

# Pacific CONNECTOR

HAWAII PACIFIC BAPTIST CONVENTION

*Hawaiian sunset at  
Anaehoomalu Bay  
on the Big Island of  
Hawaii*

LET THEM GIVE GLORY TO THE LORD AND  
PROCLAIM HIS PRAISE IN THE ISLANDS.

ISAIAH 42:12



2018 | VOLUME 48, ISSUE 1 | JANUARY FEBRUARY

*from the* EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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## Building the Kingdom SMALL STEPS AT A TIME

As we have turned the corner on the New Year, my prayer is for God's greatest blessings to be on you and your ministries throughout 2018. God has many plans ahead for us, waiting for our trust and obedience to fulfill them.

In reflecting on the past four years as your executive director, God has blessed me tremendously through our Kingdom partnership. I am encouraged by God every time I have the opportunity to interact with you.

There are so many advances and adjustments ahead in 2018 for the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention, allow me to highlight three:

1. The first is the ongoing work of realigning the Associational/Convention relationships. We will schedule meetings with each association and their regional leadership to develop a strategy that will facilitate a closer and deeper connection in ministry and missions. This work is much more than streamlining processes or cutting costs—it is our opportunity to find God's will for our best cooperative efforts for the years ahead.

2. The second advance is the seminary experience with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS). With this new partnership with SWBTS, students will receive the most substantial connection with SWBTS. Seminary courses are scheduled to begin in Fall 2018! We will notify you as soon as enrollment begins.



3. The final advance and adjustment relates to our HPBC staff restructure. Dr. Craig Webb joined our HPBC team on January 1, 2018 as Assistant Executive Director. He has over 30 years of ministry experience in pastoral ministry, resourcing pastors, leadership development, disciple-making, and spiritual leadership. Craig is already well-known throughout our convention as a former pastor of Lahaina Baptist Church (1994-2003) and with his childhood years spent here in Honolulu. Please encourage Craig and look for him to connect with you in the coming days.

Brothers and sisters, my prayer is for God's power to be evident in your ministry. God is moving all across our convention of churches, and we desire to serve you in maximizing your Kingdom potential!

As always, your HPBC staff team is ready to assist you in pursuing the vision and plans



that God has given you for ministry. If we can serve you, please call us at 808-356-8329 or email me at [chris@hpbaptist.net](mailto:chris@hpbaptist.net).

*Mahalo*  
*Chris Martin*





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# YOKOHAMA MISSION TRIP

TWO CONVENTION  
STAFF MEMBERS'  
EXPERIENCE

*An Interview  
with  
Dawn Akutagawa  
& Lisa Tabudlo*

*By Craig Webb*

**“Eat, walk, pray”** are the three words that summarize the 10 days that Dawn Akutagawa and Lisa Tabudlo spent in Yokohama with a team of nine persons from Red C Church, a church plant in the Salt Lake area of Oahu. Dawn and Lisa serve as the heart of the staff team



of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention as Ministry Assistants. Their story is a fascinating narrative that bridges the work of two churches, our own state convention, and our two Baptist Mission Agencies.

*Craig: Lisa, how did this story begin?*

**Lisa:** It all started when Dawn was too sick to operate the soundboard during the 2016 Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Hilo, Hawaii. I had to sub for her and pay particularly close attention to the speaker, Don Broeker. He challenged the messengers that night to consider the great need for the Hawaii churches to pray for and send short-term mission teams to share the gospel in Japan. I began to think of questions and objections, but each time a question or objection popped into my head, he would address my question and eliminate my objection. Then I began to think, “Maybe God wants me to go on a short-term mission trip to Japan.” The amazing thing that happened at that Annual Meeting was the overwhelming response by several HPBC churches who answered the call to send short-term teams to Japan. It was such an overwhelming response that we almost didn’t get to go.

*Craig: Dawn, who did you serve with and where did your team serve?*

**DAWN:** We served with IMB missionaries Jason and Esther in the Kanagawa Prefecture in Yokohama. Yokohama is a Japanese city south of Tokyo.

*Craig: Lisa, what surprised you about the culture in Yokohama?*

**LISA:** I had heard something about the character of the people of Yokohama, but it still surprised me when I experienced it. The people we met were extremely nice and extremely polite but beneath the surface there is a great deal of hurt, pain, and depression. I understood it so much more as I had conversations with the people. We had also heard about a high rate of suicide. However, the epidemic became clearer in our minds and in our hearts when our train was delayed for several hours two separate

times during our trip. After long delays, we were notified on both trips that the cause of the delay was that an individual had jumped in front of our train to end their life.

*Craig: Dawn, what was your most significant experience on the mission trip?*

**DAWN:** God gave me great compassion for an older man in the church who was grieving the strain in his family that was caused by his decision to follow Christ rather than Buddha. This church member was the only male in a family of six children and before coming to Christ he had the responsibility of keeping up his family’s ancestor worship in the Buddhist temple. His decision to follow Christ and not to practice Buddhism brought great hostility from his sisters. As I joined our team in praying for God to help this man share the gospel with his sisters, I was so excited when one of his sisters agreed to join him at the evangelistic Christmas outreach that our team helped to plan and execute. God allowed Lisa and me to have significant conversations with his sister. I saw God at work in a very practical way.

*Craig: Lisa, what impressed you about the gospel work that was going on in Yokohama?*

“

**THE PEOPLE WE MET WERE EXTREMELY NICE...BUT BENEATH THE SURFACE THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF HURT, PAIN, AND DEPRESSION.**

*Meeting people outside the Buddhist Temple*



*Shibuya Team*



**Lisa:** I loved watching the way that our IMB Missionaries, Jason and Esther, were so intentional in their disciple-making and how they held believers accountable as they helped these young believers to grow in their faith in Christ. I was also impressed with the desire for the Queen's to see this as a 2-way partnership. In fact, Esther had a God-orchestrated opportunity for her to travel from Yokohama, Japan to Honolulu, Hawaii and met with our team to help us prepare for our trip.

*Craig: Dawn, what did God teach you about Himself on this short-term mission trip?*

**DAWN:** Jason and Esther took our team to the Yokohama Landmark Tower, one of the tallest buildings in Japan. As we looked out at so many apartments filled with so many individuals it was both impressive and overwhelming. It was impressive to see the number of people in the small area. It was overwhelming after hearing that less than one percent of Japan is Christian. He must have seen the look on our face because Jason began to speak to us about what he saw. Jason said he believed that what we were looking at was a battlefield and that we are a part of a great army of God poised to make an advance with the gospel. He said that with God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). Jason reminded me that our God is a Warrior (Exodus 15:3).

*Craig: Join me in thanking God for two HPBC staff members serving on a team from one of our HPBC/NAMB church plants, working with IMB Missionaries in a HPBC affiliated congregation. Only God can create that type of cooperation among His people.*

*Hula outreach*



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The *Pacific Connector* highlights people and churches that work to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by reaching the Pacific region.

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*This publication is provided online,  
free of charge and is available at:  
hpbaptist.net/pacificconnector*

The Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention magazine was created exclusively for the HPBC by Innovative Faith Resources.



# ONE YOUNG WOMAN'S ADVENTURE On Mission

By John Endriss

Many of us hope to do great things at the beginning of a new year, but for University of Hawaii basketball player, Kiana Lee, this new year led to a great new adventure. On January 1, 2018, Kiana boarded a plane, and flew off to begin a 2-year appointment for service in Brazil as a International Mission Board (IMB) Journeyman.

Kiana is a member of Engage Church in Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii, a Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention (HPBC) church-plant supported by the North American Mission Board (NAMB). She came from San Diego to the University of Hawaii at Hilo to play basketball. During her first year on campus God began to show her His greater plan. Through her involvement with the Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM) in Hilo and her engagement with her church, she began to grow in her faith and to serve. Kiana especially has a heart for international students. She was baptized in the Pacific waters around Hilo in 2015, and soon began pursuing missions. Since then Kiana has served on two short-term overseas trips with Engage Church and also spent 5 months in Asia with an IMB Hands-On project. Recently at our annual meeting, Rose from the



IMB team that led our mission conference, came to me and said, "Please send us more like Kiana!"

Please keep Kiana in your prayers as she learns Portuguese and as she seeks to share Jesus with the lost people in a major city in Brazil. Thank you for your co-operative giving that supports the HPBC, NAMB, IMB, BCM, Engage Church, and Kiana's calling to serve as a missionary.

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*John Endriss is a Church Planter and the Senior Pastor of Engage Church in Hilo, Hawaii ([engagehilo.com](http://engagehilo.com)). He recently served two years as the President of Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention.*

*A time of hands-on, focused prayer is given for Kiana as she nears her time of appointment.*

## #LIVESENT



# 2017 HAWAII PACIFIC BAPTIST CONVENTION

## ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

This year's Annual Meeting was marked by a celebration of and reflection on a 75-year legacy of kingdom work, a remarkable 75-year-old archival video of the first Baptist missionaries in Hawaii, inspiring music, gracious hospitality, onogrinds, a new budget, a resolution, the inclusion of a new Asia Network Church, and the election of new officers.

Gathering around the theme "People of the Word — Celebrating 75 Years of the HPBC," 264 messengers from 70 of the convention's 151 churches met November 9-10, 2017 at Hawaii Baptist Academy in Honolulu. Messengers came from churches across the Islands of Hawaii as well as Guam, American Samoa, Okinawa, South Korea, Japan, and the newly received church from Bangkok, Thailand.

At the 2017 Annual Meeting, messengers and guests were surprised by the Historical Committee's presentation of a 75-year-old IMB promotional video showing the work of the first Baptist missionaries in Hawaii. The archival video was provided by the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives. The video featured footage of missionaries arriving on the field and establishing Sunday Schools in various communities in Central Oahu. In 2018, it's difficult to imagine life as a pastor or missionary in Hawaii in the 1940s. If a picture is worth a thousand words, these "silent" films

were priceless in helping messengers and guests visualize that kind of life and ministry.

Worship teams and worship leaders provided leadership for inspiring times of worship through singing including an inter-church Praise Team leading the closing session. Messengers and guests were also treated to Hawaii Baptist Academy's choral group, Soldiers of Light, HBA's Halau Hula 'o Ka Lama 'Ula, HBA's band, a Women's Ensemble, and a Pastor's Quintet.

The HBA campus proved to be a fantastic location with gracious hospitality provided by HBA President, Ron Shiira, and his team. Messengers and guests were also treated to wonderful refreshments before, during, and after many of the sessions. These refreshments were provided by HBA as well as churches around the convention.

Along with a new budget, a resolution adopted by messengers called for increased cooperation



*Multi-Church  
Choir singing  
"The Hallelujah  
Chorus"*



by churches, including participation in cooperative ministries, giving through Cooperative Program and filing an annual statistical report with the convention. Among the meeting's guest speakers were National Day of Prayer President Ronnie Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, and former International Mission Board President Tom Elliff.

At the Annual Meeting, messengers voted to receive Calvary International Baptist Church of Bangkok, Thailand to be a formal part of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention. The senior pastor of the church, Martin Chappell, traveled from Thailand to be part of the Annual meeting along with his wife, Carrie. Dong Tam Baptist Church and Chinese Baptist Church, both in Honolulu, were also received into the convention.

In the closing sessions, messengers and guests were introduced to a newly elected slate of officers. These include president, Wes Higuchi, a member of Kahului Baptist Church on Maui; first vice president, Sterling Lee, pastor of First Baptist Church Pearl

City on Oahu; second vice president, Alan Krober, pastor of Mililani Baptist Church on Oahu; and recording secretary, Liz McElrath, a member of Olivet Baptist Church on Oahu.

A new element during the week of our HPBC Annual meeting was Missions College. The Tuesday and Wednesday before the Annual Meeting provided two days of intentional missions training by International Mission Board (IMB) personnel for missions leaders and missions teams. Missions College allowed Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention pastors, staff, leaders, and church members the opportunity to engage in all areas of missions. Plans are already being made for the 2018 Missions College to again precede the Annual Meeting. Make plans now to attend. It is a "cannot miss" missions training opportunity for leaders in taking the gospel to all nations.

The 2018 annual meeting will be Nov. 8-9 at Olivet Baptist Church in Honolulu.

*Executive Director Chris Martin thanks the 2016-2017 officers*



*Steve and Debbie Davidson*



*Historical segment with Betty Petherbirdge, daughter of Victor and Lee Koon, missionaries to Hawaii*

# Around the Islands

If you have news you would like to share,  
please email us at [info@hpbaptist.net](mailto:info@hpbaptist.net)  
or you may like us and post it at: [facebook.com/hawaiibaptist](https://facebook.com/hawaiibaptist)

## KOKUA AWARD

**Drs. David and Marcia McQuitty** were awarded the Kokua Award from the Oahu Baptist Network at its annual meeting in October. Dr. McQuitty has been leading the Pacific Bible Institute classes on Oahu.



## Helping the Children of Hawaii be ALL-IN for Jesus

The 2018 Mission Adventure Camp will take place this year from March 22-24 at Pu'u Kahea Conference Center on the island of Oahu. The theme for this year is "All-In" where campers in grades 2-6 will learn how to be "all-in" for Jesus. In addition, this year a team of Royal Ambassador leaders from Texas Baptist Men will be leading all of the children in learning how to do different camp crafts. Each camper will be able to earn the "Hiker patch" for participating in camp. And, of course, we will have amazing camp missionaries who will share their ministry with the children. Cost, registration forms, deadlines, information about opportunities for junior counselors, scholarship information, and some significant changes are all available at [hpbaptist.net](http://hpbaptist.net) when you click the camp banner.



## AROUND *the* SBC

Southern Baptist Convention



**SEND NETWORK** — When a staff member, lay leader, or ministry volunteer drifts from the Lord into a pattern of sin, how does a wise church leader help them pick up the pieces and move forward?

Read More: <https://www.namb.net/send-network-blog/restoration-of-the-fallen-when>



**ON MISSION**— If our approach to evangelism resembles other New Year resolutions, we may be doomed to fail before we start. Perhaps we should think about new and often overlooked ways to be a witness to our neighbors in the new year: Hope, Holiness, Honor, Hospitality, and Declare His Praise.

Read More: <https://www.imb.org/2018/01/11/5-overlooked-ways-mission/>

**BACK TO BASICS** — Frank S. Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, asks the soul searching question, "Is God at home in you?" When we have a relationship with the Lord, He comes to dwell within us. Is He really welcome? Or do we try to crowd Him in with other causes, agendas or competing allegiances that serve as lesser gods in our lives?

Read More: <http://www.bpnews.net/50179/firstperson-is-god-at-home-in-you>







# 2018 WMU Missions Celebration Road Show FIVE LOCATIONS

The new year is bringing an exciting change for the Women's Missionary Union (WMU) Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration! The main meeting will be held on Oahu on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Olivet Baptist Church and we will have four other meetings on the Neighbor Islands. One will take place on Maui at Kahului Baptist Church Sunday, February 4, 2018. There will be one on Kauai at Ele'ele Baptist Church Monday, February 5, 2018. There will be two on the Big Island of Hawaii. The first is Kona-side at Waikoloa Baptist Church Saturday, February 10, 2018 and the other is Hilo-side at Kino'ole Baptist Church Sunday, February 11, 2018. Airfare scholarships of \$100 are available for the meetings. Applications can be made by each church through the HPBC office.

There will be a special guest speaker at the Oahu meeting for the Korean Churches. Fanny Kim, from California, will be leading sessions in Korean.

The keynote speaker at the Oahu, Maui, and Kauai meetings will be our new national WMU Executive Director, Sandra Wisdom-Martin. In addition to more than 25 years of experience in state WMU and church and community ministry, including children's missions education camps, Wisdom-Martin has served with more than 50 missions groups in nine different countries; served as national coordinator for Mississippi River Ministry; and writes extensively for WMU publications and others.

Another exciting presenter at our Oahu and Maui meeting is renowned WMU author Rosalie Hall Hunt. She is the daughter of missionary parents in China and is herself a retired Baptist missionary. She has taught in Myanmar (formerly Burma), South Asia, Australia, the Philippines, China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Hunt will be releasing her newest book, *Ann Hasseltine Judson: A Life Beyond Boundaries* (Judson Press), here in Hawaii. At the conference, she will share what she learned while researching Ann Judson's life. The book will be available to purchase at all of the meetings around the islands. She will be available to sign the book at the Oahu and Maui meetings.

For the Maui meeting, during the registration hour, participants have the opportunity for an informal fellowship time with Sandy Wisdom-Martin and Rosalie Hunt with light

refreshments. Maui participants will also hear testimonies from former International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries to Russia, Rob and Donna Thommarson.

Kauai participants will be able to fellowship with Sandy Wisdom-Martin the hour before the program begins. IMB Missionaries, Rob and Donna Thommarson, will also be sharing their testimony at this meeting.

The Waikoloa meeting will begin with a fellowship time with former IMB missionary to Cambodia, Adele Inamine. Adele will be the keynote speaker along with two Big Island pastors and a local layperson who will be sharing recent missions experiences.

Kinoole Baptist Church will be the final stop for the WMU Missions Celebration Road Show and will open with an opportunity to fellowship with former IMB missionaries Adele Inamine (Cambodia) and Lizzy McElrath (North Africa). Both women will be sharing their experiences on the mission field.

The 2018 WMU Missions Celebration Road Show will provide five opportunities for our churches to hear about God's work here in the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention and around the world. For more information and to register online, visit: [hpbaptist.net/event/2018wmuannualmeeting](http://hpbaptist.net/event/2018wmuannualmeeting).

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*Teresa McCain is Director of Women's Ministry for the HPBC. Having been a kindergarten teacher in Oklahoma for many years and teaching Mission Friends for thirty years, Teresa never dreamed that God had bigger plans for her life. After a mission trip with their church to Hawaii in 2004, she and her husband, Darrell, were led by God to sell everything in 2009 and move almost 4,000 miles from family to be a part of the work of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention.*

*Abounding*

Hawaii Pacific  
WMU Annual Meeting  
and Mission Celebration

Saturday, FEB 3 – Oahu, Olivet Baptist Church, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Sunday, FEB 4 – Maui, Kahului Baptist Church, 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm.

Monday, FEB 5 – Kauai, Eleele Baptist Church, 5:00 pm - 7:45 pm.

Saturday, FEB 10 – Big Island, Waikoloa Baptist Church, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Sunday, FEB 11 – Big Island, Kinoole Baptist Church, 3:30 pm - 6:00 pm  
(TIME CHANGE)

*Baptist Collegiate Ministry  
and International Ministries  
enjoy the sun and fellowship at  
Hanauma Bay*

# BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS with Students for the Gospel

“

COLLEGE MINISTRY  
happens through on-campus  
outreach, fellowship events,  
midweek worship, meals,  
discipleship groups, and  
fun excursions

AS a new semester begins at the University of Hawaii (UH), the work of collegiate ministry is ramping up. College ministry happens through on-campus outreach, fellowship events, midweek worship, meals, discipleship groups, and fun excursions.

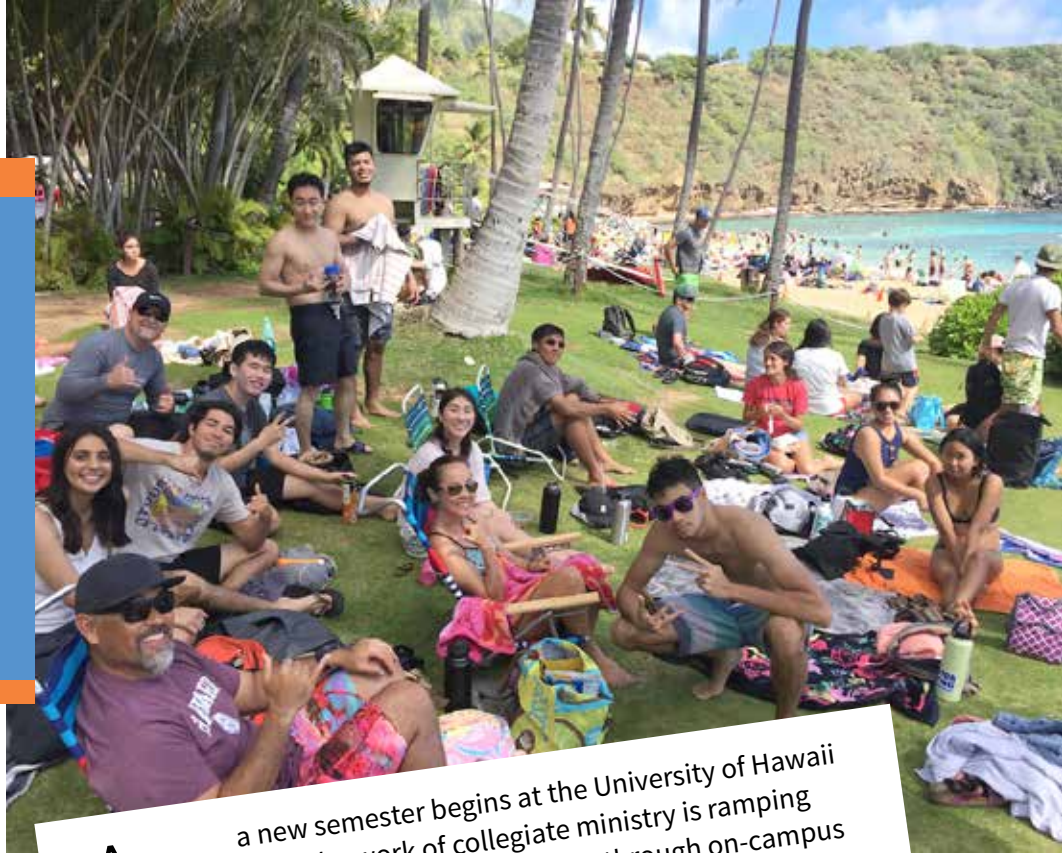
Both the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) and the International Ministries (IM) took a group of students to Hanauma Bay on the East side of Oahu on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. More than 50 UH students, Oklahoma Baptist University students (here on a mission trip), and leaders snorkeled in the bay and fellowshiped in the shade of coconut palms.

The UH students are from all over the United States and all over the globe. Arjay Gruspe is the state director of Baptist Collegiate Ministries, and John Allison is associate director. Carlye Lawrence is the director of International Ministries.

*Baptist Collegiate Ministry staff*



*International Ministries staff*



*International students*



## January

1

### Call to Prayer Month

- 1 New Year's Day
- 7-14 January Bible Study
- 15 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day*
- 21 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

## February

2

### "True Love Waits" Emphasis

- 3 **WMU Annual Meeting @ Olivet BC**
- 10 **HPBC Executive Board**
- 11 Racial Reconciliation Sunday
- 12-18 Focus on WMU
- 17 Children's Ministry Day
- 19 *President's Day*
- 19 **Women's Tea**
- 23-25 **The Gathering**

## March

3

- 3 **Disaster Relief Training, Oahu**
- 4-11 Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 4-10 Youth Week
- 18 Church Planting Emphasis Sunday
- 18 Substance Abuse Sunday
- 22-24 **Missions Adventure Camp**
- 26 *Prince Kuhio Day (observed)*
- 30 *Good Friday*
- 31 **VBS Training**

## April

4

- 1 Easter
- 5-7 **Wives in Ministry Retreat**
- 8 Cooperative Program Sunday
- 14 **Pinewood Derby & Mission Fair**
- 15 Baptist Doctrine Study
- 22 SBC Seminaries Sunday
- TBA **HBEEA Conference**

## May

5

- 6 Senior Adult Sunday
- 12 **HPBC Executive Board**
- 13-19 Christian Home Week
- 20-27 Baptist Association Emphasis
- 21-23 **Pastor's Retreat @ Pu'u Kahea**
- 27 Life Commitment Sunday
- 28 *Memorial Day*

## June

6

- 4-8 Keiki Camp
- 11 *King Kamehameha Day*
- 12-13 Southern Baptist Convention
- 17 Baptist Men's Emphasis
- 24 Mission: Dignity Sunday

## July

7

- 1 Citizenship & Religious Liberty Sunday
- 4 *Independence Day*
- 22 Loveloud Sunday

## August

8

- 5 Social Issues Sunday
- 12 Student Evangelism Day
- 17 *Statehood Day*
- 19-25 Worship Music Week
- 25 **HPBC Executive Board**

## September

9

- 2 Discipleship Rally
- 2 Single Adult Sunday
- 3 Labor Day
- 2-8 **Week of Prayer Hawaii Pacific Missions / Sue Nishikawa Offering**
- 16 Anti-Gambling Sunday
- TBA **HBEEA Conference**

## October

10

### Cooperative Program Emphasis Month

- 7 Personal Evangelism Commitment Day
- 14 Global Hunger Sunday
- 19-20 **Women's Retreat**

## November

11

- 4 Disaster Relief Appreciation Day
- 6 General Election Day
- 5 **New Workers Orientation**
- 6-7 **Missions College**
- 8-9 **HPBC Annual Meeting**
- 12 *Veterans' Day*
- 22-23 *Thanksgiving*

## December

12

- 2-9 Week of Prayer & Mission Study for International Missions & the Lottie Moon Christmas offering
- 24-25 *Christmas*



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ISAIAH 42:12



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