

Rules and Procedures for the Election of the Sixth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i

Process

The Standing Committee oversees the search and election process and has established two committees: a Search Committee and a Transitions Committee. (See Appendix A for membership.)

The Search Committee consists of 1 Chairperson, **at least** 1 clergy and 1 lay from each county plus Guam/Saipan.

The Search Committee is tasked with presenting 3 nominees to the Standing Committee in March of 2026. Background checks, psychological and medical evaluations, and other canonical or application requirements will be completed for all nominees, those nominated by the Search Committee and those nominated by Petition.

The Transitions Committee consists of 1 Chairperson and **at least** 1 lay or clergy from each county plus 1 from Guam/Saipan and an additional 2 from O‘ahu.

The Transitions Committee is responsible for arranging and executing the details of the Episcopal transition.

Both committees have appointed chaplain(s).

The Standing Committee has appointed the Rev. Anne E. Kitch, as the Consultant from the Presiding Bishop’s Office to assist both Committees in carrying out their responsibilities.

It is the responsibility of the Standing Committee in concert with the Diocesan Council and support from the Treasurer, the Controller, the Operations Manager and the Commission on Finance to create and manage a budget for the election process, as well as establish the salary and benefits package for the new bishop.

Timeline

November 2025 – Diocesan Profile Published; nomination and application period opens.

December 2025 – Application period closes; Search Committee discernment begins.

January 2026 – Interviews and reference checks take place; Search Committee discernment continues.

February-March 2026

- Search Committee Discernment Weekend (online for candidates; in person for Search Committee).
- Search Committee presents final nominees to Standing Committee.
- Standing Committee announces slate and begins background check and psychological and medical evaluation.

March 2026

- Any Nominations by Petition to be submitted to Standing Committee during 7 days after slate announcement (See Appendix B).

- Background checks, psychological and medical evaluation conducted for those nominated by petition.

April 25th -May 2nd, 2026- Ke Aloha Kākou in-person Meet and Greet (Moloka‘i/Guam/Saipan virtual)

May 16th, 2026 – Diocesan Convention for Special Purpose of Electing Sixth Bishop of Hawai‘i

May 18th – September 15, 2026 – Canonical Consent Process for Standing Committees and Bishops of all other dioceses

October 16th-17th or 24th-25th, 2026 – Annual Diocesan Convention with Ka Ha‘alele Ana celebration for Bishop Fitzpatrick

November 13th - 14th, 2026 – Bishop Ordination weekend with Ke Kipa‘ana welcome celebration for the Sixth Bishop

Standing Committee has the authority to withdraw any candidate (from Search Committee or Nomination by Petition) at any time up until the day of the election.

This timeline is designed to balance adequate discernment, transparent process, and canonical requirements, ensuring a thoughtful and orderly election and transition.

**APPENDIX A: Process and Protocols for the
Election of the Sixth Bishop of Hawai'i
Search Committee and Transitions Committee Members**

Search Committee Members

Sheryl Seaman, Chair (O'ahu)

The Rev. John Lunn, Chaplain

The Rev. Dcn. Alberta Buller (Hawai'i Island)

Joseph Cascio (Maui)

The Rev. Amy Crowe (Maui)

Pam Fern (O'ahu)

The Rev. David Gierlach (O'ahu)

The Rev. Dcn. Hannah Lee (Guam)

Jadine Lujan (Guam)

Sara Nyoma (Kaua'i)

The Rev. Dcn. Mary Margaret Smith (Kaua'i)

Evette Tampos (Hawai'i Island)

Transitions Committee Members

Roth Puahala, Chair (O'ahu)

The Rev. Libby Berman, Co-Chaplain (O'ahu)

The Rev. Paul Nahoa Lucas, Co-Chaplain (O'ahu)

The Rev. Dcn. Lani Bowman (Hawai'i Island)

The Rev. Keleawe Hee (O'ahu)

Velma Lee (O'ahu)

The Rev. Irene Egmalis Maliaman (Guam)

Deann Megonnell (Kaua'i)

Brian Shuster (Maui)

**APPENDIX B: Process and Protocols for the
Election of the Sixth Bishop of Hawai‘i
Nominations by Other Than the Search Committee
(Nomination by Petition)**

The Rules and Procedures for the election of the 6th Bishop of the Diocese of Hawai‘i calls for three (3) nominees from the Search Committee to be presented to the Standing Committee in March 2026. These nominees will have participated in the application and interview process established by the Search Committee and will have completed the necessary background checks required by the diocese and the Episcopal Church. Upon review and approval, Standing Committee will present the slate to the Diocese of Hawai‘i.

In the Canons of the Diocese of Hawai‘i, nominations from the floor are permitted for most positions. However, the importance of the interview process and the necessity for background checks for Bishop candidates, from a practical point of view, make this problematic. Therefore, to preserve the spirit of the nomination from the floor process, the Standing Committee has established the following procedure for “Nomination by Petition”, should it occur.

- Any Nomination by Petition must be received by the Standing Committee after the slate is announced. The Petition process will be open for one week.
- Nominees must complete and submit the same application forms, required documents and media that were required of all candidates reviewed by the Search Committee.
- Nomination by Petition and all supporting files (application, documents, media, etc.) can be submitted by email to standingcommittee@bishoptransition.org within the above defined period.
- Petition Signature Requirements
 - Each petition must include ten (10) signatures from members in good standing within the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i, as follows:
 - Five (5) clergy and five (5) lay members
 - Among these, there must be:
 - One clergy and one lay member from each of Hawai‘i’s four counties:
 - Hawai‘i County
 - Maui County
 - Honolulu County
 - Kaua‘i County
 - One clergy or lay member from Guam or Saipan
 - One clergy or a lay member of the Diocese to ensure that five (5) clergy and five (5) lay members have signed the petition as long as the other geographic requirements have been fulfilled. *

*Note: The final bullet point was added to the resolution by the Bishop/President of Convention to correct a typo in the original resolution. The final bullet point was approved for addition by the Bishop’s Clarification memo dated March 12, 2026.

- Nominee’s signature cannot count toward the required number of nominator signatures.
- All background checks and other examinations will be required and will be the responsibility of the Standing Committee.
- The Standing Committee shall evaluate the viability of nominations submitted by petition and determine their eligibility for inclusion on the slate. Upon completion of this review, the Committee shall vote to approve any qualified candidates for addition to the slate. Simple majority vote will prevail in each case.
- Delegates and the diocese will have access to the same information about this nominee as they have about the nominees submitted by the Search Committee.
- Nominees by Petition approved by Standing Committee shall be added to the slate and shall participate in the “Ke Aloha Kakou” meet and greets.
- It will be made clear to the electorate that any such nominee(s) came through petition, not through the Search Process.

This procedure allows nominees by petition approved by the Standing Committee, subject to background check, the same chance to meet with members of the Diocese. The timeline is designed to provide the Standing Committee with sufficient time to conduct required background checks. Should circumstances warrant it, the Standing Committee reserves the right and ability to add, change, amend, or delete the affected sections of any rules and procedures as necessary to ensure an orderly bishop search and transition process. The Standing Committee will provide updates through the Diocesan website and The Hawaiian Church Chronicle email publication.