



**BAHÁ'Í FAITH
KO'OLAUPOKO**



**THE INTERFAITH
ALLIANCE
HAWAII**

We are happy to present five informal gatherings for public discourse in 2025. We strive to help people develop a shared sense of spiritual connection in an effort to move humanity toward a more loving world — using the power of courageous compassion to overcome fear, division, and despair.

RACISM & DISCRIMINATION are fundamental barriers to developing unity and oneness that is required to create a more inclusive reality beyond limiting beliefs. We offer five unity-building principles, from the Baha'i teachings, that suggest a completely different way of looking at the world that can allow diverse people to contribute to a dynamic process of community transformation.

1.

The Oneness of Humanity Is a Universal Truth

We, as a human race, are increasingly coming to recognize our oneness. We are one interconnected human family in the most literal sense: genetic studies prove that every one of us is a distant cousin to every other human being on Earth. We live on one common planetary homeland and share one We are so deeply connected that it is as if we are the cells of one body, and if one part of the human body is sick or distressed, the rest of the body will suffer as well. We need a new model of social organization, so recognizing the fundamental truth of humanity's oneness is paramount.

2.

Humans Have the Capacity for Cooperation

The idea that humans are essentially selfish and must fight for power over others is part of the fabric of the world's political life. But humans aren't intractably corrupt, selfish, and aggressive; we also have the capacity for cooperation, reciprocity, and mutual service. What we need, now more than ever, are forums for community development that revolve around consultation and mutual respect. We must seek out new models of governance that reflect the human capacity for altruism. The Baha'i teachings say that diversity is necessary for unity — so unity does not mean uniformity; instead, we all need diversity to bring new perspectives and innovation to solving our complex problems.

3.

Social Change Demands Universal Participation

Today, people all over the world are mired in a culture of expecting the “experts” to solve our problems: waiting for elected politicians or other community leaders to make things right. How can we empower each other to see ourselves as agents of change within our local communities and focus on the positive change we can each contribute to? How can we break free from the false dichotomies of “the advanced” and “the backward,” the “developed” and the “underdeveloped?” All people must have a seat at the table because each person is the real expert of his or her life.

4.

History Can Be Reframed

Just like the development of an individual through stages of infancy, childhood, and adolescence, humanity has evolved from a collective “childhood” of independent tribal societies through an “adolescence” of more complex and integrated national communities. We now stand at the cusp of a universal coming of age: the emergence of a truly global civilization. More and more, we can see the emergence of worldviews that emphasize humanity’s unity and oneness. Some people still cling to the old narratives that say, “it always has been and always will be this way,” but we are living through a time of advancing global interdependence that has never been seen before. Now, everyone on Earth has the choice to learn to accept responsibility for the welfare of the entire human family.

5.

Humans Have Both Spiritual and Material Dimensions

Our spiritual dimension is as important as our material dimension, and we desperately need social structures that provide for the development of both. This is not an assertion of a particular religious ideology. Rather, it expresses the idea that many people do feel love and connection to the Earth, to other humans, and to that unknowable essence that some call God. Beyond having basic material necessities for survival, people need spiritual healing. People need to feel loved. The development of spiritual qualities, such as love, justice, trustworthiness, patience, and gratitude, help us to connect authentically with each other and to contribute to social progress.

MOVING BEYOND THE POLITICAL DIVIDE



The solutions to the complex problems we face will not come easily, and they can’t be reduced to simple slogans. The reality of unity will only emerge organically in relation to how well we as citizens build authentic bonds of trust, conquer our prejudices, and establish new forums for true collaboration.

We can consume our time rallying against the continual assaults of a defective model of governance, or we can devote our energies towards promoting a new set of values and a new way of relating.

More than ever, we need to replace outdated modes of thought and behavior with a worldview that recognizes the oneness of humanity.