

**A RESOLUTION
“HOPE FOR HELANI CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH”**

**Adopted by the ‘Aha Moku-puni of the Hawai‘i Island Association
of the United Church of Christ – November 1, 2025**

Submitted by the HIAUCC Executive Board

WHEREAS, in the early morning hours of October 2, 2025, a devastating fire destroyed the Sanctuary of Helani Congregational Church in Hōluāloa, Hawai‘i, a beloved congregation with a long and faithful witness to the Gospel since its founding in 1853; and

WHEREAS, Helani Congregational Church, despite this profound loss, has demonstrated steadfast faith, resilience, and courage, continuing to gather in worship and service to God and community, embodying the enduring hope that is at the heart of the Christian faith; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai‘i Island Association of the United Church of Christ (HIAUCC) recognizes the spiritual, historical, and cultural significance of Helani Congregational Church as a pillar of our island’s Christian ‘ohana and as an active member of our Association; and

WHEREAS, the Association acknowledges that the road to rebuilding Helani’s sanctuary will take considerable time, effort, and financial support—estimated to take up to four years—yet we affirm that we walk this journey together in the spirit of kōkua, aloha, and Christian solidarity; and

WHEREAS, the First Sunday of Advent—Sunday, November 30, 2025—is the Sunday of Hope, marking the beginning of a new liturgical year, and offers the opportunity for our churches to unite in prayer, reflection, and tangible action in support of Helani Congregational Church;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ‘Aha Moku-puni of the Hawai‘i Island Association of the United Church of Christ declares Sunday, November 30, 2025, as “Hope for Helani Sunday”, a day dedicated to:

- (a) Lifting Helani Congregational Church in prayer during worship and in pastoral and congregational litanies, reflecting on themes of hope, resilience, and God’s renewing presence throughout this Advent season and beyond;

- (b) Sharing the story of Helani Congregational Church's history, ministry, and faithful witness with congregations across our Association, including the account of the October 2 fire and the long journey ahead toward rebuilding;
- (c) Encouraging each congregation of the Hawai'i Island Association to receive a special offering or designated gift in support of Helani Congregational Church's rebuilding and recovery;
- (d) Inviting all churches and members of the Association to attend and participate in Helani's upcoming Spring Ho'ike, offering music, scripture, and presence as a shared act of love and encouragement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hawai'i Island Association UCC give an immediate gift of \$1,500 to Helani Congregational Church, as a symbol of our solidarity, love, and hope as followers of Jesus Christ, and as a tangible expression of our commitment to walk alongside them in faith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be shared with all churches within the Hawai'i Island Association UCC, with the Hawai'i Conference UCC, and with Helani Congregational Church, as a testament of our shared faith, hope, and love.

Adopted by the 'Aha Mokupuni of the Hawai'i Island Association of the United Church of Christ on this 1st day of November, 2025.