



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH

Every Fourth Monday ~ 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Miyama Main Hall, Harris United Methodist Church,
Nuuanu Ave. and South Vineyard Blvd., ample free parking—driveway off Nuuanu Ave.**

Monday, August 27, 2018

Consumer Protection and Challenges For Seniors in Condos

Featuring

**Representatives of the State's Real Estate Branch
(Condo Specialists),**

**Daria Loy-Goto of the Regulated Industries Complaints Office and
Lourdes Scheibert, condo owner/board member/advocate**

Kokua Council Windward

Thursday, August 16, 2018

(Meetings now held on the third Thursday of every month)

12:30-1:30 p.m. Pohai Nani, 2nd Floor Club Room

“Aging Well” with Percy Ihara

Percy is the publisher and editor of Generations Magazine, Hawaii's resource magazine for seniors and their families. He is also a new member of Kokua Council's Board of Directors.

**KOKUA COUNCIL WELCOMES THREE NEW MEMBERS OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Percy Ihara, Rose Nakamura, and Lourdes Scheibert**

The Complications of Condos

- A Condo has its own limited, less transparent democratic rules, limited oversight over its governance, and a “taxation” scheme (maintenance fees) not based on income or unit value (unlike that for single family dwellings).
- The Board of Directors and a small group of owners tend to control the decisions that have a financial impact on residents. Major cost items may result in residents of limited income or finances losing ownership of their units.
- Falls under completely *separate regulatory and consumer protection section of the law* that is less robust than for other segments of the community.
- Completely separate advocacy groups, representing condos as businesses or representing condos as communities.
- The likelihood that the most vulnerable seniors are older women, who have had less lifetime income, and thus less retirement payments (if any at all) and less social security payments.
- General increased privacy of residents, which means it is possible that a resident is not known by neighbors, which means their needs may not be known. Issues relating to sanitation, hoarding, forgetfulness with water and appliances, and dementia or other frailties may make it difficult to respond to challenges that impact other residents.
- Increased vulnerability in the loss of electricity in the building, during fire, or a longer-term issue, i.e. natural disasters such as a hurricane hitting Oahu. While many condos have generators, not all are capable of running an elevator.
- Hit and miss interest and capacity of resident managers to keep track of or monitor the more vulnerable, manage the population or the property.
- Indirect outsourced management companies which may or may not have trained and licensed agents which has implications for costs and safety improvements.

Mahalo to the following LG candidates who participated in the July Kokua Council "debate" and discussion on the future of the LG office and what skills, knowledge, values and policies each would bring to that office.

Bernard CARVALHO (D),
Will ESPERO (D),
Josh GREEN (D),
Kim Coco IWAMOTO (D),
Steve LIPSCOMB (R),
Jeremy LOW(R),
Jill TOKUDA (D)

Are you paying attention to this race? Here is a short quiz. Of those who attended:

- Who opposes a Constitutional Convention?
- Who worked for the City & County?
- Who was once a student member of the Board of Education?
- Who played a professional sport?
- Who was a voting member of the Board of Education?
- Who worked on the legislative staff of a former 1978 Con Con Delegate?
- Who works in the health care industry?
- Who chaired a legislative housing committee?
- Who is retired military?
- How many of these CANNOT run for their current office?



Jeremy Low, Steve Lipscomb, Kim Coco Iwamoto, Jim Shon, Josh Green, Jill Tokuda, Bernard Carvalho, Will Espero



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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Who Are We?

The **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 & South Vineyard Blvd., Ample parking and a light lunch are provided for \$5.00 Donation. **REACH US:** c/o Harris United Methodist Church, 20 South Vineyard Blvd, 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."

YOUR 2018 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Board and attending community members elected the 2017 Kokua Council Officers and Board Members. **Officers:** President -- Jim Shon, 282-1509; Secretary – Kathy Wyatt; VPs: Barbara Service and Lila Mower; Treasurer – Barbara Service, 352-7779. **Board Members:** Charles Carole; T. J. Davies, tjdavies@juno.com ; Larry Geller, 540-1928; Percy Ihara 234-3117; Rose Nakamura 732-7904; Lourdes Scheibert; Helen Wagner, Emeritus: Sam Cox, 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 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 So. Vineyard Blvd, Honolulu, HI 96813