

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH

Monday, June 26, 2017 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

12:00 Program: Dr. Mark A. Fridovich: "Mental Health Issues Facing Seniors"

Dr. Mark A. Fridovich is Administrator of the Hawaii Department of Health Adult Mental Health Division. He served as the Administrator of the Hawaii State Hospital (HSH) from August 2006 to the February 2013, at the end of the multiple-decade long US Department of Justice involvement with HSH and AMHD. Dr. Fridovich is also (Adjunct) Assistant Professor, University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. He is a doctoral level licensed psychologist and holds a Masters degree in public administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

1:00 Adjourn

Kokua Council Windward: Thursday, June 8, 2017: "Making Democracy Work"COMMUNITY WELCOME

Pohai Nani, Club Room, 2nd Floor, 45-090 Namoku Street, Kaneohe

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

12:30 Program: Pearl Johnson: "Making Democracy Work"

Pearl Johnson served as president of the League of Women Voters from 2000 to 2004. Pearl now hosts the League's television program, *Making Democracy Work*, which is aired the third Tuesday at 7 pm and repeated the following four Wednesdays at 5:30 pm on Olelo channel 53. Ms. Johnson will share some of the major highlights and issues of her television program.

1:30 Adjourn

The CARE Act goes into effect July 1, 2017—Requiring hospitals to instruct caregivers at time of discharge

Governor David Ige signed the CARE Act (HB 2252, Act 69) on June 16, 2016. It goes into effect on July 1, 2017.

By that date hospitals should have adopted and maintained written discharge policies consistent with updates to federal regulations—but in addition, **they will be required to explain** *and demonstrate* **medical and nursing tasks required of family caregivers after discharge**.

Senior advocacy organizations including the Hawaii Caregivers Coalition, AARP and Kokua Council fought for this new legislation over a number of legislative sessions. It had the support of the legislative Kupuna Caucus and many individual senators and representatives.

The CARE Act requires Hawaii's acute hospitals to:

- Provide the patient with the opportunity to designate a caregiver (family, friend, neighbor, etc.) on their medical record when the patient is admitted
- Notify the caregiver prior to the patient's release or transfer to another facility
- Offer to instruct the caregiver on how to perform tasks at home once the patient is discharged. Tasks might include, for example, medication management, injections and wound care.

The CARE Act helps family caregivers when their loved ones go into the hospital and as they transition home.

Kokua Council will be reviewing how the CARE Act might be monitored. For now, it is important that the information be available to patients and families. Kokua Council members can help by letting friends and families contemplating or experiencing hospital care situations after July 1 know that they will have the benefit of this new law.

Shining Light Awards honor dedicated senior advocates

Two Shining Light awards were given at the 11th annual post-legislative forum called *The Good*, *Bad and the Uqly* held at the State Capitol on May 24, 2017.

Each year the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) and Kokua Council present the HARA/Kokua Council Shining Light Awards to individuals and organizations who have demonstrated an understanding of issues important to seniors and who have been strong advocates for Hawaii's seniors.

This year two Shining Light Awards honored individuals who represent very different traditions of advocacy. One has been working on senior issues for 19 years. The other, while well known, has come to be the face and voice of a cause due to a personal situation.

John Radcliffe has been a long-time labor leader and lobbyist for a variety of clients and causes. However, it is only recently that his personal struggle with a life threatening illness has transformed him into a passionate and effective advocate for Death with Dignity legislation. That he has been willing to open up to the public his personal challenge has made his frequent testimony authentic and poignant.

John McDermott has been Hawaii's Long Term Care Ombudsman since 1998. For 19 years, he has spent his energies protecting Hawaii's most vulnerable adults. Some of his recent accomplishments include legislation requiring criminal background checks for those having contact with vulnerable adults, legislation requiring results of annual inspections and complaints regarding care facilities be posted on the DOH website, and legislation passed during the 2017 legislative session that funds part-time ombudsman positions for Kauai, Maui and Hawaii.

Progress of the Kokua Council v. DOH lawsuit

There should be details soon on the progress of Kokua Council's lawsuit filed to compel the Hawaii Department of Health to post long term care home inspection reports on their website as the law has required since January 2015.

Thanks to generous donations to Kokua Council's legal fund, the most recent hearing was held on June 15.

The next steps for our attorney will be to prepare an additional brief as requested by the judge of both parties. The briefs will address the issue of the extent of redactions required to protect patient privacy under HIPAA.

Reports already posted by DOH to their website often include redactions that Kokua Council holds have made them useless for the purpose intended by the law—that is, to provide critical information to families having to make rapid decisions about placing a loved one in a long-term care facility.

The lawsuit touches on various issues including the need to post *all* reports and to post them within the five days required by law.

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In the meantime, Kokua Council continues to seek a settlement with DOH that would resolve all issues in this case without further litigation.



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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April 13 Kokua Council Windward: "Historical Look at American Presidents and Their Wives" April 17 General Meeting: "Legislative last minute action"

Note date change this month to Monday April 17

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

Vice President Jim Shon Chejudo12@yahoo.com, Secretary Lyn Moku lmoku2016@hawaii.rr.com, Treasurer /Advocacy Barbara Service, barbarajservice@gmail.com Treasurer, Education Fund, T.J. Davies, tjdavies@juno.com, Board Members Charles Carole, Larry Geller, Marilyn Seely, Lila Mower, Helen Wagner, Newsletter editor: Larry Geller, Emeritus: Sam Cox, Laura Manis, Richard Miller.

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 emails. Our fiscal year starts in January. Please make checks payable to **Kokua Council**.

Individual Member \$10.00	Life Member \$	5100.00 Organi	zational Member \$25.00	
Donations: 501(c)(4) Advocacy	Education Fu	und: 501(c)(3)_	(Tax Deductible)	
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Mail to: Treasurer, Kokua Council, Harris United Methodist Church, 20 S. Vineyard Blvd., Honolulu, HI 9681