



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH**

**Monday, APRIL 26, 2010**

**11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Miyama Main Hall, Harris United Methodist Church  
Nuuanu Ave. and South Vineyard Blvd.  
Ample parking - driveway off Nuuanu Ave.

**Agenda:**

11:30 **Luncheon: Various Pizzas, Salad, and Dessert**—\$5.00 Donation

11:45 Welcome, Introductions and Remarks, Larry Geller, President

**12:00 Program:** Rob Perez, Staff Reporter for the *Honolulu Advertiser*, "**Are We Ready for the Silver Tsunami?**" Perez is the author of the amazing special report series on problems facing elders needing services published in the *Honolulu Advertiser*, March 28-31.

12:30 Questions and Answers

12:45 Announcements

1:00 Adjourn

**Lunch Host: Grace Furukawa**

**BOARD MEETING:** 10:00 a.m. Preceding Lunch

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**KOKUA COUNCIL BOARD VOTES TO SUPPORT 1% G.E.T. INCREASE**

After considerable discussion, Kokua Council decided to join other organizations and support a temporary increase in the G.E.T. rather than see further cuts in services and lay-offs.

At a recent economic forum held at the state capitol, four economists agreed that spending cuts have only worsened the effects of the recession. "Budget cuts effect tax revenues for the State, effect economic growth and result in more claims for unemployment and claims for assistance through welfare. We can't continue to cut spending because this furthers the negative impact on the economy, leading to lower tax revenues. It is a vicious cycle that we have to end." *William Boyd*, U.H. "When we cut social services, we will

pay later in economic and human costs." *Paul Brewbaker*, TZ Economics.

They noted that tourists would pay 38% of the increase, that the tax will sunset in 3 years. The increase will amount to one cent on every dollar, 10 cents on every 10 dollars. This along with decreases in tax exemptions, using funds from the rainy day fund and other measures will balance the budget.

Other supporters of the increase are HGEA, ILWU, AFSCME, Interfaith Alliance, HARA, National Association of Social Workers-Hawaii, PHOCUSED, Lanakila Meals on Wheels, U.H. Professional Assembly, UPW, PABEA and Methodist Division of Church Society. (Bill Number HB2877)

## NOTES FROM MARCH MEETING—Project Dana

Project Dana was founded in 1989 by Rose Nakamura (the guest speaker) and Shim Kanazawa. The award-winning program provides support services for frail elderly and disabled persons. Following Buddhist principles, it is an interfaith cooperative effort using volunteers from congregations and organizations giving their time and energy to provide compassion and care without reward or recognition.

### SERVICES

Home visits	Home Safety Assessments	Minor Home Repairs
Telephone Visits	Home Safety Assessments	Light Housekeeping
Respite Care	Hospital & Care Home	Transportation
Family Care Support	visits	

They also train and educate volunteers within their organizations, encourage organizations to care for their own members and reach out to the community, receive referrals from agencies and individuals, and match volunteers to those needing assistance.

Mike Hirano, Project Dana home safety staff, presented some frightening statistics:

- Fifty-one % of deaths among elders are caused by falls occurring in the home, mostly between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- 61% are women.
- Falls commonly occur in the bathroom, bedroom and kitchen.

Possible suggestions for home modifications include nightlights, grab bars, non-skid strips, shower seat, portable tub rail, and raised toilet seat.

For more information on Project Dana or for a free home safety assessment, contact: 945-3736.

### DON'T FORGET!

Time to pay your 2010 Kokua Council Dues! Look at your address label to see the last payment date. Individual dues continue to be \$5.00, Lifetime \$100, Organization \$25.

Send payments to:

Kokua Council, Harris United Methodist Church, 20 S. Vineyard, Honolulu HI 96813.

Donations are welcome.

Check our website at [www.kokuacouncil.org](http://www.kokuacouncil.org)

### SAFEGUARD NUMBER #2: DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY

Elder law experts recommend that durable powers of attorney include provisions to promote autonomy and protect against abuse by the agent who is being granted powers. These may include:

- A clear statement of agent's duties.
- Guidance on how to determine whether incapacity has occurred.
- Annual accounting of money invested and spent to a third party, such as a relative or adviser.
- A limit to the size of the gifts your agent can give in your name.
- Signature of a second person on checks or money transfers higher than a certain amount.
- Specific language regarding disposal of property, gifts, substantially altering an estate plan or changing beneficiary designations. What to do if an agent resigns.
- Termination of a spouse-agent's authority if the marriage ends.
- Giving someone else the right to "fire" the agent.
- Remedies and sanctions for abuse, such as restoring the value of mishandled assets and reimbursement of legal costs.

*Dept. of Human Services Adult Protective Services, U.H. Elder Law Program*

**PASSED. SENATE RESOLUTION SR35—URGES PROVIDING OF EDUCATION TO INCARCERATED PARENTS TO ENSURE CHILD SUPPORT ISSUES ARE ADDRESSED WITHOUT DELAY AND UPON RELEASE, TO PREPARE THEM FOR REINTEGRATION WITH THEIR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, INCLUDING GRANDPARENTS WHO HAVE RAISED THEIR CHILDREN.**

## **HEALTH REFORM BILL**

### **Provisions Effective in 6 Months (2010)**

- Provides \$250 rebate for Medicare beneficiaries who fall in the doughnut hole in 2010 (50% discount on drugs goes into effect in 2011 for individuals in the doughnut hole)
- In 2011, seniors in Medicare will receive free annual check-ups and will not have to pay a co-payment for mammograms, colonoscopies and other preventive screenings
- Creates a \$5 billion reinsurance fund to help employers who provide health benefits to early retirees ages 55 to 64 (goes into effect in 90 days)
- Eliminates pre-existing conditions for non-dependent children up to age 26
- Prohibits insurers from placing lifetime limits on coverage
- *Restricts* new plan's use of annual limits on coverage
- Prohibits rescission or dropping coverage when individuals became sick
- Provides \$5 billion to states to create high risk insurance pool for individuals denied insurance due to pre-existing condition and have been without insurance for six months (goes into effect in 90 days)
- Creates a public health and wellness fund and requires new private insurance plans to offer preventive services without co-payments
- Provides up to a 35 % tax credits to small business that offer health care coverage to their employees
- **In 2011** creates a voluntary long-term care insurance program to provide a cash benefit to help pay disabled people to stay in their homes or cover nursing home and assisted living costs. Benefits can begin 5 years after paying a fee for coverage. *For those employed and employer participates in program.*

*Congresswoman Mazie Hirono: "This is the single biggest debt reduction bill we have passed, which is expected to reduce the debt by \$134 billion." Hirono said to email her any questions you may have.*

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**Thursday, April 15, Noon to 1:30 p.m., U.H. Campus Center, Rooms 307-308. Careers in Aging** is a fun and free lunch event for persons to learn about the many exciting careers in aging. Speakers will be new professionals in the fields of nursing, law, public health, health research, and social work.

## **KUPUNA CARE AND THE RAINY DAY FUND**

We must continue to urge legislators to preserve the Rainy Day fund, SB2469, for its intended purpose, that is, maintenance of safety net health and human service programs. The Rainy Day law specifically prohibits use of the fund for collective bargaining, i.e., educational furloughs. Kupuna Care, our top priority is included in this bill along with other services we support: Meals on Wheels, the One-Stop Centers, other community and home services.

HB 2200 Relating to the State Budget has a "placeholder" appropriation of \$1.00 for Kupuna Care. This is the omnibus bill for the state's base budget.



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

**Who Are We?**

The **Kokua Council** is one of Hawaii’s oldest advocacy groups. There is a \$5 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., Ample parking and a light lunch are provided for \$5. **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. “

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<b>Website</b>	<b><a href="http://www.kokuacouncil.org">www.kokuacouncil.org</a></b>		

**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.

<b>INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>LIFE MEMBER</b>	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>DONATIONS</b>
____\$5.00	____\$100.00	____\$25.00	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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