

My Diaconal ministry began in California in 2016. There, I served two churches on alternating Sundays. Together, we supported the Children's Book Project (<https://www.childrensbookproject.org/get-books/>) by providing free books to children and teachers. We also delivered groceries and diapers to the families of the Marin Canal area weekly in cooperation with Marin Community Fridges (<https://marincommunityfridges.info/>.)

In California, I was the Supervisor of the Spiritual Care (Chaplains) Department of MarinHealth Medical Center in Greenbrae, CA. I am a Board-Certified Clinical Chaplain, Spiritual Practitioner, Pastoral Counselor, and Spiritual Care Counselor. Each month, I co-mentor a group of Chaplains toward board certification. I am an active member of The Union of Black Episcopalians. (<https://www.ube.org/>)

I was also a member of the Commission for Ministry for the Diocese of Ca. and an executive board member of the Marin Interfaith Council.

Since arriving in Hawaii in June 2022, I have served the people of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles in Hilo. Part of that service includes supervising and training our Eucharistic Visitors (per the Canons of the Episcopal Church: Canons III.4.6 and III.4.7).

I am also a member of the Commission on Ministry here.

My service extends beyond the church walls. I am the Coordinator for the Peanut Butter Ministry outreach program in Hilo; I am also the link between our church and the assistance we provide for Hale Iki, a shelter for unhoused families while they await permanent housing (<https://neighborhoodplaceofpuna.org/>). Very soon, my ministry will extend to our next-door neighbors at Hale Nā Koa 'O Hanakahi-a, a new housing facility for veterans. (<https://www.eahhousing.org/apartments/hilo/>)

For me, being a Deacon is not just a role, but a calling. It means being Jesus's eyes, hands, and feet in the world. I strive to live up to those words and my Diaconal vows every single day, fueled by my passion for the Diaconate. If you'd like to learn more about this calling, please email me at deacon@echa-hilo.org.

The Rev. Deacon Alberta Brown Buller, Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles, Hilo

Photo taken September 2023 Lili'uokalani Gardens, Hilo-Interfaith Gathering for Maui.