

AN A.A. NEWSLETTER FOR HAWAII

THE MYNAH BIRD

JAN
2026

Sharing the Experience, Strength, and Hope of A.A. in Hawaii

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P R A A S A

FEB 27 - MAR 1, 2026

Two years have passed since the devastating Lahaina fires of August 2023, an event that reshaped the landscape of Maui and deeply impacted its communities. In the wake of such widespread destruction, the Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) fellowship in Lahaina has demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptation.

Meetings, groups, and service efforts have recovered and continue to evolve, drawing on the profound experiences of members who lived through the tragedy, including Danielle, a resident of Lanai and a lead A.A. volunteer helping to coordinate groups and services across Maui, Molokai, and

Lanai, and others who witnessed the immediate aftermath and ongoing recovery.

It is important to acknowledge that this article does not aim to be a comprehensive or definitive authority on the experiences of every A.A. member or group in Lahaina and across Maui. Instead, we're hoping to offer a more personal look into the journey of recovery and adaptation of Lahaina and Maui's A.A. communities, as seen through the eyes of a few members who generously shared their stories.

We understand that the impact of the fires and the path to

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The content of the Mynah Bird is a reflection of the vibrant and diverse A.A. community in Hawaii Area 17 and does not imply endorsement by either A.A. or Hawaii Area 17.

IT'S MAYJAH!



FEATURED ARTICLES

Local A.A. Volunteers Meet In Lahaina For Inventory Assembly

On January 24–25, 2026, A.A. volunteers from across the Hawaiian Islands gathered in Lahaina for Hawaii Area 17's biannual Area Inventory Assembly. As the first Area assembly held in Lahaina since the 2023 fires, the gathering marks an important milestone — not only in rebuilding, but in unity, remembrance, and shared responsibility.

In addition to taking an honest, collective look at how Area service members are fulfilling A.A.'s primary purpose, participants paused to remember what occurred in Lahaina, honor those who were lost, and reflect on the lessons learned. The assembly offered an opportunity to renew a shared commitment to service, grounded in both gratitude and humility, and informed by the gravity of the events that took place there.

For those unfamiliar with Area service, Area A.A. Assemblies are organized gatherings of trusted servants from across the state who work together to support A.A.'s common welfare at the Area level. Assemblies are open to all A.A. members and are typically held quarterly at locations throughout the islands.

We'll share reflections and key takeaways from the Lahaina assembly in the next issue of the Mynah Bird. To view upcoming Area assemblies, visit the Hawaii Area website at area17aa.org and look for "Area Schedule" in the main menu.

How Your A.A. Community Reached Out Further in 2025

In 2025, A.A. volunteers across the islands worked on several major projects to make our program more accessible, inclusive,

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Keep It Simple Sunday Kiss, Molokai, Hi.

and visible to those who still suffer. Here are some of the highlights for how your "dollar in the basket" was put to work this year to carry the message beyond our home group walls.

Putting Contributions to Work

Instead of just letting funds sit in a bank account, the statewide committee made a decision to intentionally spend excess money on outreach. These funds are to support A.A. workshops on every island, teaching local members how to better serve their groups and reach out to their local communities.

Inclusive Language

Volunteers approved updates to our service manuals to use gender-neutral language, reflecting that our fellowship serves all alcoholics regardless of gender.

Bus & TV Advertisements

New funds were approved to place A.A. signs on public buses on Oahu and Maui, ensuring our 24-hour hotline number is visible to those who need it.

Military Outreach

A project is underway to collect stories from veterans and active-duty members to help them navigate the unique challenges of getting sober while serving.

Money Matters

When we pass the basket at a meeting, those contributions support the behind-the-scenes work needed to ensure help is always available for the next alcoholic in Hawai'i. At the beginning of 2025, our local Area (state-wide) fellowship actually had more "savings" on hand than was needed for the year's operating costs. This led to a very specific—although perhaps counter intuitive—decision regarding how your donations were applied in 2025 and planned for 2026.

An Intentional "Loss" for a Greater Cause

You might be surprised to hear that our statewide organization ended 2025 with a financial loss of \$13,756.45, but the Treasurer emphasized that this was actually a healthy and deliberate decision. Because A.A. is not meant to accumulate wealth, the committee chose to spend excess funds from previous years on outreach and workshops rather than letting the money sit in a bank account. The goal was to put that money to work immediately to "reach the hand of A.A. out" to anyone in Hawai'i who needs it.

The Rising Cost of Connection

One of the most relatable challenges this year was the rising cost of inter-island airfare. The budget for travel was approximately \$4,000 over what was expected due to these price increases. This spending is vital because it allows volunteers from every island to meet in person, ensuring that the voices of all groups—not just those on the most populated islands—are heard when making decisions for the fellowship.

Rethinking the "Dollar in the Basket"

There was a significant discussion this year about how inflation has affected our ability to help. The sources point out that \$1 in 1975 had the same buying power as about \$5.87 today. Because many members still have a "dollar or two" mentality from decades ago, there is a push to help groups understand that increasing individual donations slightly can help cover the modern costs of literature, phone hotlines, and meeting spaces.

Smarter Ways to Give

Volunteers noted that online contributions are significantly more efficient for the fellowship. Mailed checks require more manual labor and have higher processing costs, whereas digital donations allow the organization to spend less time on paperwork and more time on carrying the message.

DID YOU READ THIS?
Let us know!



Go to mynahbirdaa.org and press the Big Red Button! We'd love to know that you're out there, that you're reading, and that our work is making a difference. Thank you for your support!



Heard In The Rooms

"Many meetings, many chances.
Fewer meetings, fewer chances.
No meetings, no chances."

"One phone call saves two lives."

"Progress, not perfection."

"Trust God. Clean house. Help others."

"Love & Tolerance is our Code."

Kupuna, 'Ohana, and the Ride to Recovery

The following is a submission shared with the Mynah Bird by a member of Hui Kokua, an A.A. meeting in west 'Oahu, reflecting their experience of service and fellowship within their homegroup.

Our Homegroup has been given the blessings of having several elders as members of Hui Kokua. We meet every Wednesday night at Croc Center in Kapolei at 7pm. Some of these members have lost their ability to drive at night due to vision impairment. Others need help with reading, while some just need all the support they can get from A.A.

I have witnessed some members assist the elders with Handi Van or Uber share. But make no mistake—when an elder needs a ride, Hui Kokua steps into service. Even when it's out of the way, from Makaha to Waipahu, they will lend a hand to make sure that when another alcoholic reaches out their hand for help, we are responsible to be there, *the best we can*.

Ride share has improved trust among our home group members and made our solidarity stronger as 'ohana in recovery, building a stronger community. We honor our elders and are humbled to serve them and serve *with* them.

— General Service Representative, Hui Kokua

HAWAII A.A. EVENTS

Sept. 2025 - March 2026



Hawai'i Island (Districts 7,8, 12)

Nov 7-9th: BICYPAA-V

Register now. \$70/dorm bunk. Limited family housing available.

Venue: Island Breeze Retreat Center. Makapala, Hawaii.

Contact Tom O. for details: (480) 246-6242.

<https://bicipaa.com/> IG: @BICYPAA

Sep 1: 4th Annual Labor Day Potluck

A day to celebrate hard work done inside and out! Held at Waimea Plantation Cottages Boardroom. 10am - 4pm. POC: (808) 631-3191

Sep 6: East vs. West Softball Game

Kamuela, Softball Game, BBQ, Potluck, and AA Meeting. Free event full of fun food and fellowship!

Nov 7-9: Big Island Conference of Young People in A.A. (BICYPAA-V)

Island Breeze Retreat Center, Makapala; Fellowship and Fun for all ages of AA. Learn more at: www.bicipaa.com

Kaua'i (District 6)

Sept 1: Annual Labor Day Potluck

Salt Pond Beach Park in Eleele. Food, Skits, Countdown, Speaker, Area, Intergroup, and District Report Backs.

<https://kauaimeetings.com/calendar/>

Nov 7-10: Men's Retreat

Kahili Mountain Park, More information to follow. Check back with the Kaua'i Meetings and events.

<https://kauaimeetings.com/calendar/>

Lana'i (District 13)

NEW MEETING: Island Fever - Saturdays at 1pm

Hulopo'e Beach Park, Manele Rd, Lanai City, HI 96763.

POC: (305) 209-9049

Maui (Districts 5, 11, 13)

Sept 5-7: MICYPAA Campout 2025

Camp Mauhia, Bonfire, Meetings, Hiking, Talent Show, Games, and so much more!! Register at www.MICYPAA.com

Monthly - Every Last Sunday: Hana Caravan!

Caravan meeting with potluck. Meet at Pa'ia Community Center at 11am to carpool to Hana. Potluck at 4:30pm. A.A. meeting is 5-7pm at Wananalua Church.

O'ahu (Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 17)

Sept 5 - 7: Kalihi Sobriety's 8th Annual Spiritual Retreat

Camp Homelani, Theme: "A New Pair of Glasses".

POC: kssretreat@gmail.com

Sept 13: Bill & Lois Dinner

Palama Settlement, 5-8 pm. Dinner, Fellowship, and Speaker Meeting. Get tickets from your Intergroup rep.

Sept 26 - 28: HICYPAA 2025

Hawaiian Islands Conference of Young People in A.A. Get "Rocketed into the Fourth Dimension!" Fun, Fellowship, Recovery, and more!

Venue: Camp Erdman, Waialua, HI.

POC: HICYPAA2025@gmail.com IG: @HICYPAA

Oct 30 - Nov 2: 62nd Annual Hawaii AA Convention

Waikiki Beach Resort. Meetings, Food and Fellowship, Golf Tournament, Hike & Meeting, Surf Meeting, and Volleyball Tournament.

<https://www.annualhawaii-convention.com/>

★ Feb 27 - Mar 1, 2026: PRAASA 2026

Hilton Hawaiian Village, Waikiki Beach. PRAASA is a large regional A.A. conference to develop greater unity among the members, groups, and areas of the Pacific Region. <https://praasa.org/>

If you are traveling to another island to attend an event, contact the event host to see if homestay or transportation options are available. To submit your event, email: mynahbird@area17aa.org

Resources

A.A. by Island: <https://area17aa.org/aa-by-island>

Podcast: A.A. Recovery Interviews:
<https://recoveryinterviews.com/>

24 Hour A.A. Helpline: (808) 946-1438

Alcoholics Anonymous: <https://www.aa.org/>

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Scan the QR code or visit us online to sign up.

mynahbirdaa.org

