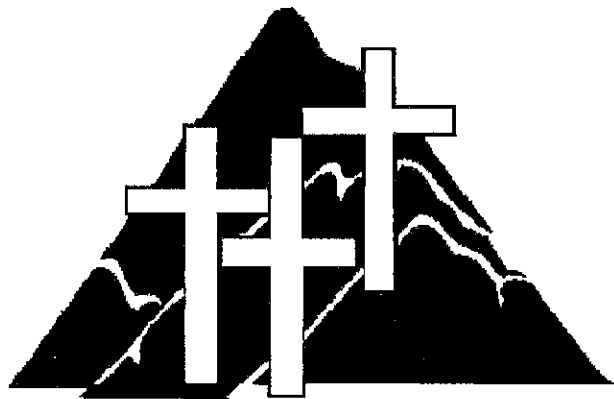


'Aha O Nā Mokupuni 'O Maui, Moloka'i A Me Lāna'i

Bylaws



**Tri-Isle Association
Hawai'i Conference – United Church of Christ**

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'Aha O Nā Mokuḡuni 'O Maui, Moloka'i A Me Lāna'i
(Tri-Isle Association)

Preamble

The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, the Son of God. It acknowledges as one in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the inspiration and authority of the Holy Scripture, the Word of God, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to further its redemptive and creative work in the world.

It claims as its own the faith of the New Testament Church and affirms the responsibility of believers in each generation to claim this faith as its own and to advance the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in each generation. In accordance with the teachings our Lord Jesus Christ, the United Church of Christ recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Article I – Name

The name of this Association shall be the *'Aha O Nā Mokuḡuni 'O Maui, Moloka'i A Me Lāna'i* hereinafter referred to as the *'Aha Mokuḡuni* (also known as the Tri-Isle Association). It is an Association of the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ (HCUCC).

Article II – Purpose

The purposes of the *'Aha Mokuḡuni* are:

- A. To express the oneness in Christ of the churches composing it and to make their Christian witness and service more effective.
- B. To continue without break the ecclesiastical and legal identity of the Association of Congregational Churches of Maui, Molokai and Lanai, and to continue in fellowship with those formerly related or part of the Congregational Christian Church within its boundaries which are not affiliated with the United Church of Christ (UCC).
- C. To determine, certify and confer the standing of local churches.
- D. To determine, certify and confer the standing of ministers.
- E. To exercise the powers and perform the functions of an ecclesiastical council on request of a church or other parties concerned.
- F. To cooperate with the UCC in its National, Conference and Association levels and their boards, agencies and instrumentalities; and to stimulate the spiritual and mission interest of the churches.

Article III – Covenant

Churches and ministers holding membership in the *'Aha Mokupuni* have, in fellowship, a God-given responsibility to and for the *'Aha Mokupuni*, its labors and its witness, even as the *'Aha Mokupuni* has, in fellowship, a God-given responsibility for the well-being and aspirations of each member church. In mutual Christian concern and in dedication to Jesus Christ, the Head of the church, we covenant together to share in common Christian experience and responsibility.

Article IV – Membership

The membership of the *'Aha Mokupuni* may include the following:

A. Churches

1. The UCC and the Congregational Christian Churches and churches who hold standing in the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches on the islands of Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i which elect to become members Associate Members of the *'Aha Mokupuni*.
2. Any local church whose articles or statement of faith are in essential agreement with that of the *'Aha Mokupuni*, and which, having covenanted with the *'Aha O Nā Mokupuni 'O Maui, Moloka'i A Me Lāna'i* to assume and fulfill faithfully the obligations of a member church as hereinafter set forth, and has been recommended by the Church and Ministry Committee of the *'Aha Mokupuni*, is received into membership by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at a duly called meeting of the *'Aha Mokupuni*.
3. A church shall be deemed to be in good standing in the *'Aha Mokupuni* if it maintains its covenantal responsibilities when:
 - a) It has been duly accepted by the *'Aha Mokupuni* as a properly constituted church,
 - b) It has elected its delegates according to proper form and thus secured its representation at the annual meetings,
 - c) It has presented the UCC Yearbook Report of its condition and work to the HCUCC, and
 - d) It has paid its per capita dues to the *'Aha Mokupuni*.
4. The names and statistics of the Congregational Christian Churches which are members of the *'Aha Mokupuni* but which are not a part of the UCC shall be kept separately. Their members shall not be counted in determining the number of delegates which the Hawai'i Conference is entitled to send to the General Synod nor hold elective office in that body. No other limitation shall be imposed or exist to prevent the full participation and rights of such churches or members of the *'Aha Mokupuni*.

B. Ministers

A minister shall be deemed in good standing in the *'Aha Mokuupuni* when his/her credentials have been examined by the Church and Ministry Committee and found in order and he/she has been duly received into the membership by vote of the *'Aha Mokuupuni*, when he/she shall have made a public statement that he/she approves of the government and disciplines of the churches of the UCC and shall become a member of a local church of the *'Aha Mokuupuni*, when he/she attends the annual meeting of the *'Aha Mokuupuni*, and when he/she pays the annual dues as determined by the *'Aha Mokuupuni*.

1. Ordained Ministers

- a) Ordained Ministers who hold their ministerial standing in the Association shall be members of the *'Aha Mokuupuni*.
- b) An Ordained Minister who holds standing in, and who services churches in, the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches that are Associate Members of the *'Aha Mokuupuni*.
- c) An ordained minister of another denomination who wishes to retain standing in the denomination and who has become pastor of a local church of the UCC, or serves in an instrument of the UCC, or has become pastor of a yoked church or a federated church, one part of which is affiliated with the UCC, or has been called to an ecumenical ministry, one constituent of which is the UCC, may be received into the membership of the *'Aha Mokuupuni* for the duration of that pastorate or responsibility upon the recommendation of the Church and Ministry Committee and a two-thirds vote at a duly called meeting of the *'Aha Mokuupuni*, due notice of the proposed action having been given to the membership.

2. Licensed Ministers

Licensed Ministers who hold their standing in the *'Aha Mokuupuni* and who hold standing in and service churches in the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches that are Associate Members of the *'Aha Mokuupuni* shall be members of the *'Aha Mokuupuni*. A Licensed Minister's standing is for as long as he/she serves within the *'Aha Mokuupuni* and maintains standing.

3. Commissioned Ministers

Commissioned Ministers who hold their standing in the *'Aha Mokuupuni* and who hold standing in and service churches in the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches that are Associate Members of the *'Aha Mokuupuni* shall be members of the *'Aha Mokuupuni*. A Commissioned Minister's standing is for as long as he/she serves within the *'Aha Mokuupuni* and maintains standing.

4. Recognized Partner Ministers

The Association may grant “Recognized Partner Minister” standing, and that standing is very similar to the policies established for a person receiving standing as a Licensed Minister in the Association. The person is authorized as a pastoral leader teaching, administering the rites and sacraments, and practicing pastoral ministry according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ USA.

C. Lay Officers

Lay Officers of the *'Aha Mokupuni* who are not otherwise delegates of their particular church.

D. Recognized Ministries of the Association

The *'Aha Mokupuni* may designate a recognized ministry of the Association by a two-thirds vote of delegates present and voting at a regular or special meeting. That ministry shall be a ministry of two or more churches of the association or a new ministry that fits the purposes and covenant of this Association.

Each recognized ministry shall be entitled to one delegate to the *'Aha Makua* and shall file an annual report at the annual *'Aha Mokupuni*. The designation of a recognized ministry of the Association shall be for a term of one year and may be renewed at the Annual *'Aha Mokupuni*.

E. Partnership Organizations

Partnership organizations are those organizations whose purpose and ministry complement the purposes and ministry of the Association. An organization may request the designation of Partnership Organization by the *'Aha Mokupuni*.

The *'Aha Mokupuni* may designate Partnership Organization of the Association by a two-thirds vote of delegates present and voting at a regular or special meeting. Each Partnership Organization shall be entitled to one delegate to the *'Aha Makua* and shall file an annual report at the annual *'Aha Mokupuni*.

Those Partnership organizations which have been a part of the ministry at the time of the adoption of these *Bylaws* shall automatically be granted the status of a Partnership Organization of this Association. The designation of a Partnership Organization of the Association shall be for a term of one year and may be renewed at the Annual *'Aha Mokupuni*.

F. Chairpersons

Chairpersons of the *'Aha Mokupuni* Committees, presidents of Partnership Organizations and ministries of the *'Aha Mokupuni*.

G. Conference Minister

The Conference Minister of the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ, by his/her office, shall be a member of the Association.

H. Associate Delegates

Associate delegates of the *'Aha Mokupuni* are members who are delegates to the General Synod of the UCC; members of national boards, agencies and instrumentalities of the UCC; members of the council, committees and task forces of the HCUCC, and trustees of the Hawai'i Conference Foundation.

Staff members of the Hawai'i Conference of the UCC, Association staff, representatives of National Covenanted Ministries, agencies and/or instrumentalities of the UCC and others persons as the *'Aha Mokupuni* may determine who are in attendance at any *'Aha Mokupuni* meeting may be elected to be Associate delegates with voice but without vote.

Article IV – Privileges and Responsibilities of Membership

A. Churches

1. The autonomy of the local church is inherent. Nothing in the *Bylaws* of this *'Aha Mokupuni* shall destroy or limit the right of each local church.
2. Action by, or decisions or advice emanating from, the General Synod and the HCUCC and the *'Aha Mokupuni* should be given proper and prayerful consideration by every member church.
3. Each church is expected to:
 - a) Be fully represented in the life and work of the *'Aha Mokupuni*.
 - b) Pay the per capita assessments as determined by the *'Aha Mokupuni*, based on the total number of active members as reported in the UCC Yearbook Report to the Hawai'i Conference for the previous calendar year. Failure to meet these obligations for two consecutive years shall be deemed sufficient cause to initiate an inquiry by the *'Aha Mokupuni*.

B. Ministers

1. The *'Aha Mokupuni* recognizes that God calls certain persons to full-time service for various forms of ministry in the church. This calling is recognized by ordination, commissioning, and other appropriate service of dedication.
2. Each minister is expected to enter fully into the life and work of the *'Aha Mokupuni*, to be faithful and regular in his/her attendance at its meetings, and serve to the best of his/her ability when requested by the *'Aha Mokupuni*. Each minister with standing in the *'Aha Mokupuni*, regardless of positions he/she holds in the *'Aha Mokupuni*, shall have one vote.
3. Except under special conditions, as allowed by the *'Aha Mokupuni*, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Church and Ministry, each minister is expected to be a member of the Pension Fund(s) of the UCC.
4. The standing of a minister may be terminated at his/her request. The standing may also be terminated upon the recommendation of the Church and Ministry Committee to the Executive Committee and with a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at a duly called meeting of the Executive Committee.
5. A decision may be appealed to the *'Aha Makua* by the minister regarding his/her own authorization, the local church/ministry being served, or by those raising the concern for the fitness review. The purpose of the appeal is to address questions regarding the procedures adopted by the Association. The possible outcomes of an appeal at a two-thirds vote of the registered voting delegates and voting at a duly called meeting of the association include:
 - a) Affirmation that the process used was consistent with the one adopted for use by the Association.
 - b) Acknowledgement that the process used was not the one adopted for use by the Association. The body may then direct the Executive Committee to reconsider its action following the adopted process, policies and procedures of the Association.
 - c) The decision of the *'Aha Makua* is final.

Article VI – Meetings

A. Annual (*'Aha Mokupuni*)

1. The *'Aha Mokupuni* shall hold its annual meeting in the month of April or May (after Easter) as may be determined at the preceding meeting or be duly announced by the Executive Committee.

2. Representation: Each church shall be entitled to at least two lay delegates and a youth delegate who is 25 years of age or less at the time of the meeting. Those churches with more than two hundred active members shall be entitled to one delegate or each additional fifty or major fraction thereof. The total delegates from any one church shall not exceed six. Each delegate having a vote shall be a member in good standing in an *'Aha Mokupuni* church.

B. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the *'Aha Mokupuni* may be called by the Executive Committee or by petition of five member churches of the Association. Notification of special meetings and designation of delegates shall be the same as the Annual *'Aha Mokupuni*.

C. Notification

Notice of all meetings, indicating their expressed purpose, shall be given to the membership at least one month in advance.

D. Quorum

The quorum of the *'Aha Mokupuni* and *'Aha Makua* shall consist of delegates from not less than twenty-five per cent of the churches which are members of the *'Aha Mokupuni*.

Article VII – Officers

A. Officers

The officers of the *'Aha Mokupuni* shall be President, Vice-President/President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer.

1. President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the *'Aha Mokupuni*, the *'Aha Makua*, and Implementation Committee; shall execute all deeds, contracts, and other documents as ordered by the *'Aha Mokupuni*; and shall perform such other duties as usually pertaining to the office. The President shall serve as one of the representatives of the *'Aha Mokupuni* on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Conference.

The President shall alternate biennially between a minister and a layperson. The President and Vice-President/President Elect shall not be re-elected to succeed themselves after serving a full term, but after an interval of one year may be elected to serve another term. The President shall be an *ex-officio* member of all committees.

2. Vice-President/President Elect

The Vice-President/President Elect shall perform the duties of the president in case of his/her absence or inability to act. The Vice-President/President Elect shall serve as one of the representatives of the *'Aha Mokupuni* on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Conference. The Vice-President/President Elect shall automatically become the President after serving as the Vice President/President Elect.

3. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep a permanent record of all meetings and transactions of the *'Aha Mokupuni* and *'Aha Makua* and furnish other bodies, General Synod, conference, churches, or ministers who are authorized to receive them, copies of the same; shall keep the roll of the churches and ministers of the *'Aha Mokupuni*, shall annually report all changes to the *'Aha Mokupuni* and to the Hawai'i Conference, and shall suggest such revisions as is deemed appropriate for action by the Association; shall issue letters transferring the standing of ministers; shall perform such other duties as usually pertaining to the office, or as may be directed by the *'Aha Makua*.

4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive all assets and contributions made for the work and interests of the *'Aha Mokupuni*; shall make such payments of funds as may be ordered by the *'Aha Mokupuni* and *'Aha Makua*, or donors of the gifts; shall at all times keep an accurate record of all transactions involving the various accounts entrusted to his/her care; shall submit a monthly report of the financial operations of the *'Aha Mokupuni* to the *'Aha Makua* and a full report to the *'Aha Mokupuni*; shall perform such other duties as usually pertaining to the office, or as may be directed by the *'Aha Makua*.

B. Terms of Office

The President and the Vice-President/President Elect shall serve two-year terms. The Vice-President/President Elect shall be elected in even-numbered years and shall serve two years as the Vice-President/President Elect and then two years as the President.

The Secretary and Treasurer shall serve four-year terms with the Secretary being elected in years divisible by four and the Treasurer being elected in years that are not divisible by four. In order to initiate these terms of office, the delegates shall elect officers with the appropriate year/class designation at the *'Aha Mokupuni* annual meeting to begin the appropriate staggered terms.

C. Elections

These officers shall be elected and installed at the annual meeting of the *'Aha Mokuapuni* and shall hold office until their successors are elected and installed.

Article VIII – 'Aha Makua

- A. The *'Aha Makua* shall consist of the officers, immediate past president, and all delegates from churches, recognized ministries and partnership organizations. It shall be the corporate decision-making body of this Association.
- B. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President/President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association and the chairperson or a designee of the Church and Ministry Committee; shall act for the *'Aha Mokuapuni* between regular meetings; shall give direction for programs; issue calls for meetings of the *'Aha Mokuapuni*; shall fill vacancies among officers, committees and committee chairpersons; appoint the Nominating Committee and the Church and Ministry Committee; report to the *'Aha Mokuapuni* of the Hawai'i Conference's recommendations which directly affect the life of the *'Aha Mokuapuni*, and report its actions to the next meeting of the *'Aha Mokuapuni*.

Article IX – Finances

A. Annual Dues

Each church of the *'Aha Mokuapuni* shall pay annual dues on a per capita assessment as designated by the *'Aha Mokuapuni* based on the total active membership of the church as shown on its annual report. Such dues are to be paid by the annual meeting of the *'Aha Mokuapuni*.

B. Disbursements

All assessments shall be paid to the Treasurer and shall be expended by the *'Aha Mokuapuni* expenses or purposes by the Treasurer as directed by the *'Aha Mokuapuni* or the Executive Committee.

C. Audits

Prior to the annual meeting of the *'Aha Mokuapuni*, the Executive Committee shall appoint an auditor or Auditing Committee, who shall examine the books, accounts and records of the Treasurer of the *'Aha Mokuapuni*, and shall submit a report of its findings to the annual meeting of the *'Aha Mokuapuni*.

D. Special Offerings

Special offerings may be received by the *'Aha Mokupuni* at all special services with the approval of the local church and shall be designated for the support of the "Scholarship Fund."

Article X – Committees

A. Standing Committees

1. Church and Ministry Committee

The Church and Ministry Committee shall consist of nine (9) persons serving staggered terms of three years. The *'Aha Mokupuni* shall elect the committee. The chairperson of this committee shall be designated by the committee. The Conference Minister, the assigned staff of the Hawai'i Conference, and the Secretary of the *'Aha Mokupuni* shall be *ex-officio* members of the committee without vote.

The committee shall follow the procedures in the current UCC Manual on the Ministry as modified to conform with the needs of the *'Aha Mokupuni*.

2. Nominating Committee

This committee shall consist of four (4) members, two elected each year at the annual meeting for a term of two (2) years. The chairperson shall be elected from the committee members by the committee members at the first meeting of the committee.

The previous year's chairperson shall convene the first meeting of the committee. The frequency of its meetings shall be determined by the committee. The chairperson and member of the committee shall represent the *'Aha Mokupuni* on the Conference Nominating Committee.

The committee shall submit a list of nominations of qualified members of the *'Aha Mokupuni* as nominees for offices at the *'Aha Makua* meeting one month before the annual meeting.

Nominations may be made from the floor, consent of the nominee having been obtained in advance.

B. Special Committees

Special committees may be created by the *'Aha Mokupuni* or by the *'Aha Makua* with such duties, powers, and functions as delegated. The term of special committees shall be designated at the time of formation.

Article XI – Execution of Instruments

Except as otherwise provided in this document or by resolution of the *'Aha Makua* or *Bylaws*, the persons authorized to make and execute all written instruments of the *'Aha Mokupuni*, including checks, drafts, notes, bonds, acceptance, deeds, leases, and contracts shall be the President, Vice-President/President Elect and the Secretary or Treasurer.

Article XII – Fiscal Year

The Fiscal year of the *'Aha Mokupuni* shall be from June 1st to May 31st.

Article XIII – Parliamentary Authority

The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, shall be followed in the conduct of official business unless otherwise provided for in these *Bylaws*.

Article XIV – Dissolution

The corporation is non-profit in nature, and shall not authorize or issue shares of stock. In the event of dissolution of this corporation, the land and all other property and assets of the corporation of every kind, after payment of its just debts, shall be distributed only to one or more corporations, organizations, and associations whose purposes are similar to and in harmony with the purposes of this corporation.

Article XV – Amendments

This document may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members of the *'Aha Mokupuni* present at any regularly called meeting provided that notice of the proposed amendment(s) be given to the members of this *'Aha Mokupuni* at least one month prior to the meeting at which the amendment(s) is (are) to be voted upon.