A Monthly Newsletter of 'Īao United Church of Christ

2371 W. Vineyard Street, Wailuku | (808) 244-7353 | Email: office@iaoucc.org **September 2026**

Kahu Kalani's Konnections

Last month, I had the privilege of blessing the new Frito-Lay Warehouse and Distribution Center in Kahului. Large container trucks deliver products there so local drivers can load them for markets and convenience stores across the island—places where we can easily pick up our favorite snacks.

Before the blessing, I spoke with the Chief of Operations for the Hawai'i region. I asked how the war in Iran was affecting transportation costs. He explained that the impact reached every part of their work, including fuel for delivery vehicles, gas for the fryers, and even the packaging, which is made from petroleum-based materials.

That is only part of the picture. The farmers who grow the corn, potatoes, and wheat used in chips and snacks also depend on fuel and fertilizer, both tied to oil. All these separate elements come together when we purchase a single bag of chips.

When we look at life from a wider perspective, we begin to see how one thing affects another. We also see how the work of one person depends on the efforts of many others, especially those serving on the front lines of production.

> ***"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."- 1st Corinthians 12:12***

This same sense of working toward a shared purpose is also present in the church. 1st Corinthians 12:12 reminds us, "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." Each of us has a role to play in carrying out the work of the Gospel. No one is greater than another; each of us shares God's love in our own way. Whether you read during worship, donate financial resources, offer sweat equity through volunteering, or answer phones in the office, you are using the gifts you have received to serve others (1st Peter 4:10). I give thanks for the many ways you support 'Īao UCC so that our ministry may continue into the next 130 years.

As we commemorate Labor Day, let us give thanks for all who help bring a simple meal to our tables: those who labor in the fields, those who prepare and transport the food, and those whose expertise supports each step along the way. May we remember that every meal, like every ministry, is made possible through the faithful work of many hands.

In this with you,
Kahu Kalani

September 6: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Title: *The Search Party*
Preacher: Keola Whittaker
Scripture: Matthew 18:15-20
Greeter: Warren Orikasa
Readers: Alaundra Lopez, Sonny Yoruw
Musician: Christophe Javon
Aloha Hour: Catrina Phillip and ‘Ohana

September 13: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion, Keiro No Hi, Stewardship Kick Off
Title: *There Your Hearts Will Be*
Preacher: Kahu Kalani Wong
Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21
Greeter: Warren Orikasa
Readers: Alaundra Lopez and Sonny Yoruw
Musician: Niko Nemoto
Aloha Hour: Keiro No Hi Potluck

September 20: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Title: *Tensions in the Wilderness*
Preacher: Kahu Kalani Wong
Scripture: Exodus 16:2-15
Greeter: Warren Orikasa
Readers: Alaundra Lopez and Sonny Yoruw
Musician: Dale Schwarz and Anne Barclay Rovner
Aloha Hour: **Looking for volunteers**

September 27: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Title: *God the Supplier*
Preacher: Kahu Kalani Wong
Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7
Greeter: Warren Orikasa
Readers: Alaundra Lopez and Sonny Yoruw
Musician: Christophe Jovan
Aloha Hour: Kosraean Etawi

If you are able to host a future Aloha Hour, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church, or let Jackie or Carolyn know.

Moderator’s Mana‘o

By Suzette Robinson, co-moderator

“God has a plan.” This is a phrase we hear, especially when faced with challenging situations. Our church has faced a number of challenges over the years, and we have learned important lessons and made appropriate changes when needed, resulting in a safer church and a more resilient congregation. Right now, we are faced with two challenges—the need for an office assistant and a new settled pastor.

In Genesis 45, we read of Joseph’s reconciliation with his brothers, who through their actions, has Joseph sold into slavery in Egypt. Years later and faced with a famine, the brothers go to Egypt hoping to secure food for their family in Canaan. Once there, they are brought before Joseph, whom they do not recognize. He, however, recognizes his brothers.

The irony is that when he meets with them, he does not blame them for their actions but instead speaks of “God’s plan.” He says it was God’s plan that he ends up in Egypt, endures hardships, gains the favor of the king, and rises to the highest level. Through God’s plan, he is then able to see the people of Egypt through the seven-year famine and in the process help his family.

While our church’s situation is in no way comparable in scope to Joseph’s situation, we, too, are able to see some positive outcomes for our lack of a consistent office administrative assistant and the vacancy of a settle pastor. For example, members have ventured out of their comfort zone and volunteered to assist in the office and take responsibility for tasks they would not normally do.

Others have taken on leadership positions that highlight their skills and show our congregation how fortunate we are to have them as part of our church community. At the right time, we will find someone who is a good fit for the office administrative assistant position. Within the next few months, we will find a settled pastor who will lead us into the future, and with the guidance and wisdom granted by God, help us to grow and flourish, if that is God’s plan.

Buildings and Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Community continues to work diligently on keeping our church grounds and facilities in great condition. Unfortunately, time takes its toll and the electrical system in Endo Hall has been impacted by this. Power to many of the outlets and lights are out of order. A temporary fix is in place, and an electrician has been hired to make the repairs though this may take a while as permits are issued. Until it is fully repaired, please be patient.

Please note in your personal calendars that the 4th Saturday of the month is a workday to take care of cleaning and beautification projects around the church grounds. "Many hands make light work" and we truly need your hands. The work starts at 8:00 and goes until noon. No skills necessary, just a willing heart.

ʻĪao Preschool

Start of a new school year!

We have been busy learning the school schedule and environment, getting to know friends' and teacher's names, and working cooperatively to solve problems and navigate ideas! There have been some tears shed at morning drop off and children not wanting to leave at the end of their day! Here are some photos of what the children do during a typical day at the preschool!

Here is a child who is painting "my family"

Here two children are learning about science and using their muscles to roll the tires up and down the hills!

Here are three girls working on a puzzle together!

Our dramatic play is set up as a Target store! Children have been playing different roles as cashiers and customers!

We are learning to tend to our earth and care for it too!

These are just a few moments along with many others of what children do during their days at school! If you are passing by the preschool, please stop and wave Hello!!

Justice and Witnessing

On August 23 and 30, the Justice and Witnessing Community held a post card writing campaign to encourage people in Texas and Alaska to vote in the upcoming midterm elections. A total of 200 post cards were written in those two days, way more than expected compared to last year's campaign. Mahalo plenty to those who wrote post cards! A third session will be held on 9/3.

Learning Community

Sunday School starts again on September 6. We look forward to having our children ages 3 and up as we share stories from the Bible. We are also looking for volunteers to help with craft projects and provide support to the younger children as they learn their lessons.

Throughout the month of September, **'Īao UCC** is excited once again to participate in **Give Aloha**, Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts program! You can support by making a donation at any Foodland, Sack N Save, or Foodland Farms store. 100% of your gift will go towards 'Īao UCC's Lillian Maeda Scholarship Fund and Foodland will match a portion of your contribution.

Here's how to support 'Īao at checkout:
1. Enter your Maika'i phone number or present your Maika'i card.
2. Tell the cashier: "I'd like to make a $___* donation to **'Īao UCC # 78972**
3. Review your receipt to confirm our name and your donation amount is correct.
**Customers may donate any dollar amount up to $249.*

Here are other ways to support the Give Aloha matching gift♥:
1. Donate 250 Maika'i points, equivalent to a $5 donation
2. Round up your purchase
3. Donate your spare change
4. Purchase Give Aloha merchandise designed by artist Suzanne Jennerich

♥These donations increase the matching gift for all participating organizations and are not directed toward one specific nonprofit.

Membership Classes
Pastor Kalani will be conducting membership classes beginning the middle of September. The actual time and dates will be decided by the group. If you are interested in becoming an associate or active member of 'Īao United Church of Christ, please let Pastor Kalani know.

You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.- CS Lewis

It's true that we've made a lot of mistakes, and it's true that we can't go back and change them. But God cares much less about our pasts than about helping us move forward in a better way.

Stewarding Community

Prepare for an exciting worship service on September 13! Pastor Kalani will preach and conduct Communion. Two events are included: Keiro no Hi and the 2027 Stewarding campaign kickoff.

Keiro no Hi (Respect for the Elderly) recognizes members who reach the ages of 80 or 88 years. Only four are eligible this year for their 80th birthdays: Lynette Shiroma, Winford Ideue, Dale Yatsushiro and Lynette Yamashiro. You will learn about them at the luncheon that will follow the end of worship. ***Stewarding will provide the main dishes of chicken hekka and yakitori chicken. A sign-up sheet for side dishes or desserts is posted on the bulletin board in the back of the church.***

There Our Hearts Will Be is the campaign's theme for 2027 pledges that are vital to produce a church budget to finance our mission and resources. It begins with a letter describing the event. A Time & Talent survey form will be included for you to indicate your willingness to help with church needs. We are grateful for Pastor Kalani's tech skills in providing a QR code for optional online submissions. Please consider how you may participate in supporting 'Īao UCC.

In late October to November 8, witnessing stewards will share their personal messages.Mahalo to these people for accepting the invitation. You will have more details next month.

Stewarding community members are Anna Mayeda, Carley Defang, Gail Ideue, Linda Johannes, Susan King, Youlida Yoruw and Chair Jane Tesoro. Please ask any of us if you have concerns.

To complete this form electronically, enter https://bit.ly/4gjzQ93 into your browser, or scan this QR code with your phone.

A Glimpse at our Giving

Thank you all for your generous donations which keep our church running.

'Īao United Church of Christ Summary Financial Information			
	June 2026	July 2026	Year To Date
Church Income	$ 13,794	$ 3,120	$ 134,298
Church Expenses	$ (14,646)	$ (6,660)	$ (68,536)
Income over (under) expenses	$ (852)	$ (3,540)	$ 65,762

Worshipping Community

Aloha and happy September 'Īao UCC Ohana! Although the weather remains warm and sometimes humid, we are truly blessed to call Maui our home and to experience mostly beautiful weather. I want to extend a heartfelt "welcome back" to all our church family members who traveled over the summer and have now returned safely. It is wonderful to have our community reunited.

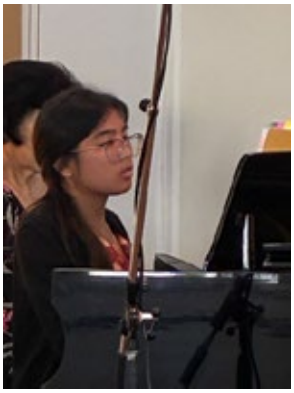
This month, we are pleased to welcome once again, Keola Whittaker, who will be preaching on September 6th. For the remainder of the month, Kahu Kalani will be leading our services. Please mark your calendar for September 13, as it will be a busy and meaningful Sunday. On this day, we will

celebrate Communion, observe Keiro No Hi, and launch the Stewarding Community's capital campaign. We hope that everyone will be able to join us for these special events!

We extend our gratitude to our guest preachers in August- Rev. Helen Mueller and Rev. John Tomoso. We also thank our August worship team: Gerald Montano, Joyleen Phillip, and Anela Awai Stewart. Anela will be returning to school at Tufts University this month, and we wish her all the best. Looking ahead, our September worship team will include Warren Orikasa, Alaundra Lopez, and Sonny Yoruw.

Here is Rev. John H. Tomoso's Pastoral Prayer from August 9, 2026 which was inadvertently left out during the service. He graciously provided it for your own praying:

"Dear God, Good and Gracious One, please bless our family through every high and low. Give us strength in hard times, joy in good times, patience with each other, and a love that never fails. Keep us close, guide our steps, and fill our home with your peace each day. We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen."



Pictures from our August Worship Services- Rev. Heather Mueller, Rev. John Tomoso, and pianist Tala Patao.

All in the ʻOhana

A Life Well Lived

The sanctuary was filled to capacity, with an overflow crowd gathered under a tent outside, as the community came together to bid farewell to David Murata. Speaker after speaker shared how David had touched their lives. As family and friends listened, they discovered even more about the person they knew as dad, grandpa, friend, colleague, and faithful servant.

One of the most moving stories came from Pennie Arounsack, whose family arrived in the United States as refugees from Laos. David helped them settle into a new land, get jobs, find a home, and understand how education could open doors for the children. With David and Grace's encouragement, the children excelled in school, graduated from college, and remained connected with the Murata family through the years.

Today, Pennie serves as Director of IT and Innovation for the City of Manteca, California. Her brother Steven is a professor of Anthropology at California State University, Stanislaus, and has served as a lead cultural advisor and visual anthropologist for films and productions, including Disney's Oscar-nominated *Raya and the Last Dragon*. Through their care and encouragement, David and Grace helped the Arounsacks move from the uncertainty of refugee life toward lives of purpose, service, and achievement.

David brought that same commitment to the Micronesian community as families settled into their new home on Maui. Through his leadership, he helped Marshallese, Chuukese, Pohnpeian, and Kosraean

churches get started, encouraging them to worship in their own languages and cultures. In recognition of his support, he was named an honorary deacon in the Marshallese church.

Mahalo, David, for your loving presence and caring commitment to opening doors for so many.

Support Caetlyn Johannes as she heads off to Discipleship School

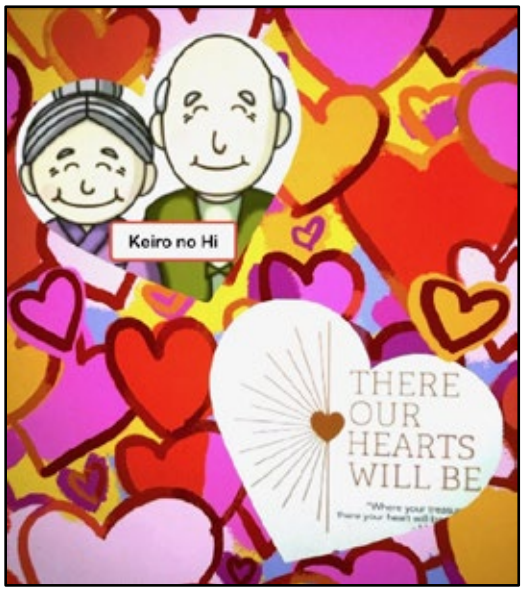
We have all seen Caetlyn's passion in sharing the Gospel in our church and the community. She will be attending the School of Living Disciples in Florida, where she will receive training for three months. She needs to raise $10,000 and could use our support. You can send her your donation directly through **Venmo, PayPal, or CashApp** at @caetlynjohannes. Or you can make a designated donation through the church. Be sure to note on your check that it is for Caetlyn.

For the Good of All

Mark your calendars for these events so you can take part in the life of our church.

September 6
New Sunday School year begins.
Classes for children 3 years and older will meet in Kanda Hall at 10:00am.

September 13
Keiro no Hi and 2027 Stewardship Kick Off.
Join us for service where we honor our 80 and 88's. Be sure to stay for the potluck luncheon.



Saturday, September 19
Celebrate Peace at the Interfaith Peace Day 2026 at Makawao Buddhist Temple
1074 Makawao Avenue, 9:30am to 1:00pm

Peace Day 2026

September 19, 2026

9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Makawao Buddhist Temple
1074 Makawao Avenue
Makawao, Upcountry Maui, Hawai'i

Everyone is welcome to join the Hongwanji Buddhist Temples of Maui, the Maui United Buddhist Women's Association, and the Interfaith Alliance of Maui in celebrating Hawai'i Peace Day through sharing of wisdom, reflections, meditations, and display of origami cranes, a symbol of the universal human aspiration for peace and harmony for all people and all forms of life.

9:30 a.m.	Interfaith Gathering Hawai'i Cultural Practices Buddhist Community Jewish Community Christian Community Bahá'í Faith Community Spiritual Practices Community
10:30 a.m.	Origami Peace Cranes Display Labyrinth Meditation Walk Meditation under the Bodhi Tree
11:00 a.m.	*T'ai Chi Ch'uan* with *sifu* Jan Ostermeck
12:00 noon	Refreshments and Talk Story
12:30 p.m.	Taiko for Peace by Zenshin Daiko
1:00 p.m.	Event ends, everyone helps clean-up

Free and open to the public.
Ample parking is available on Temple grounds.

For more information, please contact
Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
email: makawaohongwanji@hongpahu.org

This event is made possible by
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
Maui United Buddhist Women's Association
The Interfaith Alliance of Maui
Pukolani Superette

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Location Key: S- Sanctuary K- Kanda Hall E- Endo Hall L- Lanai Z- Zoom		1 5:30-7:30 MFC District K	2 7p-8p 'Ukulele Hui S	3 9:30 IPS Chapel S *(Kalani on vac 9/3-9/9)*	4 11:30a Ladies Lunch Bunch L 6p-7p Kosraen Women's Fellowship S	5 7-8p AA K
6 15th Sunday after Pentecost 10a Worship 11:15 Learning Comm E 11:15 Justice & Witnessing K 3p-6p Kosraen Etawi S	7 Food Pantry closed, open Wednesday 9th 6:30-9:30 AA K	8 12:45p Visitation	9 9a-2p Food Pantry K 6-7 Etawi K 7p-8p 'Ukulele Hui S	10 9:30 IPS Chapel S	11 6p-7p Kosraen Women's Fellowship S	12 7-8p AA K
13 16th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship Communion Stewarding Kickoff Keiro no Hi Potluck Lunch K 3p-6p Kosraen Etawi S	14 9a-2p Food Pantry K 5:45 Learning Comm Z 6:30-9:30 AA K	15	16 7p-8p 'Ukulele Hui S	17 9:30 IPS Chapel S	18 6p-7p Kosraen Women's Fellowship S	19 9-10 B&G Community E 7-8p AA K
20 17th Sunday after Pentecost 10a Worship 11:15 Stewarding E 3p-6p Kosraen Etawi S	21 9a-2p Food Pantry- K 6:30-9:30 AA Comm K	22	23 'Īao Pepa/Council Reports Due 7p-8p 'Ukulele Hui S	24 9:30 IPS Chapel S	25 6p-7p Kosraen Women's Fellowship S	26 8a Workday 7-8p AA K
27 18th Sunday after Pentecost 10a Worship 3p-6p Kosraen Etawi S	28 9a-2p Food Pantry K 6:30-9:30pm AA Comm K 6:30-9:30 AA K	29	30 5:45 Council Z/E 7p-8p 'Ukulele Hui S	**Happy Birthday this Month to:** 5-Shannielle Alik, 5-Bert Akitake, 6-Carley Defang, 6-Avis Teshima-Wong, 9-Sovea Yoruw, 10-Lucy Robert,11-Kenye Percylyn Hadley, 11-Dawna Krueger, 12-Shelton Warren, 12-Kaeve Kurr, 15-Jaime Ribao, 15-Ansian Fugow, 20-Winford Ideue, 22-Emily Ballard, 23-Pancy Kurr, 25-Shannon Ribao, 29-Shrue Sigrah.		

ʻĪao United Church of Christ
2371 W. Vineyard Street
Wailuku, HI 96793–1626
(808) 244-7353
Email: office@iaoucc.org

Address Services Requested

☐ If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, check this box to mark as: "Return to Sender."

What's Inside…

Kahu Kalani's Konnection 1
Worship Schedule 2
Moderator's Message 2
Building & Grounds Community 3
ʻĪao Preschool Community 3
Justice and Witnessing 4
Learning Community 4
Stewarding Community 5
A Glimpse into our Giving 5
Worshiping Community 5/6
All in the ʻOhana 6/7
For the Good of All 8
September Calendar 9

"Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other." — 1 John 4:11

ʻĪao United Church of Christ
2371 W. Vineyard Street
Wailuku, HI 96793–1626

Office/Food Pantry **(808) 244–7353**
Office hours: **Mon. to Thurs., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
or by appointment
Food Pantry Monday 11a-2p

Email: office@iaoucc.org
Website: iaoucc.org
facebook.com/groups/iaoucc/

IN PERSON/VIRTUAL SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

Bridge Pastor — Kahu Kalani Wong
Co-Moderators — Shannon Ribao and Suzette Robinson
Administrative Assistant — Various Faithful People
Musicians for August — Christophe Javon, Niko Nemoto, Dale Schwarz, and Ann Barclay Rovner
Newsletter Editor — Kalani Wong
ʻĪao Preschool Director — Flerida Iniba

You are always welcome at ʻĪao UCC.

We are a people of God living and sharing the love of Christ through words and actions