



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH

Monday, November 23, 2015 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Miyama Main Hall, Harris United Methodist Church

Nuuanu Ave. and S. Vineyard Blvd.—Ample parking—driveway off Nuuanu Ave

Agenda:

11:30 **Luncheon (optional): Various Pizzas, Salad, and Dessert**—\$5.00 Donation

11:55 **Welcome, Introductions and Remarks**

12:00 **Program:** Henry Curtis: **"Should HECO be converted into electric cooperatives?"**

Henry Curtis is Executive Director & Vice President at Life of the Land Hawaii, a Hawaii-based, Hawaii-focused environmental and community action group founded in 1970. Website: ililanimedia.blogspot.com.

1:00 **Adjourn**

Kokua Council Windward: Thursday, December 10: "Planning for 2016"

Kokua Council is excited to announce our new chapter, on the Windward side of Oahu. We will meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month at Pohai Nani Retirement Community, 2nd Floor Club Room, 45-090 Namoku Street, Kaneohe. Call Samuel Cox for reservations or information. (808) 779-3606 or revsamuelcox@gmail.com.

Department of Health still in violation of the law--no ARCH or E-ARCH inspection reports posted yet (see **Department of Health**, p.3)
Beware of fake emails—They look real but they are very dangerous (see **Beware**, p.2)

Beware of fake emails

That email from your friend, relative, bank or other organization may not be real. Scam artists have recently become much cleverer.

Not only are fake emails looking more authentic, but they often include names or other personal information. They may ask you to click on a link or open an attachment.

Don't do it. The next thing you know, your computer can be infected with a bad virus. It can even hold all of your data hostage for payment of a ransom.

It used to be that there were often spelling or grammar mistakes that warned the email was fake, but no longer. The crooks have improved their act.

Call your bank at the number on the back of your credit card instead of clicking a link. Don't open an attachment, it could mean big trouble.

If your friend or relative emails that they are stuck in a foreign country and have had their passport and money stolen, don't believe that either.

Stay safe online.

Editorial: Mayor Kirk Caldwell and the lies exposed by an ACLU lawsuit to stop abuse of Honolulu's homeless

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, along with the law firm of Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing, filed a motion in federal court on November 3 asking that a judge halt abuses in the City's confiscation and destruction of personal property during its numerous raids against homeless encampments. The motion and supporting depositions reveal that the Caldwell administration has been destroying personal property, including ID, money, medicines and other necessities, by dumping them into garbage trucks that take it to the H-Power plant to be incinerated.

The motion shows that the City lied and misrepresented to the judge when it stated previously that it does not destroy personal property. The ACLU holds that this destruction is unconstitutional.

So far, Mayor Caldwell has not addressed the City's illegal acts nor its false statements to the Court. Why?

Perhaps David Shapiro's column printed in the November 8 Star-Advertiser sheds some light on the Mayor's attitude towards homelessness and hence toward the plight of homeless people themselves.

Shapiro relates that when then-Governor Lingle declared a state of emergency over the homelessness crisis in 2008, it was then-House Majority Leader Kirk Caldwell who demanded to know, "What made homelessness become an emergency?" He led the house in passing a bill to challenge Governor Lingle's ability to declare an emergency.

Shapiro reports that "[Rep] Thielen called the bill 'mean-spirited' and 'disgraceful' and challenged Democrats to 'go out there and be with them and see what it's like and tell me that's not an emergency in those people's lives.'" But the bill passed the House, though it died in the Senate.

Although now-Mayor Caldwell describes his actions in raiding encampments as "compassionate disruption," depositions in the ACLU case demonstrate that he has been far from compassionate. The City's own ordinances call for storage, not destruction, of personal property cleared off the streets, but Caldwell has chosen to destroy rather than store, causing disruption in people's lives without any noticeable compassion. His people have taken and destroyed not only the personal property of adults but also children's toys and school knapsacks. Caldwell can't claim he didn't know this.

Homelessness, along with Hawaii's acute shortage of affordable housing, has been recognized in the press as a crisis since at least 2003. A remedy at this late stage will not be easy. But it appears that Honolulu's Mayor Caldwell still does not think we have an emergency.

Department of Health still in violation of the law--no ARCH or E-ARCH inspection reports posted on-line

At this writing in early November the Hawaii State Department of Health remains in violation of the state law requiring posting of all inspection reports on the DOH website. Only 327 reports have been posted thus far, almost all for Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFH) and a few of other types. But the critical and badly needed Adult Residential Care Homes (ARCH) and Expanded Adult Residential Care Homes (E-ARCH) reports are not posted.

A letter was delivered to Governor David Ige by the conveners of the legislative Kupuna Caucus (Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Les Ihara and Rep. Gregg Takayama) on October 20 reminding the Governor of his several statements that he would resolve the issue soon. It has still not been resolved.

A family needing to place a spouse or relative in an ARCH or E-ARCH facility right now, in order to view inspection reports, must write a letter to the DOH Office of Health Care Assurance specifying the facilities they are considering. A state worker then must pull the files, redact names, make copies, charge for copying and notify the recipient when the reports are ready. Although the need may be critical, the family might wait from 10 days to a couple of weeks and go to considerable expense to view the reports. When the need is immediate and a hospital bed is occupied awaiting a decision, the delay is unacceptable.

That's why the Legislature passed Act 213 in 2013 — to make the reports instantly available on the DOH website at no charge. Posting was to start on January 1, 2015. At this writing, not a single ARCH or E-ARCH report has been posted.

Department of Health churning up opposition to inspections by care home industry

Hawaii's adult long term care home industry has strongly opposed the posting of inspection reports on-line by the Department of Health. Now DOH has announced that it plans to impose licensing fees in order to pay the expenses of posting and to update its data system. A November 5 article on the Civil Beat website reports that DOH "wants the money to improve how it manages inspections and posts public information online."

The news re-ignited opposition by care home operators to the posting of inspection reports on-line as well as new objections to the proposed fees. This could well lead to moves in the 2016 legislative session to weaken Act 213, the state law requiring that inspections be posted.

The Legislature authorized \$148,000 for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for two positions to handle the posting, but neither position was hired. The appropriation was not renewed in the next budget and the positions remain unfilled today.



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

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Please join us on Monday, November 23, 2015: Henry Curtis: "Should HECO be converted into electric cooperatives?"

Kokua Council Windward, Thursday, December 10: "Planning for 2016"

Who Are We?

Kokua Council is one of Hawaii's oldest advocacy groups. There is a **\$10.00 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. There is ample parking. A light lunch is provided for a \$5 donation. **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."

Board Members

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Website: www.kokuacouncil.org Newsletter editor: Larry Geller

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 Member __ \$10.00 Life Member __ \$100.00 Organizational Member __ \$25.00

Donations: 501(c)(4) Advocacy _____ Education Fund: 501(c)(3) _____ (Tax Deductible)

Date _____

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Mail to: Treasurer, Kokua Council, Harris United Methodist Church, 20 S. Vineyard Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96813