

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

Please join us for lunch  
**MONDAY, October 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.

**AGENDA:**

- 11:30 Luncheon: Orange Moroccan Chicken, Garden Lasagna Alfredo, Brown Rice, salad, Dessert by Eloise.  
\$5.00 donation
- 11:45 Welcome, Introductions and Remarks, *Larry Geller*
- 12:00 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Legislative Community Forum: Round table discussion by key government administrators, legislators and community advocates. BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!**  
**See page 3**
- 1:15 Vote for Kokua Council 2007 legislative Priorities
- 1:30 Adjourn. **NOTE EXTENDED TIME**

Luncheon Host: Grace Furukawa

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

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**PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING ADVOCACY ISSUES  
CRITERIA**

- Issues must be timely and compatible with our new Mission Statement
- There must be a lead advocate plus support capacity to pursue the issue
- We should target no more than four issues at any legislative session, but should be flexible enough to consider critical issues emerging during the legislative session
- We have identified and will utilize the following levels of legislative advocacy: serving as lead advocate for an issue, and mobilizing full support; support for an issue where others take the lead in championing that issue; endorsing an issue, by writing support letters or signing off on testimony. In addition, Kokua Council will provide members with information only about some issues, without taking formal positions on them
- The process for selecting legislative issues will be as follows: members, as will churches and other organizations will be polled to identify issues of concern; the Legislative Committee will sort through issues proposed for formal action, and recommend a legislative agenda to the Board of Directors; the Board will make the final decisions on the legislative agenda
- The Board of Directors recognized that some legislative issues take years to achieve closure, and will consider these annually for possible supportive action

## PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR CHOOSING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- October Board will prepare community forum and ballot to present to members
- December Board will categorize priorities according to levels of advocacy (see above) and assign lead advocate.
- January Members will choose level of activity to support priorities. Lead advocate will prepare talking points for use in preparing testimony, training, telephoning legislators, and letters to editor; lead advocate will assemble teams for support of issue. If there is enough interest, a training session will be scheduled to prepare people for visits to legislators, preparing testimony, and testifying.

### WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING, finally printed

Al Hamai, President Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA)

As a delegate, I was mailed a copy of the 175-page report earlier this month. Based on how the conference was organized and run, where 2,000+ delegates could not meet in even a single deliberative body to discuss the national issues facing seniors and provide collective advice to the President and Congress, I was prepared for a report that did not really did not reflect the priority concerns of seniors. ARA Executive Director issued a press release that stated in part: "This self-serving political document does not accurately reflect the Conference proceedings. For example, nowhere is it mentioned that a vast majority of the delegates opposed the Bush plan to privatize Social Security. Similarly, the strongest delegate support was for comprehensive drug coverage under Medicare with the government negotiating lower drug prices. However, this was bundled together with several other recommendations." As you may recall, one of the priority concerns of the delegates was the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. So far no action by the Congress.

## Special Invitation

Dear Kokua Council Members:

The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii makes several Community Recognition Awards every year to outstanding community organizations. This year TIAH is honoring **Kokua Council** that through its witness and actions has encouraged exemplary non-violent civic participation during the past year. **Larry Geller will be accepting the award.**

I would like to personally invite Kokua Council members to join us for a great fellowship evening. The Keynote Address will be given by Utu Langi "**The Truth About Homelessness**"

### 2006 TIAH COMMUNITY AWARDS DINNER

Public Meeting – All Welcome

Saturday, October 21, 2006, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin, 1727 Pali Highway

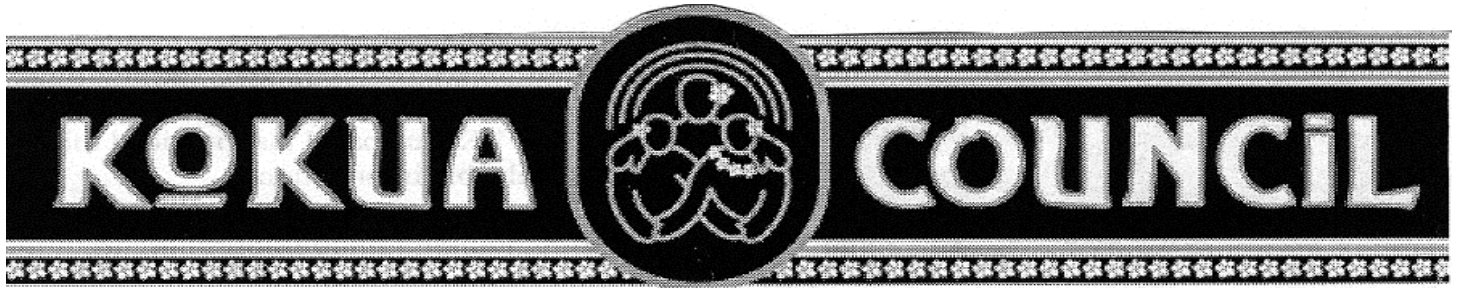
Govinda 7 course Vegetarian Buffet \$10

Pre-registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. Payment is made at the door.

Registration may be made by email at [SamCox@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:SamCox@hawaii.rr.com) For more information, feel free to give me a call. Rev. Sam Cox, [SamCox@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:SamCox@hawaii.rr.com), 261-1934 Cell 779-3606

### September Notes: WOMEN BEHIND BARS, Kat Brady

Female incarceration in Hawaii is growing the fastest the in the nation. While most of the women inmates have been imprisoned for drug crimes (about 600), only 15 beds are assigned for treatment. Brady recommends that since drugs are available in prisons, this is not the best place for treatment. Research has shown that contact with their children and families are most important for rehabilitation. Therefore, imprisonment on the mainland, cancellation of visitations, and not providing skills training on a par with men's prisons is contra productive. After finally getting legislation passed after 8 years of advocating for parity, the Governor is may introduce legislation deleting parity for the women's prisons.



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## COMMUNITY FORUM

Public Invited

Free

MONDAY OCTOBER 23, 11:30 -1:30  
THE HARRIS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,  
Miyama Main Hall  
Nuuanu and South Vineyard Blvd.  
Ample parking - driveway off Nuuanu

Round table discussion by key government administrators, legislators, community advocates followed by Q and A.

CAMPAIGN REFORM, CAREGIVER SUPPORT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
ELDER ABUSE, HAWAII RX PROGRAM, LONG TERM CARE

Representatives from nonprofit and other organizations involved with seniors as well as advocacy groups who have needs/concerns that can be helped legislatively or by other means will present their issues.

### **Please Join Us for Lunch!**

11:30 Luncheon - \$5.00 donation

*Garden Lasagna, Moroccan Chicken, Salad, Desserts from Eloise, Drinks*

**To reserve a lunch, and/or ask for time on the agenda or**

**For more information call Lynda Johnson 554-1464, or Laura Manis,  
597-8838**



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 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 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
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	Betty Sugarman, 261-8936, betty333@lava.net		
Newsletter	Jeanne Y. Ohta, 373-3186, 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.

<b>INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>LIFE MEMBER</b>	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>DONATIONS</b>
____\$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