



PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH

Monday, July 24, 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: House Speaker Scott K. Saiki

Rep. Scott K. Saiki represents District 26, the urban Honolulu areas of McCully, Kaheka, Kakaako, and Downtown. He was first elected in 1996 and named Majority Leader in 2013. He became Speaker in the 2017 legislative session.

Representative Saiki was born in Honolulu. He Received his B.A. from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and his J.D. from the University of Hawaii at Manoa's William S. Richardson School of Law.

In addition to being a state representative, Saiki is a lawyer in private practice.

1:00 Adjourn

Kokua Council Windward: Thursday, August 10, 2017: “Alzheimers’: The Caregiver’s Perspective: From diagnosis to saying the long goodbye”
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 or Richard Miller 254-1796.

12:30 Program: Pearl Johnson: “Alzheimers’: The Caregiver’s Perspective: From diagnosis to saying the long goodbye”

1:30 Adjourn

Congress threatens senior programs

It's clearly a time of economic uncertainty for seniors nationally and in Hawaii. At this writing it appears that the US Senate is unable to pass either a repeal-and-replace of the Affordable Care Act or a straight repeal (with no replacement assured, of course). But by the time this newsletter hits your mailbox, the situation may have changed yet again. A repeal would gut Medicaid.

Seniors who are aware of the implications of repeal may know that the Congressional Budget Office projection in the event of repeal would mean that 19 million people would lose Medicaid coverage. Nationally, **Medicaid paid for 62.5% of long-term care expenditures** (in FY 2010). This figure is projected to increase steadily as the population ages. Only 4.4% was paid for via other public sources in that year. Hawaii's care industry would be devastated if Medicaid is cut.

It may be unthinkable that seniors would be booted out of care homes by an uncaring Congress, but the possibility is the source of daily nightmares for many.

Other cuts to essential programs are more likely—for example, funding for Meals On Wheels programs or SNAP (food stamps). 2.4 million seniors depend on a Meals on Wheels program, and still, **in 2016, 1 in 6 seniors are reported to struggle with hunger.**

Yet according to Trump's budget director, historically successful Meals on Wheels "doesn't work." That's one of those "alternative facts" that sadly a majority of our Congressional representatives are willing to swallow.

In addition to joining with local and national organizations opposing these cuts, it may be time for Hawaii seniors to review sources of assistance if uncertainly looms. While it's not possible to cover all of the senior programs and discounts available, we'll highlight a few here by way of illustration.



George Takei

@GeorgeTakei

Millions of seniors face empty plates every day due to cuts in [@_MealsOnWheels](#) funding. Join me, urge Congress to [#SaveLunch](#) for our seniors



9:37 AM · 10 Jul 17



Mark Takano

Meals on Wheels feeds 500,000 veterans every year.

Where does taking food from hungry veterans fit into the "America First" doctrine?



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SocialSecurityWorks @SSWorks · 6h

Trump's budget director says Meals on Wheels (which he wants to gut) is "not showing any results."

2.4 million seniors would disagree!

GOP'S ATTACK ON SENIORS



1 in 6 Seniors struggle with hunger. In 2016 alone, Meals on Wheels served over 2.4 million seniors.

President Trump's budget cuts funding for this program.

Some discounts and assistance programs for seniors

Senior voucher program

This first program has an expiration date—senior farmers’ market vouchers must be used by September 30, 2017. In the past application for the \$50 vouchers was inconvenient, but this year applications may be submitted by mail in addition to in-person.

Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program June 21 - September 30, 2017



Recipients must be 60 years of age or older and have a household annual income of less than \$25,290 for a single person or \$34,096 for a couple.

For information and an application form, go to <http://www.hawaiifoodbank.org/senior-farmers-market> . For those without a computer at home, try the nearest public library for access and assistance.

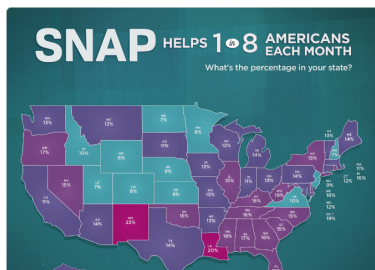
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)



Poor seniors are particularly vulnerable to the consequences of food insecurity. #SNAP helps: bit.ly/2v0F0xL #ThisIsSNAP

SNAP (formerly known as “food stamps”) is a [USDA program](#).

“SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net”.



SNAP can be used at farmers’ markets to buy produce that is extra-fresh, and of course can be used at supermarkets for qualifying items.

Helping Hands Hawaii provides assistance in applying for SNAP benefits. Call them at (808) 440-3812—they will assist with the application process, including pre-screening on the

phone.

Senior discounts

AAA and AARP members receive discounts from national chains and local stores—members should check with those organizations for current lists. Also check these websites: SeniorDiscounts.com (put your city in the search box) and <http://kikutv.com/senior-discounts/> .



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

July 24 General Meeting: House Speaker Scott K. Saiki

August 10 Kokua Council Windward: "Alzheimers": The Caregiver's Perspective: From diagnosis to saying the long goodbye"

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



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