



Bicentennial Speaker Series

Sunday, February 21, 2021 4:00 – 5:30 PM

YouTube: Kawaiaha'o Church TV

“Behold, I bring you good tidings”

The Religious Life and Work of the Early ABCFM Missionaries

Speakers: Elizabeth Po'olua & Mike Smola

Hawaiian Mission Houses Director of Operations and Collections Elizabeth Po'olua and Curator of Public Programs Mike Smola share readings, artifacts, and stories about how the first missionaries from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) and early Native Hawaiian converts shared the Gospel and lived their religious lives. According to a letter from Rev. Hiram Bingham to the ABCFM dated May 13, 1820, Rev. Bingham chose, “Behold, I bring you good tidings” as the theme for his first sermon on Oahu. This letter and others like it are housed in the Hawaiian Mission Houses Archives, and Po'olua and Smola will share archival resources during the presentation



Elizabeth Po'olua, Executive Team Member and Director of Operations and Collections, has a Master's degree in the History of Art and Architecture and a Certificate in Museum Studies from the Arts and Administration program at the University of Oregon. She was Curator of Collections at Hawaiian Mission Houses since 2016 with expanded roles to include site facilities operations in 2019 and Executive Leadership in 2020. From 2012 to 2016 she served as the Lending Collection Manager at the Honolulu Museum of Art, where she cared for more than 5,000 artifacts and 6,000 2-dimensional art reproductions available for loan to educators within the state. Po'olua is also a former board member of the Hawai'i Museums Association.



Mike Smola, Curator of Public Programs, has a B.A. in History and a Certificate in Museum Studies from Michigan State University. He has been at the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives since 2008. Previously, he was part of the education staff at the Turner Dodge House in Lansing, MI and was a member of the collections and Exhibitions staff at Michigan State University Museum. He is a member of the Association of Living History Farms and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) since 2011, serving on their Board of Directors for ALHFAM from 2016-2019.

The Bicentennial Speaker Series celebrates Kawaiaha'o Church - from 1820 – 2020. The 3rd Sunday of every month at 4:00 PM, Hawaii time, we will broadcast with a live Q&A chat following the presentation. The program will be re-broadcast the following Sunday at 12 noon on our YouTube: Kawaiaha'o Church TV. We invite you to continue to join us throughout the year.