

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH

Monday, March 28, 2016 Miyama Main Hall, Harris United Methodist Church
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 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: Moses Haia: “A Lifetime Spent Waiting--Why Too Many Beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act Spend Their Lives Waiting in Vain for a Homestead”

Moses Kalei Nahonoapi`ilani Haia III is the executive director of Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. As a staff attorney at NHLC he obtaining landmark victories in native rights cases seeking to protect ancient Hawaiian burials and Native Hawaiian water rights.

1:00 Adjourn

Kokua Council Windward: Thursday, March 10: Guest Speaker: Marc Delorme
"New President Kokua Council" COMMUNITY WELCOME

11:30 (Optional) — Buffet Lunch in Dining Room, \$11. Reservation and Information: Samuel Cox
(808) 779-3606 or revsamuelcox@gmail.com.

12:30 Program: Guest Speaker: Marc Delorme: "New President Kokua Council".

Marc Delorme, Kokua Council's newly elected president, is a documentary filmmaker. During the 90s, he worked as a broadcast-news cameraman/editor for the CBS and ABC affiliates in Honolulu.

1:30 Adjourn

Inside:

Notes on presentation by Judy Mohr Peterson, Medicaid Director for Hawaii, January 26, 2016 *(see p.2)*

Notes on presentation by Victor Geminiani,, Co-Executive Director of the Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, February 22, 2016 *(see p.2)*

Kupuna Power Day – Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at the Hawaii State Capitol *(see p.3)*

Notes on presentation by Judy Mohr Peterson, Medicaid Director for Hawaii (January 26, 2016)

Dr. Mohr Peterson has been going around the state listening and learning. Her emphasis is not on administration or delivery systems but rather on outcomes. Research says our Zip code is more predictive and influential than our genetic code. The community, the family, the diet, the physical environment, pollution, all influence outcomes.

80 percent of health outcomes are related to factors outside the medical system. Hawaii is seeking to create a more efficient and effective health care system to address disparities among groups.

Mohr Peterson emphasized that DOE, DHS, DOE, Insurance companies, hospitals, etc. need to work together to address the following:

- Access to health insurance
- Transitions - especially out of the state hospital, prisons, etc., providing appropriate support.
- Addressing the whole person - citing comprehensive dental care as an example
- Connecting behavioral and physical health delivery systems - citing homelessness as an example
- Focus on prevention and early intervention at the primary care doctor stage for both physical and behavioral health issues - citing professional development for primary care physicians and telemedicine particularly for Neighbor Isle patients
- Improving choices and quality of life for those institutionalized - choice of food, roommates, privacy, visits.

Q&A

Many questions were raised regarding Medicaid eligibility.

Dr. Mohr Peterson admitted that their administrative and tech capabilities were not yet sufficient to accomplish all their goals, but they are making slow progress.

(Notes provided by Kokua Council board member **Jim Shon**)

Notes on presentation by Victor Geminiani, Co-Executive Director of the Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice. <http://hiappleseed.org/> February 22, 2016

We should focus on Economic Justice: A fair opportunity for everyone to achieve an adequate economic life, food, housing...especially for the low and moderate income people. Some structural issues for Hawaii include:

- We typically pay more than 50 percent of our income for shelter

- Hawaii has the lowest wages in the US
- Hawaii has the second highest tax rate imposed on low and moderate incomes
- 48 percent of Hawaii government is supported by the regressive GET excise tax

Affordable Housing (See Appleseed Report: <http://www.hiappleseed.org/affordable-housing-crisis>)

Geminiani emphasized three promising areas of relief for affordable housing: Transit Oriented Development, Accessory Dwelling Units (allows seniors to age in place and uses existing private residential lands), and Micro-units (250-350 square feet) – which we used to call Single Room Occupancy.

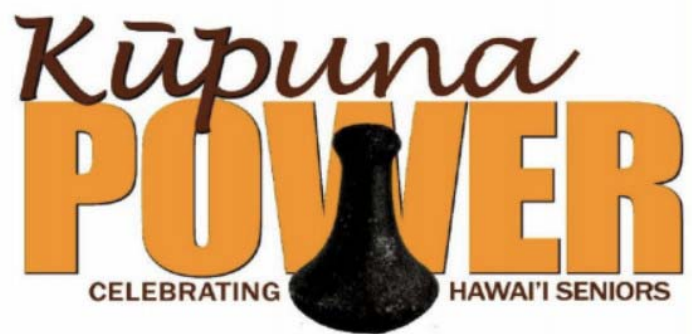
We have the highest rate of homelessness among the states, with no decrease in sight. More than 13,000 individuals throughout the islands received homeless services in 2013—42 percent of whom were new clients. Thousands more households are at risk of homelessness or are part of “the hidden homeless,” forced to double up with other families out of economic necessity.

Key recommendations in the report include:

- Increase government support and planning for affordable housing
- Adopt innovative models such as micro-apartments and accessory dwelling units
- Take advantage of Transit Oriented Development and urban infill to maximize affordable housing creation; and
- Expand use of the Housing First approach to quickly help stabilize people experiencing chronic homelessness

(Notes provided by Kokua Council board member **Jim Shon**)

Join Kokua Council and other groups on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. at the rotunda of the Hawaii State Capitol for Kupuna Power Day



The Kupuna Power rally is a free empowerment session held each year in April since 2012 at the State Capitol. It is organized by State Sen. Brickwood Galuteria, his colleagues and various advocacy organizations – and features light exercise, entertainment and education.

Contact the Pacific Gateway Center, (808) 851-7010 x 103 for more information.



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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March 28 meeting: Moses Haia: **“A Lifetime Spent Waiting--Why Too Many Beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act Spend Their Lives Waiting in Vain for a Homestead”**

Kokua Council Windward: Thursday, March 10: Guest Speaker: Marc Delorme: **“New President Kokua Council”**

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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 Vice President Laura Manis, 597-8838, manis1350@gmail.com
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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 _____

Name _____ Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Mail to: Treasurer, Kokua Council, Harris United Methodist Church, 20 S. Vineyard Blvd., Honolulu, HI 9681