Diocesan Council

Exercises the power of the Convention and performs planning and policy-making between meetings of Convention. Oversees the policies, programs, mission, and budget of the Diocese and may initiate new work. Is also the legal corporate body of The Episcopal Church in Hawai‘i and, as such, is responsible for the business and property of the Church. This is the Board of Directors of the Diocese. **Vote for**: one (1) clergy Hawai‘i County, One (1) lay Kaua‘i County, one (1) lay Maui County, and one (1) lay-at-large.

Diocesan Council – Clergy Hawai‘i County (Ballot A)

Nominee: Jennifer Masada
Church: St. Augustine’s, Kapa‘au, Hawai‘i Island
Occupation: Vicar

Church, Community and/or personal ministries, activities and/or positions:

1. Church governance - Diocesan Council, Diocese of Hawai‘i
2. Community partnership development - St. Augustine’s (Hawai‘i), New Song Episcopal Church (Iowa), University of Iowa (for the Graduate College and University Libraries), and New Pioneer Co-op (Iowa)
3. Shared ministry advocacy & development - Diocese of Hawai‘i and Diocese of Iowa

What are the dreams, experiences and/or skills in your life that lead you to be open to the call to serve in this ministry (the position in the Diocese of Hawai‘i for which you have been nominated)?

At a time when division and fear are so present, the Church has an opportunity to live more fully into Christ’s vision of unity and love. I believe part of that response involves expanding ministry beyond church walls and building relationships with individuals, organizations, and businesses around the needs of our communities, whether or not those partners share our beliefs.

Much of my professional and ministry experience has centered on building these kinds of relationships. I’ve been fortunate to learn from mentors who unite people with different perspectives around common goals. Serving a shared ministry congregation in Iowa taught me the value of deep listening, consensus building, and recognizing the ministry gifts of all. That experience continues to shape my understanding of leadership: leadership is less about one voice having the answers and more about creating the conditions in which we can discern together where the Spirit is leading.

My work outside the Church has reinforced this. At a natural foods cooperative, I partnered with physicians to help people diagnosed with heart disease, diabetes, and celiac disease translate dietary restrictions into new shopping, cooking, and delicious eating habits. At the University of Iowa, I worked with Ph.D. programs to help doctoral students communicate highly technical research in accessible language, bridging the gap between researchers and potential funders who shared an interest in advancing important work.

These experiences have taught me to look for connections where they may not be immediately obvious, listen for shared goals across different cultures and institutions, and build

partnerships around those goals. I hope to continue serving on Council because I am eager to keep learning about collaborative, discerning leadership as we respond to the changing needs of our congregations and communities.

What is the single greatest opportunity for mission that you see open to the Diocese of Hawai‘i in the next five years?

I believe one of the Diocese of Hawai‘i’s greatest opportunities is to build a much more robust network of partnerships within our local communities, particularly relationships that extend beyond Christian and religious organizations. Many of our congregations are already reenvisioning what it means to be Church in this way. I would like us to ask even more intentionally: Who else cares about the things our faith calls us to care about, and what could we accomplish together?

Across our islands, organizations, cultural groups, businesses, nonprofits, social service agencies, and environmental initiatives are addressing concerns that intersect directly with our mission, including food security, housing, care for creation, health, and community resilience. Working alongside them can expand our capacity and allow our financial and human resources to accomplish far more than they could in isolation. This becomes particularly important as many congregations face declining membership and fewer volunteers. Collaboration allows us to move from asking, “How can our congregation do this?” to asking, “Who in our community is already doing this work, and how might we strengthen one another?”

I also believe these relationships offer an important opportunity for evangelism in the broadest and most authentic sense. When people work beside Episcopalians who are serving their communities with compassion, generosity, humility, and openness, they encounter the heart of who we are before they ever step foot in one of our churches. New partnerships can create new possibilities for ministry while also helping people see a Church they may not have known existed: a Church committed to listening, relationship, service, and the healing of our communities. In that sense, community partnership is both an outreach strategy and an opportunity for renewal and growth.

What is your single greatest concern for the health of the Diocese of Hawai‘i right now?

My greatest concern is our relevance in an increasingly divided and chaotic society. Many people are searching for meaning, belonging, hope, and genuine community, yet Christianity is often perceived as distant from their lives or associated primarily with judgment and division. At a time when fear and polarization weigh heavily on our communities, Christ’s vision of unity and love is profoundly relevant. Our challenge is to embody that vision in ways people can actually see and experience.

One of the particular gifts of the Episcopal Church is our ability to come together at the same table even when our opinions differ. We are a people whose tradition calls us toward hope, healing, reconciliation, and the dignity of every human being. The health and vitality of our Diocese will depend in part on our willingness to demonstrate those values through the way we live and serve outside our church walls. We cannot simply tell people who we are. Our communities need to experience who we are through our relationships and our actions.

I believe Diocesan Council has an important role in helping make that possible. Along with responsible stewardship of diocesan resources, Council can encourage innovation, seek grant opportunities that foster collaboration, and direct resources toward ministries that respond meaningfully to a changing world. That also requires accountability. We need to ask what our

investments in mission are accomplishing, how we measure their impact, what is working and why, and whether our allocation of resources reflects the vision and priorities we proclaim. Fiscal responsibility, sustainability, mission, and growth are interconnected. Thoughtful investment in ministries that make a demonstrable difference in people's lives can help our Diocese remain faithful to the Gospel and responsive to the world we are called to serve.

* * * * * * * * *

Diocesan Council – Lay Kaua'i County (Ballot B)

Nominee: Maggie Lea
Church: Christ Memorial, Kīlauea, Kaua'i
Occupation: Psychologist - Semi-Retired

Church, Community and/or personal ministries, activities and/or positions:

1. Altar Guild & Lay Reader at Christ Memorial
2. Counsel individuals needing short term intervention, guidance and support
3. Soul Collage Workshops

What are the dreams, experiences and/or skills in your life that lead you to be open to the call to serve in this ministry (the position in the Diocese of Hawai'i for which you have been nominated)?

I have served on the Diocesan Council for three years and would be available to serve another three year term, God willing.

What is the single greatest opportunity for mission that you see open to the Diocese of Hawai'i in the next five years?

New ways need to be found to serve in each of our communities and churches to show God's love, peace and joy in these troubling times of change and transition nationally and worldwide.

What is your single greatest concern for the health of the Diocese of Hawai'i right now?

As our small congregations age and churches close in Hawai'i and on the mainland a new sensitivity needs to be encouraged for this demographic reality. As our elders age in place different priorities need to be established for their needs that arise. Families sometimes live far away and cannot offer help, a final diagnosis is faced alone as spouses die, Hospice end of life care needs our partnership beyond what Clergy can do, church life is top heavy with these types of concerns, often in place of a youth program that has no or few children to serve. Elder programs need to be developed within our congregations so no one is forgotten or left out of our worship communities.

* * * * * * * * *

Diocesan Council – Lay Maui County (Ballot C)

Nominee: William Bonnet
Church: St. John's, Kula, Maui
Occupation: Retired (engineer/administrator)

Church, Community and/or personal ministries, activities and/or positions:

1. Standing Committee (2022-2025)
2. Diocesan Compensation Review Commission, chair (present-2028)
3. Lay Eucharistic Minister, Bible Study Leader

What are the dreams, experiences and/or skills in your life that lead you to be open to the call to serve in this ministry (the position in the Diocese of Hawai'i for which you have been nominated)?

MBA and advanced engineering degree. Licensed civil engineer (current). President of the local electric utility 1996-2001. VP of government, regulatory and community relations for parent company HECO 2002- 2008. Resident seminarian CDSP 2011-2013. Active involvement in TECH since 1982.

What is the single greatest opportunity for mission that you see open to the Diocese of Hawai'i in the next five years?

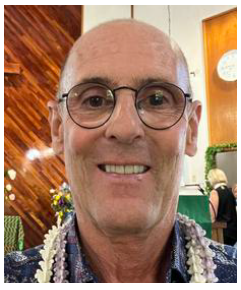
Development of lay leadership.

What is your single greatest concern for the health of the Diocese of Hawai'i right now?

Shrinking revenue and growing expenses.

* * * * * * * * *

Diocesan Council – Lay at-large (Ballot D)



Nominee: Joseph Cascio
Church: St. John's, Kula, Maui
Occupation: Customer Assistance Representative Senior - Enterprise Mobility

Church, Community and/or personal ministries, activities and/or positions:

1. A Cup of Cold Water, President
2. Eucharistic Minister, St. John's Kula
3. Diocesan Bishop Search Committee, Current Lay Delegate and Resolutions Committee.

What are the dreams, experiences and/or skills in your life that lead you to be open to the call to serve in this ministry (the position in the Diocese of Hawai'i for which you have been nominated)?

I dream of a day where our Churches are filled to capacity with great diversity. After all, All Are Welcome! At my previous parish I was treasurer. We had two Churches, two Rectories, Two Thrift Shops and Two Cemeteries. It was a very busy volunteer position but I appreciated the role. At St. John's I was previously Senior Warden for two years. I currently am a Eucharist Minister and Livestream Operator. I have served on many Vestries over the years!

What is the single greatest opportunity for mission that you see open to the Diocese of Hawai'i in the next five years?

I see growth as an opportunity, spreading the good news of Jesus and The Episcopal Church. There must be focused energy!

What is your single greatest concern for the health of the Diocese of Hawai'i right now?

There just aren't enough Priests, Deacons. Children, Young Adults and regular attending members. We must get the word out.

* * * * * * * * *

Nominee: Willis Moore
Church: St. Luke's, Honolulu, O'ahu
Occupation: Professor

Church, Community and/or personal ministries, activities and/or positions:

1. Musician, St Luke's Church
2. Diocesan Council - two terms
3. Cathedral Chapter - one term

What are the dreams, experiences and/or skills in your life that lead you to be open to the call to serve in this ministry (the position in the Diocese of Hawai'i for which you have been nominated)?

Part of DioHI since 1970, I want to see the Church grow strong, healthy, and in vitality. Service on Diocesan Council helps guide the business of the Diocese in healthy directions. Service to The Episcopal Church at large includes the historical societies of the Church (Officer, President, Board), includes the STANDING COMMISSION on ECUMENICAL and INTERFAITH RELATIONS, Episcopal Migration Ministries, the Episcopal Public Policy Network. In the Community, I serve on Neighborhood Boards 13/15, was precinct Chair for 10 election cycles, and volunteer at the HAWAIIAN MISSION HOUSES HISTORIC SITE, Hawai'i Public Radio, and the Waikiki Aquarium.

What is the single greatest opportunity for mission that you see open to the Diocese of Hawai'i in the next five years?

The Diocese of Hawai'i is fiscally sound, more so that many other dioceses, in fact. In the coming 5 years, DioHI needs to think about where and how to minister in areas not currently considered: students, Waikiki/visitors, incarcerated, and creation care. "Survival mode" for some parishes need to create new visions of ministry, not necessarily relating to clerical compensation.

What is your single greatest concern for the health of the Diocese of Hawai‘i right now?

The Diocese of Hawai‘i, with some notable exceptions, has stagnated in many ways. As we age, the absence of youth and young adults needs to be considered seriously by our new bishop, by the clergy, and by other leadership. Are our congregations really welcoming of new, younger people?

* * * * * * * * *