"Huaka`i Saili Matagi"
(Finding Our Way Forward)

Ke Akua Mana Loa
O God,
hear our prayer

Prayers from the 195th 'Aha Pae'a'ina
‘Aha Pae’Aina Prayer
Prayer by delegates to the 195th ‘Aha Pae’aina
Music by Ken Makuakane

Bind us together our God
Sharing our love in your infinite ways
Breathe your aloha in us
Walk closely beside us through all of our days

CHORUS:

Ke Akua Mana Loa
O God, hear our prayer.

God of grace, God of mercy
We are created to be just like you
God of love, God of peace
Forgive us, receive us, we call out to you

CHORUS

Open our hearts and our minds
Discerning your spirit, we welcome you in
Joy overflowing our hearts
Show us your vision so we can begin

CHORUS
In response to a recent assessment of the Hawai‘i Conference and the Hawai‘i Conference Foundation, a strategic planning process was launched at the 195th ‘Aha Pae‘aina in 2017.

**About the process**

Starting in September 2017, the Conference began developing a strategic plan to guide its future. A strategic planning consultant, Cynthia Scherr, was hired to help facilitate this process. The purpose of the strategic plan is to unite under a shared vision that will guide the Conference into a spiritually rich and fulfilling future.

**Strategic Planning Team:** The Conference Council appointed a strategy team to work with consultant Cynthia Scherr and incoming Intentional Interim Conference Minister Gabrielle Chavez.

Members of the team are: Jack Belsom (Waiola UCC); Robinson Fredrick (Central Union Church); Mary Herbig (UCC-Judd Street); Roberta Jahrling (Kaumakapili Church); Wryen Keoki Kiwaha (Puka‘ana Congregational Church); Jeannie Thompson (Kapa'a UCC); Iese Tuuao (Acting Conference Minister); and Lori Yamashiro (Conference staff).

The strategic planning team will provide insight, guidance and connection with congregations. More information will be shared as strategic planning progresses. Feel free to contact members of the strategy team or Cynthia, through the Conference Office, if you have thoughts or comments you would like to contribute.

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**From Scherr Memo, June 2017**

Participants at the 2017 ‘Aha Pae‘aina discussed the qualities of God’s presence that they experience personally and that reflect their deepest desires and longings for the Conference. Some of the adjectives people used included: big and generous, connection, unconditional love, opportunity, boundless, shepherd, surprise, clarity, aggressive, willing to call us out, mystery, patience, joyful, transcendent and still speaking.

Small groups then composed prayers for strategic planning which Ken Makuakane synthesized into one prayer set to music.
Small Group Prayers

Loving & Caring Father,
We thank you for Ohana, the HCUCC Conference
 uniting us spiritually through this conference.
We seek your guidance pathway harmoniously in our
 journey. Open our hearts to whatever your calling
 is. Help us focus on our strength in working
 together. Help us to listen to your quiet focus. Turn
 our eyes upon Jesus and His cross.

God of grace, God of mercy,
Ke Akua Mana Loa
Oh God, hear our prayer.

Le Atuae, Ke Akua, Yokwe, Kami-sama,
O God, help us to find purpose and meaning. Open our
 hearts to one another. Heal us from divisions and
 wounded hearts, for otherwise we would not be in
 this open space. Thank you for the past and the
 present. Guide us; give us wisdom; give us
 compassion. May each voice be heard.

God of grace, God of mercy,
Ke Akua Mana Loa
Oh God, hear our prayer.

God of the past and of the future,
We thank you for the opportunity to gather for this
 event, sharing our love and experiences. You know
 us intimately and love us fiercely. We wish to
 honor those who have come before us and those
 who will come after us, asking for your guidance
 with youth and bringing the ages together for a
 common purpose. We have no vision unless we
 find your vision.

We call on you to call us out.
When we perpetuate the evil of silencing others
When we are not true to ourselves
When we live in negativity rather than hope

God of grace, God of mercy,
Ke Akua Mana Loa
Oh God, hear our prayer.
Ke Akua,
We ask for your continued guidance, love and strength in
giving unity to our home and sister churches. Bless
everyone present here today as well as their ohana.
Please give us grace, peace, hope, and love. Let us
be obedient to you always. We love you, Lord!

God of grace, God of mercy,
Ke Akua Mana Loa
Oh God, hear our prayer.

Lead Holy Spirit
Unite us, faithful healer
In your faith-filled peace.
God of grace, God of mercy,
Ke Akua Mana Loa
Oh God, hear our prayer.

God, forgive us our sins
That we might come before you,
Cleansed in your righteousness.
Please guide us to understand your purpose
On our journey into the future.
Help us to overcome our divisions
And unify us.
In the ever-widening expanse of our lives,
May our hopes and dreams
Shine like stars before life’s journey.
God of grace, God of mercy,
Ke Akua Mana Loa
Oh God, hear our prayer.
Lord,
We ask you to heal anyone who is not feeling well in our church that they may be ready for the work ahead.
O God, guide our feeble steps along the journey.
Please provide pastors for the many churches that need them, and help them move their churches forward.
Also help the people to find worship facilities.
O God, in your quiet approach, let us see and hear and understand the unexpected within each other to see our strengths and envision a future of a united church.
We lay before you our agenda and take up your purpose and plans for this part of your vineyard to accomplish your heart’s desire.
God of grace, God of mercy,
Ke Akua Mana Loa
Oh God, hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit,
Open our hearts and ears to listen to your message.
Bring previous strategic planning results into this process for insight, wisdom and guidance.
Blow through us, displacing, dislodging fear and hesitation; rather, make the advantageous and bold to walk in your ways of love and peace.
We pray for hearts and minds, for healing grace and reassurance for a transformation to nurture and sustain a loving future.
We give thanks, O God, that you go before us to show us the ways to your future for us.
God of grace, God of mercy,
Ke Akua Mana Loa
Oh God, hear our prayer.

Magnificent and Heavenly Father,
We pray for your intervention through your Holy Spirit
Thank you, Father, for your unfailing love
God give us the understanding in what to support and what not to support and the wisdom to know the difference.
That we all begin with love and end with love in all that we do.
Remove our addictions
Take us on a journey
In your holy name
God of grace, God of mercy,
Ke Akua Mana Loa
Oh God, hear our prayer.
Most gracious and loving God,  
Bind us together especially at this gathering.  
Guide us in our activities  
Lead us to unite our thoughts as we plan.  
Help us as a conference to forgive one another, learn from one another, listen to one another and work together.  
Open our hearts and minds to discern your Holy Spirit.  
Let us be welcoming as you are.  
Let the impossible become possible.  
Oh God, help us to accept one another as you accept us.  
Be patient to forgive us being sinners.  
Reveal to us your ways as we make our diversity into an open opportunity.  
God of grace, God of mercy,  
Ke Akua Mana Loa  
Oh God, hear our prayer.

Living and gracious God,  
Ke Akua Mana Loa,  
In your divine genius, you created us to be different, to be diverse.  
Help us to be a church where all voices are heard, where all views are respected, and all people are welcome and are safe to be open and true.  
In your wisdom, set us ablaze with your Spirit, and inspire us that the plan we create reflects your character.  
Unite us in your Spirit, inspired by your grace that we may welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.  
God of grace, God of mercy,  
Ke Akua Mana Loa  
Oh God, hear our prayer.

God of love and mercy,  
Creator and sustainer of heaven and earth,  
We praise your Holy name.  
Thank you for being my God and for loving me.  
Thank you for always providing for all my everyday needs and for your healing power in my life every day.  
God of grace, God of mercy,  
Ke Akua Mana Loa  
Oh God, hear our prayer.

E kane I ka wai ola  
Holo I ka lewa lani, kau ka eo ka ua I ka makahi  
Our loving and gracious Lord,  
You knew our needs before we did  
You are so big and great  
We honor and worship you  
We ask your wisdom, presence and guidance  
E Ke Akua, he oia i‘o  
God of grace, God of mercy,  
Ke Akua Mana Loa
Oh God, hear our prayer.
God of all times and places;
God of all ages and races,
We thank you that even now,
You are in the midst of our planning.
We are faced with the awesome task of discerning the future of our Conference.
We are grateful for the power of your peaceful presence,
and that as we listen in quietude, ideas and visions will bring us to a place of Imua—forward and victory in the cross for our Conference.
We lift up our Hawai‘i Conference in the name of Jesus,
God of grace, God of mercy,
Ke Akua Mana Loa
Oh God, hear our prayer.

E Ke Akua mani lani
Mahalo nui loa ia kakou
We thank you for this day, that we can come to you
For your blessing and Aloha
Trust in faith for your guidance for our prayers and continued teaching for us to love one another.
We thank you for your son, Jesus, and the gift of salvation. We thank you for your peace that surpasses all understanding.
Thank you, Heavenly Father, for your love and for giving us clarity of your vision for us.
Lead us with grace as we seek to find the path that leads us to the future, honoring all our days.
God of grace, God of mercy,
Ke Akua Mana Loa
Oh God, hear our prayer.