



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

Please join us for lunch
MONDAY, April 27, 2009

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: Variety Subway Sandwiches, Salad, and Dessert by Eloise- \$5.00 Donation

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

12:00 **Program: "Home for Life: Aging in Place, and Aging Together"**, Anthony Lenzer, V.P. Kokua Council, Professor Emeritus of Public Health, former Director of the Center on Aging, University of Hawaii; Bonnie Osaki, Director of Customer Care for Graham Builders, Certified Aging in Place Specialists (CAPS)

12:30 Questions and Answers

12:45 Announcements

1:00 Adjourn

Lunch Host: Rose Ann Poyzer

Board Meeting: 10:00 a.m. preceding lunch meeting

CAREGIVERS AT THE LEGISLATURE

Kokua council joined over fifty other service providers and advocates at the annual Caregivers' Day, March 12th at the State Capitol; sponsored by the Hawaii Caregiver Coalition (*Kokua Council is a member*). Caregivers teamed with advocates spending the morning educating legislators about the need to support families as the primary providers of long term care.

The Caregivers Resource Initiative project coordinates and facilitates the efforts of family caregivers to:

- Educate legislators about caregiving
- Establish a presence at the legislature
- Help caregivers effectively communicate with legislators at strategically appropriate times in the legislative process.

We wish to thank Kokua council members T.J. Davies, Dorothy Grandinetti, Bea Terumoto, Rose Ann Poyzer, Phyllis Hiramatsu and Larry Geller for staffing our table. In addition Phyllis Hiramatsu, partnered with a caregiver to visit legislators.

Visitors to our table were asked to answer a caregiving questionnaire and thus become eligible to win two gift certificates to the Consolidated Movie theaters. *And the winners* are: Pat Saunders, Lucy Ige, Fidela Arzaga, Rep. Corinne Ching, and Helen Wagner.

RESULTS OF CAREGIVING SURVEY – 63 RESPONDENTS

1. A member of my family has needed or will need support (see list below) in continuing to live at home (age in place). 40 YES 18 No
2. I know of someone (not family) who has needed or will need support in continuing to live at home. 45 YES 6 No
3. If you answered YES to any of the above, which of the following do you think are THE MOST important elements of a support system for Aging at Home: Check all that apply.
 - a) Transportation 47
 - b) Help in bathing, feeding, preparing meals, mobility 36
 - c) Meals on Wheels 31
 - d) Monitoring those with some dementia 30
 - e) Chore Services 30
 - f) Assistance in shopping 29
 - g) Recreation/social interactions 29
 - h) Managing finances, legal issues 23
 - i) Minor home repairs 20
 - j) Home modification. 16
 - k) Yard upkeep 15
 - l) Translation services 11

Other: Informal support network, accessibility to services for sight impaired, resources, monitoring medications, finances, all are important (2).

AARP RELEASES REPORT

“Health Care Reform: What’s at Stake for 50 to 64 year-olds?”—This report by AARP’s Public Policy Institute analyzes recent data on the fastest growing segment of the uninsured population. Key findings conclude that more than a quarter (28%) of Americans age 50-64 spend more than 10% of their income on health care—more than one-and-a-half times as many as younger Americans. The complete report is available at http://www.aarp.org/research/health/carefinancing/i24_hcr.html.

NOTES FROM MARCH LUNCHEON—“Fighting for Air”

Beth-Ann Kozlovich, American Lung Association

Kozlovich, an asthma sufferer herself and whose father died of lung cancer, started her talk with some very scary statistics: lung cancer is the #1 killer in Hawaii, asthma is #2. 154,000 people in Hawaii have lung disease. Her Association provides services to address the prevention of breathing disorders and the promotion of lung health.

One of its most successful programs, the Teen Cessation Program, helped drop Hawaii’s teen smoking rate from 21% to 9.7% from 2000-2008. Since smokers start smoking as teenagers, this program focuses on 7th-12th graders mostly in the schools. Their Asthma Education and management program targets school children, school personnel and parents.

ALA has successfully advocated against smoking in public places, and forbidding smoking within 20 feet from workplace buildings. Prisoners can no longer smoke and report how much better they feel; however their guards still smoke.

Of great concern to the organization that gets most of the funding for their 13 programs from the Hawaii Tobacco Settlement Fund, is HB1731 now making its way through the legislature. The state administration wishes to balance the budget by “reallocating for 2 years from 07/01/09 to 06/30/2011, distribution of moneys in the Hawaii tobacco settlement special fund, including depositing 25% into the state general fund.” For information, go to www.ala-hawaii.org

Recycle Cars for Homes this Earth Day! Did you know that the automobile is the most heavily recycled product? Ninety-four percent of the metal in a car is recyclable! When you donate a car to Cars for Homes™, Habitat’s car donation program, it is recycled to help families build homes.

KOKUA COUNCIL PRIORITY BILLS STILL ALIVE— MID-APRIL 2009

- HB 319 Family Leave. Requires employers to notify employees of their entitlement to
SB 823 family leave as well as its possible effects.
- SB1679 Emergency & Budget Reserve Fund. (Rainy Day) Funding for:
1. Respite services
 2. Healthy Start program
 3. Ke Ola Pono, the chronic disease self-management program and the Aging and Disability Resource Centers
 4. Kupuna Care
 5. Catholic Charities. Kapahulu & Moilili Senior Centers, Waikiki Center
 6. Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Program
 7. Mental health services
 8. Partnerships in Community Living program
 9. Direct health care to the uninsured (primary medical, dental, behavioral health)
 10. Substance abuse treatment
 11. Healthy Aging Partnership
- HB1371 HealthCare Programs; ARRA (stimulus program)
1. Increased Medicaid reimbursements
 2. Disproportionate share hospital payments
 3. Hawaii children's health care program
- SB 417 Increases reimbursement to hospitals for waitlisted LTC patients and for facilities caring for medically complex cases.
- HB1373 Uninsured Health Care: Funds to provide health care through non-profit community based health-care providers.
- SB1205 Uninsured Unemployed: temporary health insurance for unemployed who lost health insurance
- SCR115 Procedures to require Funeral Trusts to comply with laws.

At a recent congressional hearing, Ray Scheppach, Executive Director of the National Governors Association stated that failure to reform long-term care this year would be a failure to reform health care, that these priorities should be given equal attention, that states will not be able to sustain their long-term care programs in the future without cutting other essential programs like education, and that unless we address long-term care financing now, it could take another 20 to 30 years.

*Message to Congress from Howard Dean:
"Give America a choice. We support health care reform that allows individual Americans to choose either a universally available public health care option like Medicare or for-profit private insurance. A public option is the only way to guarantee health care for all Americans and its inclusion is non-negotiable. Any legislation without the choice of a public option is only insurance reform and not the health care reform America needs."*

\$250 STIMULUS PAYMENT—WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? Individuals who currently receive Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement or Veterans' benefits.

WHEN WILL I GET IT? Payments will be mailed out in late May. Social Security asks that you wait until June 4 to contact them if you do not receive it.

HOW DO I GET IT? You do not have to do anything. If you currently receive benefits through the mail, look for it that way. If you have direct deposit, it will come that way.

BEWARE OF SCAMS! Watch out for anyone saying you need to provide your Social Security number or other personal information in order to get your payment.

QUESTIONS? Contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or www.socialsecurity.gov.



Kokua Council for Senior Citizens
of Hawaii Education Fund, Inc.
20 South Vineyard Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96813
<http://www.kokuacouncil.org>

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WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

Who Are We?

The **Kokua Council** is one of Hawaii's oldest advocacy groups. There is a \$5 annual membership to defray printing and postage costs. At each meeting, topical issues are presented for discussion and possible action. 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. **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

Mission: "Kokua Council advocates and 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. "

President	Larry Geller, 540-1928, lgeller@igc.org	Treasurer Ed. Fund	T.J. Davies, tjdavies@juno.com
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	Website www.kokuacouncil.org		

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	LIFE MEMBER	ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS	
___\$5.00	___\$100.00	___\$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