



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

Please join us for lunch
MONDAY, August 25, 2008

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: Assorted pizzas, Salad, Drinks, Dessert by Eloise \$5.00 Donation

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

12:00 Program: James Dator, Professor, and Director of the Hawai'i Research Center for Futures

Studies Department of Political Science University of Hawaii at Manoa: "The Unholy Trinity, Plus One: On Governing the End of the World As we Know It". Dealing with wrenching challenges ongoing and emerging for all of us in Hawaii, and the brighter futures they might enable us to have, if we acknowledge and deal with them appropriately, and the gloomy futures if we do not.

12:45 Questions and Answers

1:00 Adjourn

Lunch Host: John Cannell

Board meeting: 10:00am Preceding Lunch.

NOTES FROM JULY LUNCHEON

Dr. Rupert Goetz: Mental Health Transformation Grant: Hawaii is one of 9 states at received \$10.95 million over 5 years to transform our mental health system to focus on prevention, effective intervention and recovery, provide coordinated culturally sensitive services, to ensure sustainability and be consumer driven. Hawaii's system is fragmented and uncoordinated because it grew up piecemeal.

After one year in operation the program has completed a Comprehensive Mental Health Plan and Needs Assessment and a Resource Inventory. Six task groups are working on educating the public, systems integration,

consumer and professional development and training, research, evaluation and dissemination, financing, sustainability and criminal justice. This year plans will be prioritized. Year 3 will be implementing data collecting, Year 4, evaluating and realigning and year 5 integrating.

Marya Grambs: Mental Health America: Mental Health problems in older adults are usually overlooked – they are underreported and under-treated, even by the health professionals who care for them. This has a dramatic impact on the quality of the lives of older people and the lives of those around them. One in four older adults have a significant mental disorder (26%),

including depression, anxiety, psychosis and dementia. In the next 25 years, the number of older adults with major psychiatric illnesses is expected to more than double from 7 to 15 million individuals as the Baby Boom generation ages.

What is the impact of mental illness in older adults if it's not treated? People get sicker. They have lowered quality of life -- greater disability and impairment. There's impact on family and on caregivers and greater use of health care system, poor health outcomes and premature death due to other medical conditions and suicide.

The issue is that older adults do not get adequate treatment for mental health problems. Depression is a major problem. In

Board Meeting Notes: Board member **George Fox** reported on his recent experiences with his new motorized chair after abandoning his motorcycle following an accident. He discovered that curb cutouts are not always placed at crosswalks, forcing him to use a cutout that took him into moving traffic as he negotiating around the corner to the crosswalk (Piikoi and Beretania). There are places where there is a drop of almost a foot from the cutout to the street causing his chair to tip over and toss him out.

Robert Miller reported that the Medical Marijuana bill is being treated like the I-Save Rx bill; both are not being implemented even though the vetoes were overcome.

ANOTHER KUPUNA CAUCUS (Not to be confused with the Legislative Kupuna Caucus)

Patrick Stanley announced that the Democratic Party has established a new committee whose purpose is to "impact public policy through advocacy within the party and at the side of deliberative bodies outside the party to assure a focus on and accountability to senior issues in our community."

Their mission is 1. Economic Needs: alter employment practices, raise the Social Security cap, prosecute fraud and I.D. theft. 2. Health Needs: national health plan, affordable medicine, aging in place initiatives, fully fund Medicare/Medicaid. 3. Community Needs: Support caregivers, enforce access to public places, including transportation. Contact patstanley@hawaiiantel.net to stay in touch or help.

24,000 IN HAWAII HAVE NOT APPLIED FOR STIMULUS PAYMENTS

Senator Daniel Akaka, speaking before a community audience on June 26, at Moilili Community Center, said his goal was to decrease the number to zero. Most likely those not applying are people whose income is low enough to not pay federal taxes and veterans. However, they are eligible if they have had \$3,000 of work income and/or Social Security, veterans disability compensation, pensions or survivors' benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2007.

The deadline to apply has been extended until October. All you need is to fill out an IRS form 1040A and write "Stimulus Payment" at the top. The AARP information office at has the forms and will help completing them. They are located at 1199 Dillingham Blvd, A106, tel. 843-1906. Hours 9:30 –1:30. Kokua Council will have some forms and instructions at this month's lunch meeting.

Connecticut Re-Establishes Department of Aging

On Wednesday, July 9th, Connecticut Governor **M. Jodi Rell** and State Senator **Edith Prague** announced the re-establishment of an independent Connecticut Department on Aging as of July 1st, 2009. The state has not had such an agency since 1993, when it was absorbed into the Department of Social Services as the Elderly Services Division.

Mattie J.T. Stepanek Caregiving Scholarship

The *Mattie J. T. Stepanek Caregiving Scholarship* provides financial assistance to family, professional, or paraprofessional caregivers of any age who are seeking training or education in specific skills, procedures, and strategies that lead to more effective care at the same time that they serve to protect the health and well-being of the caregiver. Four \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded. The deadline for application is September 15, 2008. For information: <http://www.rosalynncarter.org/08mattie/>.

Patients Buying Fewer Prescription Drugs

The growth in prescriptions filled by U.S. pharmacies is at its slowest in at least ten years, as increasing health care costs and a slowing economy are making medication harder to afford. According to a recent *Wall Street Journal* article, the drug industry usually remains stable in economic downturns, because patients still require medicine. However, the number of prescriptions filled in the second quarter of 2008 may have actually decreased, due to higher numbers of Americans without health insurance and “skyrocketing out-of-pocket drug costs” putting the cost of some medications out of reach. In fact, 23 percent of respondents to a Kaiser foundation poll failed to fill a prescription in the last year for cost reasons, up from 20 percent in 2005. Additionally, 19 percent either skipped doses or split pills, an increase from 16 percent in 2005.

House Report Finds Taxpayers Pay Up to 30% more for Prescriptions Under Part D

In a report released July 24, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform found that U.S. drug manufacturers are reaping a windfall from taxpayers when it comes to the privately administered Medicare Part D program. According to the report, taxpayers are paying up to 30% more for prescription drugs under Medicare's Part D program for seniors and the disabled than under the government's Medicaid program for the poor. This is attributable to the fact that Part D, which was enacted in January 2006, lacks Medicaid's stipulation that drug companies sell prescription drugs to the government at discounted prices. The report and its accompanying hearing echo the growing debate on privatization of programs such as Medicare

Medicare Bill Also Provides Much Needed Funds for Hawaii Hospitals-Senator Daniel Akaka

On July 15, the Senate rejected President George W. Bush's veto of H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, by a 70-26 margin. The legislation prevents cuts in Medicare reimbursements for physicians, and protects access to health care for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and members of our armed services and their families. I am pleased that the bill also contains a provision to provide \$15 million in Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) resources to Hawaii hospitals. Medicaid DHS payments are designed to provide additional support to hospitals that treat large numbers of Medicaid and uninsured patients. **To utilize the federal funding, the Hawaii State Legislature must provide required matching funds.** The provision would provide \$2.5 million in the 4th quarter of 2008, \$10 million in 2009, and \$2.5 million for the 1st quarter of 2010.

Notes from Joint Legislative Committee for Aging in Place & Kupuna Caucus

All of the Area Agencies on Aging reported that they will be running out of funds shortly that provide services for Kupuna Care: home delivered meals, transportation, personal care, chore, homemaker, attendant care and adult day care services for those just above the Medicaid level. Funds authorized by the legislature for 2008 and 2009 (over 1 million dollars) have not been released by the Governor. They will have to cut people from services, cut staff, and wait lists will grow.

Other events: Legislators suggested ways to shorten the time between the release of funds and the actual awarding of contracts and beginning of services. Reports from taskforces developing a Respite Inventory, a Cash and Counseling project, and designing a Family Leave program for workers who also are caregivers, and a task force to address the needs and issues of grandparents raising grandchildren will have reports ready by October-December.

Next meeting will be a joint meeting of both JLCAIP and Kupuna Caucus, September 5, 2 pm. Room 229 at the State Capitol. Public is welcome.



Kokua Council for Senior Citizens
of Hawaii Education Fund, Inc.
20 South Vineyard Blvd.
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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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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	DONATIONS _____
____\$5.00	____\$100.00	____\$25.00	

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