

# THE REVEREND CANON ANDREW JUNICHI ARAKAWA

Lower School Chaplain – ‘Iolani School  
Canon for Ministry Formation and Dean of Waiolaihui‘ia Center for Ministry  
–The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i (The Episcopal Church in the Hawaiian Islands, Guam and Saipan)

Pastoral and community-centered priest, educator, and administrator. Rooted in the life and culture of Hawai‘i, and committed to building inclusive, compassionate, and collaborative ministries that reflect the diversity of God’s creation. Experienced in clergy and lay formation, institutional systems, leading teams, cross-cultural engagement, pastoral care, and fostering co-created and culturally grounded ministries. Dedicated to nurturing Christian faith communities, integrating spiritual depth with aloha, justice, and service.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (Highlights)

### ‘Iolani School, Chaplain and Administrator – Honolulu, Hawai‘i

2019 – Present

Current

#### Lower School Chaplain

2019–2020

#### Assistant Upper School Chaplain

*As part of Chaplain team, serves the pastoral and liturgical needs of ‘Iolani School – the largest K-12 Episcopal school in the nation (2300 students, approx. 400 faculty and staff, parents, extended family members, alumni, and our community partners).*

- Plans, implements/preaches for twice-weekly chapel services for 800+
- Organizes and leads weekly morning prayer gathering for lower school faculty and staff
- Leads planning of annual Founders’ Day and Christmas school-wide chapels
- Leads K-6 Opening and Thanksgiving Chapels
- Taught religion courses (2019-2023)

Current

#### Administration

- Lower School Leadership Team
- Head of Lower School Religion Department
- Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force
- Co-Convener, Community and Climate Working Group
- Admissions Interviewer
- Steering Committees: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Community and Climate Working Group
- Committees: Curriculum; Accreditation; Faculty Hiring; Lū‘au Planning; Live Aloha
- Arrillaga Student Center Transitions Working Group (K-6) [a 60,000 sq. ft./\$70 million build]

July 2024

– Feb. 2025

- Member, Senior Administration/Interim Dean, Lower School
  - Oversaw 740 students + approx. 100 faculty and staff
  - Managed divisional and departmental budgets
  - Guided hiring and managed faculty/staff conflicts and challenges
  - Addressed parental concerns and student behavioral situations
  - Led cross-departmental collaboration
  - Participated in long-term system-wide strategic planning

### Supply/Rota Priest – The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i

(The Episcopal Church in the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, and Saipan)

2020 – Present

Jan 2026 - Present

- Serves as one of three priests on a rota supporting St. Mathew’s, Waimānalo.

2020 - Present

- Serves as Celebrant and Preacher at congregations diocese-wide.

Waiolaihui'a Center for Ministry –The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i  
(The Episcopal Church in the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, and Saipan)

2022 – Present

- July 2024 – Current     **Dean of Waiolaihui'a**
- Guides and oversees the leadership development of individuals seeking lay and ordained ministry roles
  - Represents the diocese at Iona Collaborative monthly meetings
  - Attends regional Iona Collaborative training and planning events
  - Submits annual report to Diocesan Convention
  - Submits annual student evaluation reports to the Bishop
- Oct. 2022 – Current     **Instructor – Insight Space: Introduction to Formation**
- Insight Space is an initial step for individuals seeking to explore the meaning of lay or ordained ministry in the diocese and the wider Church. The experience is tailored to the specific paths of ordination and licensed lay ministry to ensure meaningful formation.*
- Instructor – Licensed Lay Ministries**
- Designs and implements curricula to prepare individuals to be licensed lay preachers, catechists, and worship leaders

Diocesan Support Center (DSC) –The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i  
(The Episcopal Church in the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, and Saipan)

2024 – Present

- Canon for Ministry Formation**
- 2024 - Current
- Serves as the Bishop's liaison to the Commission on Ministry
    - Tracking all in ordination/licensure processes, advising on evaluations and recommendations, guiding lay/ordained individuals answering a call towards diocesan leadership
  - Working in Collaboration with DSC team to provide clergy continuing education offerings and development
  - Authors a twice-monthly reflection on formation (Diocesan Newsletter – Growing in Grace)
- 2025
- Advised on and participated in preaching formation webinars as part of Virginia Theological Seminary's Preaching Congregations grant initiative.
- June 2025
- Secured \$125,000 Iona Collaborative 5-year locally grown diocesan micro-grant
    - Wrote and designed a model for a contextually-based local formation program
    - Manages grant budget and implementation
- Sep. 2025
- Designed and taught education session for AAPI young adult retreat
  - Formation conferences
- Aug. 2025
- Session panelist – Iona Collaborative, Unconference
- Jan. 2024
- Keynote panel participant – Forma

Racial Reconciliation Task Force – The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i  
(The Episcopal Church in the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, and Saipan)

2020 – 2024

- 2021 – 2024     **Convener**
- 2020 – 2021     **Co-convener**
- Facilitated the work of the eleven (11) member diocesan Racial Reconciliation Task Force
  - Gathered and facilitated the creation of a Hawai'i-based curriculum, Ho'imi Pono, that has been implemented alongside the former Archbishop of Canterbury's Difference program for the Hawai'i context.
  - Led the task force in designing opening plenary sessions for:
    - Education Day (2023)
    - Spring Training (2023)
    - Education Day (2022)
    - Education Day (2021 – full day of programming)

**Priest Associate**

Shared in liturgical and preaching responsibilities on Sundays as well as on major non-Sunday Holidays

2020 - 2021

**Assisting Priest**

2019 - 2020

**Transitional Deacon**

- Shared in liturgical and preaching responsibilities on Sundays as well as on major non-Sunday Holidays
- Taught adult education classes
- Held seats on the vestry and various parish committees:
  - Outreach; Worship; Stewardship; Communications; and Social.

**Sacristan**

- Maintained the chapel's sacristy and its ceremonial and technical equipment
- Planned and implemented rehearsals for worship services
- Ensured that services were as seamless as possible

**Principal Writer/Marketing and Development Specialist**

Rapidly grew marketing business to meet the communication needs of small businesses, primarily non-profits, based out of Hawai'i Island. Ever respectful of budgets, deadlines, and missions – client scope of work met with consistent professionalism and creativity. Notable achievements:

- Served over 30 clients with needs such as rebranding, community outreach/communication, event planning
- Successfully secured grant funding – over \$1.25 million in state, county, and foundation grants
- Launched media campaign for non-profit Community First
- Wrote and produced community outreach newsletters with readership reach of approx. 200,000 over a 6-year period
- Led and completed full organization name change and rebranding for client Hospice of Hilo to Hawai'i Care Choices

**Spiritual Counselor (Hospice Chaplain)**

- Provided pastoral care and support to end-of-life patients and their families for East Hawai'i-Island and Ka'ū - a geographic service area of approx. 1,400 square miles.
- Member of planning committee to develop the organization's palliative care program

- 2002 - 2009      **Classroom Teacher (US History, Hawaiian History, Sociology, Summer School Speech)**
- Planned and implemented curricula
  - Assessed student progress and maintained classroom management
- 2005 - 2009      **Class of 2009 Advisor**  
Supervised class of 400+ students and organized parent volunteers for various class projects which included, outings, banquets, proms, a Senior Lūa'u, Song Contests, a graduation ceremony, and a Project Graduation event.
- Spring 2008      **Interim Dean of Student Activities**  
Oversaw the operations of the Student Activities Department which included staff, faculty advisors, and student leaders (grades 9-12)

**State of Hawai'i Department of Education**

1994 – 2002 [Except '95 to '98]

- Lead Educator and Administrator (K-12), Alliance for Drama Education
- English as a Second Language Instructor, Adult Education Division
- Social Studies and Mathematics Teacher, Hilo Intermediate
- English and Life Skills Educator, Mililani High School

**Ashikaga YMCA, Japan**

1995 – 1998

International Experience: Ashikaga YMCA, Japan: ESL Instructor for children through adults

## E D U C A T I O N

**Degrees, Certificates, and Awards**

- Virginia Theological Seminary – Doctor of Divinity in Educational Leadership with a focus on decolonizing theological education – All But Thesis (ABT), 2023 – Present
- Virginia Theological Seminary – Master in Divinity, 2019
  - Recipient of Bishop Mark Dyer Prize for Theological Reflection
  - Field Education site – St. Mark's Capitol Hill, Washington DC
  - Field Education site – The Parish of St. Clement, Honolulu, HI
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa – Bachelor of Arts Degrees in European History and English Literature, 1993
  - International Student Exchange, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (Aug. '92 – Dec. '92)
  - Partnership Program, University of London, Kensington, The U.K. (Dec. '90 – May '91)
  - National Student Exchange, State University of New York at Stony Brook (Aug. '89 – June '90)
- Pearl City High School, Pearl City, Hawai'i – 1987

**Vocational Development**

- The Hawai'i Executives Collaborative, Rediscovering Hawai'i's Soul, Spring 2023
- National Association of Independent Schools – Diversity Leadership Institute, Summer 2022
- Waiolaihui'ia local formation program, 2014 - 2015
- St. George's College Jerusalem, Israel — Jesus of Palestine Pilgrimage, 2014
- University of Hawai'i at Hilo – Uluākea program, 2007

## OTHER CHURCH and COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Governance

- Elected – Deputy Clergy One (1): General Convention, Arizona 2027
- Vestry: St. Mark's Kapahulu (seat and voice) 2019 - 2021
- Vestry: St. Mark's Capitol Hill, Washington DC (seat and voice) 2016-2019
- Board of Directors: Aikido of Hilo, 2012 – 2016
- Board of Directors: Rotary Club of South Hilo, Public Relations Chair, 2013 – 2015
- Vestry: Church of the Holy Apostles, Hilo (seat and voice) 2014 - 2015
- Delegate to Diocesan Convention: Holy Apostles, 2014 & 2015
- Board of Directors: Mālamalama Waldorf School, Kea'au, 2010 – 2012

### Virginia Theological Seminary

- Co-chair: Class Gift Committee, Class of 2019, 2017 – 2019
- Multicultural Ministries Advisory Committee, Class of 2019 Rep., 2017 – 2019
- Co-chair of the Spring Visitation Weekend, Friday Dinner, 2016 – 2019
- MDiv Class of 2019 Class Chaplain, 2016 – 2019.

### Other

- Representative: 'Iolani School (120th Anniversary of St. Andrew's School in Nuku'alofa, Tonga) 2026
- Participant in the Episcopal Asia America Ministry and AAPI Leadership programs, including national retreats, O'ahu and Kansas City, 2025
- Hawai'i Island Interfaith Council in Action, Member, 2015 – 2016
- Rotary Club of South Hilo, Rotarian, 2012 – 2016
- Aikido of Hilo, Member and Instructor, 2012 – 2016
- Representative: The Episcopal Church, Korea, 2015

## COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL GROUNDING

My education and professional career have been deeply embedded in Hawai'i's cultural landscape. Teaching Hawaiian History at Kamehameha Schools strengthened my understanding of 'Ike and Nohona Hawai'i – Hawaiian knowledge, worldview, and relational systems – while professional development through the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's Uluākea program further grounded me in Hawaiian values, protocol, and the ethical responsibilities of settlers in Indigenous spaces. These experiences re-centered Hawai'i as the piko (center) of my work and worldview, reframing the concept of the "mainland" as the pae 'āina (Hawaiian archipelago) rather than the Continental United States.

I am a third-generation Okinawan and Japanese American with family roots in Hilo and Waipahu dating to the 1890s. My family's legacy of community stewardship and small business continues to inform my vocation and sense of service. My first language, Hawai'i Pidgin English, reflects my lifelong connection to local communities and shapes my ministry of presence. The rhythm of my daily prayer life and my practice of Aikido – the Japanese martial art of peace and reconciliation – teaches me to be a grounded, calm, non-anxious presence and a lifelong-learner.

## PERSONAL

Married to wife, Kimberly, for 31 years, parent to one child, Liam, born in Hawai'i, and companion to a sweet terrier named, Jack. I am deeply committed to rooted, relational leadership grounded in aloha, family, and service, and to a ministry of healing, connection, and faithful transformation for all God's people.