



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

Please Join Us for Lunch!

Monday, April 25, 2005

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Miyama Main Hall, Harris United Methodist Church

Nuuanu Ave. and South Vineyard Blvd.

Ample parking - driveway off Nuuanu Ave.

AGENDA:

11:30 Luncheon – Pizza, Salad, Drinks, Dessert by Eloise \$5.00 donation

11:45 Welcome, Introductions and remarks, Larry Geller, President

11: 50 **Program:** "What If?.....Tools to Help Seniors and Caregivers Prepare for Incapacity". Katie Lambert, UHELP, the UH Law School Senior Law Program, will cover legal tools that may be used to prepare seniors and caregivers to make end of life decisions.

12:45 Announcements

1:00 Adjourn

BOARD MEETING: 10:00 A.M. PRECEDING LUNCH

Have you paid your 2005 Kokua Council Dues? Can't remember? Check the address label on this newsletter. It will have the date of your last paid membership. Membership payments are due on the first of each year.

IS CIVILITY IN DECLINE IN HAWAII? LARRY GELLER, PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

Breakfast table conversation today was dominated by reports of a series of senseless deliberately set fires inside the University of Hawaii's Hamilton Library, the theft of seven rare giant clams from the Waikiki Aquarium, and reports of kidnapping and rape at the university which led to a 200-strong rally to demand better security.

Just what is going on here? I hope the library arsonists are apprehended, that the baby clams haven't simply ended up barbecued for someone's dinner, and that UH finally is made to fix its inadequate security. But that's not the end of it, clearly. There's a larger question that must be answered: if civility is one measure of the quality of life (and a mark of civilization itself), what is happening here, and what needs to be done about it?

The UH rally was very refreshing. At last, people are speaking up about a troubling issue and demanding change. There is another movement that I hope will bear fruit, and that is a mobilization of religious leaders against the continuous and blatant abuse of our homeless citizens.

While the theft of a few clams grabs headlines, the papers have forgotten the daily plight of real people. But at least one organization feels driven to take action.

The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii (TIAH) is a group whose mission “is to provide a positive healing role in Hawaii with people of faith, good will, and aloha; encouraging nonviolent civic participation, facilitating community activism, and challenging religious and political extremism.” They have been holding meetings and taking action to reverse the Aloha State’s deteriorating reputation for aloha towards its own people. This year, Honolulu was ranked ninth (of 179 communities surveyed) and the state of Hawaii ranked third in the country—not for aloha, but as the meanest to its homeless. Yes, while clams grab headlines, police continue to make sweeps of our parks and beaches. Act 50 has criminalized homelessness, a law passed by the legislature last year. That’s not very civilized behavior. It needs to stop.

TIAH has stated: “As religious leaders and residents of Hawaii, we commit ourselves in partnership with others to call for a moratorium on sweeps against the homeless and to find and create places where those unfortunate enough to find themselves homeless can at least sleep, use the bathroom and shower with a measure of decency and security.”

We can take a lesson on civility from our first President. At the young age of 16, George Washington wrote "110 Rules of Civility and Decent Behaviour in Company and Conversation." Civility requires a demonstration of respect for others. Spiritually, this is often described as love for every person. It requires that we demonstrate respect in our relations with each other—not just toward friends, family and `ohana, but also toward strangers. It also means doing the right thing, not just doing whatever we want.

Clam-stealers and arsonists are lacking in civility, and so are we, unless we work at changing the way we treat each other. To find out how you can support TIAH and others working to solve the problem of homelessness, contact John Heidel, jheidel@hawaii.rr.com or 261-4585.

SILVER LEGISLATURE AT BLAISDELL – CAROLYN GOLOJUCH

“Sometimes there were 3 people deep at the table. We handed out all the Kokua Council brochures and Laura had to bring us a second set of Silver Legislature Brochures. Wes Lum was kind enough to bring some Caregiver newsletters. We also ran out of them. Prime Magazine dropped off copies and those went as well. If you get a chance, see the Silver Legislature article in *Prime*, page 6. The editor stopped by and she would like to do a follow-up article.

All of the volunteers, Wes Lum, Larry Geller, Jan Bappe and Eloise Montserrat were a great help. Laura Manis kept us supplied and Jerry Manis was with us to take down the banner.”

State Senate Passes Silver Legislature Resolution

The resolution was introduced in both the House and the Senate to inform the legislature of the project and gain their support and assistance. Below is the Committee Report.

“Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 95 entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING KOKUA COUNCIL TO CONVENE THE 2005 MODEL LEGISLATURE," begs leave to report as follows:

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans, Kokua Council, Moiliili Community Center, Association of American Retired People (AARP-Hawaii Chapter), National Association of Social Workers-Hawaii Chapter, Silver Legislature, and an individual submitted testimony in support of this measure.

In 1993 and again in 1994, the Elderly Affairs Division of the Department of Community Services of the City and County of

Honolulu organized the Oahu Silver Legislature at the State Capitol, a two-day mock legislature designed to offer adults over fifty-five years old a lively, stimulating, experiential opportunity to learn about the law-making process. The Kokua Council has received a grant to convene another mock legislature in 2005, named Model Legislature. The purpose of the 2005 Model Legislature is to identify, train, and motivate a cadre of at least one hundred new legislative advocates to participate in the 2005 and 2006 Regular Sessions. The Model Legislature will give senior citizens an excellent opportunity to learn and practice the skills of identifying important legislative issues, debating the merits of the issues, and participating in the legislative

process as the measures are being acted upon by the legislative members.

Kokua Council and its partners expect that this process will benefit everyone -- families, professionals, the public at-large, and policy makers -- concerned with senior issues and will provide learning opportunities for Hawaii's older

adults to develop their leadership and citizen participation skills.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 95 and recommends its adoption."

NOTES FROM MARCH; Jay Conley, Director of Marketing for Hospice Hawaii, "The State of Palliative Care in Hawaii".

Palliative care is directed to symptom management and improving the quality of life for patient AND family and is not limited to terminally ill. Hospice is directed to meeting the special needs of patients and family at the end of life. Both treat patient and family as a unit, provide holistic attention to physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs, have a disciplinary team approach, give education and support, extend across illness and settings and provide bereavement support.

In America, while most people prefer to die at home, many do not. Patients fear pain and being a burden, are afraid of technology, abandonment, and using all financial resources. Most wait too long to ask for help from Hospice and so do not receive the full benefit of their services.

Modern medicine is resulting in living longer but dying longer and expecting miraculous cures. The Terri Schiavo case illustrates the importance of making a choice that is right for you and documenting your choice in writing through an Advance Directive. AND that documenting end of life wishes is not just for the elderly. Advance Directives include a Living Will and a Power of Attorney. Include your family in the decision, give them and your health providers copies, and keep them in an easily accessible place. Do not put them in a safe deposit box. They do not require a lawyer or notary to complete but do require 2 witnesses.

Kokua Council will have copies of Advance Directives at our luncheon meeting.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN HAWAII

2004 STATUS REPORT FROM SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, U. H. MANOA

Hawaii has low rates of reported violence. Most of Hawaii's violence is in the area of interpersonal violence (intimate partner, child abuse and neglect, youth-on youth), yet suicide (self-directed violence) is the leading cause of injury death. Compared to the nation, Hawaii has lower rates in all areas except suicide attempts by youth and reports of youth feeling unsafe to go to school. The findings of the study recommend: need for "good" data on prevalence, data to be studied and used for successful prevention; for a variety of prevention programs and strategies that are adapted for Hawaii and evaluated, information sharing and collaboration so self interests and narrow scopes are left behind, and a strong commitment to a unified approach using the public health model.

Finding from the UHM Student Violence Survey

A study conducted in Fall 2003 looked at sexual and relationship violence experienced by female undergraduates since starting school at UHM. This study found that almost 11% of UHM female undergraduates report experiencing partner violence. Additionally over 10% report experiencing stalking, almost two percent report being raped and nearly 10% report experiencing sexual assault since starting school at UHM. Twenty-four to 63% percent of these crimes were reported to have happened on campus yet only four percent were reported to the police and only one percent was reported to campus security.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE: Kokua Council.org

Kokua Council for Senior Citizens of Hawaii
Education Fund, Inc.
20 South Vineyard Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Who Are We?

The **Kokua Council** is one of Hawaii's oldest advocacy groups. Kokua Council seeks to empower seniors and other concerned citizens to be effective advocates in shaping the future and well-being of our community, with particular attention to those needing help in advocating for themselves. "We embrace diversity and extend a special invitation to any senior or intergenerational minded individual interested in advocating for these important issues in Hawaii." All are welcome. There is a \$5 annual membership to defer printing and postage costs. At each meeting, topical issues are presented for discussion and possible action.

WHEN 4th Monday of every month, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. **WHERE** Harris United Methodist Church @ Nuuanu and Vineyard Blvd., Ample parking and a light lunch are provided for \$5 **REACH US** c/o Harris United Methodist Church, 20 South Vineyard, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

President Larry Geller, 540-1928, lgeller@igc.org
Vice President Tony Lenzer, 261-2095, tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
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JOIN KOKUA COUNCIL!

Yes! I want to join Kokua Council. Here are my annual dues and my contact information. I understand that my phone number will be added to the Kokua Phone Tree and I will receive the monthly newsletter and occasional e-mails. Our fiscal year starts in January. Please make checks payable to Kokua Council.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

____\$5.00

LIFE MEMBER

____\$100.00

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

____\$25.00

DONATIONS_____

Name _____ Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Mail to: Treasurer, Kokua Council, Harris United Methodist Church, 20 S. Vineyard Blvd.,
Honolulu, HI 96813