



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH

Monday, JANUARY 25, 2010

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: Homemade Vegetable Lasagna, Salad, Dessert**—\$5.00 Donation
- 11:45 Welcome, Introductions and Remarks, Larry Geller, President
- 11:50 Election of Officers and Board Members
- 12:00 **Program: Ken Zeri—What in the world is the new law “Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment” and why is it important to me?** Zeri has been the President and Chief Professional Officer at Hospice Hawaii since Nov. 1, 2002. He has over 22 years of hospice experience, starting at the bedside, and progressing through a variety of leadership positions in several hospice organizations, both on the mainland and in Hawaii.
- 12:30 Questions and Answers
- 12:45 Announcements
- 1:00 Adjourn

Lunch Host: John Cannell

BOARD MEETING: 10:00 a.m. Preceding Lunch

Time to pay your 2010 Kokua Council Dues: look at your address label to see the last payment date. Individual dues continue to be \$5.00, Lifetime \$100, Organization \$25. Send payments to Kokua Council, Harris United Methodist Church, 20 S. Vineyard, Honolulu HI 96813. Donations are welcome. Check our website at www.kokuacouncil.org

Election for Board of Directors

| Elected Annually Officers | Two Year Terms Board Members | Carry Over Board Members |
|---|---|---|
| Larry Geller, President Tony Lenzer, First Vice-President Laura Manis, Second Vice-President Lynda Gretz, Secretary Evelyn Shepard, Treasurer | George Fox Jim Shon Marilyn Seely Charles Carole Richard Miller OPEN | T.J. Davies Lyn Moku Phyllis Hiramatsu Rose Ann Poyzer Eloise Monserrat |

PRESIDENT'S LETTER, *Larry Geller*

As the curtain rises on a new year and a new decade, America faces challenges that are more than economic. We the people, hoping for change in Washington are learning that we're still the audience rather than the playwrights. We may choose the actors, but we don't write their lines or create the plot.

The current show is titled "Health Care Reform." Its patrons are the wealthy health insurers and drug companies. It's no surprise that they get to write a happy ending for themselves. We may applaud or we may boo, but the show will go on despite the many critical reviews.

Act I was the passage of the House version of the reform bill, which includes a public option. It had its dramatic moments-for example, the last-minute inclusion of an outrageously restrictive anti-abortion provision that reverses a generation of gains in women's rights.

In Act II the scene shifted to the Senate, where the action was punctuated by arrests of audience members demanding that single-payer be put on the table. It never was, though a public option lurked behind the arras until stabbed by a knife-wielding Senator Lieberman.

Critics are left to squabble among themselves whether these bills should be passed because they are the best we can get, or should be defeated because they are far worse than what we have. If we were truly in control of our government, since the majority favor publicly funded health care, we would have had it already. But politics is out of our hands. Our job as advocates in 2010, an election year, is to somehow reclaim our role and write the playbook ourselves.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Family Caregiver Coalition will have its Family Caregiver Day and resource fair on Friday, Feb. 26, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m., 3rd. Fl., the State Capitol.

ONE-STOP INFORMATION REFERRAL FOR SENIOR SERVICES IS UP AND RUNNING

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) is a one-stop source for long term care information and services for older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers who need help in caring for a family member or loved ones. The Center is a virtual center meaning it exists on the web at www.Hawaii.ADRG.org. The site has links to information for all Senior services in Hawaii. For those without access to the web a live person is available for information by telephoning 586-0100 or going in person to the Executive Office on Aging, room 406, 250 S. Hotel Street.

\$13.5 million: The amount the U.S. government would save if it stopped enforcing laws against marijuana. The Justice Department says it will no longer prosecute people who use it for medicinal purposes in the 14 states where that's legal. *Jeffrey A Miron, Harvard University (Newsweek, 11/2/09, p.140)*

FURLOUGH DAYS CHANGES PABEA MEETING DATES

The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA) announced changes in their in their monthly meetings because of state furlough days. The meetings are open to the public and scheduled for 11:30 a.m. The legislative committee, also open to the public, starts at 9:30 am. New dates are: Fridays on February 19, March 19, April 16, and May 21.

Opening day of the State Legislature is Wednesday, January 20. The Access Room will be offering potluck buffet as well as a few legislative offices.

HARA APPROVES SUPPORT FOR 1% G.E.T. INCREASE FOR 3 YEARS

The Hawaii Alliance of Retired Americans overwhelmingly voted to help the State close its deficit gap by increasing the G.E.T. rather than cut services. Considering that cutting services will only lead to more problems and more need for services and that the actual impact on their purchases will be only \$1.00 on every \$100, representatives from HARA's affiliates at their Biennial Convention decided to lead the way by showing their willingness to share the burden.



KOKUA COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES - 2010

ADVOCATE: Kokua Council takes the lead in advocacy. The Council will testify and work to generate numbers of supporters to appear and/or testify on behalf of the matter. (No more than four issues.)

1. **SUPPORT CAREGIVERS** by increasing funding for KUPUNA CARE. Because of the financial crisis in the state, we must consider;
 - a. Cost saving measures
 - b. Ways to enhance revenueAdvocates: Richard Miller, 254-1796, Larry Geller, 540-1928, Rose Ann Poyzer, 737-3590
2. **EXTEND SUNSET DATE FOR THE LONG TERM CARE COMMISSION.** The Commission has raised funds from private sources to support the research needed. They are now ready to start the extensive research necessary to prepare the data that will be the foundation for their recommendations to the legislature. Advocate: Tony Lenzer, 261-2095
3. **PAID FAMILY LEAVE TASK FORCE.** Assist balancing employment and caregiving by providing paid leave through the Temporary Disability Insurance program. A study to determine the need was completed for the government sector but not for private businesses. A small amount of money is needed to provide this vital information. Advocate: Phyllis Hiramatsu, 533-3105

SUPPORT: Someone else takes the lead, the Council lead advocate will send in written testimony

1. **CASH AND COUNSELING.** Continue support for task force devising plans to help caregivers choose and pay for needed services. Advocate: Jim Shon, 946-7878
2. **SUPPORT FOR THE HOMELESS.** Homelessness is increasing because of high rents, unemployment and home foreclosures. Grandparents unexpectedly raising grandchildren are being forced out of senior public housing. Plans and programs must be developed. Advocate: Rev. Sam Cox, 261-1934
3. **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.** Shortage of trained paraprofessionals to care for growing elderly population. Advocates: Tony Lenzer, 261-2095, Lynda Gretz, 554-1464
4. **EXTENDING HOME FOR LIFE TASK FORCE.** Advocates: Lyn Moku, 532-0806, Tony Lenzer, 261-2095
5. **TRIGGER DATE FOR APPOINTMENTS TO TASK FORCES.** Late or missing appointments delay or stop work. Advocate: Larry Geller, 540-1928

ENDORSE: The Council will sign off on testimony, petitions, or letters of support.

1. **ASSURE QUALITY OF CARE.** Web posting of care homes & foster homes inspections. Advocate: Jim Shon, 946-7878
2. **LICENSING OF HOME CARE AGENCIES.** Advocate: Rose Ann Poyzer, 737-3590
3. **PREPAID FUNERAL TRUST REFORM.** Require increased refunding if policy is cancelled. Require licensing of salespersons and more information to family members. Advocate: Laura Manis, 597-8838

INFORMATION ONLY: Matters can be brought to the Council for informational purposes. The Council agrees to hear the issue, but declines to take a formal position on the matter. We will track the progress of One-Stop Centers and the Center on Aging.

Kokua Council will also follow issues we have supported in the past



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. “

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|----------------|---|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| President | Larry Geller, 540-1928, lgeller@igc.org | Treasurer Ed. Fund | T.J. Davies, tjdavies@juno.com |
| Vice President | Tony Lenzer, 261-2095, tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com | Treasurer Advocacy | Evelyn Shepard, 595-4025 |
| Vice President | Laura Manis, 597-8838, manis@lava.net | General Info | Eloise Monsarrat, 839-1545 |
| Secretary | Lynda Gretz, lbj065@hawaii.rr.com | Newsletter | Jeanne Y. Ohta, jyohta@hawaii.rr.com |
| 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.

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|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 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