

As we seek to learn about the 'aina, the Hakuhia Ministry has started to walk the paths with those who can teach us about this place. The Hakuhia Citizen Forestry meet-up is a way to get involved. Those of us who have gone through training get together regularly to measure the trees on our Ko'olau property. To see our progress, anyone can visit the Treeplotter Inventory, which is accessible to the public with no login required at <https://pg-cloud.com/hawaii>.

By measuring the large trees on our Ko'olau property, we capture eco benefits and an inventory of current trees. To date, we have plotted and taken measurements of 226 trees.

One of our tallest mango trees is 86 feet high. This particular mango tree prevents rainwater from running off into the ocean, and filters 15,324 gallons of it annually. It removes pollutants from the rainwater before it is fed to our aquifer (a body of saturated rock through which water can easily move). The mango tree's massive canopy stores 1,878 pounds of carbon, meaning it sequesters that much carbon that would otherwise contribute to global warming and dangerous climate change.

We have also conducted a botanical survey of plants on our 246 acres of land, and have discovered that we have 12 native species, including mamaki and koa. We have created maps that show the topography and elevation of the former golf course. And we've set up partnerships that will provide support in a network of local organizations called the Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Project.

You too can get involved in learning more about our trees and our 'aina by becoming a part of our Hakuhia Citizen Forestry project. We'd love to have you! Please contact Jayme Grzebik at [jayme@fpchawaii.org](mailto:jayme@fpchawaii.org)



## QUARTERLY UPDATE • CHRISTMAS EDITION

FIRST PREZ HONOLULU | [www.raisethe sails.org](http://www.raisethe sails.org) | DECEMBER 2021

### DEAR FIRST PREZ 'OHANA,

I can't believe that we're finishing up our two-year Raise the Sails generosity journey! Since December 2019, we have been studying what it means to be generous by following God's examples. When we know how generous He is, we can risk and do great things for Him.

God is so generous that He wants to always give us the best. His love is bottomless. His forgiveness is immense. His faithfulness to us has no bounds. This is the God who owns the cattle of a thousand hills and who created the universe. This is the God who lived among us for 30 years and gave His life for us.

While some thought of Raise the Sails as just about raising funds, they later discovered that Raise the Sails is really about discipleship and how to be a sail-raiser disciple empowered and guided by the winds of the Spirit. I hope that even after Raise the Sails we will continue having a generous lifestyle not just through our giving, but also through how we show love, kindness, and compassion toward others.

We have much to be grateful for—the biggest one being Jesus, who came to be our Savior. From my family to yours, Merry Christmas!



Blessed by you,

*Pastor Dan*

Pastor Dan Chun

## RAISE THE SAILS (RTS) GOAL UPDATES

Dec 1, 2019 to August 31, 2021

TOTAL PROJECTED RTS INCOME DEC 2019-2021:

\$12,418,569

PROJECTED RTS INCOME

AS OF NOV 30, 2021:

\$11,327,356

ACTUAL RTS INCOME

AS OF NOV 30, 2021:

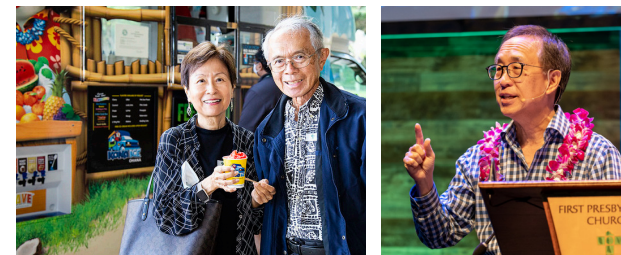
\$10,856,093

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
96% RECEIVED FROM  
PROJECTED AMOUNT  
AS OF AUG 31

All income to First Prez Honolulu from Dec 2019 to Dec 2021 count toward the Raise the Sails goal. Thanks for being a part of it!

## CELEBRATION SUNDAY

MAHALO, First Prez 'ohana, for participating in various ways in our Raise the Sails (RTS) Celebration Sunday on November 21st! It was amazing to see and celebrate how we have grown spiritually as individuals and as a church family through RTS. Here's to continuing to live out generosity so we can reflect God's lavish generosity!



## WAYS TO GIVE

- 1 ONLINE** through the website: [fpchawaii.org/give](http://fpchawaii.org/give) or [raisethesails.org/give](http://raisethesails.org/give) where you can make a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts.
- 2 IN-PERSON:** in the offering boxes at in-person worship services
- 3 TEXT-TO-GIVE:** Text "FPCHI" to 77977
- 4 FIRST PREZ APP:** Choose the GIVE button on the app (available in the Apple App Store or Google Play—search up "First Presbyterian Honolulu")
- 5 MAIL** your check to the church. We can also send you pre-addressed, stamped envelopes that you can use to send in your gift. Call the church office at (808) 532-1111 to request those envelopes.



QUESTIONS REGARDING  
YOUR GIVING OR HOW  
TO SET UP RECURRING  
GIFTS?

Contact Debbie  
(bookkeeper):  
[dentact@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:dentact@hawaii.rr.com)  
(808) 836-9995

[RAISETHESAILS.ORG](http://RAISETHESAILS.ORG)

## AS 2021 DRAWS TO A CLOSE...HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR YEAREND GIVING

### MAKING CHARITABLE GIFTS FROM RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

When we reach the age of 70 ½ we're required by the IRS to withdraw a certain amount of money from our retirement accounts each year. That amount is called required minimum distribution (RMD). RMD rules apply to tax-deferred retirement accounts: traditional IRAs, rollover IRAs, SIMPLE IRAs, SEP IRAs, most small-business accounts, and most 401(k) and 403(b) plans. One form of RMD is something called Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), which can be a tax-efficient and convenient way to support First Prez's mission because you can donate directly from your retirement account to the church, which then reduces your tax liability. Contact your financial advisor to learn more about QCDs and how you can use it to help First Prez further its mission of "love God, love people, and reach the world for Jesus Christ."

First Prez member Richard Willoughby shares his experience with QCD: "When the Raise the Sails Generosity Journey started in the fall of 2019, my wife Linda and I started to pray about what God was calling us to do. We had always been



writing a monthly check to the church for the offering. Since we were over 70 ½ years old, we investigated options with our financial advisor about how to handle our required minimum distribution from our IRA. He suggested we consider Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), which goes directly to the church. This is an easy and simple process to set up. It proved beneficial to the church and to us. And because of the timing, we were also able to give upfront our tithe to First Prez, giving the church the funds at the first of the year."

