



Photo courtesy of Ron Dahlquist

Keawala'i Congregational Church

5300 Makena Road, Kīhei, Hawai'i 96753

(United Church of Christ)

Founded in 1832

November 2025

Aloha members and friends of Keawala'i,

Here we are nearing the end of another year. First, I want to thank the generous donors who responded to our Summer Appeal. The Budget Committee has recently formulated a proposed budget for 2026. During this process, we estimated the end-of-year financial position. The Church Leadership has made significant progress, reducing our deficit by 36% this year. However, further efforts and financial help are needed to achieve a balanced budget. Part of this good news is a reduction in Pastor expenses, since we have been having fill-in Pastors for most of the year. We are anticipating welcoming a new Pastor early next year, when our costs will increase dramatically. In addition to normal salary, we will be incurring a site visit and moving costs for the new Pastor. Hence, this Annual Appeal letter.

The projected financial picture for next year is not strong. The projected deficit is \$96,000 which forces us to dip into our reserves to balance our budget — a practice that is not sustainable indefinitely. This is why we, again, need your help.

We are grateful to our large and extended '*ohana* for your participation in Keawala'i. Your gifts and your presence in worship and other activities have made a huge impact on the vitality of our congregation. We thank you for the many ways you have given in the past and invite your continued generosity by participating in our 2025 Annual Appeal. Your gifts, regardless of size, will help us continue the important work of our church in mission and provide a sacred place of peace to all who worship here. You can contribute by check or electronically by going to our church website keawalai.org and clicking on the "Donate Now" button or by using the QR code at the bottom of this letter. Your gifts indeed make an incredible difference.

As we enter the holiday season, we wish you many moments of relaxation and reflection, as well as ample opportunity to pray. Please include us in your prayers and consider supporting our appeal to pursue Christ's call in our lives.

Me ke aloha o ke Akua,

Thomas A. Nelson
Church Moderator

