



Keawala'i Congregational Church

5300 Makena Road, Kīhei, Hawai'i 96753

(United Church of Christ)

Founded in 1832

June 1, 2026

Aloha members and friends of Keawala'i,

This is, obviously, my first summer appeal letter to all of you. In fact, it is the first appeal letter I have ever written. I feel confident in saying, however, that it will likely be the first of many, as we are off to a wonderful start together.

We face a special challenge as a result of the flooding damage to the office building from the storms in March. As a result, the mold mitigation requires drywall, insulation, and flooring replacement. Currently, we are using the *Hale Pule* for the temporary office. We are also paying for temporary storage containers.

We are hopeful and excited about growing our 'ohana. I am actively exploring ways to invite younger families throughout South Maui into this sacred space and into the loving community that makes Keawala'i so special.

Recently, I created a short video on our website sharing that while Keawala'i is widely known as a historic Hawaiian church cherished by visitors from around the world, it is also home to an extraordinary 'ohana that cares deeply for both this church and one another with *aloha*. I feel incredibly blessed to now be part of that 'ohana.

As we continue to honor and listen to our *kūpuna*, I believe Keawala'i is also called to become an even brighter light upon the hill in Mākena — a place where we share the message of Jesus and the spirit of *aloha* with our families, our community, and all who enter this sacred place.

Personally, I cannot imagine serving anywhere else in the world besides Keawala'i. There are many beautiful churches throughout the world, but as all of you already know, this place is truly unique. That is why I write to you today. Together, we have the privilege and responsibility to care for this sacred space — a gift created through the *aloha*, faith, and sacrifice of our *kūpuna* — so that we may continue sharing that same *aloha* with generations to come.

We do continue to face a budget deficit in which our expenses exceed our income. We rely upon the continued support of our members and friends. We humbly ask each of you to contribute what you are able as we work together to strengthen the future of Keawala'i.

There are many ways to give. Send us a check or use the QR code below to donate electronically. You can also go directly to our website, <https://keawalai.org>, and donate there. For information on how to donate stock or to make a bequest from your family estate, please give us a call at the church at 808 879-5557.

Mahalo nui loa for your prayers, generosity, and continued support.

Kahu Mitch Nelson

