

CONVENTION 56  
RESPONSE TO THE BISHOP'S ADDRESS  
By Roth Puahala

Welina me ke Aloha a me nana I ke kumu o ka nui e 'auamo ai ka hue wai.

Greetings with much affection and encourages us to look to our ancestors, to nature, and to our creator for guidance, help and love. To acknowledge the land as a step towards our conscious recognition of the place we are in and its Indigenous roots and its people. And I applaud Pihopa Kealiikoaokeakua, our Bishop for stating this in his message. Mahalo piha!

I am Roth Puahala and I am an active member of The Cathedral of St. Andrews.

I am kanaka maoli/E ho'okanaka whose ancestors come from the 'āina of Lele, Maui Nui a Kama, Puna, Moku o Keawe, Kukaniloko, Moku O Kakuhihewa and Kaua'imanokalanipo. Some of my family names include Moikeha, Kakuhihewa, Alapa'inui, Pele'iholani, and Piiwale.

Listening to Christ. Ho'imi pono,  
To look, creating a balance.

The Biggest Message - Telling our stories, listening to each other's stories, living our new stories, Creating relationships, with God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and with Mana, Mālama, Pono in mind.

Coming out of the Covid pandemic and its lockdown. We no longer do the same things and need to think out of the box. Doing things different is the new norm.

May I share a Hawaiian proverb;

"I ka wā ma mua, i ka wā ma hope, We look to the past as a guide to the future." You see Hawaiian navigators oriented themselves without instruments by using a system based upon knowing where they came from and by having faith in the words of their ancestors. As they embarked on a journey in which they orient themselves in much the same way. It is as if YOU stands firmly in the present, with your back to the future, and your eyes fixed upon the past, seeking historical answers for present-day dilemmas. We view the world looking to that time that came before us because it is rich in knowledge from those before us, they are in front of us. Looking to our ancestors and knowing the history strongly influences how we view the world and contributes greatly to the forming of relationships. As a Christian in today's world, please realize that part of the process requires that we engage in the task of being involved and getting other involved in the process. Then we can, "ka wā ma hope," getting those inspired to be involved for our future and their futures to come.

For me, the Bishop's Message is about sharing and telling your stories and create those relationships. It is not just our Kuleana, our responsibility, it is more than that, it is a privilege.

