

Hawai'i: Diocese of Hawai'i Adopts Hawaiian Virtues and Values

At its annual Diocesan Convention in October 2003, the Episcopal Church in Hawai'i passed a resolution honoring its unique heritage from the legacy of its founders, King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma, by incorporating the Native Hawaiian Christian spiritual concepts of *mana*, *malama*, and *pono* into the overall life and work of the Church in all areas of ministry in the Diocese. The motion was authored and sponsored by the Commission on Native Hawaiian Ministry which will work with other diocesan bodies to prepare a plan of implementation to be presented at Diocesan Convention in 2004.

This resolution will provide a Native Hawaiian perspective from which to design new diocesan approaches to such areas of ministry as Christian formation, evangelism, and stewardship. In addition, individual churches will be assisted in incorporating these concepts should they wish to do so. The day after the convention, the Dean of St. Andrew's Cathedral, the Very Rev. Dr. Ann McElligott, preached to the resolution and called on the congregation to see and hear in a new way.

The Anglican Church in Hawai'i (later the Episcopal Church) was established as a result of the petition of King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma to the Bishop of Oxford, requesting its establishment and pledging their wholehearted support to the effort. The fruits of their ministry include St. Andrew's Cathedral, St. Andrew's Priory, 'Iolani School, and the Queen's Hospital. These institutions were the embodiment of the blending of their Native Hawaiian spiritual values and their Christian faith. The royal couple has been recognized for their work on behalf of the Church by their commemoration in the Calendar of the Church Year, and they are the patron saints of the Diocese, with their Feast Day being celebrated on November 28th.

The resolution incorporates the major Hawaiian spiritual concepts that informed their Christian faith - *mana*, *malama* and *pono*. All aspects of God's creation are imbued with *mana*, spiritual value that comes from being created by God.

Malama, recognizing and caring for the *mana* in all of creation, is what we as Christians are called to do in all aspects of our lives. The Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer says, "the universe is the work of a single loving God: (it) belongs to its creator and we are called to enjoy it and care for it in accordance with God's purposes...all people are worthy of respect and honor because all are created in the image of God." We are responsible to *malama* all of God's creation because of the sacredness, the *mana*, that is inseparable from all that God creates.

Pono, righteousness, is achieved when we successfully *malama* all our relationships within God's creation so that the *mana* in them is undisturbed or even strengthened. As Christians, we are constantly striving to be *pono*, and we are sustained by the gift of God's amazing grace: the life, death and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ to reconcile us to God when we stray from the path of righteousness and to enable us to try again.

We in the Episcopal Church in Hawaii are all heirs to this rich spiritual legacy from our founders. It is a unique gift that has now been incorporated into our life as a Christian community, so that our past can inform our present and shape our future, and we can come to the fullness of who we are in the place where we are planted. - Contributed by Dr. Pua Hopkins (Native Hawaiian)