



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

Please join us for lunch

MONDAY, August 24, 2009

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:** Spinach Lasagna, by Karen Yim-Camarillo, Salad, Drinks, Dessert by Eloise, \$5.00 Donation
- 11:45 Welcome:** Introductions and Remarks, Larry Geller, President
- 12:00 Program:** Jacob Silva, St. Francis Healthcare System, "Stay Healthy At Home," an alternative for families contemplating use of long-term care facilities? Silva has 18 years of clinical and managerial experience in the military and private sectors in California and Hawaii. Since June 2006, he has served as nursing supervisor of St. Francis Home Care Services. He also worked at Kaiser Permanente and Tripler Army Medical Center. He continues to serve as an Army Nurse in the U.S. Army Reserves.
- 12:45 Questions and Answers**
- 12:50 Announcements**
- 1: 00 Adjourn**

Lunch Host: Rose Ann Poyzer

Board meeting: 10:00 a.m. preceding lunch.

NOTES FROM JULY LUNCHEON MEETING: Speaker Pat Urieff, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
About 14,000 grandparents are raising about 35,000 grandchildren in Hawaii. However, they are forgotten in government materials listing resources available for caregivers. Not only do grandparents not know of resources but there is also a lack of communication between government and school administrators about their rights even when they present an official affidavit entitled Caregiver Consent. This affidavit, for example, permits grandparents to participate in parent-teacher conferences, permission for their grandchildren to participate in after school activities and for health care. Some schools do not notify them of these activities.

Other issues:

Statewide, seniors living in elderly public housing receive eviction notices whenever they provide care for a grandchild-in-crisis. They instead need reasonable time to find other affordable housing.

When a grandchild is removed from a home and placed in foster care, grandparents are often not thought of as a suitable, willing placement.

SMALL VICTORIES! *Tony Lenzer*

The 2009 Legislative Session was a disastrous one for Hawaii's elders, their families, disabled persons, and other vulnerable populations. The Legislature did not approve, or the Governor vetoed, legislation containing funding for many critical services. Nonetheless, four important bills were saved, either through Legislative overrides at the Special Session convened on July 15, or by the Governor allowing a bill to become law without her signature. However, the Governor has said she will not release any funds required by the bills.

House Bill 982: Establishes a new data collection system for family leave, and appropriates \$10,000 from the disability benefits special fund for this purpose. Today, over one-fourth of Hawaii's households have someone caring for a physically or mentally impaired older person. Over half of these caregivers are employed, and many indicate that their work is affected by caregiving responsibilities. Such data—from both the public and private sectors—is critical if Hawaii is to develop a 21st century family leave system

House Bill 1504: Creates the Hawaii Health Authority to develop a plan to provide universal health care in Hawaii. Current estimates are that 10% of our population lack health insurance coverage. However, the percent of those under age 65 who lack coverage is much higher, possibly 25% or more. These include the growing number of part-time workers, as well as others not covered under Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act. Uninsured people strain Hawaii's health resources, and sick

people represent a loss of productivity for Hawaii's employers and the State. Given the serious Congressional disagreements about financing, as well as the structure of such reforms, Hawaii would be well advised to move ahead with its own planning and later adjusted to fit whatever national reform legislation is enacted.

House Bill 1379: Creates a process for a patient to direct his or her end-of-life treatment via a standardized physician orders form. The form is signed by the patient (or surrogate) and the patient's physician, and all healthcare providers (including EMS Personnel and ER physicians) are required to comply with properly executed and signed forms. This instrument provides clear and immediate direction for healthcare providers, especially for patients who do not have an advance directive, or whose advanced directive is not available when end-of-life medical decisions must be made.

Senate Bill 415: Requires the Department of Health to license home care agencies. These agencies provide personal care and homemaker assistance to disabled persons and frail elders, and respite care for family members. Demand has increased due largely to the number of disabled and frail elders. At present, anyone can open a home care agency simply by getting a General Excise Tax license. There are no criminal history checks, training requirements, or ethical standards required. Home care agencies, like other health providers, should meet minimal standards and be licensed.

6 MYTHS ABOUT HEALTH CARE REFORM *Excerpted from AARP Magazine, 7/8/09*

- MYTH 1: Health Care Reform will lead to 'socialized' medicine.
The proposals being discussed build on our current system, involving both private insurers and government.
- MYTH 2: We can't afford health care reform with recession and budget deficit.
The most expensive thing is doing nothing at all.
- MYTH 3: My access to quality care will decline.
Lots of treatment doesn't mean you are getting good care.
- MYTH 4: The uninsured have access to good care-in the emergency room.
Emergency room care doesn't help you get the right information to prevent a condition or how to manage it.
- MYTH 5: It won't benefit people like me, who have insurance.
Nearly 266,000 companies dropped their employee's health coverage from 2000 to 2005.
- MYTH 6: Reforming our healthcare system will cost us more.
But over time the savings can be substantial.

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Mental Health America of Hawaii: Some of the things they do. Phone: 521-1846

- * Invisible Children's Project: Supporting children who have a parent with mental illness.
- * Teen Suicide Prevention: Helping peer, adults and faith-based organization identify and intervene with depressed/suicidal youth.
- * Transition Age Youth: Addressing needs of vulnerable at-risk young adults, those 16-26 years old who "age out" of care and have little support.

Hawaii Alliance of Retired Americans (HARA) Contact: Al Hamai, 839-4437

Announces the publication of their new quarterly local newsletter. They will be distributed at the Kokua Council lunch meetings. Publication date for Issue #1 is September 24.

Legislative Committee for Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA) will be starting discussions on legislative priorities for the 2010 session. The goal is to focus on no more than 4 priorities.

Legislative Kupuna Caucus: In July, the Caucus heard reports on studies by taskforces, bills that died in last session but are still alive or can be reintroduced, and new LTC community services, setting the groundwork for a legislative slate for 2010.

U.H. Center on Aging: Using the interest from a \$2 million bequest, Dr. Colette Browne is laying the groundwork for its structure and responsibilities.

Executive Office on Aging (EOA): Wes Lum, Ph.D, announced his resignation.

"I've decided that it's time to move on to pursue a dream. My last day will be on Wednesday, August 19, 2009. I wanted to let you know that my next step is to master multilevel marketing. I believe that mastering this business/social model is the first step toward... to realize my vision of revolutionizing how we plan and pay for home and community based LTC services." Dr. Lum is also the founder of the Hawaii Family Caregiver's Coalition. *Good Luck Wes!*

Kapi'olani Community College's TV Series Dedicated to Hawaii's Seniors and their Families!

Hosted by Cullen Hayashida & David Nakamaejo; August 24-December 15, 2009, Mondays at 8:30 p.m. & Tuesdays at 11:30 p.m. on Channel 55 (1/2 hr); **call to suggest topics or issues that you would like to see on Kupuna Connections Oahu—Call (808) 734-9469; email: cullen@hawaii.edu.**

September: 7, 8—Managing Your Medication; **14, 15—**Occupational Therapy on Home Modification; **21, 22—**Affordable Home Repair Loan Program; **28, 29—**Walkers: What's Available? How to Select?

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Congresswoman Mazie K. Hirono (D-Hawai'i) and a number of leading women's advocacy groups rallied to re-introduce the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

Only 35 states ratified the ERA last time around. Now, the process must begin all over again. "During these challenging economic times, the Equal Rights Amendment is more relevant than ever," said Hirono. "Women in Hawai'i still make just 69 cents for every dollar a man earns for performing the exact same work. There is no justice in that."

Hawai'i voters overwhelmingly voted to have an equality or rights amendment added to our state constitution. That Hawaii Constitutional amendment is identical to the ERA.

Text of the Equal Rights Amendment:

- Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.
- Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.
- Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

"The Graying of Hawaii" DVDs will be available again at the luncheon meeting.
They are free.



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 \$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. “

President	Larry Geller, 540-1928, lgeller@igc.org	Treasurer Ed. Fund	T.J. Davies, tjdavies@juno.com
Vice President	Tony Lenzer, 261-2095, tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com	Treasurer Advocacy	Evelyn Shepard, 595-4025
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Address changes: Lyn Moku 532-0806 lyn.moku@nmss.org		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 MEMBERS	LIFE MEMBER	ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS	DONATIONS
___\$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