

## GRAND COMMANDERY OF HAWAII

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Aloha Companions,

I hope that this email finds you healthy and well! What a year this has been! All was going according to the “master plan” after our installation at the end of February 2020... We had officially visited three out of our five Commanderies in Hawaii, with plans in the works to visit the other two in the next month. These early visitations afforded me the opportunity to speak with several of the Commanders and Recorders, as well as, quite a few companions in our jurisdiction and hear what they would like and expect from their Grand Commandery during the year. Coordination was also underway with the Scottish Rite for the Grand Encampment to attend the Easter Observance Ceremony as has been our custom.

And then, without warning, Murphy’s Law. Next thing you know, we are all sheltering in place, scrambling for toilet paper and hand sanitizer. Trying to keep our businesses afloat, employees taken care of, all the while reassuring our loved ones that everything would be fine while we ourselves were on the verge of freaking out.

Friedrich Nietzsche, the German philosopher, famously said: "That which does not kill us makes us stronger," and that is exactly what happened. All the Masonic Organizations in Hawaii started working together, several of our young leaders stepped up and took the lead on setting up a Facebook page that listed locations on where to find items that were in short supply, (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/223466608896874>),

virtual Zoom meetings where Companions could come together, exchange ideas, and enjoy fellowship with each other started taking place, email chains where higher at risk Masons can request items and have them delivered to their homes, Grand Lodge emails regarding SBA programs and stimulus checks were sent out... the list of the extraordinary deeds accomplished by our Companions during this epidemic is quite impressive. In the end, we will see this through and will leave it stronger than we were when it started.

Yours in chivalry,

*Dustin Verity*

Dustin T. Verity  
Grand Commander of Knights Templar in Hawaii

