

Highlights of 'Aha Pae'aina Include Workshops

This year's 'Aha Pae'aina promises to be a dynamic assembly filled with worship, fellowship, food, learning, and sharing.

Several workshops have been planned that will be both interesting and informative. Workshop topics include "Contemplative Listening" led by Kaua'i Hospice Chaplain Caroline Miura; "Why We Do the Things We Do," an introduction to the history and organization of the United Church of Christ, led by Associate Conference Minister Donald Schmidt; and "Disaster Relief Tools for Local Churches" led by Associate Conference Minister Diane Weible.



One of the best things about the 'Aha Pae'aina is seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

Rita Nakashima Brock, this year's keynote speaker and founding Co-Director of the Soul Repair Center at Brite Divinity School and of Faith Voices for the Common Good, will also offer a workshop.

Other workshops previously announced include one with Donald Hart, President and Chief Investment Officer of United Church Funds (UCF), on how UCF invests assets to make a positive social and environmental impact.

Another workshop will help delegates understand the details of the proposed 2015 budget and the proposed amendment to the Hawaii'i Conference bylaws allowing the option of an annual review instead of an audit as currently performed by an independent auditor.

And a special workshop for youth will be led by Kamehameha Schools-Maui Chaplain Kalani Wong, who is directing this year's 'Aha Youth Event.

What's Inside

- 2 Inaugurating Mission by Charles C. Buck
Allan Boesak Returns to Hawaii'i
Hawaii'i Youth Travel to Seattle
- 3 Faces around the Conference: Spring Gatherings
- 4 Highlights from the Website
Conference Calendar

Historic Churches Host 'Aha Pae'aina

Kalihi and Moanalua Church and First Chinese Church of Christ, hosts for the 192nd 'Aha Pae'aina, are churches with rich histories.



Kalihi and Moanalua Church, formerly Ka Hau O Helemona ("the dew of Hermon"), was established in February 1867. The church served farmers, fishermen, and firewood sellers in the Kalihi and Moanalua areas, growing to nearly two hundred members by its second year.

In 1913, members of the church declared "religion, charity, and education" as the central focus of their ministry. The church constructed rental units to provide low-cost housing for families with children, and in 1985 opened Punana Leo O Honolulu, the first Hawaiian language immersion preschool on O'ahu.

During World War II, Kalihi and Moanalua Church was occupied by the Territorial Government to house defense workers, rendering worship there impossible. Today the sanctuary is a vibrant house of worship and will be filled with delegates and visitors to the 'Aha Iki for Hawaiian churches, June 3-5.

"It is a privilege to host this year's 'Aha Iki because this one is special," said Moderator Nalani Ubando. "This year is the twentieth anniversary of the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches, which Kalihi and Moanalua played a part in leading the formation of."

First Chinese Church of Christ, which celebrates its 135th anniversary this year, hosts the 'Aha Makua, June 6-7. The church was founded in 1879 as Fort Street Chinese Church in Chinatown and is considered the mother congregation for Chinese churches in Hawaii'i.



In its early years, the church became famous for helping Chinese immigrants assimilate to and survive in Hawaiian society. It created Hawaii'i's first mission day school for Chinese children in 1881, and in the aftermath of the Chinatown fires of 1886 and 1900 created a refugee camp for people whose homes and businesses were destroyed.

In 1926, the congregation sold the Fort Street property and relocated to South King Street, where the church stands today.

(continued on page 4)

Inaugurating Mission

by Charles C. Buck, Conference Minister

It's always busy around 'Aha Pae'aina time—perhaps because it coincides, or at least falls around the same time, as three major days or events in Hawai'i. First is the end of graduation season and the start of summer school. Second is Kamehameha Day and the accompanying parades. And third is Kamehameha Schools Alumni Week. Every year, at least one, occasionally two, even sometimes all three will not only coincide with the 'Aha, but create downright conflicts for some.



This year, yet another day coincides with our 'Aha. That day is Pentecost, on June 8, the day after 'Aha ends. This doesn't happen very often. Usually by the time 'Aha arrives, Pentecost has come and gone. But Easter Sunday coming so late this year pushed Pentecost right up against our gathering this week.

While the others are mere coincidences, Pentecost occurring around the 'Aha is a happy coincidence. That's because our

'Aha is exactly what Pentecost itself was: a meeting. In fact, Pentecost is the very first church meeting ever. The beginning of the Pentecost story describes nothing less than that: "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place" (Acts 2:1).

But this first meeting was much more than a gathering. It was a moment to receive the life-giving power of the Spirit and then to go out and share this source of new life with others. This meeting was the inauguration of mission.

All church meetings—whether council meetings, Bible studies, worship services, or our 'Aha Pae'aina—are the same inauguration of mission. We don't simply gather just to be together. We don't merely meet because it's Sunday, or because there's business to transact, or because bylaws say we must. We meet with a deep yearning for fulfillment, for new life to refresh our weary souls. And then we want to go forth to tell others about the source of this abundant life. Gathering to go forth in mission is the very purpose of all church meetings. We meet to inaugurate mission—over and over again.

As we gather for the 192nd time as the 'Aha Pae'aina, may this be a meeting that is like none other—and no different from the first one on Pentecost.

Allan Boesak Returns to Hawai'i

Allan Boesak, the Desmond Tutu Chair of Peace, Global Justice and Reconciliation Studies at Butler University and Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, will be in Hawai'i this summer to speak around the islands in June and to guest preach at Keawala'i Church on Maui in July.

Ecumenical clergy workshops on three islands have been scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 10 a.m., at Lihue United Church on Kaua'i; Thursday, June 19, 9 a.m., at 15 Craigsid Retirement Community in Honolulu; and Wednesday, June 25, 9 a.m., at Church of the Holy Cross in Hilo.

Public events that are open to all include: Thursday, June 12, 6:30 p.m., at Kapa'a United Church of Christ on Kaua'i; Saturday June 14, 9 a.m., at Kailua Christian Church on O'ahu; Saturday, June 21, 9 a.m., at Manoa Valley Church on O'ahu; and Saturday, July 19, 10:30 a.m. at Keawala'i Congregational Church on Maui.

More events may be added. Check the *Coconut Wireless* or call the Conference Office for the latest information. All events are sponsored by the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ.



Hawai'i Youth Travel to Seattle

At the end of June, youth and adult chaperones from the Hawai'i Conference will fly to Seattle for the Western Regional Youth Event (WRYE). From June 29 to July 2, WRYE participants will engage in a variety of activities around the theme, "Being Sent Out: the Great Commissioning."

Eight youth from Iao UCC on Maui, five youth from the churches on Topside Moloka'i, three youth from Kailua Christian Church on O'ahu, and two youth from Waipahu UCC on O'ahu will join young people from throughout the western United States.

In addition to music, worship, speakers, and workshops, the event will include outreach projects in the community. Participants have choices such as packaging food for the food bank, serving lunches to homeless youth, working with seniors, and cleaning up walking trails. And, of course, there will also be lots of good food and fun and a chance to make new friends.



God is still speaking

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Spring 'Aha Mokupuni Bring Churches and Members Together

The Associations of the Hawai'i Conference met over the past few months to conduct business and be in community with one another. Pictured below are photos from the following Association gatherings: Kaua'i Association, May 3-4, at Wai'oli Hui'ia Church; Tri-Isle Association, May 4, at Waiola Church; O'ahu Association, May 10, at Makiki Christian Church; and Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches 'Aha Halawai, February 7-8, at Paia Hawaiian Protestant Church. Hawai'i Island Association gathered on May 31 at Church of the Holy Cross.





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June 2014 ‘Aha Pae‘aina Edition

Around the Conference

(Historic Churches Host ‘Aha, continued from page 1)

The new structure with its three-tiered, pagoda-style bell tower was among the most photographed buildings in the islands.

Today, the majority of members of First Chinese Church of Christ are Chinese-Americans who continue to build upon the legacy of mission work that defined the early church.

“We are looking forward to this opportunity to connect to the wider church,” said the church’s pastor, Kekapa Lee. “Oftentimes individual churches don’t have the opportunity to meet, see, and hear from all of the delegates that will be coming to the ‘Aha Pae‘aina, so we are pleased to host this event.”



Highlights from the Website

Go to www.hcucc.org to learn more about these and many more stories from around the Conference.

Acting Papa Makua Named

Conference staff, Kenneth Makuakane, was voted Acting Papa Makua by the Board of Directors of the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches at its meeting on April 12. He will serve while a search for a Papa Makua takes place over the next year.

Pastoral Changes

David Twigg retired from Ka Hana O Ke Akua Church (O‘ahu) as its pastor on April 27.

Dexter Teruya resigned as Senior Pastor of Kahului Union Church (Maui). His last Sunday was April 27.

David Hirano, retired as Interim Pastor of Central Union Church. His last Sunday was May 18.

Kaua‘i Approves Minister and Youth Coordinator

At its Spring ‘Aha Moku-puni on May 4, the Kaua‘i Association:

- Approved **Mary Herbig** for ordination pending a call.
- Named **Rennie Mau** as Island-Wide Youth Coordinator, a new position effective July 1.

Conference Calendar of Events

June 3-7	192nd ‘Aha Pae‘aina
June 11	Kamehameha Day (Office Closed)
June 29- July 3	Western Regional Youth Event, Seattle
July 4	Independence Day (Office Closed)
Aug 2	Conference Council