



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH

Monday, August 22, 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:** Tony Baldomero: **“Defining the Responsibilities of the Campaign Spending Commission”**

Tony Baldomero is the Associate Director of the Hawaii Campaign Spending Commission. He has been with the Commission for over 20 years. He resides in Kailua with his wife and five sons.

1:00 **Adjourn**

Kokua Council Windward: Thursday, August 10, 2016: Hawaii Senator Will Espero: “Gun Control in Hawaii” 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: Hawaii Senator Will Espero: **“Gun Control in Hawaii”**

Hawaii already has some of the nation’s strictest gun laws. Hawaii also has the lowest gun death rate of any state in the county. This year Hawaii became the first US state to enroll all gun owners in the FBI system.

The measure will allow Hawaii police to evaluate whether the firearm owner can continue to possess and own weapons. The bill was introduced by Senator Will Espero. It may become a model for all the states as our country deals with increasing gun violence.

1:30 **Adjourn**

Inside:

Kokua Council files suit against the state Department of Health
News coverage has been good ... now we ask for your support

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Kokua Council files suit against the state Department of Health regarding its failure to post long term care facility inspection reports to their website, as mandated by law

Public interest attorney Lance D. Collins [filed a complaint](#) in the First Circuit Court on Monday July 25, 2016 on behalf of Kokua Council to compel the Department of Health to disclose all long term care facility inspection reports, to disclose portions of inspection reports improperly redacted and to post reports online within five days of inspection, as required by law since 2013. For a copy of the complaint click the link above or visit our website at kokuacouncil.org.



Inspection report showing heavy redaction

Going to court should be a last resort, and it was with great reluctance and after other attempts failed that this suit was filed. Protection of seniors and others who must choose a care home placement, often on very short notice, was our primary concern—as it was for advocates, legislators and the Governor when the law was passed three years ago.

The Department of Health is failing seniors and their families by ignoring the law. No new reports have been posted for some time and the backlog continues to grow.

Individuals and families need immediate access to this objective information regarding conditions at long term care facilities. There is often pressure to move patients out of a hospital into a care facility due to demand for the hospital bed. A family needing to place a loved one in a long term care facility in Hawaii has to make a critical decision in a very short time, often within hours. They need to know if there are complaints or outstanding violations against a facility, which facility would be most suitable, and whether a bed is available.

To address this need, the legislature passed Act 213 in 2013 to require that starting January 1, 2015 DOH must post inspection reports to their website within five days.

The legislature even appropriated \$148,000 for positions to assist DOH in posting. However, DOH declined to spend the money and ignored the requirement to post reports until Kokua Council, advocates and concerned legislators began to complain.

Subsequently DOH selectively posted some inspection reports, but often redacted critical information from them. And then they stopped posting reports altogether.

By failing to post these reports, families have no idea whether a care facility is complying with even the minimum requirements for licensing. The alternative way to get reports—writing a letter to request them—can take as much as two weeks. In most cases, families do not have the time to wait for this information. That's why we have this law.

News coverage has been good ... now we ask for your support



Kokua Council’s lawsuit has had good news coverage—even a supportive editorial in the Star-Advertiser newspaper. But to get the Department of Health to post inspection reports as the law requires will involve convincing a judge that they must do that.

The lawsuit is filed. There will be some legal expenses ahead. **Can you help us build a legal fund that will help us win for Hawaii seniors and others needing long term care?**

Our goal is to raise funds to cover legal expenses needed in this and possible future actions. Please consider contributing to the legal fund by sending your contribution, no matter how small, with the coupon below.

Standing up to unwarranted service cuts takes guts. Guts we have. But to succeed will require everyone’s help.

Please don’t delay—send in your contribution as soon as possible. It will be used only to cover our legal expenses.

I want to contribute to Kokua Council’s Legal Fund. Please make checks payable to **Kokua Council** and mark them “Legal Fund” at the bottom. Please consult your tax adviser as to applicable tax deductions.

\$10.00
 \$25.00
 \$100.00
 \$250.00
 Other: _____

Date _____

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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



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

August 10 Kokua Council Windward: “Gun Control in Hawaii”
August 22 General Meeting: “Defining the Responsibilities of the Campaign Spending Commission”

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

President Marc Delorme	Secretary Helen Wagner, 247-7962, helennjeff@hawaii.rr.com
Treasurer /Advocacy Barbara Service, barbarajservice@gmail.com	Treasurer, Education Fund, T.J. Davies, tjdavies@juno.com
Charles Carole, Samuel Cox, Marilyn Seely, Jim Shon, Larry Geller	Newsletter editor: Larry Geller

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**.

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