



Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention

February 2026 Report from President Shane Tanigawa

Aloha Hawaii Pacific Baptist Ohana,

I'm pleased to report that the HPBC Executive Board met on February 27, 2026, at the HPBC Offices in Honolulu. We had 13 members present in person and 7 joining remotely via Zoom.

Before the meeting was called to order, Executive Director-Treasurer, Dr. Craig Webb, introduced **Dr. Paul Kelly**, the newly appointed director of the **Hawaii Pacific School of Theology** — a Gateway Seminary campus launching right here in Honolulu. This is a historic moment: it's the first new Gateway campus in 30 years. Dr. Kelly shared his vision for launching classes by Fall 2026, with full accreditation expected by Fall 2027 and potential expansion to other Pacific locations based on student demand. We are praying for 20 students to register for the first cohort. Dr. Kelly plans to move to Hawaii permanently in August, and we're eager to see what God does through this new chapter in theological education for our region.

Our devotional centered on 1 Corinthians 3:5-11 — a beautiful reminder that we are all building on the foundation of Jesus Christ, which is exactly what we aim to do together.

Ron Shiira shared updates from **Hawaii Baptist Academy**, including the school's inspiring "Rescue" theme this year, drawn from Colossians 1:13-14. Ron also celebrated a meaningful partnership moment during MAC Week — HBA's annual Mainland Advisory Committee week — where Dr. Webb had the privilege of sharing devotions, and several HPBC staff joined in supporting the events throughout the week.

On the **financial front**, Dr. Webb shared genuinely encouraging news. Cooperative Program giving finished 2025 just \$5,325 under goal — a strong performance. A planned deficit of \$178,000 came in at only \$3,000 thanks to increased giving and disciplined spending. Looking ahead, we enter 2026 with real momentum: Pu'u Kahea broke even for the first time in a decade, the Sue Nishikawa Offering hit a record of over \$149,000a (video storytelling made a measurable difference!), and our investments continue to perform well.

The board approved **nine recommendations** across our committees:

- The **Operations Committee** received approval to engage CW Associates for the 2025 financial audit, allocate cash reserves for key capital improvements at HPBC properties in 2026, and adopt a 1-5 year strategic maintenance plan.
- The **Administrative Committee** received approval to update bank signers for the Hawaii Baptist Convention, set the 2027 budget expenditure ceiling at \$1,110,000 with a matching Cooperative Program goal, and approve a sabbatical request for our Executive Director-Treasurer (June 12-July 26, 2026).
- The **Programs Committee** noted that three scholarship recommendations (26:1, 26:2, and 26:3) had already been approved via electronic vote.

The **Communications Committee** highlighted continued progress on Salesforce integration for outreach tracking, ongoing bylaw updates at HBA and HBF, and the convention's commitment to sexual abuse prevention — with Dr. Robert Miller serving as our designated point person.

Looking ahead, our next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for **May 15, 2026**. We also have exciting events on the horizon: the Spring Pastors' Forums, a Pastors' Retreat at Pu'u Kahea in early May, a Church Health Conference in September on Oahu and American Samoa, and our Annual Meeting in November at Olivet Baptist Church as they celebrate 100 years of ministry — a milestone worth celebrating together.

What a privilege it is to serve alongside you for the gospel across Hawaii and the Pacific. God is at work, and we get to be a part of it.

Mahalo nui loa and God bless,
Shane Tanigawa
President, HPBC Executive Board