

Aloha Young Leader,

Welcome to the **18th PAAM Convocation in Hawai'i!** This year's theme is "*God's Lavish Hospitality.*" If you're between the ages of 13-30, consider yourself lucky. The youth and young adults this year will all be staying at Manoa Valley Church, about 20 minutes away from Nu'uaniu Congregational Church where most of the adult activities will take place. And it's **camp style**—so bring your sleeping bag and pillow. There will be a number of young adult advisors who will be along to make sure the energy and the enthusiasm of the young people are headed in the right direction (I had to write that in case there are any parents reading this letter =)). In Hawai'i, you will experience the fellowship and community of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Christians who will welcome all regardless of **background, gender, sexual orientation, or any other defining factor** that makes you who you are.

This is a safe space for us to dialogue and build up our community as API young people in the church, to promote leadership and our identities, as diverse as they may be. In our first gathering we, as a group, will draft a covenant to set the ground rules for our time together. We will start with a blank piece of paper and everyone will contribute to form a contract of conduct that everyone will sign, including the advisors. Everyone has a voice and no one's input will be unacknowledged.

On Saturday morning, we're waking up early! The youth and young adults will be embarking on an immersion trip to some exciting locations. Among them will be a trip to an organic farm in the historic town of Haleiwa and visiting houseless Kanaka Maoli who have lived on Mokuleia Beach for over fifteen years.

On Saturday night (August 16), the youth and young adults will be in charge of organizing the Cultural Celebration at 6:00pm, which takes place directly after the Luau at 5:00pm. In this celebration, we will be exhibiting what we have to offer as API young people through dances, songs, skits, poems, or anything else that shows the God-given gifts we have. So, if you can play an instrument, sing, break dance, do spoken word, whatever—this is *your* show. We'll also have some local young people from Hawai'i to help us out. We will have 75 minutes on Friday afternoon at 2:45pm to prepare for this, so get ready for it.

Here is a list of items that you should bring:

- Sleeping bag (or blanket) and pillow
- Toiletries
- Towel, bathing suit and slippahs (flip flops) for the showers (separate genders, but community style)
- Bible
- Hat, sun block and insect repellent (for the immersion tour...it'll be sunny!)
- Anything that exhibits who you are and what you can offer to the community, like instruments you can play, cultural attire, etc. (for the cultural celebration on Saturday night)

Important information:

- The \$75 registration fee for youth and young adults includes:
 - Lodging** and transportation to and from Manoa Valley Church (from Nu'uaniu Congregational)
 - Breakfast and lunch on Friday and Saturday
 - Dinner on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

**** We highly encourage all participants aged 13-30 to lodge at Manoa Valley Church in order to experience the youth/young adult program to the fullest. Plus, it's at no extra cost!**

Okay, enough reading. The rest you'll find out in Hawai'i. We welcome you to the islands.

Aloha,

Yee-Shin Huang

Lead Coordinator for Youth & Young Adult Program

p.s. – If you have any further questions, feel free to email me at yeeshin@gmail.com or call my cell at 206-313-6524.