

### **III. ANNUAL REPORTS**





**ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES**  
**Luna Ho'omalū Annual Report**  
**June 12, 2025**

Blessings to the delegates of the Na Kai Ewalu! It has been my honor to serve as Luna Ho'omalū the past four years working side by side with the amazing Executive Team of the Papa Makua, Kahu Anela Rosa, Kerisa Carmelo and Loke Kamanu. There have been challenges during these years, but I would rather focus on the blessings from God. **AHEC** was able to accomplish many wonderful things for the benefit of our indigenous Association because of the favor of our loving God. Here are some highlights:

- **AHEC** successfully passed three Resolutions at two different UCC General Synods. Each sought justice for Hawaiians as their essence. Resolution #1 related to the truth of the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Resolution #2 related to the Hawaiian Boarding Schools and Resolution #3 related to the original Hawaiian Christian Alphabet.
- **AHEC** saw their endowment grow to \$3,000,000 through prudent financial management. Appreciation is given to our Treasurer Kerisa Carmelo, Hua Mua Chair Alakai Paleka and Finance Committee Chair Russell Paio for their hard work and wise recommendations.
- **AHEC** sponsored a 12-session series of Zoom meetings called “The Kingdom, The Church, The Land” to provide top quality education about important Hawaiian issues. This series was very successful, and our gratitude goes to the Justice and Witness Committee and Chair Linda Rich who facilitated the sessions. It is still available on the HCUCC website.
- **AHEC** financed a small team of experts to “mine” New England archives for previously unpublished source material relating to Hawai'i in the 1800s and the illegal overthrow of 1893. Thousands of digital records have been collected and are being categorized for future presentations.
- **AHEC** represented the Hawaiian churches at the King Kamehameha Floral Parade in Honolulu.
- **AHEC** Papa Makua Wendell Davis was chosen by President Karen Georgia Thompson to represent the entire UCC denomination at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
- **AHEC** joined the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC). This inter-denominational organization is made up of hundreds of churches from dozens of countries around the Pacific focusing on justice issues for indigenous peoples. The PCC also appointed **AHEC** as a Council Member of the Pacific Theological University, which has their physical campus in Fiji.

- **AHEC** requested the Foundation send the “Guideline A” document that gives the process for churches that desire to receive their deeds back. Land ownership is a priority to Hawaiian churches.
- **AHEC** Directors, to exhibit generosity, have increased the total annual “5 E” grant money by 25%.
- **AHEC** churches have hosted beautiful Halawai’s. Gratitude to Ewa Community, Kawaiaha’o, Hau’ula Kahuku, Kaneohe Congregational, Kalanikahua Hou, Hau’oli Kamana’o, Kalapana Mauna Kea and Imiola Congregational Church. The fellowship, worship and food has been awesome!
- **AHEC** has added new churches, partnerships and held Ecclesiastical Councils. We sponsored pastoral Boundary Training and made it available to the whole Conference for free.

We thank God for these blessings and especially for our Papa Makua Kahu Wendell Davis who has been a tremendous CEO and spiritual leader for **AHEC**. God has blessed us!

Kahu Brian Welsh

Luna Ho’omalulu of the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (**AHEC**)



## Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches

### Papa Makua Annual Report

Aha Na Kai Ewalu – June 2025

*Using the Global Positioning System (GPS) can tell a driver where they are or give directions to where they want to go. It has a voice so it's audible and it has a screen, so it is visible. It provides clear instructions of how the driver can get to their intended destination, by telling the driver where to turn, merge, or stop. This year has been a journey of faith with "mountain top" experiences that has blessed our association. God continues to let us know that if we realize the error of our ways and simply pay attention to His direction via the "God Positioning System" that He has in us, He will lead us in the way that we should go. We just must be willing to follow His directions and stop leaning on our own understanding.*

Through the detours and direct paths that God has provided, I would like to acknowledge and give thanks to Ke Akua for a great team in both the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for their continued support, prayers and aloha over the course of the year. Here are some of the accomplishments:

1. **HO'OKOLOKOLO/HO'OLALA COMMITTEES:** The Ho'okolokolo Committee has been paused, until there is a digital plan to preserve the artifacts. Contact has been made with the Native American Boarding School Coalition in an upcoming conversation of digital efforts that can help us. Copyright efforts are still pending. For the Ho'olala Committee, new members are needed to move forward with our strategic planning efforts. Anyone interested in serving on this committee should contact Papa Makua.
2. **PENSION BOARD:** Continued support of AHEC through our investments, Credit Union availability and Minister's Vitality initiatives.
3. **GRANTS:** Seeking funding for our digital archive efforts for our historical artifacts (Ho'okolokolo Committee), AHEC applied for five grants (Hawaii Community Foundation; Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation; Cooke Foundation; Alexander and Baldwin; and Elsie H. Wilcox Foundation. Though we were not able to secure any funding, the experience secured a grant writer and experience on the application process.

4. **PAAM:** AHEC's presence at the FestPac Ecumenical Worship Service and participation in the PAAM Convocation were important events for our association and its partnership.
5. **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR:** AHEC was in the discussion with leaders of the Department of Interior and Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, regarding the boarding school issues. Former Director of the U.S. Department of Interior (Deb Haland) was an important part of our participation.
6. **CAIM (Christian American Indian Ministries):** AHEC's partnership with CAIM initiated a letter of support and joint worship efforts at the upcoming General Synod 35 in Kansas City, Missouri.
7. **PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES:** The Pacific Conference Leadership Meeting was held on March 25-31 in Pago Pago, Samoa. With over sixty presidents, ordained ministers, moderators and delegates from the "Pasifika Household of God". AHEC's presence representing Hawai'i, was welcomed. The PCC supported all efforts leading to the engagement with the United Nations in calling for a review of Resolution 1469 and the opportunity for AHEC to serve as a part of the Pasifika Communities University (PCU) through the PCU Council.
8. **PARTNERSHIPS: AHEC added three new partnerships: CHRISTIAN VOICE OF HAWAI'I (self-determination); ALOHA KE AKUA MINISTRIES (homelessness); HARVEST FAMILY LIFE HAWAI'I (family foster care).**
9. **WEBSITE/BROCHURE:** A new brochure was produced and completed in February, and our new website was launched in March. With the website in its development stage, further input will be needed to create and enhance social media efforts to share who we are and the many things that make AHEC unique and special. Social media and branding efforts are important and exciting initiatives as we move forward in the future.

In closing, I'd like to once again thank our association for allowing me to serve as Papa Makua and the great leadership that I have been blessed with over the years, especially, the mentorship and guidance of our Luna Ho'omaluku, Kahu Brian Welsh, as his tenure ends. MAHALO NUI!

Papa Makua

**Report to the 203rd ‘Aha Pae‘āina of the Hawai‘i Conference  
And the ‘Aha Nā Kai ‘Ewalu**

Rev. Jonathan C. Roach, PhD, Associate Conference Minister

1 Samuel 1:9-18

This year has been a powerful year of ministry for me as your Associate Conference Minister. I have laughed, I have cried, I have sung, I have prayed, I have preached, I have listened, and so much more. And as I enter my seventh year of living on Hawai‘i Island and will start my fifth year in this call this October, I continue to grow in my love for this ‘āina, our congregations, and our kahu. I feel blessed and honored to be your ACM.

My duties and responsibilities include the following essential functions:

- Work collaboratively and openly with all Conference staff.
- Support and resource all Hawai‘i Conference churches and ministers.
- Work in partnership with the Papa Makua for support of the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches’ (AHEC) congregations.
- Support and resource Hawai‘i Island Association’s (HIA) Board and Committee on Ministry.
- Support and resource the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches Board and Committee on Ministry.
- Spearhead Search and Call support of congregations in pastoral transition.
- Staff and resource missional teams of the Conference Council and staff as assigned, including: Editorial Team, Committee on Ministry Chairs, Pastoral Leadership Retreat Planning Team, Innovation and Engagement Missional Team, and the Justice and Witness Missional Team.
- Ensure that Conference files of churches, ministers, and associations are kept current with minutes and all supporting documentation.
- Attend meetings, as assigned, of Conference staff, Conference Council, associations, and ecumenical events.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Conference Minister.

**I. Maui Wildfire Recovery Spiritual Support:**

In our second year of this recovery, Rev. Ben Sheets and I continued our spiritual and emotional support of the Maui clergy. We were thrilled to receive additional funding from the Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and from the United Church Funds through a Brown Endowment Grant to support a program by Rev. Suzanne Schmidt from Soft Landings in Retirement, which explored and shaped a healthy pastoral identity considering retirement and the trauma of the wildfire with the reality that the recovery will be finished after retirement. The in-person workshop was hosted at Po‘okela Church on August 28 with three follow-up Zoom sessions in October, November, and December. A total of nine clergy participated in this program.

In one of the post-workshop evaluations, a participant shared, “I need to give myself some grace regarding timing and possible mistakes made. No one does retirement the same. I’ve already made some mistakes that I didn’t really recognize until this class.” This comment represents the best possible outcome for this valuable series of workshops.

For the final next step for clergy spiritual support, we offered Self-Care grants of \$2,500 for our and the ELCA clergy. This was a strategic decision to place this funding in the second year of recovery as there was less and less support available from other sources and five clergy applied for and received these grants. We hope these grants support our clergy as they care for themselves. Rev. Ben Sheets finished his contract work with the Conference on January 30, but we remain prayerful and are watching for additional opportunities to support our clergy as the recovery continues.

## II. Search and Call:

Beginning in August, our Conference started using the new online congregational profile system. Now, instead of writing their congregational profiles in a Microsoft Word template, our search committees are composing and editing their profiles in an online portal system.

In the area of recruitment, I have reached out to 117 UCC clergy and 16 clergy from other denominations who have expressed interest in ministry in Hawai‘i and provided 21 Zoom informational sessions or in-person meetings with them. Also, I have worked with clergy from the Reformed Church in America, Presbyterian Church USA, United Methodist Church, Church of the Nazarene, National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, Evangelical Covenant Church, United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and clergy from nondenominational congregations.

One exciting development has been the creation of a proposal: *Kalihi and Moanalua Church: A Teaching Church Proposal*. Building on the legacy of Kahu Leilani M. Keanu, this proposal recommends engaging two Sundays a month at Kalihi and Moanalua to foster and support the next generation of Hawaiian kahu and local pastoral candidates by offering Members in Discernment (MIDs) and candidates for Kahu Pono an opportunity to grow and develop their pastoral preaching voice and identity. Currently, nine MIDs and candidates for Kahu Pono are involved in this project from both AHEC and the O‘ahu Association. This proposal was mutually developed by the congregation and myself and now Kalihi and Moanalua is in total control of the implementation and changing it to best fit their congregational needs! I am excited to see how it develops under their leadership.

I celebrate that since our last ‘Aha Pae‘āina: Waialua UCC, Wahiawa UCC, Community Church of Honolulu, United Church of Christ Judd Street, ‘Iao UCC, Hokuloa UCC, Kauaha‘ao Congregational Church, Waipahu UCC, and Maui Evangelical Church have all called new pastoral leadership! I am currently serving as the Conference Search and Call support person for Keawala‘i Congregational Church, Makawao Union Church, Wai‘oli Hui‘ia Church, Nu‘uanu Congregational Church, Waiokeola Congregational



Church, Kapa‘a First Hawaiian Church, Pearl City Community Church, Haili Congregational Church, and Filipino UCC. And I believe more calls are in our near future!

### III. Major Highlights of the Last Year:

Over the last 12 months, I have been blessed to make in-person visits to:

- a. ‘Aha O Nā Moku‘puni ‘O Maui, Moloka‘i a Me Lāna‘i
  - i. Po‘okela Church (Healing Lū‘au for Maui Wildfire Survivors and the Retirement Seminar for Maui Clergy)
  - ii. Keawala‘i Congregational Church (Preaching and Meeting with Leadership)
  - iii. Maui Evangelical Church (Worship)
  - iv. ‘Iao UCC (Installation)
- b. Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches:
  - i. Haili Church (Preaching)
  - ii. Kalapana Mauna Kea First Hawaiian Congregational Church (‘Aha O Nā Kahu)
  - iii. Pu‘ula UCC (Preaching)
  - iv. Kawaiaha‘o Church (PAAM 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ho‘ike)
  - v. Laupahoehoe Congregational Church (Visit for Pastoral Leaders Retreat)
  - vi. Kalemela East Hamakua Protestant Church (Visit for Pastoral Leaders Retreat)
  - vii. Ewa Community Church (‘Aha Hālāwai)
  - viii. Kuhio Chapel (‘Aha O Nā Kahu)
  - ix. ‘Imiola Congregational Church (‘Aha Hālāwai)
  - x. Kona Lanakila Church (Installation)
- c. Kaua‘i Association
  - i. Kōloa Union Church (‘Aha Moku‘puni)
- d. Hawai‘i Island Association:
  - i. Hilo Coast UCC (Preaching and Rev. Larry Walter’s Memorial)
  - ii. Church of the Holy Cross (Preaching and ‘Aha Moku‘puni)
  - iii. United Community Church (Support Visit and Preaching)
  - iv. Hokuloa UCC (Preaching)
  - v. ‘Opihikao Congregational Church (Preaching)
  - vi. Puka‘ana Congregational Church (Preaching and ‘Aha Moku‘puni)
  - vii. Waikoloa Marshallese Ministry (Preaching)
  - viii. Helani Congregational Church (Preaching and Search/Call)
  - ix. Kauaha‘ao Congregational Church (Preaching and Ho‘ike)
  - x. First United Protestant Church (Preaching and Installation)
  - xi. United Church of Christ Pohnpei, Hilo (Worship)
- e. O‘ahu Association:
  - i. Waialua UCC (Preaching)

- ii. Filipino UCC (Preaching)
- iii. Church of the Crossroads (PAAM 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convocation)
- iv. Pearl City Community Church (Preaching)
- v. Waipahu UCC (Search and Call Meeting)
- vi. United Church of Christ, Judd Street (Preaching)
- vii. Makiki Christian Church (Meeting with Archives Leadership)

In addition, I have been honored to work with many other congregations via Zoom and telephone.

Other highlights of the last 12 months include:

- Planning and attending an outstanding Pastoral Leaders Retreat at Hilo Coast, UCC as 22 clergy from five islands and four of our associations gathered in Honomū to explore “Mana‘olana Renewing Hope” with Rev. Anna Madsen
- Facilitating a Community of Practice and working with three other clergy who facilitate additional Communities of Practices for our Conference
- Working with the I&E Missional Team for Ministry Lab 2024
- Leading a Safe Church Worship for the HIA Fall ‘Aha Mokupuni
- Working with Lori Yamashiro and the COM Chairs on a two-part Anti-Racism Seminar
- Working with the COM Chairs on issues around AI and Pastoral Ethics that has included convening two clergy focus groups and planning a webinar with the I&E Missional Team on “Exploring AI in Pastoral Ministry”
- Empowering each local COM around discussions on expectations and requirements for ordination papers
- Helping to plan a follow-up anti-racism training with Ray Aldred from the Indigenous Studies Program at the Vancouver School of Theology for the fall of 2025
- Co-presenting a workshop on working with Micronesian congregations at AM21 with David Popham
- Joining the cabinet for the Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers, and
- Helping to plan a digital archive of Voices of Japanese Congregationalism project with the Congregational Library and Archives that now includes congregations on Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Maui, Hawai‘i Island, in California, Utah, and hopefully more soon!
- Finally, in case you are wondering, I did keep count of the number of meetings that I attended....the grand total is 414 meetings!

Mahalo ke Akua!  
Jonathan

AHEC Ho`ola I Ka `Aina Komike (AHEC Land Research Committee) Report  
AHEC Aha Na Kai Ewalu, June 12, 2025

*“The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers.” (The Year of Jubilee: Leviticus 25:23)*

The goals of our Ho`ola I Ka `Aina Komike remain:

To research the titles of our AHEC churches to determine who owns the land.

To research the history of the land of the HCUCC (Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ).

This year our committee welcomed Sandy Decker of Imiola Church as a member.

Our committee members have been learning more about land in Hawai'i. We have been blessed by Kumu Donovan Preza to provide classes on the Great Mahele of 1848 for free. The Great Mahele formed the basis for the rights of the people to be spelled out in ownership of land in Hawai'i. His last series of webinars will end on May 7, 2025, but he continues to provide webinars to educate the public. We have learned that Kamehameha III and the ali'i together with their advisors learned from a variety of international sources in developing their plan to divide the rights to land in Hawai'i. We continue to marvel at wisdom as we learn more.

Mahalo to Papa Makua for arranging for our committee to meet with Mr. Andy Bunn, Executive Director, Hawaii Conference Foundation. The meeting has been arranged for June 23, 2025, at Haili Church. We hope this cooperation will lead to much better understanding of the land upon which our churches stand and of the land held on behalf of all the churches in Hawai'i. Stay tuned to hear the results of this first meeting.

Our committee wants to be of service to our churches and has offered to assist in research. We would appreciate it if someone or two church members could be assigned to collaborate with us to work on your church land.

Please reach out to any member of our committee for information or for assistance.

Your servants in love.

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Joyclynn Costa	<a href="mailto:jkalai.kauihou@gmail.com">jkalai.kauihou@gmail.com</a>	Tel. 808-264-2203
Kerisa Carmelo	<a href="mailto:kerisainkona@aol.com">kerisainkona@aol.com</a>	Tel. 808-217-4262
Sandy Decker	<a href="mailto:sandydecker47@yahoo.com">sandydecker47@yahoo.com</a>	Tel. 808-291-8252
Leilani Miranda	<a href="mailto:hamakuapiko@gmail.com">hamakuapiko@gmail.com</a>	Tel. 808-856-1497
Papa Makua Wendell Davis	<a href="mailto:keakua53@gmail.com">keakua53@gmail.com</a>	Tel. 808-989-0725

**Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches  
Committee on Ministry Report  
June 14, 2025, Aha Na Kai Ewalu Meeting Kaua'i**

**Members of the Committee on Ministry:**

Chairperson: Michael Warren (Hawai'i) Members: Joyclynn Costa (Maui), Rennie Mau (O`ahu & Interim Kaua'i), Michelle Pimentel (Maui), Melveen Kaupiko (Hawai'i), and Loke Kamanu (Hawai'i)

Ex-officio Members: Brian Welsh (Luna Ho'omalulu), Wendell Davis (Papa Makua)

Staff: Jonathan Roach (Associate Conference Minister)

**Primary Responsibility:**

The Committee on Ministry are responsible for granting, maintaining, and, when necessary, terminating the standing of authorized ministers and local churches of the association. It also collaborates with individuals discerning calls to the ministry.

**Summary of Committee Actions:**

**Members in Discernment in Process:**

**A. MIDs seeking Authorization**

- a) Angie Rasro – Kawaiaha'o Church
- b) Ardis Gomes – Kawaiaha'o Church
- c) Barrett Awai – Kawaiaha'o Church
- d) Josann Jenks – Kawaiaha'o Church
- e) Keola Wong – Kawaiaha'o Church
- f) Lehua Galuteria – Kawaiaha'o Church
- g) Naholowaa Gramberg – Kawaiaha'o Church
- h) Timothy Avery Morton – Kawaiaha'o Church
- i) James (Kimo) McElmurry - Ewa Community Church

**Report: AHEC Committee on Ministry Action Item Report:**

**Action Items Agreed and approved by the AHEC COM**

Charles Mahina Kaupiko - Hauoli Kamana'o Church (EC postponed TBA) Aha Na Kai Ewalu Kauai

Melveen Kaupiko - Hauoli Kamana'o Church (EC postponed TBA) Aha Na Kai Ewalu Kauai

Verl Klassen – Waihe'e Protestant Church as Licensed Minister AHEC – dual standing with Pohnpei Ministry was approved and installation date TBA.

Mokihana Powers was called by Ewa Community Church as a Licensed Minister AHEC (voted approved) to be relicensing.

**AHEC Committee on Ministry Congratulates the Ordination of:**

Kahu Charlene Taketa - Lanakila Congregation Church on May 3, 2025

**AHEC Committee on Ministry Congratulates the Authorization of Licensed Ministers:**

Kensy Apaka - KSB Kea'au, Hawai'i on May 17, 2025

Shontell Calina - KSB Kea'au, Hawai'i. On May 17, 2025

Rosaline Lokelani Ioane - Hauoli Kamana'o Church (waiting to be installed TBA)

**Closing Remarks**

Please let me know if you have any questions or need further clarification regarding these action items or discussions. Thank you for your continued dedication and service to our ministry.

Mahalo Ke Akua,

Kahu Michael Maluhia Warren

AHEC Committee on Ministry Chairperson

Email: [kahumikewarren@gmail.com](mailto:kahumikewarren@gmail.com)

Cell: 808-896-5797

Roberts Rule's 53 Reception of Reports: if the report contains only a statement of fact or opinion for the information of the assembly the reporting member makes no motion. But if any action is taken the proper motion which should be made is to accept the report which has the effect of endorsing the statement and making the assembly assume responsibility for it.

Island COM Committees Collaboration: I did not make the last meeting

Respectfully submitted,

*Kahu Michael Maluhia Warren*

**Chairperson**

**REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR**  
**Churches Authorized with Standing in the Hawai'i Conference**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**May 30, 2025**

**ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES**

<b><u>Hawai'i Island</u></b>	<b><u>CHURCH</u></b>	<b><u>PASTORS SERVING CHURCHES</u></b>	<b><u>POSITION</u></b>
Honoka'a:	KALEMELA CHURCH		
Kainaliu:	LANAKILA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	TAKETA, Charlene	P
Kamuela:	IMIOLA CONGREGATIONAL UCC	BLEVINS, David	P
Kurtistown:	'OLA'A FIRST HAWAIIAN CHURCH	KAPUNIAI, Agnes Lani	P
Nanawale:	KALAPANA MAUNAKEA FIRST HAWAIIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC	WARREN, Michael	P
Pahoa:	PU'ULA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST	HULTMAN, Diane	P
Punalu'u:	HOKULOA/HENRY 'OPIKAHA'IA CHAPEL		

**Kaua'i**

Anahola:	KOOLAUHUIIA PROTESTANT CHURCH		
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**Maui**

Ha'iku:	KALANIKAHUA HOU CHURCH	AARONA, James	P
Honokowai:	LAHUIOKALANI (KA'ANAPALI) CONG'L CHURCH		
Huelo:	KAULANAPUEO CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	AARONA, James	P
Kihei:	KEOLAHOU CONGREGATIONAL HAWAIIAN CHURCH		
Lahaina:	WAIOLA CHURCH	ROSA, Anela	P
Olowalu:	OLOWALU LANAKILA HAWAIIAN CHURCH		
Pa'ia:	PA'IA HAWAIIAN PROTESTANT CHURCH		
Waihe'e:	WAIHE'E PROTESTANT CHURCH	KLASSEN, Verl	P
Wailuku:	KA'AHUMANU CHURCH	HIGA, Wayne	P

**Moloka'i**

Puko'o:	KALUA'AHA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	OGOSHI, Janice	P
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**O'ahu**

'Ewa:	'EWA COMMUNITY CHURCH	MAU, Rennie	P
Hale'iwa:	LILI'UOKALANI PROTESTANT CHURCH		
Hauula:	HAU'ULA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC	CHEE, Sage	P
Honolulu:	BISHOP MEMORIAL CHURCH	NAEOLE, Manu	CH
	KALIHI AND MOANALUA CHURCH		
	KAWAIAHA'O CHURCH	MAKUAKANE, Kenneth	P
Pearl City:	KAHIKUONALANI UCC	HIRAKAWA, Rick	P
Wai'anana:	KA HANA O KE AKUA CHURCH	LLOYD, Brianna	P

**CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**

Hilo:	HAILI CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	KAWAHA, Daniel	AP
Laupahoehoe:	LAUPAHOEHOE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	CACABELOS, Alvira	P
Milolii:	HAUOLI KAMANAO	KAUPIKO, Charles	P
		KAUPIKO, Melveen	P
		IOANE, Rosalind	P

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MINISTERS IN FULL STANDING

### ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Alger, Richard	RT	Makuakane, Violet	RT
Davis, Wendell	CH	Mau, Rennie	P
Ha'alilio, Nancietta K.L.	RT	Merseberg, James	RT
Kaupu, David K.	RT	Taketa, Charlene	P
Kekuna, Curtis	RT	Twigg, David	RT
Makuakane, Kenneth	P	Warren, Michael	P
		Welsh, Brian	CH

### MINISTERS WITH DUAL STANDING

AHEC Klassen, Verl

### LICENSED MINISTERS

AHEC

Apaka, Kensy	Ioane, Rosalind
Blevins, David	Kaaihue, Linda Kamai
Cacabelos, Alvira	Kapuniai, Agnes Lani
Calina, Shontel	Kaupiko, Charles
Higa, Wayne	Kaupiko, Melveen
Hirakawa, Rick	Kawaha, Daniel
Hultman, Diane	Rosa, Anela

### MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT

AHEC

Hoomanawanui, Kauanoë (Ko'olau Hui'ia Protestant)  
Wong, Kevin (Kalihi and Moanalua)  
Costa, Joclynn (Kalanikahua Hou)

## MINISTERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS SERVING OUR CHURCHES

### (Without standing in the Hawai'i Conference)

AHEC Chee, Sage

### NECROLOGY

AHEC Kaina, Willaim

**LEGEND:**

AP	Associate Pastor
CH	Chaplain
CM	Commissioned Minister
CME	Conference Minister Emeritus
CP	Co-Pastor
CW	Conference Work
D	Dual Standing
DTM	Designated Term Minister
DW	Denominational Work (UCC covenanted, affiliated or associated ministries)
EW	Ecumenical Work
ED	Educational Work
HW	Health and Welfare work in UCC institutions
IN	Interim Minister
IS	Intentional Interim Ministry Specialist
LA	Leave of Absence
Lic	Licensed Minister
MD	Member in Discernment
MY	Missionary (Global Ministries or other)
OD	Ordained Minister of another denomination serving a UCC church
OL	Other Local Church Position
OMP	Ordained Ministerial Partner
OP	Other Profession
OR	Other religious work (Bible Society, YM/YWCA, etc.)
P	Pastor
PC	Pastoral Counseling
PD	UCC Ordained Minister serving another denomination
PE	Pastor Emeritus
RPM	Recognized Partner Minister
RT	Retired
SU	Supply Pastor
UC	Unclassified
Y	Youth Ministry



Summary from July 1, 2024 - May 31, 2025  
Na Lima Hoike "E"  
Program Committee Report  
Aha Na Kai Ewalu  
June 12, 2025

Date Grant Received	Church	Date & Description of Program/Event	Amount of Award	Date Final Report Rec'd	Returned Unused Funds
7/4/24	St. Stephen's Episcopal Church	Collaborative Food Security Outreach-Oahu	3,000.00	12/8/24	-
9/4/24	Kaahumanu Congregational Church	9/24-24/ 24 - HCUCC Pastoral Leaders Retreat-Hilo	375.00	10/1/24	20.79
9/9/24	Kapaa First Hawaiian Church	9/3-12/24 2024 Fall Semester PSR	1,975.00	1/15/24	-
9/19/24	Hau'oli Kamana'o Church	10/8-11/24 "Fall Youth Camp"	2,500.00	11/2/24	-
10/20/24	Hau'oli Kamana'o Church	11/8-9/24 2024 Fall 'Aha Halawai	1,030.00	11/21/24	-
11/7/24	Laupahoehoe Cong'l Church	11/8-9/24 2024 Fall 'Aha Halawai	190.00	1/26/25	-
12/17/25	Waihe'e Protestant Church	1/6-2/2/25 Pule Hamau Ka'ahele Family	1,054.00	3/10/25	-
12/31/24	Kalanikahua Hou Church	1/9-10/25 Aha O Na Kahu	299.00	2/1/25	-
1/8/25	Ola'a First Hawaiian Church	1/9-10/25 Aha O Na Kahu	95.00	3/5/25	-
1/14/25	Laupahoehoe Cong'l Church	1/9-10/25 Aha O Na Kahu	787.00	1/26/25	-
2/8/25	Kalapana Mauna Kea Church	2/27-3/1/25 Boundary Training & 2025 Spring Aha Halawai	756.00	3/16/25	-
2/13/25	Ewa Community Church	2/27-3/1/25 Boundary Training & 2025 Spring Aha Halawai	964.00	3/10/25	-
2/13/25	Hau'oli Kamana'o Church	2/27-3/1/25 Boundary Training & 2025 Spring Aha Halawai	745.00	3/25/25	-
2/15/25	Kalihi and Moanalua Church	2/27-3/1/25 Boundary Training & 2025 Spring Aha Halawai	908.00	3/15/25	-
2/28/25	Laupahoehoe Cong'l Church	2/28-3/1/25 2025 Spring Aha Halawai	285.00	3/14/25	-
2/20/25	Kona Lanakila Church	2/28-3/1/25 2025 Spring Aha Halawai	190.00	3/6/25	-
2/26/25	Keolahou Cong'l Church	2/28-3/1/25 2025 Spring Aha Halawai	1,178.00	3/24/25	-
3/7/25	Kalihi and Moanalua Church	Reimbursement for Gas up to \$100.00	31.82	n/a	
3/10/25	Ewa Community Church	Reimbursement for Gas up to \$100.00	100.00	n/a	
3/12/25	Laupahoehoe Cong'l Church	Reimbursement for Gas up to \$100.00	100.00	n/a	
3/18/25	Kalihi and Moanalua Church	3/31-6/13/25 FTS Online	539.00		
4/24/25	Laupahoehoe Cong'l Church	6/12-14/25 'Aha Pae'aina 2025	1,800.00		
4/24/25	Kalapana Maunakea Church	6/11-14/25 'Aha Pae'aina 2025	1,800.00		
4/27/25	Puka'ana Cong'l Church	6/11-14/25 'Aha Pae'aina 2025	840.00		
5/2/25	Haili Congregational Church	6/12-14/25 'Aha Pae'aina 2025	1,200.00		

Summary from July 1, 2024 - May 31, 2025  
Na Lima Hoike "E"  
Program Committee Report  
Aha Na Kai Ewalu  
June 12, 2025

Date Grant Received	Church	Date & Description of Program/Event	Amount of Award	Date Final Report Rec'd	Returned Unused Funds
5/2/25	Ewa Community Church	6/11-14/25 'Aha Pae'aina 2025	1,506.00		
5/2/25	Kona Lanakila Church	6/11-14/25 'Aha Pae'aina 2025	390.00		
5/2/25	Kalanikahua Hou Church	6/10-26/25 "Kukulu Kumuhana O Maui"	3,000.00		
5/13/25	Keolahou Congregational Church	6/11-14/25 'Aha Pae'aina 2025	600.00		
5/17/25	Kaahumanu Church	6/11-14/25 'Aha Pae'aina 2025	1,660.00		

**FY 2024-2025 BUDGET** 50,000.00

**NLHE\_ GRANTS AWARDED** (29,897.82)

**RETURNED UNUSED FUNDS** 20.79

**CURRENT BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2025 \$** 20,122.97

Program Committee Members:

Joyclynn Costa, Acting Chair (Maui Representative), Taha'a Kahele, (Youth Representative), Rennie Mau, (Oahu Representative),  
Meli Akimseu, (East Hawaii Representative), Wahineaukai Mercado, (State Sunday School Partnership Ministry Representative),  
Ex-officio Brian Welsh, (Luna Ho'omalulu), and Kerisa Carmelo, ( Pu'ukū,)

**Committee Members:** Chairperson, L. Alaka'i Paleka, West Hawaii, Pualani Muraki, East Hawaii, Ron Fujiyoshi, Oahu, Sandy Kaina, At Large, Russell Paio, Ex-Officio: Papa Makua Wendell Davis, Puukū, Kerisa Carmelo

*Leviticus 27:30- A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord, it is holy to the Lord.*

**Generations Investment Services Inc.**

**Totals from 3/31/2025**

**Hua Mua Fund Account Summary**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$497,782.53</b>
<b>Service Fee</b>	<b>(\$1,459.00)</b>
<b>Earnings</b>	<b>\$127.13</b>
<b>Unrealized Gains(losses)</b>	<b>\$420.75</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$496,871.41</b>

**Total Investment Holdings**

<b>Money Market Fund</b>	<b>\$147,466.29</b>
<b>Equity Fund</b>	<b>\$221,070.74</b>
<b>Bond Fund</b>	<b>\$128,334.38</b>
<b>Total Investment Holdings</b>	<b>\$496,871.41</b>

**Transactions**

<b>Sales-Equity Funds</b>	<b>(\$1,043.00)</b>
<b>Bond Fund</b>	<b>(\$416.00)</b>
<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>(\$1,459.00)</b>

***CELEBRATE Hua Mua in the months with 5 Sundays in 2025***

***April, July, September, December***

***Please make checks payable to AHEC Hua Mua***

***Mail to PO Box 1872, Kailua Kona, HI, 96***

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**L. Alaka'i Paleka**

**L. Alaka'i Paleka, Chairperson**

## AHEC Nomination Slate for the 2025 Nā Kāi ‘Ewalu

It is with God's grace and blessing that the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches Nomination Committee presents the official Nomination Slate of candidates, along with their biographical information, for the 2025 Nā Kāi ‘Ewalu Election to be held on Kauai on June 12, 2025. Official Kahu and Church Delegates (per the AHEC Bylaws) must be present at the meeting and vote in person.

**Please note this is NOT an official ballot** and cannot be used to cast a vote. This is for informational purposes only. Please direct all inquiries to **AHEC Nomination Committee Chair Karen Welsh by calling or texting her at (808) 640-7318**. Due to a conflict in interests, Mama Kahu Angie Warren has recused herself from the committee at this present time and is not making decisions for the Nomination Committee or for the other candidates.

Mahalo,  
Karen Welsh (Nomination Chair)

### **The Candidates offered on the 2025 slate are as follows:**

#### **Luna Ho‘omalua (President):**

Joyclynn Costa (Kalanikāhua Hou Church; Haiku, Maui)

#### **Luna Hope (Vice President):**

##### **Two Candidates**

\*Angella (Angie) Antone-Warren (Kalapana-Mauna Kea Luakini; Nanawale, Hawai‘i)

\*Montie Hess (Kawaiha‘o Church; Honolulu, Hawai‘i)

#### **Kākau ‘Ōlelo (Secretary):**

Taha‘a H. Kahele

# BIOGRAPHY on each Candidate

## **Luna Ho‘omalulu:**

### **Joyclynn Costa**

Joyclynn is a retired manager from Goodyear Tires. She is also a proven and seasoned delegate of a member church of the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches.

As a testimony, Joyclynn grew up as a Catholic and felt the Presence of Holy Spirit in the wind since she was a young child. She wanted to know where that “Power” came from, and God was gracious to reveal the answer to her while she was attending Kamehameha Schools, Kapālama Campus on Oahu. While there, she connected with Kahu Kaupu, and he quickly became a major influence in her life. Then it became clear. The “Truth to that Power” was Jesus Christ and as she shifted to a personal faith in Him as her Lord and Savior, she became a Hawaiian Protestant and has continued on that path, joining Nāhiku Protestant, then Kalanikāhua Hou Halepule, both on Maui.

After high school, Joyclynn’s life went “crazy upside down” for a while because of decisions she had made, which included an unhappy marriage that did not work out. Through it all, Joyclynn said God never left her and took care of her safety and well-being. During this time, she lived in Hana, running a ti leaf farm and began attending Nāhiku Protestant Church. She then moved to Ha‘ikū, where Joyclynn experienced a renewed season of hope as she reconnected with her faith while attending Kalanikāhua Hou Halepule, where a strong fellowship of believers helped her find the way back to her “True and Living Source.” It was also where her tūtū wahine was laid to rest. In looking back, Joyclynn recalls days of uphill battles, where she faced bullies in school as a student, and then in her workplace as an adult. She said her life started with “spears,” but it made her adept to catching those spears while still moving forward through her life in Christ.

In her young adult days, Joyclynn was a Hawaiian Kingdom activist and learned a lot from the kūpuna and other Hawaiian leaders. However, in 1998, she felt a special Call from God. It dovetails into her favorite life scripture verse, which is Isaiah 6:8, “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for Us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I, send me.’”

Much has happened since that time. Kalanikāhua Hou Halepule elected her as their AHEC Delegate. In the past, Joyclynn faithfully served on the Nomination and Hua Mua committees. Currently she is an active Maui Island Representative, the Committee on Ministry, and the AHEC Bylaws Committee. One of the highlights of service is when her fellow delegates in AHEC voted for her to represent AHEC as a director on the HCUCC Foundation. This decision was affirmed by the HCUCC Delegates at the ‘Aha Pae‘āina Makua, and she successfully completed her mission. Presently, she remains a member of the HCUCC Property Management Committee. Through it all, Joyclynn has trusted Ke Akua to guide her pathway. “God is leading this journey that I’m in and challenges my faith in the Ministry,” she said. “Now I am embarking on a Master of Divinity Degree at (Vancouver School of Theology (VST). The journey that is God is calling me on may be a difficult one, but my Savior traveled it first and made it straight.”

Joyclynn credits her parents for instilling hard work, values, ethics, and honesty in her life. She overcame the bullying she experienced in school and broke the glass ceiling in a career in the automotive industry specifically designed for men. However, she was tenacious and retired #1 in the Nation and was sent to the mainland by Goodyear to accept their highest award. “It was my ability to communicate with a level head and fairness with customers, employees and superiors,” she said. “I believe it was this ability that has afforded me the grace to serve in AHEC.” Without a doubt, Joyclynn knows that God has been close beside her throughout her life and will continue to be there. She credits Ke Akua with His unending foresight for molding and preparing her every step of the way to be the Luna Ho‘omalua of the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC). She is confident that He has given her the abilities and skill set to oversee the unique challenges and duties that come with serving in this position.

## **Luna Hope (2 Candidates):**

### **#1 Angella (Angie ) Antone-Warren**

Angie Warren is the Associate Pastor and Mama Kahu of Kalapana Mauna Kea Luakini, where she leads in worship through singing, playing drums, dances hula, works with the youth and woman’s groups, and preaches from the pulpit on a regular basis.

As a testimony, Angie was raised a Buddhist by her mother but became an atheist at the age of 18. She met Kahu Mike, who was a Believer, in 1983, but did not receive Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior until 2001. It was a moment that changed the trajectory of her life when she went from a secular to spiritual focus. “My love for Jesus is living each day with Him as the center of my life,” she said. “I try every day to live as Jesus wants me to, but I fall short. Every morning brings me a renewed spirit that I can start over and do my best to live a Christ-centered.” This is the same moment that Angie’s favorite verse, Philippians 4:13, nestled into her heart and allowed her to give control to her Savior. “I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.” “It is the first scripture that God gave me when I was saved, and it lives with me until today,” she said. “Whenever I am feeling overwhelmed, this is my ‘go-to scripture.’”

Angie is a joyful person and has a real passion for life. She loves challenges and continues to push herself into new roles and responsibilities as the Lord leads. She has been CEO/Owner/Operator of a major airport porter service for a decade. During that time, she has been responsible for 16 porters and two administrators. The key to the business’ success is teambuilding. Angie said she enjoys the challenge of maintaining the business because it helps fulfill her passion for serving others. Angie said her previous work experience prepared her to be a CEO. She was the V.P. Branch Manager of HomeStreet Bank and a Mortgage Originator at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, both located in Hilo, Hawai‘i. During that time, she trained all new hires, provided consumer counseling for debt consolidations, and offered products that would fit her client's needs, including purchases, refinances, lines of credit and construction loans. She also coordinated and created invitations and promotional materials and hosted successful client presentations.

Prior to that, Angie was the Office Manager for the Big Island AIDS Foundation, a non-profit organization, where she provided support for five board members and the executive director. She was the overseer for a wide variety of administrative functions. Angie's financial and statistical abilities were honed as she compiled, analyzed, and prepared monthly reports for the directors and

executive management team. She also planned events for clients, organized fundraisers, kept the books on all charitable contributions, prepared and distributed quarterly financial and budget reports, assisted the state and local auditors with accounting procedures for the foundation, and kept up the payroll for the organization.

Angie graduated from Waianae High School in 1982 and has maintained a steady pace in education ever since. She attended business schools, where she received certification in management, leadership skills training, entrepreneurship, business development, bookkeeping, and accounting. She is also specialized in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc...) and is proficient in using social media platforms. She also speaks and writes in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i.”

As the Mama Kahu of a Hawaiian Church, Angie takes her calling to ministry and AHEC seriously. She has volunteered much of her personal time to the Association and has faithfully served for 15 years in a variety of positions on the Board of Directors which include being the Treasurer, Finance, and Nominations Chair for each. Currently, she is serving as the East Hawai‘i Island Representative. AHEC is a natural fit for Angie's unique spiritual and professional giftings. She feels the role of Luna Hope is one she is enthusiastic about. She feels competent to serve as the VP of the Association and plans to use her unique skill set to help build a strong and positive executive team and move the Association forward in a manner that positively benefits the future of the organization.

## **#2 Montie Hess**

Ret. Col. Montie Hess is an active member of Kawaiha‘o Church on Oahu. He was born in Pahala on the southern tip of Hawai‘i Island. He lived much of his young life with his grandparents while his parents were off-island and working internationally for the Army.

As a life testimony, Montie was blessed to reunite with his parents when he was 12 years old, and moved with his family to Augusta, Georgia, where he regularly attended worship services and was introduced to the Lord. True to military life, the family after their three-year tour of duty and relocated to Muskogee, Oklahoma. During this time, his father was assigned to live in Iceland. This was the time when Montie embraced the Lord Jesus as His Savior. His family attended worship service at the Church of the Nazarene. “I spiritually grew by attending the three-month Youth Bible Study School,” Montie recalls. “It was in Muskogee that I was first Baptized.” When his returned, the family moved to Colorado Springs and then to the Republic of Panama, where Montie graduated from high school. From Panama, the family finally moved back to Hawai‘i in 1964 and took up residence in Wahiawa, where Montie followed in his father’s footsteps when he turned 18 and joined the Army. Both Montie and his father were deployed to Vietnam during the same time period.

After he returned from war, he met and fell in love with Kaiulani Puahala. After they were married, Montie decided to make the Army his career. He said the next 30 years was a journey that only the Lord could have crafted. During that time, Montie and Kaiulani welcomed their beloved daughter, Haulani into their family. He continued his education while serving in the military, earning a BA from Chaminade, and an MBA from University of Hawai‘i, Manoa Campus. He quickly became known for his unique focus, critical thinking abilities, and problem-solving skills and earned a Regular Army Commission, faithfully serving in the Airborne Ranger and Special Operations branches, where he rose to the rank of Colonel. He led soldiers in war in faraway places, including

Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, and Iraq. The family moved a total of 15 times through those three decades. He said it was a challenge to keep a balance between his service to the country and his faith during his 35 years of active military service. However, looking back, he always knew the Lord was watching over him as he led men and women in peace and in combat. “In all my challenges, frustrations, fears, and stressing about the battles ahead, I kept hearing, ‘Wake Up! I am the Lord. I am your refuge and your strength,’” he recalled. “God said, ‘You have nothing to fear or worry about when I am with you.’ I always knew He was with me and would protect me, and I knew He was not finished with me.” Montie’s favorite verse in the Bible is Psalm 46:10. He has leaned upon it for many years. The scripture says, “Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth.”

It wasn't until Montie retired, and the couple bought a 42-foot sailing ketch to sail around the Caribbean and South America, that he finally had the head space to think about his entire life. “It was a wonderful time for both of us,” he said. “The time allowed us to reflect on our life together and what our future could hold for us, which we knew would always be finally coming home to Ohana and friends.” They finally returned to Oahu in 2004, set up their residence in Pearl City, and became members of their “beloved” Kawaiaha‘o Church. This renewed his spiritual journey and relationship with the Lord. Montie was re-baptized, joined the church choir, and was elected to serve as an AHEC church delegate. Through the years he was also elected to Kawaiaha‘o’s Board of Trustees (BOT), where he eventually became an Officer and the Chair of the Personnel Committee. In 2019, Montie was appointed Chair of Task Force Kawaiaha‘o with an ongoing mission to develop a strategy to transition the Church from a “Ministry Centric” church into a “Mission’s-focused” church. Whatever duty he fulfills, Montie serves with purpose, intent, and focus.

Montie credits God with giving him a keen intuition and experience in identifying problems and then solving them. This strength, as well as his impeccable values and ethics puts him in a strong position to serve as the Luna Hope for AHEC. Montie said the mission and vision of AHEC is valid and, if elected, he would be an asset to the Association. “The mission and vision of AHEC is engaged,” he said. “I really sense the sea of change of focusing on the mission. I see the value and what it can be for the Hawaiian Churches. If we focus on what our vision and mission is, then AHEC will right itself. We are the moral high ground.” He also wants to be of help and service to the Papa Makua and focus on having more Hawaiian Churches join the Association. “I think we are going to grow,” he said. “We need new eyes, new thinking, and new personalities.”

## **Kākau ‘Ōlelo (Secretary): Taha‘a H. Kahele**

Taha‘a Kahele is a young man who has already built an impressive resume at the age of 18. This diligent worker has lived in West Hawai‘i his entire life. When he was a small keiki, he lived in Kona and attended Kona Church. Unfortunately, he came from a broken household, where his father was a drug addict and was always in and out of prison.

As a life testimony, however, Taha‘a knows that even though the circumstances of his life were uncertain, God showed up in a big way and provided His eternal certainty. His mother discovered faith in Jesus Christ and Taha‘a followed suit. They both gave their lives to the Lord and were



baptized at the same time. Mother and son then moved to Miloli'i to live with his grandmother where he found stability and became a member at Hau'oli Kamana'o Church. Since Taha'a trusted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, his Christian faith has inspired him and been a driving force in his life. His life passage of scripture comes from 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. "Therefore, we do not lose heart, though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen, since what is seen is and what is unseen is eternal." "I constantly reflect on this scripture," Taha'a said. "It gives me hope and faith that whenever I find myself in a tough situation or begin to doubt or lost faith in myself, I reminisce on this scripture and it gives me motivation to not focus on current things, or things that are temporary, and to remember that through Jesus Christ I am renewed day by day." As he has put his life in God's control and care, Taha'a feels truly blessed that his father is now in recovery, out of prison, and going to church on Oahu."

Taha'a graduated from Konawaena High School in Kealahou, Hawai'i in 2024. While there, he earned a certificate of completion for a program of professional journalism and was the Editor-in-Chief of The Wildcat Newspaper. During that time, he wrote and edited articles for the paper, and was placed in charge of all newspaper operations, including overseeing media and press releases, and creating The Wildcat Newspaper Website and social media platform.

Some people may see his age and think being 18 years old is too young for service, however, Taha'a carries himself as a seasoned adult who is proficient in communicating with others in an elevated level in English, Hawaiian, and Japanese, public speaking, and writing. He has already proven himself in AHEC leadership. After he was elected by his church to be their AHEC Youth Delegate, he took on roles as a board member on the AHEC Na Lima E Ho'ike Committee that oversees the funding and reports from AHEC churches, and became a committee member of AHEC's Ho'okolokolo Committee, helping to oversee the Historical Archiving for AHEC and all Hawaiian Churches from the time of the first missionaries to the overthrow. According to those who have served with Taha'a, he has faithfully and successfully served and completed all tasks given to him. In the secular world, Taha'a is a great fan of the ocean. He is an avid diver, Marine Biology surveyor, underwater transecting and has excelled as a Watch Coordinator of the Miloli'i Makai Watch, and as Director of Conservation & Cultural Management for Ocean Janitors Hawai'i.

It is Taha'a's joy and desire to be used where God wants him. "God has called me to stand in the gap, whatever needs to be filled that pertains to His Work," he said. "He continues to bless me and work through me, not just to benefit me, but others as well."



**ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES  
HAWAI'I CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Bylaws Committee**

April 29, 2025

Aloha Association Member Churches,

The Bylaws Committee has worked together to revise and update the current bylaws dated September 19, 2020.

Enclosed is a copy of the proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches, as approved by the Board of Directors and submitted to you as a recommendation for discussion, review and action. Please take the time to review the areas of the bylaws amendments. The red strikethrough is the original wording, and the blue text color are the changes. The highlighted changes are as follows: 1.3 Voting Rights of Members, 6.1 Executive Committee, spelling, and grammar.

Please note that we will review these proposed amendments at the Aha Na Kai 'Ewalu business meeting. We recommend that discussion be limited only to the areas in the bylaws that has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors of the Association only.

If it is helpful for you, we suggest you take the time to highlight the lines, words, sentences, and paragraphs where proposed amendments are being made. It will be easier for you to follow.

If you should have any questions to the present document, please do not hesitate to email [kerisainkona@aol.com](mailto:kerisainkona@aol.com) at your convenience.

Looking forward in seeing all of you at the Aha Na Kai 'Ewalu in June.

Sincerely,

*Kerisa Carmelo*

Kerisa Carmelo, Chairperson of the Bylaws Committee

Anela Rosa  
Angie Warren  
Loke Kamanu  
Joyclynn Costa  
Karen Welsh

**ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES**  
**Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ**  
**BYLAWS-(DRAFT 4.12.25)**

**Revised on 9/19/2020**

**@ 2020 Virtual Halawai, Haili Church Hilo, HI**

**ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP**

**1.1 MEMBERSHIP:** The Association shall have two (2) classes of members. The designation of such class and the qualifications and rights of the members of such class shall be as follows:

**1.1.1 REGULAR MEMBERSHIP:** The Regular Membership of this Association shall include the following:

1.1.1.1 Any church within the boundaries of this Association that expresses its Christian Faith in native Hawaiian cultural forms as expressed in the Constitution of this Association.

1.1.1.2 Any Kahu who holds standing in this Association.

1.1.1.3 The officers of this Association.

1.1.1.4 Chairperson of all ~~Association~~ Committees in this Association.

1.1.1.5 Voting Rights of Members defined in Section 1.3

1.1.1.6 ~~The Conference Minister/Associate Conference Minister of the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ.~~

**1.1.2. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:** The following persons serving in an AHEC church shall be Associate Members of this Association upon a majority vote of any regular members presiding at any meeting of the membership:6

1.1.2.1 A minister of the United Church of Christ holding standing in an Association or Conference other than the Hawai'i Conference. ~~A:conferences~~

1.1.2.2 The Conference Minister/Associate Conference Minister of the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ.

1.1.2.3 A minister serving a church under Privilege of Call.

1.1.2.4 An ordained minister holding standing in another denomination while serving as a minister in a church of an Association of the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ.

1.1.2.5 A member in good standing of any Conference Church of the United Church of Christ.

- 1.1.2.6 Such other persons who may be designated as Associated Members by the membership
- 1.1.2.7 Recognized ~~partners in Ministry~~ Partnership Ministries as defined by Article II herein.
- 1.1.2.8 Voting Rights of Members defined in Section 1.3.4

1.1.3. **AUTONOMY OF MEMBER CHURCHES:** The Association recognizes the autonomy of the local church. Therefore, a church that is a member of this Association shall have a voice in the affairs of this Association and shall be expected to enter fully into the life and work of this Association, to be faithful to that life, and to serve in its mission.

1.2 **PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBERSHIP:** All members of this Association shall have a voice in the affairs of this Association and shall be expected to enter fully into the life and work of this Association, to be faithful to that life, and to serve in its mission.

1.2.1 **NA EKALIESIA (Churches):**

- 1.2.1.1 **Mau Noa (Freedom)** The autonomy of the local church is inherent. Nothing in the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association shall destroy or limit the right of any local church.
- 1.2.1.2 **Mau 'Ohana (Fellowship)** All actions, decisions, and advisories emanating from the 'Aha Nui (General Synod) and the 'Aha Pae'aina and the 'Aha Na Kai 'Ewalu shall be given proper and prayerful consideration by every member church.
- 1.2.1.3 **Mau Kuleana (Responsibility)** Each church is expected to fulfill its membership responsibility by paying the per capita assessments as determined by these Bylaws and/or by the 'Aha Na Kai 'Ewalu to continue membership.

1.2.2 **NA KAHU (Ministers):** This Association recognizes that God calls certain persons to full and part-time service for various forms of ministry in the Church. This calling is 'apono (affirmed) by ordination and/or other appropriate service of ~~dedication~~ installation refer to applicable portions of the Buke Lawelima with reference to the Manual on Ministry as needed and respect Hawaiian Cultural Values make appropriate recommendation (s) to the Association The Kahu of the Association, then, shall be recognized with the title affirmed by the rite of ~~ordination~~-installation.

- 1.2.2.1 **Kahu La'a** The Kahu La'a, having fulfilled the requirements for ordination shall refer to applicable portions of the Buke Lawelima

with ~~with~~ reference to the Manual on Ministry as needed and respect Hawaiian Cultural Values make appropriate recommendation (s) to the Association shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges pertaining to that office and be expected to participate fully in the life and work of the Association.

1.2.2.2 **Kahu Pono** The Kahu Pono, having fulfilled the requirements for recognition as a Minister sanctioned by the Association and/or having fulfilled the requirements for licensing as a Licensed Minister shall refer to applicable portions of the Buke Lawelima ~~with~~ with reference to the Manual on Ministry as needed and respect Hawaiian Cultural Values make appropriate recommendation (s) to the Association shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges pertaining to that office and be expected to participate fully in the life and work of the Association.

1.2.2.3 **Kahu Hiki** The Kahu Hiki, serving a Church of the Association in a specific ministry shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges pertaining to that office and be expected to participate fully in the life and work of the Association.

### 1.3 **VOTING RIGHTS OF MEMBERS**

1.3.1 Each church, as defined in Section 1.1.1.1 of these Bylaws, shall have one vote for each delegate that a church is entitled to send to a meeting as defined in Article III hereof.

1.3.2 ~~All~~ Kahu, as defined in Section 1.2.2.1 and 1.2.2.2 of these Bylaws ~~and the Conference Minister/ACM of the United Church of Christ,~~ representing a church shall ~~each~~ have one (1) vote per church.

1.3.3 All Retired Kahu in good standing with this Association shall have one (1) vote.

1.3.4 All members of the Board of Directors ~~or~~ representative of a Partnership ~~Ministries Ministry~~: State Sunday School Association, Hawaii Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries, Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center, Kamehameha Schools, ~~State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches~~, and the Christian Endeavor of Hawaii; and chairpersons of the Standing Committees shall each have one (1) vote.

1.3.5 Associate Members of this Association, and any new representatives of a Partnership ~~Ministries Ministry~~, shall have a right to voice their thoughts and opinions in the affairs of this Association but shall not have the right to vote.

1.3.6 Members must be present at a meeting to vote.

- 1.4 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP:** The Board of Directors, by affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all of the members of the Board, may suspend or expel a member for cause after an appropriate hearing, and may, by a majority vote of those present at any regularly constituted meeting, terminate the membership of any member who becomes ineligible for membership. A church that does not meet its Mau Kuleana under Section 1.2.1.3 herein and for which a ho'oponopono process by the Aha Nā Kai 'Ewalu has failed, in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, to redress the problem may be expelled from membership as established in this Section 1.4.
- 1.5 RESIGNATION OF MEMBER:** Any member may resign from the membership in this Association by filing a written statement to that effect with the Secretary, but such termination shall not relieve the member of the obligation to pay any dues, assessments, or other charges ~~theretofore~~ accrued and unpaid.

## **ARTICLE II-PARTNERSHIP MINISTRIES**

- 2.1 RECOGNITION OF PARTNERSHIP MINISTRIES:** The Association, in the event that another organization agrees with the purposes of the Association as stated in the Constitution of this Association, may recognize such an organization as a Partnership Ministry and by a majority vote of the Board of Directors invite such an organization to become an Associate Member of this Association.
- 2.2 ROLE OF PARTNERSHIP MINISTRIES AS MEMBERS:** Partnership Ministries, which have standing in this Association as recognized under Section 2.1 herein, shall promote the purposes and programs of this Association and cooperate in its mission.

## **ARTICLE III- MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

- 3.1 'AHA NĀ KAI 'EWALU (Annual Meeting):** The Aha Nā Kai 'Ewalu shall be the Annual Meeting of the Association and shall be held in the month of June in conjunction with the 'Aha Pae'āina (the Annual Meeting) of the Hawai'i Conference and prior to the 'Aha Makua (Business Session of the Annual Meeting).
- 3.2 'AHA HALAWAI (Regular Meetings):** Two regular meetings shall be held during the months of February and October of each year, with dates to be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 3.3 'AHA KUKA (Ecclesiastical Council Meetings):** The Board of Directors shall call an Ecclesiastical Council at the request of a majority of the members of the Committee on Ministry. An Ecclesiastical Council is a meeting of the Association called for the purpose of deciding ordained ministry and state of the churches.

- 3.4 **'AHA LA'A (Special Meeting)**: A Special meeting(s) for fellowship or business of the Association may be called by the Board of Directors at the request of seven (7) or more churches.
- 3.5 **PLACE OF MEETINGS**: The Board of Directors may designate any place, either within or without the State of Hawai'i, as the place of meeting for any 'Aha Na Kai 'Ewalu, 'Aha Halawai, or 'Aha Kuka called by the Board of Directors. If no designation is made or if an 'Aha La'a be otherwise called, the place of meeting shall be the registered office of the Association in the State of Hawai'i; but, if all of the members shall meet at any time and place, either within or without call or notice, and at such meeting any corporate action may be taken.
- 3.6 **KAHEA ANA (Notification)** The Board of Directors shall provide written notice of all meetings to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting. Said notice shall state the place, day, and hour of the meeting, as well as the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, and shall be delivered either personally, email or by mail.
- 3.7 **KAHU ANA (Representation)** Each church shall be represented by two (2) lay delegates and a youth/young adult delegate who is ~~30~~ 35 years of age or less at the time of meeting. Those Churches with more than one hundred (100) members shall be entitled to one (1) delegate for each additional fifty (50) or major fraction thereof. The total delegates from any one church shall not exceed seven (7). ~~All Kahu, the Conference Minister of the Hawai'i Conference,~~ Members of the Board of Directors, representatives of recognized Partnership Ministries and Chairpersons of Standing Committees shall represent themselves.
- 3.8 **KE KOHO ANA (Quorum)** A quorum for the transaction of business shall be declared when at least one-third (1/3) of the churches in the Association are represented.

#### ARTICLE IV-BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 3.9 **COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of the following:
- 3.9.1 The Officers of the Association;
- 3.9.2 One director from O'ahu, Kaua'i, East Maui, West Maui, East Hawai'i, West Hawai'i and Moloka'i, who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting;
- 3.9.3 One representative from each of the following: State Sunday School Association; Hawai'i Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries; Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center; Kamehameha Schools; ~~State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches~~; and Christian Endeavor of Hawai'i; and,
- 3.9.4 The chairpersons of standing committees.

**4.1 TENURE** Each Director shall serve for a term of two (2) years and may not serve for more than (3) consecutive terms.

**4.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

4.2.1 The purpose of the Board of Directors is to set the direction for the Association in the pursuit of its purpose and mission and to submit to the Association for its approval at the 'Aha Na Kai 'Ewalu the program plans and budget for the attainment of the Association's goals.

4.2.2 The Board of Directors shall have the power to fill any vacancies in the Board or its offices, committees, and positions for the interim period until the next scheduled election or appointment by the affirmative vote of the majority of the Board of Directors then serving.

4.2.3 The Board of Directors shall issue calls for meetings of the Association.

4.2.4 The Board of Directors shall act for the Association between Association meetings and shall carry out those as instructed by the Association.

4.2.5 The Board of Directors shall have the power to designate any officer or agent to enter into any contract and deliver any instrument in the name of or on behalf of the Association provided such authority should be confined to specific instances.

4.2.6 The Board may endorse to the Conference Nominating Committee a candidate for the Hawai'i General Synod delegation.

**4.3 MEETINGS OF THE BOARD**

4.3.1 **Regular Meetings** Board shall meet as needed and not less than

four (4) times a year. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held without other notice than these Bylaws. The Board of Directors may provide by resolution the time and a place for holding additional meetings of the Board without other notice than such resolution. The Board may call for meetings and voting by video conferencing or by telephone conferencing, and may permit electronic voting.

4.3.2 **Special Meetings** Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of the president or any three (3) directors. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board may fix any place, either within or without the Pae'āina Hawai'i, as the place for holding any special meeting of the Board called by them. The discussion and resolution will be limited to the item(s) which the Special Meeting was called for.

4.3.3 **Quorum** At all meetings of the Board of Directors a majority of the directors shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the



transaction of business and the act of a majority of the Directors present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the Board of Directors, excepts as may be otherwise specifically provided by statute or by these Bylaws.

4.3.4 **Notice** - Notice of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given at least five (5) days previously thereto by written notice delivered personally or sent by electronic correspondence to each director at his or her address as shown by the records of the Association. Any director may waive notice of any meeting. The attendance of a director at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any regular or special meeting of the Board need to be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting, unless specifically required by law or by these Bylaws.

4.4 **Compensation and Reimbursement** Directors shall not receive any stated salary for their services as such, but by resolution of the Board reasonable expenses of attendance, if any, may be allowed for attendance at such regular or special meeting of the Board. The Board of Directors shall have power in its discretion to contract for and pay to directors rendering unusual or exceptional services to the Association special compensation appropriate to the value of such services.

4.5 **REMOVAL** Any Director may be removed from office at any time with or without cause by the affirmative vote of the majority of votes entitled to vote at any special meeting of the Board of Directors called for such a purpose.

4.6 **RESIGNATION** Any director may resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE V-OFFICERS

5.1 **OFFICERS:** The Officers of this Association shall be members in good standing of a church that is a member of this Association. There shall be a PAPA MAKUA (Association Minister), a LUNA HO'OMALU (President), a LUNA HO'OMALU HOPE (Vice President), a KAKAU 'OLELO (Secretary), and a PU'UKU (Treasure). Only one (1) Executive Officer per church. The duties of the Officers shall be as follows:

5.1.1 **The PAPA MAKUA**

5.1.1.1 Shall be the spiritual leader of the Association and its chief executive and administrative officer, having general

supervision over the work of the Association under the direction of the Board of Directors;

- 5.1.1.2 Shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors and all other committees of the Association unless there are specific provisions to the contrary stated in these Bylaws;
- 5.1.1.3 Shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Nominating Committee, without vote;
- 5.1.1.4 Shall be a minister in good standing of the United Church of Christ, nominated by the Board of Directors and elected by the Association at the 'Aha Na Kai 'Ewalu;
- 5.1.1.5 Shall serve a term of office of two (2) years, and there shall be no limit to the number of terms that may be served;
- 5.1.1.6 Shall be representative of the Association on the Conference Council of the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ; and,
- 5.1.1.7 Shall be accountable to the Association.

#### 5.1.2 **The LUNA HO'OMALU**

- 5.1.2.1 Shall preside at meetings of the Association , the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and the 'Aha Na Kai 'Ewalu;
- 5.1.2.2 In consultation with the Association officers, shall propose the direction for the Association to the Board of Directors for its approval, and shall make an annual report to the Board of Directors and to the 'Aha Na Kai 'Ewalu;
- 5.1.2.3 Shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee and except where provisions to the contrary may be stated in these Bylaws;
- 5.1.2.4 May be elected for two (2) consecutive terms totaling four (4) years, and may be elected to another term if one (1) year has elapsed from the time that the person ended the prior term;
- 5.1.2.5 Shall represent the Association on the Conference Council of the Hawai'i Conference UCC;
- 5.1.2.6 Shall execute all contracts and other documents as ordered by the Association or Board of Directors; and,
- 5.1.2.7 Shall in alternating terms be a Kahu and a layperson.

- 5.1.2.8 After extensive searching, in the event an eligible nominee is not available, then a nominee from the other category may be presented.

**5.1.3 The LUNA HO'OMALU HOPE**

- 5.1.3.1 Shall perform the duties of Luna Ho'omalua in the event of his or her absence or inability to act, and such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors; and,
- 5.1.3.2 May be elected for two (2) consecutive terms totaling four (4) years, and may be elected to another term if one (1) year has elapsed from the time that the person ended the prior term.

**5.1.4 The KAKAU 'OLELO**

- 5.1.4.1 Shall maintain a permanent record of all meetings of the Association, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and the 'Aha Na Kai 'Ewalu; Minutes are to be completed and sent to the Executive Committee within thirty (30) days.
- 5.1.4.2 Shall make an annual report to the Association including a roll call of all churches and Kahu participating in the Association and shall report all changes to the Association;
- 5.1.4.3 Shall issue notice of meetings as provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws; annually publish a roster of officers, directors, standing committee chairpersons and its members, and perform such other duties as may be required; and,
- 5.1.4.4 Shall serve a term of two (2) years and may be elected for two (2) consecutive terms totaling four (4) years, or until his / or her successor is elected and installed. **Consenses accepted**

**5.1.5 The PU'UKU**

- 5.1.5.1 Shall receive all assets, contributions and assessments made for the work of the Association;
- 5.1.5.2 Shall make payments of funds as may be directed by the Board of the Directors or Association or donor gifts;
- 5.1.5.3 Shall at all time keep an accurate record of all transactions involving the various accounts entrusted to his or her care;

- 5.1.5.4 Shall submit a monthly report of the financial operations of the Association to the Board of Directors, and a full report to the 'Aha Na Kai 'Ewalu;
- 5.1.5.5 Shall perform other duties that usually pertain to the office or as directed by the Board of Directors;
- 5.1.5.6 Shall be an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee; and,
- 5.1.5.7 Shall serve a term of two (2) years and May be elected for two (2) consecutive terms totaling four (4) or until his / or her successor is elected and installed.

**5.2 ELECTION OF OFFICERS** - Officers shall be elected for the terms designated in Article 5.1 and installed at the Annual Meeting of the Association.

- 5.2.1 An election shall be held at the 'Aha Na Kai 'Ewalu every year.
- 5.2.2 Election shall be by either secret ballot or, where there is only one (1) nominee for an office, by voice vote. A majority of the votes ~~case~~ shall be sufficient to carry the election.

**5.3** Any officer may be removed by a majority vote of the membership whenever in its judgment the best interest of the Association would be served thereby, except for the Papa Makua who may be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

**5.4 RESIGNATION** Any officer may resign upon submitting ninety (90) days' notice to the Kākau 'Ōlelo of the Association.

## **ARTICLE VI-COMMITTEES**

The Standing Committees of this Association shall be: the Executive Committee, the Committee on Ministry, the Nominating Committee, the Program Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Hua Mua Committee. Each committee will follow their Operating Policy & Procedures following board approval. The Board of Directors or the Association may appoint Special Committees as deemed advisable.

**6.1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the Luna Ho'omalū, Luna Ho'omalū Hope, Kākau 'Ōlelo, Pu'ukū, and Papa Makua.

- 6.1.1** The Executive Committee shall meet as needed. The Luna Ho'omalū may call special meetings. A minimum of three or more of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. ~~Accepted by consenses~~

6.1.2 The Executive Committee shall be the instrument of the Board of Directors between Board meetings and is empowered to carry out the duties of the Board and/or the Association.

6.1.3 The Executive Committee shall be no more than one (1) Executive Officer per membership church.

## **6.2 COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

6.2.1 The Committee on Ministry shall consist of seven (7) members; three (3) of whom should be lay persons, and shall include one (1) person from each of the islands as stated in Article 3.9.2. Members, who shall serve staggered terms, are to be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected at the 'Aha Na Kai 'Ewalu. Members shall serve for a term of three years beginning July 1 of the year elected, and may be elected for no more than two consecutive terms. In case of a vacancy, the Board of Directors shall appoint a replacement to fill the unexpired term.

6.2.2 The Committee on Ministry shall decide upon the frequency of meetings. It shall be responsible for matters relating to Kahu; Members in Discernment; ordination; granting, maintenance, transfer, and termination of ministerial standing; privilege of call; installation; commissioning; and granting, maintenance, and termination of local church standing; and shall, refer to applicable portions of the Buke Lawelima with ~~with~~ reference to the Manual on Ministry as needed and respect Hawaiian Cultural Values make appropriate recommendation (s) to the association.

6.2.3 The Committee on Ministry, through development of programs for professional growth, continuing education, personal support and denominational relationships, shall be responsible for matters relating to the support of the Kahu in the Association and the recruitment and nurturing of students of Hawaiian ancestry interested in entering the ministry, as defined in Section 1.2.2 hereof.

## **6.3 NOMINATING COMMITTEE** The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) members and be appointed by the Board of Directors to serve staggered terms of two (2) years each beginning on July 1 of the year appointed.

6.3.1 The Nominating Committee shall nominate one or more candidates for the offices of Luna Ho'omalū, Luna Ho'omalū Hope, Kākau 'Ōlelo, and Pu'ukū; one or more candidates for island representatives to the Board of Directors; and one or more candidates for the Committee on Ministry.

6.3.2 The names of the nominees, with information of their qualification, shall be submitted to member churches no less than one (1) month before the Annual Meeting.

6.3.3 Nominations may only be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting, if there is a vacancy in a position at that time, a second is provided, and motion approved by the body.

#### **6.4 FINANCE COMMITTEE**

6.4.1 There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of three (3) members, appointed by the Board of Directors to serve staggered terms.

6.4.2 The appointed term shall be three (3) years.

6.4.3 The Pu'ukū shall be an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee with the right to vote.

6.4.4 The Finance Committee shall present an Annual Budget to the Board of Directors for the next fiscal year.

#### **6.5 NA LIMA HO'IKE E PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

6.5.1 There shall be a Program Committee of ~~eight~~ **seven** (8 7) members, one (1) from each of the islands of Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, 'Oahu, and Kaua'i, and one (1) youth delegate under ~~30~~ **35** years of age, plus a representative from a recognized Partnership Ministry of this Association, ~~and a representative of State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches as appointed by that body.~~

6.5.2 Each member of the Program Committee will serve a staggered three (3) year Term. ~~Accepted by consenses~~

6.5.3 The Program Committee members shall help the local churches develop programs.

6.5.4 The program committee will review and evaluate the grant applications.

6.5.5 The grant applications that are denied will be presented to the BOD for final consideration.

#### **6.6 HUA MUA COMMITTEE**

The Hua Mua Committee exists to ensure that the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches is truly self-governing and financially self-sustaining as written in the mission statement.

6.6.1 **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Committee will be composed of five (5) members with terms of three (3) years that are staggered, or until replaced. Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, Secretary, and Three (3) at large members.

6.6.2 The Papa Makua and Pu`ukū are ex-officio members of the committee.

6.6.3 **PURPOSE:** To develop capital campaigns to raise funds for financial sustainability and present proposed plans, visions, and recommendations to the Board of Directors.

~~Consensus accepted~~

## **6.7 SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

6.7.1 Special Committees may be created by the Association or the Board of Directors to fulfill the purposes of the Association and/or represent the Association in other affiliated and/or non-affiliated organizations.

6.7.2 Duties and functions of the Committee will be delineated by the Board of Directors.

6.7.3 The term of the Committee will be determined at the time of formation.

**6.8 CHAIRPERSONS** One member of each committee **may** be appointed chairperson by the Board of Directors of this Association, and/or to consider a committee recommendation.

**6.9 QUORUM** Unless otherwise provided in the resolution of the Board of Directors designating a committee, a majority of the whole committee shall constitute a quorum and the act of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the committee.

**6.10 RULES** Each committee may adopt rules of its own government not inconsistent with these Bylaws or with rules adopted by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE VII-INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

**7.1 INDEMNIFICATION** Any person who is made a party to any action, suit or proceeding, civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, committee member, or a member of a member Church serving in a position at the request of the Association, shall be indemnified by the Association against the expenses (including amounts paid by way of judgement, and settlement and including attorney's fees) reasonably and necessarily incurred by him or her in connection with the defense of such action, suit, or proceeding, whether or not such defense shall be successful in whole or in part, or in connection with any appeal therein, or any settlement thereof, except in relation to matters as to which it shall be adjudged in such action, suit, or proceeding that such person is liable for willful misconduct in the performance of his or her duties.

- 7.2 AUTHORIZATION** Unless ordered by a court, any indemnification under Section 7.1 of this Article shall be made by the Association only if authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the director, officer or committee member has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 7.1. The determination shall be made (a) by the Board of Directors by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of Directors who were not parties to the proceeding; or (b) if a quorum is not obtainable, or, even if obtainable if a quorum of disinterested directors so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion to the Association; or (c) by a majority vote of the members; or (d) by the court in which the proceeding is or was pending upon application made by the Association or the director or officer or the attorney or other person rendering services in connection with the defense, whether or not he application by the director, officer, attorney, or other person is opposed by this Association.
- 7.3 ADVANCE PAYMENTS** Expenses incurred in defending any proceeding may be paid by the Association in advance of the final disposition of the proceeding as authorized by the Board of Directors in a particular case upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director or officer to repay such amount unless it shall ultimately be determined that the director or officer is entitled to be indemnified by the Association as authorized in this Article VII.
- 7.4 OTHER RIGHTS** The indemnification provided by this Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those indemnified may be entitled and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director or officer and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs and personal representatives of such a person.
- 7.5 INSURANCE** The Association shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any director or officer of the Association, against any liability asserted against or incurred by the directors or officer's status as church, whether or not the Association would have the power to indemnify the director or officer against liability under this Article.

## **ARTICLE VIII-EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS**

- 8.1 PERSONS AUTHORIZED** Except as may be otherwise provided in the Constitution and Bylaws, or by resolution of the Board of Directors or by law, the person authorized to make and execute all written instruments of Association, including the checks, drafts, notes, bonds, acceptance, deeds, leases, and contracts shall be the Luna Ho'omalū (President), the Luna Ho'omalū Hope (Vice President), the Kākau 'Ōlelo (Secretary), the Papa Makua (Spiritual Leader), and the Pu'ukū (Treasurer). ~~accepted by consenses~~
- 8.2 CONTRACTS** The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the Association, in addition to the officers so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Association, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.



- 8.3 **CHECKS, DRAFTS, ORDERS, AND NOTES** All checks, drafts or orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Association, shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Association, and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors. In the absence of such determination by the Board of Directors, such instruments shall be signed by any officer if the amount of the instrument is under one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by the ~~Treasurer~~ Pū'ukū and countersigned by the ~~President~~ Luna Ho'omalū, the ~~Vice-President~~ Luna Ho'omalū Hope, or the ~~Secretary~~ Kakau 'Olelo or the ~~Papa~~ Makua of the Association if the amount of the instrument is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or over.

## ARTICLE IX-FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 **BUDGET** A proposed Annual Budget as presented by the Finance Committee, approved by the Board of Directors and distributed to the churches together with the notice of the Annual Meeting.

9.2. **RECEIPTS**

- 9.2.1 **Uku Kumau (Dues)** Each church member, as defined in Section 1.1.1.1 hereof, shall pay annual per capita assessment based on the total number members of that church. The Association shall establish the rate of assessment.
- 9.2.2 **Lulu (Offering)** An offering may be received at meetings of membership to support the work of the Association.
- 9.2.3 **Fund Raising** The Association may undertake special fund raising activities approved by the membership or Board of Directors.
- 9.2.4 **Deposits** All funds of the Association shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Association in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Board of Directors may select.
- 9.3. **DISBURSEMENTS** All disbursements shall be paid by the Pu'uku (Treasure) as may be directed by these Bylaws, the Board of Directors or this Association.
- 9.4. **AUDITS** Within ninety (90) days after the close of each fiscal year, the Pu'ukū will submit to the Board of Directors an annual financial statement prepared in-house and verified as to accuracy by an authorized officer or member of the Board, who shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. Findings will be reported to the membership at the next meeting of the Association

#### **9.5. GRANTS AND ENTITLEMENT**

The Association may appoint a special committee to search and investigate grant ~~that~~ and entitlements that may be available to the Association.

#### **9.6. GIFTS**

The Board of Directors may accept on behalf of the Association any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for the general purposes as for any special purpose of the Association. The Board may appoint a Special Committee to receive and ~~mangae~~ manage endowments and special gifts.

### **ARTICLE X-BOOKS AND RECORDS**

The Association shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its members, Board of Directors and Committees having any of the authority of the Board of Directors, and shall keep at the registered or principal office a record giving the names and addresses of the members entitled to vote. Any member, or his agent or his attorney may inspect all books and records of the Association for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

### **ARTICLE XI-FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Association shall be from July 1 through June 30.

### **ARTICLE XII-PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

All meetings of the Board of Directors, Committees, and the Association shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, which shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not covered by the Constitution or the Bylaws of this Association, as amended.

### **ARTICLE XIII-AMENDMENT AND REVIEW**

These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new Bylaws may be adopted by a majority of the members present at any regular meeting or at any special meeting, if at least thirty (30) days written notice is given of the intention to alter, amend, or repeal or to adopt new Bylaws at such meeting. These Bylaws shall be reviewed every three (3) years.

Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches  
Oahu Island Representative Report  
Aha Na Kai Ewalu – June 12, 2025

**Bishop Memorial Chapel:** no report

**Ewa Community Church:**

Pastor: Kahu Rennie Mau

Moderator: Olive Echano Douglass

Church Delegate: Mokihana Powers and Kimo McElmurry

Worship Service: Sunday at 10:00 A.M. in-person

Guest in Pulpit: Kimo McElmurry (3/2), Cal Eaton (3/23)

Communion: First Sunday of every month      Sunday School: N/A

Bible Study: Thursday evenings at 5:30 P.M.      Luau Church: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday evenings

Celebration of Life: Kurtis Murata and Alice Kamaka

Palm Sunday: Ewa Plains Preschool Presentation in service

Kamehameha Schools Deputation Team Presentation in Luau Church

Spring Aha Halawai: Kahu Mau, Kimo McElmurry, and Mokihana Powers

Church Pews: (10) semi-damaged pews were donated and transported to the Hoakalei Bird Sanctuary in Ewa Beach refuge

Maintenance: Due to changing business insurance companies (for lower premium)

Ewa Community Church is adhering to an inspection by the new insurance company

Other: ECC provided a venue for Kahu Rennie Mau to present his dissertation of his PH.D school project

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna-Lyn D. Abang, Church Admin.

**Hau'ula Kahuhu Church:** no report

**Hau'ula Congregational Church:** no report

**Ka Hana O Ke Akua Church UCC:**

In January Ka Hana O Ke Akua received a grant from the SCHCC's Richard W. Wong Endowment Fund to repair our food outreach trailer, which will allow us to safely continue distributing food and hygiene items to those individuals and families living along the Wai'anae Coast. We are also grateful to have filled our Moderator position, which was vacant for a year.

Mahalo,

Kahu Brianna Lloyd

**Kalihi and Moanalua Church:**

Kahu: Vacant

Moderator: Toni Ku-Daniels

Church Delegate: Toni Ku-Daniels and Johnnie Ku

Worship Services: Sunday, 11:00 a.m. in-person only

Communion every 1st Sunday of the month

Sunday School (children): 10:00 a.m.

Children's Church- 11:30 a.m.- every 1st Sunday of the month

Life Celebrations:(name of member and date of death/life celebration/baptism/new membership) n/a

**Kawaiaha'o Church:**

Kahu Kenneth Makuakāne

Board of Trustee, Chair: Suzanne Boatman

Delegates to AHEC: Kaiulani Hess, Brickwood Galuteria, and Josann Jenks (Young Adult)

Worship: God is Spirit, and they who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

John 4:24

Kawaiaha'o Church continues to hold its weekly and monthly ministries from its campus, zoom and in-person.

Delegates attended conference, association, and affiliation meetings.

Respectfully Submitted by: Ka'iulani Hess

\*Kawaiaha'o Church had (2) two concerns that were discussed at the AHEC Board of Directors meeting on April 12, 2025. After some discussion, Kahu Welsh will address Kawaiaha'o Church directly.

**Lili'uokalani Protestant Church:**

Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches

April 11, 2025

Kahu/Pastor: Guest Ministers

Moderator: John Hirota

Church Delegate: Laurie H. Kauleinamoku

Worship Services: Sunday, 10:00 a.m. in-person only

The pulpit was staffed by (5) different ministers with April 2025 being covered by Kahu Alpha Goto.

Programs, Events, Meetings, Projects: Church life was maintained throughout.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie H. Kauleinamoku, LPC Church Delegate

Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches  
*East Maui Island Representative Report*  
Aha Na Kai Ewalu – June 12, 2025

Aloha Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

John 11:40 Then Jesus said; “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

**Paia Hawaiian Protestant Church:**

Paia Hawaiian Protestant Church will fellowship with Maluhia Church for their Sunrise Service at 5:30 a.m. Then they have their regular scheduled service at Paia for Resurrection Sunday. They had celebrated the late Prince Jonah Kuhio on Aliʻi Sunday with the Royal Order Kahekili Chapter, Na Wahine O Kamehameha, and Aha Hui O Kaahumanu Society. They also service Hale A Ke Ola. Kamehameha Schools Deputation Team joined Paia Hawaiian Protestant Church for service on April 29, 2025. The church is reaching out to see if there are workshop or information on how to mediate homeless population that tends to trespass on the property. They understand it is a mission and do not have the resource or ability to address. It has been ongoing for a while and could pose a liability or danger for church members. At the last BOD meeting it was suggested that a camera be purchased and installed on the property. They would be able to view from a computer or phone who’s trespassing, doing illegal activities, loitering and homeless people living on the property. This would give them the opportunity to call the authorities.

**Keolahou Congregational Hawaiian Church:**

Keolahou Hale Pule in Kihei Maui witnessed God’s grace. After the big storm, the flood came to the right and left of them but the Hale Pule facing the ocean was unaffected. They pray for all our heavy laden and care for them daily. The Pohnpei utilize the sanctuary every Sunday at noon. They also do hula ministry and music (ukulele). They still maintain a food pantry and distribution for over a hundred families.

**Kalanikahua Hou Church:**

Kalanikahua Hou are making plans for the grounds to add a septic tank. We ask for prayers as we look for kokua in completing this major expense. We recently sent a youth to Iao Church for a leadership workshop. Both the Moderator and Secretary worked to maintain compliance with

insurance, boundaries, and other available workshops to be updated. Youth is our focus currently and building our membership. We are planning for our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in September. Please mark your calendar and watch for your invitation to celebrate with us, you won't be disappointed. We are preparing for our partnership program Kukulu Kumuhana o Maui Summer Program in June. It inspires the youth to engage in community kokua kupuna and kilo as they journey on this spiritual walk. This year the start in Waikapu, fly to Kauai, and spend the last week at Kalanikahua Hou for Ho`ike.

**Waihe'e Protestant Church:**

Waihe'e Protestant Church will soon have a Licensed Minister. Currently Kahu Verl Klassen serves the Pohnpei Congregation. They operates as food pantry and provides food distribution for the community. The church is set for a rummage sale later in April of next year. Kahu Klassen was interviewed by AHEC COM and approved his dual standing with AHEC and the Pohnpei Ministry Bless him.

**Kaulanapueo Congregational Church:**

At the present time the church has nothing to report since the Aha Halawai. Hawaii Conference Foundation visited with the members of Kaulanapueo Congregational Church and assessed the condition of the property.

**Wananalua Congregational Church:**

I spoke to moderator of the church , she was glad to hear from AHEC. She went down memory lane from past Aha Halawa, CE, and Sunday School activities. I mentioned that the church was and is still a member of AHEC. I would love to have them in attendance at the Aha Pae'aina. Prayers for them in Hana.

God is ever present and so we must do our finest to bring the light of hope, peace, and love.

Mahalo,

*Joyclynn Costa*

Joyclynn Costa

East Maui Representative

Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches  
*West Maui Island Representative Report*  
Aha Na Kai Ewalu – June 12, 2025

*Aloha Kākou, here are the service reports for West Maui. Joyfully submitted by Kailani Ross:*

**Lāhuiokalani Ka'anapali Congregational Church**

3650 Lower Honoapi'ilani Road  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 10093, Lahaina, Hawaii 96761  
Aileen Trout, Lay Leader Email: [atrout5525@aol.com](mailto:atrout5525@aol.com)  
Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 am

Lāhuiokalani Ka'anapali Congregational Church is a small local membership church with fifteen members. We are strongly supported during snowbird season from January thru April when 'ohana comes to visit Maui. Since the August 2023 Lahaina fire, the Methodists, Tongan Methodists, King's Cathedral Filipino, and King's Cathedral Tongans used the church. It is a joy to share the sanctuary with other churches. The pianist returned to Maui in April.

**Waiola Church**

535 Waine'e Street  
Lahaina, Hawaii 96761  
Sunday Worship Service: 10:00am

Spring is in the Air! We celebrate the first Sunday of each month with communion with the altar was decorated by Ka'aina. This Easter, the 'ohana Kukahiko & Lu'uwai made lunch, dessert of cookies and cupcakes by others. After service with communion, we shared in the mea'ai, kukakuka, relaxed, and went on our merry way. It was pleasant and well enjoyed. Plastic easter eggs with surprises that were hidden for the few children we had (I think 5) and Nā Kia'i (Rita) purchased Easter baskets, so each child went home with a basket filled with Easter Eggs. Beautiful plumeria lei made by Nā Kia'i were shared with all attendees. We were also gifted with live music by Retired Kahu Dennis Barger. Me Ke Aloha, Kahu Anela

**Olowalu Lanakila Church**

Please, keep praying for a full restoration from 2019 fire.

**Ka'ahumanu Church**

We are participating in Joint Worship Services with Wailuku Union and Iao UCC. We are actively seeking out funding resources for some of the sanctuary restoration project. Architectural, structural, and building permit are done. Project manager has been hired, and bids have been received. We just need to raise the money. The cost for the sanctuary restoration project is approximately \$3 million. Kaahumanu Church has sent a letter to churches soliciting kokua. Our plan is to ask everyone to share the letter with friends and family. Looking for people to connect us with funding sources.

Kahu Wayne Higa  
Ka'ahumanu Church  
P.O. Box 1403  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793



## Ka'ahumanu Church

P.O. Box 1403  
103 South High Street  
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793  
Phone: 808-244-5189  
**IRS EIN #: 13-1957221**

April 1, 2025

Aloha,

Mahalo nui loa for your support of Ka'ahumanu Church.

Ka'ahumanu Church stands as a noble and virtuous testament to the resiliency of congregation and community in our small town of Wailuku since before the arrival of the missionaries here on the island of Maui. The history and mana of this wahi pana (storied place) located at the foot of Mauna Kahalawai leading to Iao valley was once the Royal Compound of King Kahekili. The last ruling King of Maui before Kamehameha united the islands.

It is not only a place of worship but also a significant cultural and historical landmark here on Maui. The present building was built in 1876. This church stands as a testament to the rich history of Hawai'i and its people. It is a symbol of the enduring legacy of Queen Ka'ahumanu and the early Hawaiian missionaries John Honoli'i and Thomas Hopu. The church's unique New England simple style Gothic architecture adds to the aesthetic and historical value of the Wailuku community.

Through the years, the church has faced deterioration due to weather and age, necessitating restoration work to preserve its structural integrity and historical significance. It's historical significance is matched by its ongoing contributions towards the community, allowing itself to be a gathering place for community events, services, and youth programs. Ensuring that it continues to serve future generations is of crucial historical importance. The proposed restoration project includes critical repairs to the steeple, roof, interior sanctuary, and related infrastructure. These efforts will ensure that the church continues to serve as a safe place for Hawaiian worship, celebrations, and community gatherings.

Many of you in the community have driven by this iconic building. Admired the shade of the monkey pod tree. Enjoyed live music under that same shade. Fed the feral chicken population. Attended funerals, weddings, rummage sales, and other events. It is old and historic building but not a museum. The current building is 149 years old. The congregation still gathers for worship. It is a small and faithful group. We are a part of your community and you are all a part of our community. Many of you know us. We are ohana, friends and neighbors.



Some of you have lived here your whole life but haven't visited or been inside of it. We say to you. E komo mai. Come. Truly it is not as intimidating as it looks. E komo mai. Come. Inside this historic building within your community you find a small Hawaiian church. Nothing fancy but a place that feels like home.

After many years of work restoration and preservation is becoming a reality. Architectural, structural work is now complete. The building permit is complete. A project manager has been hired. Bid request have gone out and have been received. Now we needed funds and it is a lot. The amount needed is \$2,700,000.00.

It has been a long journey to get to this place we are at now. There will be fundraisers. There will be grants written, there will be conversations, there will be begging. Lots of pule (prayer). Over the years we have reminded ourselves that Akua does not want us to fail but to succeed. In God's time. The time is now. The ho'ailona (signs) are all around us.

We ask our community to support this project with your donations. We ask for your continued support. Support in pule for this project. Support sharing of a grant or other funding source with us. Support in sharing the need with others.

Please reach out and contact any of us to donate or just to kukakuka (talk story) and share ideas.

Kahu Wayne Higa – [kahuwayne@live.com](mailto:kahuwayne@live.com)

**AHEC**  
**East Hawaii Report**  
**Aha Na kai ewalu 2025**

Aloha Kakou AHEC,

Please find below my report on the East Hawaii churches.

**Haili church/Kuhio chapel**

We currently have four Bible Release Time teachers: Gary & Cynthia Akimseu, Meli Akimseu, Kelsey Bufil, and helper Wahine'aukai. With eight weeks remaining, our last class will be on **May 21, 2025**. Two students will be graduating this year, and I will be purchasing leis, Bibles, and certificates for them. Our curriculum is provided by the State Sunday School through "Sermon for Kids." We've been rotating lessons and including activities tied to Hawaiian figures and holidays. Thank you to all who've donated snacks, supplies, and funds.

**Laupahoehoe Congregational Church Highlights (Since Jan 4, 2025):**

Participated in Aha O Na Kahu trainings (Jan 9, Feb 27)

Attended Puula Church Hoike (Jan 11) and Aha Halawai at Imiola (Feb 28-Mar 1)

Multiple food distributions (Jan-Mar), including meats, produce, dairy, and specialty items

Regular Sunday services continue with CE at 9:30 AM, Sunday School at 10 AM, and Worship at 11 AM Continued graveyard upkeep by members and families

**Kalapana Mauna Kea Church (KMKC):**

Kahu Mike continues to serve since 2006, sharing pulpit duties with a Kahu-in-training

Monthly Holy Communion (1st Sundays)

Hosted KSBE students on Mar 9 for an all-'Ōlelo Hawai'i youth-led service

Easter Sunday service at 9 AM with brunch

KMKC Hoike planned for **July 12, 2025 (202nd anniversary)**

**Pu'ula United Church of Christ:**

Held Aha Mele and installed Diane Hultman; now a member of AHEC and associate of Hawaii Island Conference

Pastor Diane attended Boundary Training; Liz is handling insurance audit matters

Regular Sunday services and growing attendance with musical youth contributions

Active recovery group meets 6 days/week - Preschool supports weekly setup

Major repairs and painting completed on church buildings

**O'laa church – no report submitted**

"Na ko kakou Haku maika'i e hoopomaika'i a malama ia oe i na la a pau o kou ola ana"

Mahalo,

*Angie Warren*

Angie Warren  
AHEC East Hawai'i Rep.

## **Report for Hauoli Kamananao Church**

Our Kahu Charles Mahina Kaupiko is taking a medical leave of absence till further notice.

Every Sunday before Church starts @ 10:30 we have intercessory prayer lead by Pastor Mary Paio.

Sunday school for our youth starts @ 9:30 every other Sunday is led by Kaimi Kaupiko who is our church moderator, Marc and Rose Paio lead the Sundays school when Kaimi doesn't.

Marc and Rose Paio are our youth leaders and Melissa Waite-Crawford is the keiki Ministry leader.

Praise and worship team is truly being inspired by the holy spirit and the team is growing our team members are Melissa Waite Crawford(leader), Lisa Hua, Rose and Marc Paio, Leivalyn Kaupu, Rosalind Ioane and we also have couple fill ins Taha'a Kahele and Ameila Waite-Crawford.

We have our praise and worship team share a word of encouragement every Sunday

Rosalind Ioane, Melissa Waite-Crawford, Marc Paio give sermons on different Sundays.

Please keep Our Kahu Mahina Kaupiko and our church in your prayers!

Aloha Kakou!!

Rosalind Ioane, West Hawaii Island Representative



**ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES  
STATE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  
NĀ KAI `EWALU ANNUAL REPORT  
May 14, 2025**

<sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

Aloha Kākou!

As we meet together at our Annual meeting, Nā Kai `Ewalu, it is good and to meet in kind compassion for one another. What better way is there for us to see each other face to face but in the grace and love of our heavenly father. Let us also through grace remember that our Savior forgives all our sins and we should forgive one another no matter the cause...share love, kindness, and forgiveness.

The Lord always provides for us daily. He provides love, healing, joy, is growing our numbers as we worship and praise him. At this past Spring `Aha Halawai at Waimea we all had such a wonderful time welcoming a new member church to AHEC. All the churches that attended and participated at our meeting were welcomed with joy and aloha by our new sister church Imiola in beautiful Waimea. The Hō`ike shared joy in knowing the Lord continues to build his kingdom in heaven. Here, the seeds of aloha sown by our kupuna from Imiola was prevalent in Waimea as it is in all our Hawaiian Churches. We were blessed by hula from our new church as we praised the Lord together, the spirit of Lord was with us and is alive and well as it grows ever more in hearts and deeds as that aloha is shared. And where, I ask you, did we first learn these lessons of aloha and love of Christ... in Sunday School and the aloha continues today. E ho`omau kākou i ke aloha of ke Akua. Let us persevere always in God's Love.

Our East Hawaii Churches continue to meet for Ho`ike will be hosting Hō`ike in July, August, September, November, and December. Oahu meets for their Fall Hoike and their Spring Hoike with different churches hosting. The State Sunday School and East Hawaii Sunday School partner in support of the Early Release program which is growing in numbers every month. There are 15 students who participate faithfully and 2 will graduate this May.

State Sunday School and our local Sunday school will begin to once more collect dues. SSSA dues are \$20.00 per year per church and your local Sunday School dues may vary. East Hawaii Sunday School Association dues are also \$20.00 per year per church. This does help to provide seed money for projects your Sunday School might be interested in. We also pay for Sermon For Kids which is an onling program for Sunday Schools with lessons and materials your use.

We are also reminding everyone of our quilt project. Each church was asked to make a quilt 12' x 12' square of their choice representing their church. The idea is to then put the squares together and share the aloha of the quilts with the churches and bring them to our Halawai to share our unique traditions and heritage. We look forward to sharing our ho`onaninani at Nā Kai `Ewalu when we meet in Beautiful Kauai! Be blessed and love one another, thankful for the gift of God's love.

Mahalo i Ke Akua

Loke Kamanu

State Sunday School Association President



*Sunday***SCHOOL**  
**ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD**  
*Growing in Faith Together*



## THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR PLEDGE

Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise to live for Him boldly and make it the practice of my life to pray and study God's Word daily, serve others freely, share my faith openly, worship God in my church regularly, and humbly lead His cause for my generation.

April, 2025

Aloha CE Hawaii 'Ohana!

Christian Endeavor Hawaii hopes you are healthy, happy, and giving thanks to our Ke Akua daily!

Please don't forget to check out our [CE Hawaii Website](http://hawaii.christianendeavor@gmail.com)! Visit often for information about our events, membership and scholarship information (fillable forms), devotions, CE World updates, and our prayer room! If you would like to add or announce anything on our website, please send all inquiries to [hawaii.christianendeavor@gmail.com](mailto:hawaii.christianendeavor@gmail.com).

### Updates from our CE Hawaii Board:

- **Light it Up! CE Hawaii Summer Event & Concert**

**Matthew 5:16!**

*"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*

Please plan to send your CE youth (ages 12 and up) to our one-day summer event and concert, Light it Up! will be held on **Saturday, July 19, 2025 at Kawaiahao Church from 9:30 AM - 8:30 PM**. The cost will be \$30 per youth. This cost will include: engaging workshops with materials, worship, lunch, dinner, snacks, and an evening concert featuring Mark and Carrie Tedders, longtime friends of CE Hawaii! We will also be offering concert only tickets for \$10 per person. The concert is open to everyone. We will definitely give our CE youth the tools to let their lights shine brightly for ke Akua! Registration forms will be available soon! Stay tuned!

- **Kuhio Chapel Camp 2025**

Plans are in the works to hold our second annual Kuhio Chapel Camp in October 2025. More information will be shared soon.

- **CE Hawaii Scholarships:** We continue to award scholarships to members planning to attend seminary and/or continuing their Christian education in accredited programs. See the policies (which are currently being updated) and application on our website: [CE Hawaii Scholarships & Grants](http://hawaii.christianendeavor@gmail.com). Applications are on going and due dates are April 15 (for fall and winter semesters) and October 15 (for spring and summer semesters).

- o CE Hawaii scholarships are available to members of CE membership churches for continuing/beginning a seminary education or continuing education in fields related to ministry.

- **CE Hawaii Membership Announcement:** With the rising cost of everything today, we will be charging a church/individual membership fee of \$75. Please visit our table at the Aha in June to update your membership and receive an awesome membership packet! We accept cash, check, and venmo.

Christian Endeavor Hawaii is a resource to suggest/provide resources and help to support your youth. If you have any ideas for events, workshops, or CE materials training please do not hesitate to contact us via email.

For more information about resources or our programs, please contact us @:

[hawaii.christianendeavor@gmail.com](mailto:hawaii.christianendeavor@gmail.com) or check out the: [\*\*CE Hawaii Website\*\*](#)

For Christ and His Church,

Kahu Michael Warren, CE Hawaii President, and the CE Hawaii Board of Directors

# Hawaii PAAM Report

Kahu Rennie Mau, Moderator

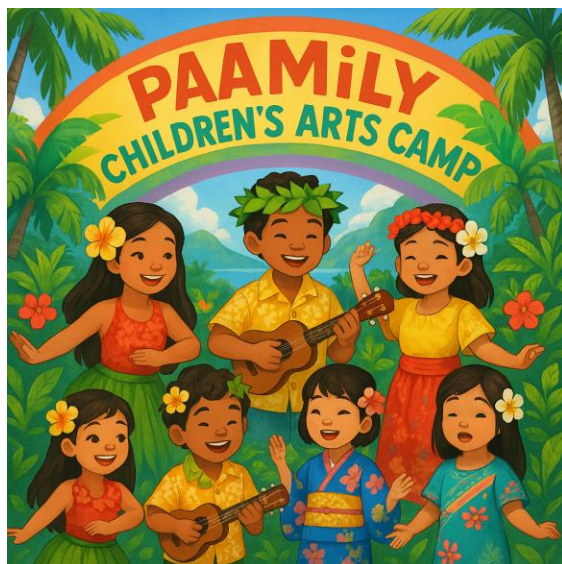
May 1, 2025



Recently, Josann Jenks - Hawaii PAAM board secretary and also National PAAM executive secretary attended the “A Tent of Our Own Making.” with representatives from other entities in the UCC. They met the week after Easter (from HCUCC also in attendance was Rev. David Popham and Kahu Ken Makuakane). It was a gathering to hear from one another along with Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, UCC General Minister and President. Josann was invited as PAAM is a part of COREM (Council for Racial Ethnic Minorities) in the UCC. PAAM represents many Pacific Islander and Asian American voices of our churches. There is no way that each ethnic group in PAAM could a seat . . . and its not about representation but collaboratively working with our COREM groups.

## PAAM Sunday

PAAM Sunday has been moved from the last Sunday of April to the first week of May. Across the United States the month of May is usually Pacific Islander and Asian American month and hence the change.



## PAAM Children's Arts Camp

Hawaii PAAM will host a series of children and youth worship arts camps this summer and fall. These camps will be on the island of Oahu, however, if there are any churches on other islands wishing to host a camp the Hawaii PAAM team is willing to come over. The camps aim to unite children and youth from our various UCC churches, as well as from Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Disciples of Christ, and more!

May 9-10 Mililani Presbyterian Church  
Friday 5:30-9PM; Saturday 8:30 AM - 12Noon

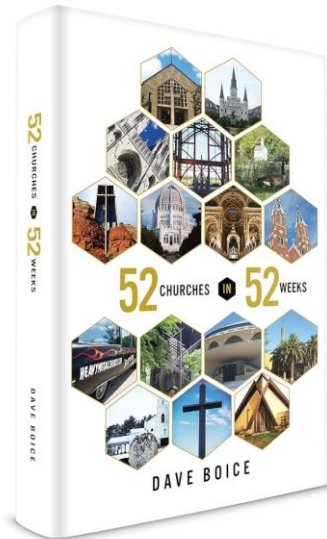
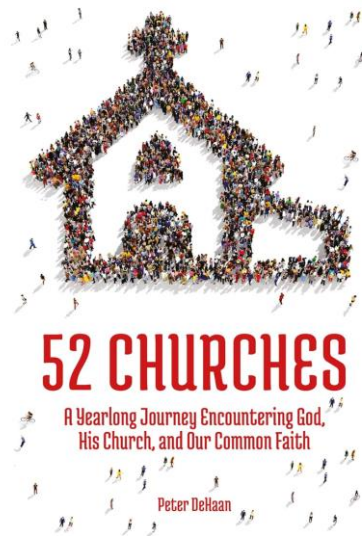
June 23 - 28 PLAYDANCE Musical at Mililani Presbyterian Church  
5:30-8PM M-F, Finale concert on June 28

Fall 2025 - GODSPELL Junior



## Hawaii PAAM Book Study

With many of our UCC churches in membership decline and aging congregations we are having a Hawaii nationwide book study on two related books for discussion. Kahu Mau will also share from his PhD research many revival stories of Asian and Pacific congregations who are on the upswing. The book study is both live synchronous and asynchronous (should any wish to join from Turtle Island).



## PAAM at General Synod

PAAM will have a booth at General Synod. We will be displaying items from our various churches including AHEC! Kahu Mau will be attending General Synod on behalf of Hawaii PAAM.

## CURRENT OFFICERS for 2024-2025

**Moderator** - Kahu Rennie Mau, Ewa Community Church

**Vice-Moderator** - Kahu Ron Fujiyoshi, Olaa Hawaiian Church

**Secretary** - Josann Jenks, Kawaihāo Church

**Treasurer** - Pastor Jeannie Thompson, Nuuanu Congregational Church

Hawaii PAAM, 1750 Kalakaua Avenue #704, Honolulu, HI 96826

Hawaii PAAM Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/547132755689649>



## **PACIFIC JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION CENTER REPORT TO AHEC - Aha Na Kai Ewalu**

6.12.25 By Dr. Kahu Kaleo Patterson

ZONE OF PEACE On Palm Sunday PJRC organized the 2nd Annual Kalihi Palama Peace Walk with Kaumakapili Church and St. Elizabeth Church, Kaiulani School, Kalihi Palama Health Clinic, Tamashiro Market, and others. This Annual Peace Walk coincides with the Anniversary of the beginning of the Kalihi Palama Zone of Peace and Nonviolence.

Zone of Peace and Non-Violence - Kalihi Palama

Palm Sunday Peace Walk

50 Reentry Bac Pac

Kaumakapili Church - St. Elizabeth Homeless Street Shelter Project

THE PJRC MANGO STREET PROJECT - 123 Mango Street Homeless Outreach Center (Wahiawa) - has recently partnered with the Project Vision to provide showers, restrooms, case management, food, clothes at Mango St.

COFO ALOHA - Food Outreach and Food Sovereignty Project has expanded its partnership and activities to West Oahu and three Hawaiian Churches: Kawaiahao Church (every Friday), Kahikuonalani Church & Liliuokalani Church (once a month), and 15-20 other sites in Central Oahu and Urban Honolulu. Recently the Hawaii Council of Churches recognized St. Stephen's COFO with the offerings from the Easter Sunrise Service at the National Cemetery of the Pacific. Mahalo Ke Akua.

A NEW AHA MELE began on March 30th at Liliuokalani Soldiers Chapel and was attended by many Hawaiian Churches and the Garrison Command and Chaplains and soldiers and families at Schofield Army Barracks.

### **PRISON MINISTRIES**

Conducted Makahiki Programs and Ceremonies in the Women's Correctional , Halawa Correctional, and OCCC, but a reduced version due to short staffing and facility limitations. The Prisons and Jails are currently struggling with short staffing, and many other difficulties, release and reentry have increased, contributing to homelessness, and now prisons are not overcrowded, at Halawa which has four modules, one module is completely shut down. Our Bac Pac project has increased due to increase in releases, we are now at 700-800 bac pacs a year. Mahalo to AHEC, Haili Church and others for prayers and support.

St. Stephen's and PJRC are very grateful to AHEC & Member Churches, Five E Grants, and Haili Church, for tremendous support and partnerships in 2025.

To contact or make a donation:  
Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center  
PO BOX 1354, WAIANAE, HI 96792  
T. 808 330-3769 E. [kaleop@me.com](mailto:kaleop@me.com)



PALM SUNDAY PEACE WALK AND REENTRY BAC PACS WITH  
KAUMAKAPILI CHURCH AND ST. ELIZABETH

**Report of the Covenantal Relationship between Kamehameha Schools and  
the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches  
Aha Na Kai Ewalu June 12, 2025**

The Covenantal Relationship between Kamehameha Schools and the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches provides opportunities for na haumana to participate in activities with the local churches. These activities have provided opportunities for the students to grow in their faith and character. The churches have been reinvigorated and encouraged to see youth leading worship and practicing servant leadership.

**Goals of the Covenantal Relationship**

1. KS will establish deputation teams which will be available to local churches to lead worship and demonstrate servant leadership. This would demonstrate to the local church that youth are contributing members of the worship experience.
2. Support the local churches by providing opportunities for the students to demonstrate servant leadership in their church and home communities. KS will assist the student in developing the projects.
3. Encourage pastors of the local churches to be a part of our ministry to our children by serving as resources for our Chapels and Christian Education classes.
4. KS will make its facilities available for AHEC functions, provided they do not conflict with KS events/functions.

**Kamehameha Schools Spiritual Theme:**

**E Ho‘okala Like Kākou i Ka Ihe ā Puka a Lanakila**

**Let us sharpen our spears together to emerge victoriously!**

**Tri - Campus Deputation Teams Scheduling: KS Kapālama, KS Maui, and KS Hawai'i**

**KS Kapālama:** Kahu Manu and the Deputation Team will be scheduling for Church Visits for our next School Year.

**KS Maui:** Kahu Kanani and her team will be leading worship at Paia Hawaiian Protestant Church on April 27<sup>th</sup>, and will be scheduling for Church Visits with her Deputation Team for our next School Year

**KS Hawai'i:** Kahu Kaunaloa and the KS Hawai'i Deputation Team will return to Kalapana Maunakea Congregational Church with Kahu Mike Warren and Māmā Kahu Angie on May 17, 2025, to lead worship for Kahu Shontell Calina (Kula Ha'aha'a K-5 Kumu Kalikiano) and Kahu Kensy Apaka (Kula Waena 6-8 Kumu Kalikiano) Licensed Ministry Ceremony. E mililani aku iā Iesū. Our two Kahu will continue their Members in Discernment process working towards AHEC Ordination. The following day May 18, 2025, our Deputation Team will be supporting the worship service at Haili Congregational Church. Finally, we too will be planning for next school year's church visits.

**Kamehameha Schools Pastoral Participation:** Kamehameha Schools MID Authorized Licensing Ceremony May 17, 2025, at Kalapana Maunakea Congregation Church.

Me ke aloha,



Kahu Brian Kaunaloa Boshard  
Chaplain, Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i  
[brboshar@ksbe.edu](mailto:brboshar@ksbe.edu) Office: 808-982-0012



Kahu Manu Nae'ole  
Chaplain, Kamehameha Schools Kapālama  
[arnaole@ksbe.edu](mailto:arnaole@ksbe.edu) Office: 808-842-8683



Kahu Kanani Franco  
Chaplain, Kamehameha Schools Maui  
[refranco@ksbe.edu](mailto:refranco@ksbe.edu) Office: 808-572-3188

# Report to AHEC Regarding The Launch of the Pasifika Communities University Suva, Fiji – April 28-May 2, 2025

To the Board of AHEC:

Mahalo nui for appointing me to represent AHEC at the launch of the Pasifika Communities University (PCU) in Suva, Fiji from April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025. The occasion was to celebrate the transition from the venerable Pacific Theological College (PTC) to the Pasifika Communities University.

For the past 60 years, the PTC faithfully provided to the churches and communities in the Pacific a strong curriculum in biblical scholarship, pastoral training, evangelical pursuits and community service. Many of the PTC's alumni also worked with distinction in civil services and government. I believe this transition of the university will greatly expand and deepen the level of Christian engagement and service in the Pacific and globally.

The celebration events took place at the campus of the PCU and civic venues around Suva. Every event was outstanding, inspiring and moving. I am providing copies of the magazine that was published for the event to Papa Makua for your perusal.

Attending the launch of the Pasifika Communities University in Suva, Fiji, like our attendance at the Pacific Leaders' Meeting (PLM) in Pago Pago, and our joining the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) also headquartered in Suva, are important steps in AHEC's endeavor to develop stronger ties with our extended church family throughout the Pacific. It is very heartwarming to have the churches, denominations and organizations welcome Hawaii into the Pasifika fold.

At the PLM in Pago Pago, the decision-making body of the University, the Council, extended an invitation to Papa Makua for AHEC to join the PTC Council (now the PCU Council). That is something that needs follow-up.

In the coming weeks and months, we will be discussing with leaders of the PCU and PCC of the ways in which we can work together to unite the Body of Christ in Hawaii and the Pacific.

Also, leaders of the PCC and the PCU have reiterated their commitment to stand in solidarity and advocate for Hawaii's independence at the international level. How that will manifest is under discussion.

Aloha ke Akua, Iesu pu...

Leon Siu

Director, Christian Voice of Hawaii



Aloha brothers and sisters of Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches,

We're grateful for your prayers and partnership with Harvest Family Life Hawaii. Here are some of the ways that you have been on mission with HFLHI from June 2024-May 2, 2025.

***CHRISTIAN HOMES PROVIDED TO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES***

FOSTER CARE MATCHES: 7

FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS: 15

NEW FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS: 9

RESPITE CARE MATCHES: 13

RESPITE CARE PLACEMENTS: 9

NEW RESPITE PROVIDERS: 8

3 pending adoptions, awaiting court date

***SUPPORT TO FOSTER/ADOPTIVE/HANAI FAMILIES***

43 keiki served through Care Portal

Kokua Closet- 68 keiki registered to shop w/QR Code - Shoppers at University Avenue Baptist Church & Central Baptist Church. These numbers reflect shoppers that filled out our online sign-in form.

Respectfully submitted by:

Pastor Brad McDaniel

Harvest Family Life Hawaii



# Pacific Conference of Churches

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## **2025 Pacific Church Leaders' Meeting Outcome Statement**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*From the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2025, leaders from 23 national denominations across 19 Pacific Islands States and Territories gathered at Kanana Fou Theological College in Pago Pago, Amerika Samoa to pray together, discuss key issues affecting our region and discern the transformative work the Pasifika Household of God is called to engage in at such a time as this. We acknowledge that we gathered at a time:*

- *when the world is terrorized by war and the politics of power and greed;*
- *where self-determination is no longer viewed as a God-given right;*
- *where our identities are challenged in the very lands our ancestors call home;*
- *where women and children are still being abused;*
- *where discrimination and inequality still exist; and*
- *where our lands are being washed away by the impact of climate change, caused by nations geographically far away from us but who use the rhetoric of neighbor and family to garner support geopolitically.*

*We receive and affirm the words of the leader of our host church, Rev. Elder Faateete Saifoloi, Moderator of the Congregational Christian Church in Amerika Samoa (CCAS/EFKAS), we must **"Expect to be Hated"** (Matthew 10:22) in our task of being God's instruments of salvation as liberation and discipleship for transformation in our communities and the region.*

### **THEOLOGICAL FRAMING: DO KAMO AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE PACIFIC HOUSEHOLD OF GOD**

Our gathering became a sacred talanoa shaped by the Spirit of Do Kamo—**Christ of the Islands—who calls us into authentic humanity**. As prophets and pastors, we are summoned to transform ourselves, our communities, and the fenua and moana that cradle Pacific life, recognising even the creatures of the ocean as part of God's household. Under the twin banners Do Kamo: Transformation and Do Kamo: Liberation, we wrestled with the shifting realities our peoples now face.

Pacific societies stand at a confluence of ancestral wisdom and global modernity. For many young people, identity is forged in a third space—a creative, hybrid realm where tradition and innovation meet. Hybridity is not a threat but a gift, offering spiritual resilience and fresh ways to live faithfully amid diaspora, digital culture, and rapid change.

For the church, entering this space requires toefuata'i—renewal rooted in culture yet open to surprise. Pacific languages, poetry, navigational metaphors, and oral storytelling must be woven

into theological education, digital worship, and participatory leadership. Intergenerational dialogue and contextual responses to justice, migration, and climate change keep the Gospel credible and embodied.

Yet transformation demands courage. Like Stephen, we must speak truth when entrenched norms resist. Silence, fear, and ignorance—the tools of oppressive culture—must be named and disarmed. Healthy congregations practise open dialogue, lead with compassionate conviction, and cultivate lifelong learning, becoming sanctuaries where justice, mercy, and truth breathe freely.

The Pacific Household of God embodies communal belonging: people, land, ocean, and Spirit woven together in Christ and sent to serve. When we dare to live Do Kamo, liberation ceases to be a concept and becomes daily practice—protecting creation, uplifting the marginalised, and re-imagining identity with hope. Trials will come, yet our calling is clear: transform, liberate, and embody the Gospel so that our islands and their children may flourish.

*With thanks to - Rev. Dr. Safue Ulufaleilupe and Rev. Craig Masaniai of Kanana Fou Theological College for their theological reflections during our morning devotions.*

## **KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED AND OUTCOMES FROM THE 2025 PACIFIC CHURCH LEADERS MEETING**

### ***A PEACE-FULL PASIFIKA***

We affirm the work of the Pacific Conference of Churches on ensuring the voice of Pacific Churches in the development of the regional Ocean of Peace Declaration. The “Ocean of Peace,” introduced by Pacific Islands Forum leaders in 2023 and slated for formal declaration in 2025, calls the region to transcend militarised security and seek holistic, relational peace. Drawing on Pacific concepts such as filemu (Samoa), melino (Tonga) and sautu (Fiji), together with biblical shalom, it envisions harmony among peoples, land, ocean, and Creator.

A faith-centred approach is essential. Pacific churches already anchor social cohesion, conflict mediation, disaster response, and climate-justice advocacy. Their ethic of Do Kamo—ongoing transformation into authentic humanity—frames peace not as an event but a lifelong communal journey. Building on the Boe and Biketawa Declarations, this brief calls for “positive peace”: inclusive governance, ecological stewardship, economic fairness, and the full participation of women, youth, and Indigenous knowledge-holders.

Key priorities include embedding climate resilience and a fossil-fuel-free future in regional policy; recognising women’s leadership under the Women, Peace and Security agenda; protecting self-determination movements; and outlawing threats such as nuclear weapons, deep-sea mining, and ecocide. By grounding the Ocean of Peace in these values, Pacific leaders can resist great-power rivalry, advance a people-centred development model, and offer the world a testimony of justice, abundance, and shared guardianship of our Blue Pacific Continent.

### ***SELF-DETERMINATION IN AN OCEAN PEACE***

At the same time, we acknowledged that we cannot have an Ocean of Peace if our sisters and brothers continue to suffer enduring colonization and neo colonization. Church leaders heard



compelling testimonies from **Hawai'i, Ma'ohi Nui, Kanaky, and Aotearoa**. Guided by these voices, the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) adopts the following measures as tangible acts of solidarity and decolonising discipleship.

### **Hawai'ian Sovereignty**

We affirm the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches finding that the Kingdom of Hawai'i—unified in 1810, recognized by Britain and France in 1843, and connected through 16 treaties and 139 diplomatic posts—was invaded and unilaterally “annexed” by the United States in 1898, then placed under the 1900 Organic Act as a U.S. territory.

Hawai'i was listed by the United Nations in 1946 as a non-self-governing territory, yet the 1959 U.S. plebiscite offered no independence option, failing the standard of free, prior, and informed consent. UN Resolution 1469 approving statehood was therefore adopted without due process or the consent of Hawaiian national citizens.

We recall U.S. Public Law 103-150 (“Apology Resolution,” 1993), wherein Congress admitted that the overthrow occurred with active U.S. participation and acknowledged that Native Hawaiians never relinquished their inherent sovereignty or national lands.

Recognizing Hawai'i as part of the Pasifika Household of God, the Pacific Conference of Churches commits to stand with our Hawai'ian 'ohana through the following actions:

- **Advocacy:** brief Pacific church leaders, regional bodies, and partner governments on the legal basis for reinstating the Hawaiian Kingdom, and urge an international review of UN Resolution 1469.
- **Representation:** invite Hawaiian Kingdom delegates to PCC forums, summits, and ecumenical consultations on decolonisation, peace, and climate justice.
- **Self-reliance:** support community programs that strengthen food sovereignty, renewable energy, affordable housing, cultural renewal, and accountable local governance.
- **In covenantal fellowship,** we pledge to uphold the dignity, history, and aspirations of the Hawaiian people as they pursue full self-determination.

### **Ma'ohi Nui & Kanaky**

- **Sovereignty affirmed** – PCC endorses the Ma'ohi Protestant Church's *Declaration of Sovereignty* and calls on France to recognise Ma'ohi independence and end colonial control of church and civic life.
- **Nuclear-justice alliance** – In 2025 PCC will convene a **Pacific Churches Nuclear Working Group**—youth and elders from Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, and Ma'ohi Nui—chaired by WCC President Rev Francois, to press for reparations, ocean protection, and a fossil-fuel-free Pacific.
- **Pastoral accompaniment** – A PCC delegation will visit Ma'ohi Nui in 2025 and stand with local leaders during UN Fourth-Committee sessions on decolonisation.
- **Freedom Sunday** – The Sunday closest to 14 July is set aside as **Freedom Sunday for Kanaky & Ma'ohi Nui**, inviting every congregation to pray, preach, and advocate for liberation from French occupation.

### **Aotearoa New Zealand**

- **Standing with Māori: Beyond Symbolic Partnership**

All churches in Aotearoa are heirs to historic missionary covenants with Māori—covenants now embodied in Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Māori presenters reminded the meeting that this partnership is not a courtesy but a theological mandate: the gospel insists we honour the mana of *tangata whenua* and share power justly. Current moves to pass a “Treaty Principles Bill” would dilute Treaty protections; PCC therefore pledges critical solidarity with Māori churches, iwi, and community leaders resisting the bill.

Forty years of dialogue have laid groundwork for reconciliation, yet true transformation depends on **rangatahi Māori**. A new generation, fluent in *te reo* and grounded in whakapapa, also navigates digital technology, climate activism, and global justice networks. The wider Church must open decision-making tables, budgets, and pulpits to their leadership—or risk irrelevance in their eyes. Supporting Māori language ministries, land-back initiatives, and co-governance models are concrete steps toward a bicultural future where Gospel justice is seen and felt.

- **Te Tiriti Sunday – 2 February 2025** – The Sunday before Waitangi Day will centre prayer and study on Te Tiriti o Waitangi, challenging churches to uphold its promise in every sphere of life.

### **West Papua**

- **Freedom Sunday – 1 December** – Marked region-wide as a day of prayer and action, recalling West Papua’s original independence proclamation in 1961.

- **Women and Creation first** – While West Papuan political structures stabilise, PCC will prioritise women’s ministries and systematic reporting of ecological devastation and human-rights abuses that endanger both land and people.

By embracing these resolutions, the PCC renews its commitment to a decolonised, intercultural Pasifika Household of God—where every nation’s dignity is protected, creation is treasured, and the liberating hope of Christ is proclaimed in word and deed.

### **YOUTH EMPOWERMENT – MENTORING OUR FUTURE ELDERS**

We endorse the outcomes of the inaugural Regional Ecumenical Youth Council gathering (Fiji 17-22 February 2025).

There was strong appreciation expressed for the emphasis on youth leadership, particularly regarding institutions dedicated to training and equipping young people as future leaders. The clarity and articulation of our outcome statement received notable commendation, and requests were made for both digital and printed versions for further reflection and distribution. During intergenerational discussions, participants explored the crucial question: What do young people desire from their leaders? Central themes emerged around youth empowerment, the importance of youth voices being actively heard, and the provision of spiritual guidance and opportunities that enable young people to influence their generation positively. A significant challenge identified was the need to shift certain leaders’ mindsets toward providing genuine spaces and supportive environments for youth participation.

Examples were highlighted of churches successfully encouraging youth involvement by assigning them roles in services, such as reading scripture, leading prayers, and sharing reflections, thereby fostering deeper theological understanding and spiritual growth. The overarching belief expressed was that youth engagement is essential to cultivating future leaders who can guide families and communities spiritually. It was emphasized that continued support and follow-up activities are necessary to sustain and enhance the impact of youth-focused initiatives.

### **Recommendations:**

- **Strengthen Youth Participation:** Leaders and institutions should actively create spaces for meaningful youth participation in spiritual and community activities, such as roles in church services and theological discussions, thereby empowering young individuals and fostering their leadership potential.
- **Establish Structured Follow-Up Initiatives:** Develop structured follow-up programs, such as regular mentoring sessions, leadership workshops, and feedback opportunities, to maintain momentum from initial youth engagements and ensure sustained growth and continuous skill development among young people.

### **TRANSFORMATION AND RESTORYING THE PASIFIKA HOUSEHOLD**

We affirm the transition of the Pacific Theological College into the Pasifika Communities University and its work of ReStorying our Pasifika narratives for a whole of life flourishing for our region.

We affirm the Pacific Ecumenical Community (PEC) Charter which guides our three Regional Ecumenical Institutions of the Pacific Conference of Churches, Pacific Theological College/Pasifika Communities University and the South Pacific Association of Theological Schools. We call on the PEC to develop collaborative actions for the implementation of our Pacific Church Leaders Meeting outcomes.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE – SOLIDARITY WITH AND ACTION BY THE MOST VULNERABLE**

Pacific Church Leaders first **received and unanimously affirmed the Tuākoī Lei Declaration**, outcome of the 2024 *Otin Tai* + 20 Churches' Climate-Change Conference, before embarking on a **Climate-Change Solidarity Pilgrimage to Aunu'u Island**. The Declaration proclaims “neighbourly love, compassion, and hope” as antidotes to fossil-fuelled greed that is driving creation back toward chaos. Aunu'u's eroding coastlines, salt-scorched taro, and sinking seawall then offered visceral proof that every Pacific Island—not only coral atolls—is now on the climate front line.

#### **Core commitments in the Tuākoī Lei Declaration**

- **Eco-communal theology** – weave Scripture, Indigenous wisdom, science, and the groaning of creation into a shared “mat where no one is left behind.” The South Pacific Association of Theological Schools is urged convene a workshop so every college can embed eco-theology and local climate knowledge in its curriculum.
- **Decolonised language** – translate technical climate terms into heart language, speak of vulnerability and resilience on Pacific terms, and resist jargon that mutes frontline realities.
- **Multi-stakeholder collaboration** – create a PCC Climate Working Group, link churches with CSOs, governments, women, youth, diaspora, and channel frontline demands through UNFCCC and WCC platforms.
- **Reweaving the Ecological Mat** – judge development by ecological health and communal well-being rather than GDP, and integrate these principles into national plans.
- **Pastoral trauma care** – build a regional counselling network to address climate-related grief, fear, and displacement.
- **Innovation for justice** – harness AI, resilient agriculture, and digital media to boost adaptation and awareness.
- **Prophetic solidarity** – push for a fossil-fuel-free Pacific, divest church assets from oil and gas, champion a global ecocide law, and uphold a moratorium on deep-sea mining.

With the Ecumenical Decade for Climate Justice to be launched this year, Pacific Church leaders urge the World Council of Churches and Australian partners—should COP 31 convene in Australia—to amplify Pacific voices. Tuākoi Lei calls all peoples to become good and loving neighbours, turning the tide toward climate justice, compassion, and hope.

## **WELLBEING – PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, HEALTHY LIFESTYLES, DRUGS**

### ***Transformation of Disability Inclusivity in “Whole of Life”***

The **Pacific Disability Forum’s Inclusive Resilience Strategy** challenges churches to become laboratories of radical welcome. Its vision is simple: congregations that plan with persons with disabilities, buildings that offer universal access, leadership tables that include disabled voices, and disaster plans written alongside Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs).

**Reality check:** Most Pacific churches have never surveyed their membership, adopted an inclusion policy, or audited their facilities—even though many double as cyclone shelters. A recent audit of ten churches in Fiji and Tonga exposed critical gaps: no disability parking or safe drop-off zones; three compliant ramps out of ten; scarce, low-contrast signage; zero tactile paths; two sub-standard “accessible” toilets; and no evacuation plans that account for disability. Only exterior lighting scored well.

#### **Five questions every congregation must answer**

- 1 Do we have a disability-inclusion policy?
- 2 Do we know how many members have disabilities and what they need?
- 3 Which accessibility upgrades are in place, and how were they funded?
- 4 Will we invite an independent access audit?
- 5 If we serve as an evacuation site, can everybody reach safety?

#### **Priority actions**

- Partner with OPDs for low-cost training and design advice.
- Follow universal-design standards when upgrading carparks, doorways, ramps, and corridors.
- Offer information in Braille, large print, and digital formats; install captioned screens for Deaf worshippers.
- Reserve front-row seating and use high-contrast colour schemes for way-finding.
- Produce embossed, large-print emergency plans and clear signage.
- Budget for compliant ramps and washrooms—high-impact investments in dignity.

Without concerted, ecumenical action, physical and informational barriers will keep sidelining people Christ calls central. Hope is rising: the **Pacific Conference of Churches** is about to appoint its first *Ecumenical Enabler for Disability Advocacy* to guide audits, policies, and theology of inclusion. Simultaneously, the **South Pacific Association of Theological Schools** will review curricula, so future pastors embed universal design and radical welcome. Together these steps launch a new chapter in Pacific mission: infrastructure, liturgy, and leadership that truly mirror the body of Christ—every limb honoured, every voice heard.

### ***A Healthy Pasifika Household of God:***

Transforming wellbeing in the Pacific requires addressing the high prevalence of deaths from Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Recognizing that “Whole of Life” encompasses physical health, a partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community is essential. Churches have a unique capacity and profound responsibility to influence health outcomes due to their widespread presence across all communities. Enhancing church involvement in NCD prevention and control is crucial, as it transcends socio-economic divisions.

Faith-based organizations can powerfully advocate holistic wellness, encouraging healthier choices aligning physical and spiritual well-being. Recommended strategies include conducting

regular educational sessions using sermons and workshops to raise awareness of NCD risks and prevention methods. Promoting healthy lifestyles through community events like fitness classes, health fairs, and cooking demonstrations further embeds positive habits.

Establishing support groups for people with conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease offers emotional support and aids treatment adherence. Collaborating with health authorities and joining national committees amplifies health promotion, while policy advocacy for healthier environments can utilize church influence effectively. Church leaders modelling healthy lifestyles can significantly inspire congregational behaviour, reinforcing the collective commitment to improved health outcomes.

### **Recommendations**

- **Holistic Youth Wellbeing Programs:** Establish comprehensive programs that address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing of youth. This could include activities like wellness workshops, mental health support groups, and regular physical exercise sessions integrated with spiritual guidance, fostering balanced personal growth.
- **Leader Role-Modelling for Youth Health:** Encourage church and community leaders to actively demonstrate and promote healthy lifestyles. By modelling positive behaviours, such as nutritious eating, physical activity, and mindfulness practices, leaders can influence youth to adopt sustainable wellbeing habits.

### **Responding to the Rising Drug Crisis in the Region**

After a sobering briefing on American Samoa's drug crisis, Pacific church leaders acknowledged that a region-wide drug crisis is unfolding. The methamphetamine ("ice") emergency now threads its way through a lattice of overseas cartels, criminal deportees, and local brokers. Deportation policies in Australia, New Zealand, and the United States return offenders to islands with scant support; many resume trafficking, paying helpers with product that is then sold locally. Addiction spreads and a domestic supply chain rapidly takes root.

Meth use fuels mental-health disorders, violence, and high-risk sexual practices. Needle sharing, chemsex, and "bluetoothing" — injecting another person with drug-tainted blood — have accelerated HIV and hepatitis outbreaks. Under-resourced health systems now treat addicts as young as nine. Criminal networks built on fear, cash, and dependency erode the moral authority of families, elders, and churches alike.

Poverty and social dislocation are the tinder. When illicit trade flourishes in the shadow of our sanctuaries, the Church's vocation is called into question. Police in several jurisdictions have urged emergency measures; church leaders agree that an equally urgent, coordinated response is required.

### ***The Pacific Conference of Churches is encouraged to:***

- **Form a regional task force** that links churches, health agencies, law-enforcement, and youth services to map trafficking routes and share effective interventions.
- **Develop contextual prevention tools** — culturally rooted liturgies, peer-support circles, and family-healing curricula that speak to local realities.
- **Advocate with deporting states** for rehabilitation funding and humane resettlement protocols so returnees are less vulnerable to criminal recruitment.
- **Equip clergy and lay leaders** with training in trauma-informed pastoral care, addiction referral pathways, and mental-health first aid.
- **Tackle root causes** by expanding livelihoods programmes, quality education, and policy advocacy that offer hope beyond the drug economy.

Confronting “ice” is gospel work — protecting life, restoring dignity, and rekindling hope across the Pasifika Household of God.

We commend this statement to our Pacific Ecumenical Community for incorporation into their ongoing work of Transformation and Liberation of the Pasifika Household as well as to our representatives to the World Council of Churches Central Committee in Johannesburg in June 2025 to bring to the attention of the global ecumenical household.

We express our deep appreciation to our host church, the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa, our host community, Kanana Fou Theological College, members of the American Samoa Council of Churches and the communities who opened their hearts to us, in the spirit of loving service, during our gathering.

**FA’AFETAI TELE LAVA AMERIKA SAMOA**