*****A Weekly Newsletter of Nu‘uanu Congregational Church*

***NCC News***

**February 13, 2022**



From the Moderators Desk

News from the YMCA and NCC Council:

NCC planned to start the YMCA KUPUNA program funded with a City Grant in early February. Several things happened. 1) The COVID-19 numbers grew exponentially and again 2) In-Person Worship services were postponed. The Ad-Hoc Medical Team were concerned about these numbers and about NCC members’ participation.

Therefore, by informing the YMCA program of our misgivings they found another site for February at Windward YMCA. We are sorry for this change but the Council felt that this would be the best for now. We will continue our discussions with the YMCA to begin the Kupuna Program in the Fall of this year.

However, this has not stopped the discussion and planning for the YMCA Spring Intersession to happen March 14 to 18, 2022. More on this as we receive the information from the YMCA advisors. We will proceed with this program if the YMCA reports that there are sufficient students to run the program.

Keep your eyes open for the latest happenings coming your way!!

Aloha, Laurie Hamano, NCC Moderator

Aloha kākou,

I am emailing this to all the clergy/spiritual leaders I know.  I recognize that you may get a similar email from others as we are trying to cover as many bases as possible - please forgive the redundancy. **Please circulate to others who might be interested in signing this statement!**:

The situation regarding the Red Hill Fuel Tanks only gets worse as the Navy is now challenging in court the Hawai`i Department of Health’s emergency order to drain the Red Hill fuel tanks.

This issue, as we all know, is not just a legal issue, it is also a spiritual issue and it is important for the spiritual community of Hawai’i to make clear that anything short of de-fueling and de-commissioning is not “pono” and is in defiance of our deepest held beliefs.

Attached below is a statement that has been drafted by a number of spiritual leaders in our community that is intended to be used as a full-page ad in the Star Advertiser in the near future.  **If you are in agreement with the statement and willing to sign on to it, we ask you to please sign by using this form:** <https://forms.gle/czDhzY4c4G4Q17Ui9>
 You will note that in the form there is an opportunity to provide financial support for this full-page ad through a Give Butter link that has been set up for this purpose. If you or your community are able to provide some financial assistance that would be wonderful.
 Also on the form is an opportunity for you to sign-on to a longer document (attached) that has more facts and figures and would be used as the basis for testimony at hearings in which this issue is being discussed and we have the opportunity to call for immediate refueling and de-comissioning.

 Your prompt attention to this is important. Please forward to your community as soon as possible and fill out the form by **Monday February 14th, 2022.**Please understand that your contact information (nor that of anyone you forward this to) will not be shared with anyone else.
 If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rev. David Baumgart Turner, pastor at Church of the Crossroads (pastor@churchofthecrossroadshawaii.org). or Cassie Chee, organizer Faith Action (cchee@faithactionhawaii.org).

Mahalo nui, David

Rev. David Baumgart Turner

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Malama Pono is the Way

**Interfaith Statement of Support for the Permanent Shutdown of Kapūkakī (Red Hill) To be use for full-page ad in Honolulu Star Advertiser**

As individuals and groups who represent a diversity of religious and spiritual traditions, we are united in our shared values of aloha and respect for all living things; in our appreciation of the natural world as the foundation for the wellbeing of all; and in our understanding that water is an indispensable element and source for life. It is through our shared values that we call for the immediate and permanent shutdown of the fuel tanks at Kapūkakī (Red Hill).

Across the spiritual traditions, water is foundational to life, a symbol of purity and rebirth and a metaphor for actively engaged and transformative lives. Protecting water is a sacred act.

Any and all efforts to repair and improve the tanks will not address the fundamental problem that may ultimately lead to more leaks and a catastrophic contamination of the Southern O‘ahu Basal Aquifer, the primary source for drinking water for the island. We have the responsibility to our children and future generations not to put off the problem. We demand the immediate shut-down of Red Hill fuel tanks and that the U.S. Navy and the federal government take responsibility for the harms already caused.