

No‘ono‘o (Reflection)
81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church
Louisville, Kentucky
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It is with much gratitude and humbleness that I extend my thanks to the delegates of the 54th Annual Meeting of Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i (2022) for allowing me to attend my first General Convention (GC) the Episcopal Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

I arrived in Louisville on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 19, to assist with set-up of booths for the Vergers, Ethnic Ministries and the Commissions of Indigenous Boarding schools on Thursday and Friday. This being my first GC, I have also been involved as a member of the advisory council of the Indigenous Ministries, the secretary in MW062 commission on the Episcopal involvement in boarding schools and a member of the Verger Guild.

While flying to Louisville from Hawai‘i, and throughout my time in Louisville, I was visited by many of my ancestors to guild me, to clarify things and to always share Aloha.

Nānā i ke kumu, tells us to seek, and pay attention to the source and its beginning. It encourages me to look to my ancestors, and to God for guidance, help and love always.

There was a lot to prepare for this convention, to navigate, read, understand, seek added information if needed through the virtual binder; was not for the faint of heart. It was a lot of work, up late reading and researching, preparing testimonies and just being aware of its subject matter. Lobbying and talking with other deputies to support resolutions that mean a lot to you and hearing and understanding their resolutions. At the heart of all that was going on, I discovered this, and this is what matters:

- ❖ Ho‘ona‘auao (Educate) – With important elections (like Presiding Bishop; President and Vice President of the House of Deputies; Executive Council; etc.) taken place it was important to read up on each candidate, attend forums, talk with others about candidates, speak with them in person and let them know how you see these individuals being able to assist our church.
- ❖ Ho‘omālamalama (Enlighten) – Seeing many uniting; the Episcopal Church in Micronesia, now a part of the Diocese of Hawaii; changing Navajo land from an area mission into a Missionary Diocese; uniting the dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan; and merging the dioceses of Fond du Lac, Eau Claire, Milwaukee into the Diocese of Wisconsin creating much unity among our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- ❖ Ho‘omana‘o (Empower) – The passing of our Water Resolution and condemning the attack in the Holy Land are two out of four resolutions that came out of our Diocesan

Convention. It was great to have the Official Youth Presence at the GC and have Nicholas Livingston from Holy Nativity and fully participating in the events.

- ❖ Ho‘oikaika (Enable) – It allowed all of us to create relationship with other deputation teams, which helped up in passing resolutions that we submitted from Hawai‘i, including C023, which included the first reading to include Queen Lili‘uokalani in to our church calendar. This enables us to continue the final steps to advocate for Queen Lili‘uokalani’s sainthood at the 82nd GC in 2027 in Phoenix, Arizona.
- ❖ Ho‘opaipai (Encourage) – Our deputation leadership and team allowed us to participate and prepare us for our marathon sessions by keeping open dialogue with each other on important subject matters, daily meetings/briefings. The Bishop and our Chair of Deputation kept us engaged and well informed. This created a great camaraderie among our deputation team from Hawai‘i and thank you all for your involvement.

Nānā i ke kumu, always tells me to remember God. As I look to him, I find happiness and purpose in being here, God gives us life, love and light. I learn to trust and look to him; I have no reason to fear and understand that his plan is greater than my own. Through this concept I find guidance, peace and belonging. I spent time praying, taking quiet, and reflecting on my ancestors’ experiences. Looking at their stories and about creating my own stories, providing clarity, guidance and peace as I look to the source. It is simple; it’s about telling your stories and hearing others tell their stories. It is finding that common bond, a sense of place, and that sense of belonging. You must look back to the source to look to the future.