



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

## NO LUNCHEON MEETING IN DECEMBER!!

e HAPPY HOLIDAYS e

**Next Meeting JANUARY 23, 2006**

**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.

Program in January: Voter Funded Elections, Speaker Alicia Maluafita

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### **READY TO RUMBLE,** *Laura Manis*

150 people attended the Hawaii Silver Legislature, acting as legislators, lobbyists and observers. Ages were from 50+ to 94! They endured cold rooms, uncomfortable chairs, a bit of confusion, just like the real legislature. I'd like to thank every one of you for helping make the 2005 Hawaii Silver Legislature a success and to thank you all for your courage, your eloquence and your determination.

Everyone who came to organizational meetings and worked at the Silver Legislature, everyone who gave testimony, everyone who worked a desk, everyone who came just to listen, made a difference.

The painstaking efforts to educate the public about issues such as affordable senior housing, respite for caretakers, health care, public funding for elections and long term care in Hawaii would not have taken place without you. Through your advocacy, our Hawaii state legislators have been made to realize that those of us over 50 are not passive observers of the process of government but active participants, and for that reason cannot be overlooked.

Active were members Larry Geller, Tony Lenzer, John Cannel, Grace Furukawa, Marilyn Seely, Al Hamai, Bob Henninger, Norma Koenig, Lun Moku, James Brewer, Renee Ing, Bob Masuda, Bruce McCullough, Florence Lau, Bill Woods, Justin Wong, Diane Stowell, Cynthia Thielen, and of course, Project Coordinator Carolyn Golojuch.

I am gratified that the feedback we have gotten has been overwhelmingly positive. The biggest question we are getting is, "when is the next one?" Mahalo Nui Loa to all of you for your efforts.

QuickTime™ and a  
Photo - JPEG decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

**Below are the bills passed by the Hawaii Silver Legislature by your good work and given to the Regular Legislature to consider for the 2006 session. To see actual bills visit our website [www.kokuacouncil.org](http://www.kokuacouncil.org)**

HB1 - No Fundraising during the Session

HB2,SD1,CD1 Repair empty state housing units and to provide rental subsidies for low-income units

HB5,HD1,SD2,CD1... A comprehensive family caregiver assistance program

HB6,SD1,CD1 - Expand Kupuna care services

HB7,SD1,CD1 Establishment of a single payer universal health insurance system

HB8,SD1,CD1 Geographic partnerships” whereby alternative shelter and care resources are locationally accessible and organizationally coordinated

HB9,CD1 - Task force to determine visitation rights for grandparents and hanai individuals who are informally raising these children.

HCR1 –Urging the governor and the legislature to use the state’s surplus to meet the unmet critical social, educational, health, long-term care, transportation, and other needs in the best interest of our State, rather than issuing a tax refund

SB1 -Comprehensive public funding election

SB2,SD1,HD1,CD1- Increasing the length of “walk time” for pedestrian crosswalk signal lights

SB3 - Requiring supermarkets to refund recycling deposits

SB4,HD1,CD1- Development of a long-term care resource initiative at Kapiolani Community

College to train and educate Hawaii’s eldercare workforce

SB5,SD1 - Authorization of physician assisted suicide

SB6,HD1,CD1 - Appropriation to hire permanent staff for the university of hawaii center on aging

SB7,HD2,CD1- Establishment of a Long-term Care Insurance Premium to provide home care services

SB8,SD1 - Increasing fines to \$5000 for each violation of law or rule that fall within the state ethics Commission’s jurisdiction

SB9 -Requiring electric utilities to meet a renewable portfolio standard of 15 percent for 2010 and a goal of 20 percent for 2015

SCR1- Urging President Bush and the Congress to NOT privatize Social Security

SCR2 – Releasing Funds for Makiki Library

**2006 membership fees of \$5.00 are due in January.** Memberships paid in November and December will be credited for the year 2006.

**Letter to Editor from Sam Cox: The net cast by the Silver Legislature extends even to Macao**, where one of our TIAH Board members is teaching. He responded as follows to the "Bills passed at Silver legislature"

“Thank you, Sam , I shall try to use these ideas in our work for the indigent, and need for low income housing here in Macao. The city and its wealthy are blind to the poverty, crime, and needs of the derelicts from gambling, family counseling, and socially-morally wasted humanity that is produced by legalized " crime"and gambling. Tho 2/3 of the city is classical or traditional Chinese, the 1/3 that is dedicated to "gaming" and therefore highly productive of wasted humanity is almost totally neglected. The kokua ideas you sent along are all need implementations here in Macao.” From: *Michael Saso*

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## SCHOLARSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL AGING CONFERENCE

HPGS is offering 50 scholarships of \$40 each to HPGS members and their friends to attend the international conference Active Aging in Asia Pacific: Showcasing Best Practices on February 27, 2006 at East West Center Imin Conference Center. This special benefit from HPGS will allow you to attend this exciting conference for \$35!!

The conference features experts from Japan, China, Korea, and Hawaii, who will present on creative programs and policies that promote the concept of active/healthy/productive aging in their countries. Come participate in this exchange of ideas among US–Asia Pacific countries.

To apply, follow these steps. (If your employer can cover your registration fees, please give this opportunity to someone whose

employer cannot afford to cover the costs of registration.)

1. Contact Harumi Karel at 956-8916 or [kharumi@hawaii.edu](mailto:kharumi@hawaii.edu) for an application form.
2. Return the form to Harumi by Dec 15, 2005 by email, fax (956-9582) or snail mail:  
Center on Aging, University of Hawaii,  
1960 East-West Road, Honolulu, 96822.
3. Register online at [www.VRCHawaii.org/ActiveAging](http://www.VRCHawaii.org/ActiveAging) by December 15, 2005.
4. Under institution/organization, please write HPGS besides the name of your organization.
5. Write \$35 check payable to the Volunteer Resource Center of Hawaii.
6. Send it to: VRCH, UH-WCC, Hale Alakai 106, 45-720 Keaahala Road, Kaneohe 96744.

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## Notes From November Meeting, Speaker Pamela Cunningham, Executive Office on Aging

### People with Medicare Need to Know

- Everyone with Medicare can get Medicare drug coverage.
- Coverage starts January 1, 2006
- You must join to get coverage
- You can join from November 15, 2005-May 15, 2006.
- If you don't join by May 15, 2006, you may have to wait until November 15, 2006 and you may pay a penalty.
- There's extra help for those who need it most.
- Medicare prescription drug coverage covers brand name and generic drugs.
- Compare and join a Medicare prescription drug plan that meets your needs.
- There is a list of plans and their costs in the *Medicare & You* handbook mailed to you last October.
- Some drugs are excluded: Drugs for weight loss, gain or anorexia; cosmetic purposes/hair growth; symptomatic relief of cough and colds; prescription vitamins & mineral products (except prenatal vitamins and fluoride treatments); Fertility drugs, Barbiturates and benzodiazepines; non-prescription drugs.

Need help? Call Sage Plus Program, 586-7299.



c/o Harris United Methodist Church  
 20 South Vineyard Blvd.  
 Honolulu, HI 96813

### Who Are We?

The **Kokua Council** is one of Hawaii's oldest advocacy groups. There is a \$5 annual membership to defer 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 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  
 Vice President Tony Lenzer, 261-2095, tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com  
 Vice President Laura Manis, 597-8838, [manis@lava.net](mailto:manis@lava.net)  
 Website: [www.kokuacouncil.org](http://www.kokuacouncil.org)

Secretary Lyn Moku, 532-0806, lyn.moku@nmss.org  
 General Info Eloise Monsarrat, 839-1545  
 Program  
 Newsletter Jeanne Y. Ohta, 373-3186, jyohta@hawaii.rr.com

### 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