

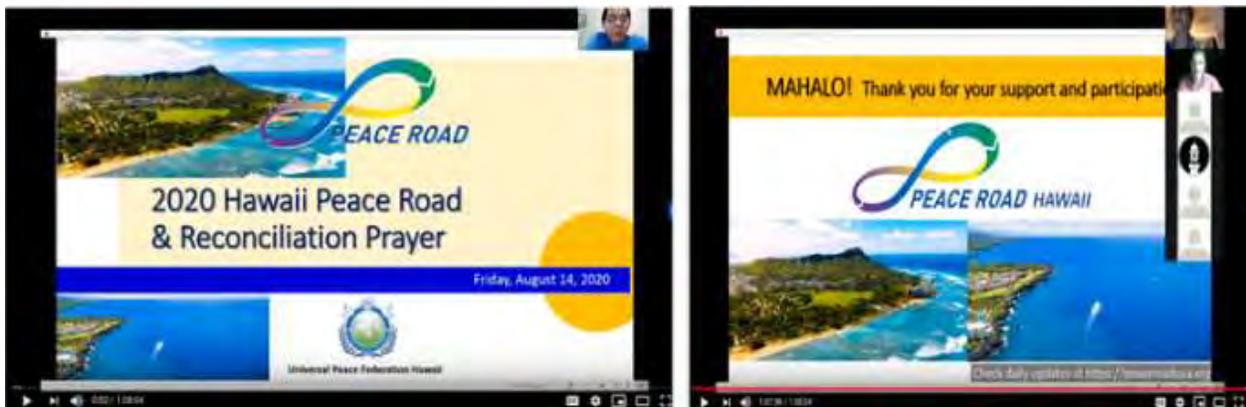
Hawaii leg of Peace Road 2020: Reconciling All People national tour went virtual

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Due to the recent COVID-19 situation, the State of Hawaii recently ordered no public gatherings of more than 10 people. In accordance with this, the Hawaii leg of the Peace Road 2020: Reconciling All People national tour went virtual. On Friday, August 14, host Rev. Kazuo Takami welcomed the participants with a brief description of Peace Road.

In preparation for the virtual rally, a handful of volunteers gathered at the Iolani Palace in front of the statue of King Kamehameha the Great, who unified the Hawaiian Islands.



Around 45 participants tuned into the Peace Road program, which included presentations and discussions on reconciliation and forgiveness from high-profile people including Hawaii State Senate Mr. Mike Gabbard, a beautiful message from Hawaii State Representative Mr. Bob McDermott, and the keynote address from Hawaii Forgiveness Project Founder Mr. Roger Epstein.

Rev. Dr. Anthony Cook of the Trinity Missionary Baptist Church opened the event with a heartfelt invocation prayer. Both he and his wife Regina were one of three Hawaii Parents of the Year in 2020.

Director of Universal Peace Federation (UPF) Hawaii Dr. Jeff Nakama spoke on the history of the International Highway Project, an idea of Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, co-founder of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), to unite the world together through interconnecting highways.

Mr. Roger Epstein, a prominent Jewish lawyer and philanthropist, gave the keynote address on Forgiveness and Reconciliation. Coming from his life experiences as a lawyer and a person with a diverse spiritual background he mentioned the three things needed to reconcile to build a world of peace: forgiveness, acceptance, and living from reality of connectedness. The latter point meaning, we have much more in common than we are different and so if we hurt others we are really hurting ourselves.



The first panelist was Mrs. Mary Ellen Legay, the chairwoman for Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Hawaii. She spoke on the importance of women to emerge as leaders and peacemakers. Women must stand on an equal footing as men, but not as competitors but as co-workers.

Second panelist Imam Matiullah Joyia from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Sect. said peace has several layers. First, within the individual. Then, peace with others -- this includes family, friends and neighbors -- and thirdly, peace has to do with absolute justice.

The third panelist was Senator Mike Gabbard who stated reconciliation has to do with co-existing in harmony. To do this, it comes down to love. Every person is a spiritual being, meaning people want to pursue higher things than material.

Kahu (priest) Loko'olu from the Hawaiian Church of Hawaii Nei, the final panelist, said reconciliation to him means getting back to the old customs and traditions of the past. Traditions where individuals and families get together to celebrate, talk, and resolve differences at the table for four days and work things out, not in isolation, but together.