

Section I:

General Information

193rd 'Aha Pae'aina
TENTATIVE 'AHA MAKUA PROGRAM SCHEDULE
 DRAFT 4/9/15 - Schedule subject to change

| TIME | 6/11/15 Thursday | 6/12/15 FRIDAY | 6/13/15 SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|
| 6:30A | | MORNING WORSHIP (optional) | MORNING WORSHIP (optional) |
| 8:00A | | BREAKFAST (Ballroom) | BREAKFAST (Ballroom) |
| 9:00A | Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing Workshop: "Finding Your Church's Passion to Do Justice" (Conference Office, 9a-4p) UCC History & Polity Classes (First Chinese Church, 9a-6p) | OPENING OF THE 'AHA MAKUA OPENING WORSHIP PLENARY SESSION (Ballroom) ↓ | WORSHIP (Ballroom) Keynote Address |
| 10:00A 10:30A 11:00A | 'Aha Youth Event | BREAK PLENARY SESSION KEYNOTE ADDRESS Pu'a Foundation | BUSINESS SESSION Business Meeting Words of Thanks, Invitation to the 194th 'Aha Pae'aina Installation |
| 12:00P | | LUNCH (Ballroom) | LUNCH (Ballroom) |
| 1:00P | | PLENARY (Ballroom) Budget Presentation Missional Team Reports WORKSHOPS Break WORKSHOPS | HCUCC Council (Meet during lunch) Conclusion of the 193rd 'AHA PAE'AINA |
| 5:00P | | Recess for the Day | |
| 6:00P | | | |



PŪ'Ā FOUNDATION
Empowering Individuals, Families & Communities

Pū'ā Foundation, Keynote Presenter

Transforming the world begins with transforming ourselves. That's the message that the Pū'ā Foundation, this year's 'Aha Pae'aina keynote presenter, wants to impart in its ongoing work toward reconciliation.

Pū'ā Foundation was established in 1996 as part of the UCC's apology and redress in 1993 to Native Hawaiians for the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom a hundred years earlier. The purpose of the Pū'ā Foundation is to help the community move beyond the anger related to the overthrow toward healing and transformation.

Roberta Jahrling, Pū'ā board member and member of Kaumakapili Church, says that the anger began when Queen Lili'uokalani was deposed in 1893 and endured imprisonment afterwards. Her trauma has lingered in the community to this day and affects people in ways that are not always apparent. That ripple effect carries through generations and is what we are dealing with today.

Pū'ā has been studying the effects of this historical trauma with female prisoners in Hawai'i. Though Native Hawaiian women comprise 19.8% of the general population, they represent 40% of incarcerated women. Pū'ā has discovered that the cycle of poverty and community trauma are two reasons why Hawaiian women are overrepresented in the prison population.

At the 'Aha, Toni Bissen and her staff, along with current and former women prisoners, will share how Pū'ā has helped women use storytelling as a way to bring healing and transformation that break the cycle of poverty and imprisonment. Pū'ā hopes that its model will enable individuals and churches to create transformation in their own families and communities.



HAWAI'I CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 2015

Dear Delegates, Visitors and Friends:

Welcome to the 193rd 'Aha Pae'aina, the annual meeting and gathering of the churches and ministers of the United Church of Christ in Hawai'i!

Different this year is that we meet at a site other than one of our local churches. But we can fully expect that like every gathering since 1823 this will be an opportunity for God's people to come together in joyful reunion, to meet and make new friends, to hear stories of the churches and ministries around the islands, to learn from and be inspired by preachers and speakers, and to worship and hear God's voice calling us anew. I have no doubt that all this will take place at this year's gathering.

Our keynote speaker at this 'Aha is not one person, but many: It is the Pū'ā Foundation. The staff of Pū'ā, including its Executive Director Toni Bissen, along with some very special guests, will tell us—enthral us, actually—with compelling stories of people who have made, or are now making, the journey from trauma to transformation. And they will invite us to collaborate with them in making that journey in our own lives, families, churches and communities.

Several people will offer an exciting variety of workshops on Friday afternoon. Cheri Lovell of United Church Funds returns to Hawai'i to address two areas of concern expressed by many churches: understanding church financials and setting up a planned giving ministry. Two in our Conference 'ohana, Ellen Carson and David Schlicher, will tell us how we can act on our faith in pursuit of justice. Members of the Stewardship Missional Team will talk about tapping alternative energy solutions. Donald Schmidt will teach us how to make baskets—a workshop that was a hit at the Conference youth camp last October. And Richard Kamanu will prepare a choir of 'Aha participants for Saturday's service!

All of our guests and workshop leaders, as well as the Formation Missional Team and the Hawai'i Conference staff have labored mightily this last year to make this gathering possible. I am indebted to each of them, and I hope you will express your appreciation to them for their good work on our behalf.

Through all that we do and throughout our time together, I will be praying for "*Ho 'āla Hou I Huliau*"—for a reawakening of hearts open to God's transformation.

Your servant in Christ,

Charles Buck
Conference Minister



Aloha mai kakou, Talofa lava, to all the delegates, guests and friends of the Hawai'i Conference.

Welcome to the 193rd Aha Pae'aina here at the Pagoda Hotel! Our annual meetings are usually held at one of our local churches because we believe that it is there where we meet God; it is there where we do ministry; it is there that we meet one another in worship and fellowship. And yes, the church is a gathering place for God's people.

However, we also know that throughout the biblical narrative, the holy place is not always found in a specific place, not always in the sanctuary of the church. Holy ground becomes holy only because we meet God there. Any ordinary place like this beautiful place, the Pagoda Hotel, becomes holy ground because it is here where God's people gather in these few days to fellowship, to worship, and to do the business of the church through the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The official kick off of this year's 'Aha Pae'aina began with the start of the 'Aha Iki on June 10 at Kawaiaha'o Church. The Association of Hawaii Evangelical Churches (AHEC), State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches and affiliated groups held their annual meetings June 10-11.

As our keynoter this year, the Pū'ā Foundation will share with us their ministry of healing and transformation related to the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and how that will help with transformations in our own families, churches and the communities we live. We are looking forward with joyful expectations to receiving them with our hearts and minds.

Much has transpired throughout the year in the life of the Hawai'i Conference and the Hawai'i Conference Foundation. Solid decisions were made on your behalf by these two entities to safeguard the present and future well-being of the Conference. Related to this, the Conference Council has engaged in a Long Range Planning discussion on how well the Conference and the Foundation might best use the resources they have to serve our mission. The FYE 2016 Budget that will be on the agenda for your approval reflects what we set out to do in the coming days. Our working in partnership with one another does not end here with us or with the wider UCC but the world. An "Ecumenical Partnership Committee" has been created to study the possibility of establishing partnership with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK). That decision was made after an exploratory visit from a delegation of four leaders in February. We were blessed and encouraged by the visit from these leaders as they left their impression that a partnership with us would help them tremendously in how to deal with the issue of diversity in their church.

We appreciate your presence at these meetings of the 'Aha Pae'aina. We enjoy the new and the familiar faces as we gather together. May the Lord help each of us to love, adore and worship him—our great Savior. Have a good meeting.

Iese Tuuao, Chair
Hawai'i Conference UCC