosely knit federation of Hawaiian churches that traced their historical roots to the American missionary work that began in 1820. Hawaiian was the host culture; their churches the forerunner of Christian faiths in the islands. On their cornerstones all subsequent congregations were built. But over the course of time and history, membership in the *Kalawina* (Hawaiian for Calvinist) churches began falling. Hawaiians felt their interests waning as the Congregational faith in Hawai`i grew in size and complexion while the congregations of *Kalawina* churches fell ever smaller in number and impact. A revival effort halted the decline in the early 1900’s, only to re-surface in the 1930’s.

In 1948, a coalition of Hawaiian churches successfully sought a venue for *Kalawina* churches at the *Aha Pae`aina* to voice their *mana`o*. This coalition was formally organized in 1952 as the Council of Hawaiian Churches to provide leadership for *Kalawina* churches, promote their work, and maintain their great interest in fellowship. The Council was eventually re-named the State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches.

OUR ROLE REAFFIRMED

By 1965, however, membership in *Kalawina* churches was down to 2,536 and in danger of falling even further. The firm of Kramer, Miller & Associates was hired to review the entire conference of UCC churches, including the unique concerns of *Kalawina* churches. It found that Hawaiian churches were on the verge of disappearing if not given consideration and assistance. Impelled by that finding, a Hawaiian Ministry Program, in coordination with the State Council, was established to assist Hawaiian churches toward self awareness and active participation in the total ministry of the HCUCC.

The Hawaiian Ministry Program ended in 1992 as the Conference re-shaped itself. In that process Hawaiian culture was acknowledged and confirmed as the host culture for the Congregational Church in Hawai`i and the State Council was recognized as advocate for Hawaiian churches. SCHCC serves as a constant reminder of the Hawaiian presence that first embraced and nurtured the Christian faith in these islands.



60th Anniversary Commemorative Publication of the State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches 1948 to 2008

OUR KULEANA

The overarching role of the State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches is to promote the viability of Hawaiian churches in ways and matters that will enable them to live, develop, thrive, and grow.

We go about this role ever mindful of Queen Lili`uokalani’s parting words when she spoke of the loss of the Kingdom: That earthly kingdoms can be lost by inflexibility, intolerance and prejudice, as well as by being too flexible, tolerant of too many wrongs, and without judgment at all. State Council looks constantly to the path that lies between these extremes.

The State Council believes, as did the Queen, that the preservation of our heritage is essential to our sense of well being. It was that heritage that allowed Christianity to flourish in Hawai`i. It is that heritage which State Council honors.

Thus, respecting the devotion and commitment of *na kupuna* to the Christian faith and their churches, and keeping the Queen’s words foremost in mind, specific aspects of our overarching role are:

On Nourishing Our Christian Faith & Our Spiritual Growth:

- To convey, at every opportunity, an abiding sense of covenantal relationships in ministries and interacting with other churches, the Conference, and the National Church. These relationships form the basis for our faith journey with God. They are the backbone of our faith, our *mana`o`i`o*. They are the promises we make as God-loving people to Creator, Church, community, and ourselves.
- To encourage and promote participation in Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) ministry.
- To foster and encourage active participation on mission teams and governing bodies of the HCUCC.