



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

DECEMBER 2009



HAPPY HOLIDAYS--- NO LUNCHEON MEETING IN DECEMBER
See you January 26, 2010

BOARD RETREAT: DECEMBER 14, 2009, 9:00 AM until finished. Harris Methodist Church

THE BOARD RETREAT: AGENDA, PLANNING AND DECISIONS

- 2010 Kokua Council legislative priorities, assignment of lead advocates to each priority
 - Review and updating of strategic plan
 - Visits to new and key legislators
 - Involving and training willing members for advocacy
 - Luncheon program speakers
 - Nominating Committee for 2010 Board members
 - Community rating of Senior Services Providers
 - Posting Care Home data
- Other business

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 welcome.
Check our website at www.kokuacouncil.org

NOTES FROM NOVEMBER LUNCH MEETING WHAT'S AVAILABLE FOR CARE OF VETERANS

Rosemary Na'a, Medical Foster Home Coordinator: MFH is a partnership between adult foster home and a VA interdisciplinary home care team, granted initiative funds by Congress for Honolulu in 2008. The goal is to avoid institutional care. To become a MFH, the VA requires that the home be owned or rented by the caregiver and that the caregiver lives in the home, has 3 or fewer residents receiving care and veteran residents receive care from Home Based Primary Care. The veteran pays using pensions funds and Social Security. However, the VA provides case management and pays for medical care. In addition the care team includes a psychiatrist and pharmacist. Cost is about \$3500 to \$4000/mo compared to \$8000/mo in nursing homes. To start, only veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are considered.

Sara Tompkison, Caregiver Assistance Pilot Program: Caregivers must be at least 21 years of age, have formal or informal experience in patient care, must be physically able to provide the needed care and have a written backup plan if they become incapacitated, including the identification of relief persons. Must be able to communicate any significant changes in normal appearance, behavior, or state of health and follow treatment plan.

Mike Kitamura, Sen. Daniel Akaka's State Director: An Akaka bill that gave 10 million dollars country-wide to provide caregivers 30 days respite ended September 30. Sen. Akaka has introduced an Omnibus bill, Caregiver and Veteran Services Act, S1963. His motivation was that the welfare of vets is a cost of war, that families are also the victims, that there should be a choice to institutional care and that community and home care is less costly and probably better than institutional care. His bill furnishes medical benefits and monthly stipends to family members who stay home to care for seriously wounded in Afghanistan or Iraq. The bill passed the Senate 98-0 and is now going to House to negotiate the differences. It will take effect 27 days after enactment which may take 9 months.

KUPUNA CAUCUS 2010 LEGISLATION as of December 4

- Fall Prevention Task Force
- Extend LTC Commission Sunset Date to 2011
- Amend the current statues to allow the creation of one educational and medical consent form for children raised by grandparents and others
- Concurrent resolution regarding housing policies permitting grandparents to live in elderly housing projects until an alternative housing option is found when they care for their grandchildren in a crisis situation
- Home For Life Task Force extension
- Adult Residential Care Home Best Practices Bill

NEW WORD--- GREENWASHING

Greenwashing; the art of misleading the consumers over the environmental practices of a company or a product or a service. Signs of greenwashing; a nature scene, vague labels, high fashion reusable totes, a green hotel.

Look for an energy star rating, low flow toilets, and recycling practices.

HAWAII LEADS THE NATION! AUWE

- In elderly pedestrians killed
- In the number of teacher furlough days
- In lowest voter turnout
- In number of people reaching the doughnut hole
- **In number of people not returning the U. S. Census Bureau general questionnaire**

2010 - THE YEAR OF THE CENSUS: WHY THE U.S. CENSUS IS IMPORTANT

The Census Data is used to

- ✓ Reapportion seats in the House of Representatives
- ✓ Draw federal, state, and local legislative districts
- ✓ Distribute over \$300 billion in federal funds and even more in state funds
- ✓ Planning future government services
- ✓ Planning urban land use.
- ✓ Directing services to children and adults with limited English proficiency.

KEY Date: February-March 2010 Census questionnaire are mailed or delivered to households.

April 1, 2010 Census Day

If you are interested in a temporary job with the Census call toll free: 1-866-861-20

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Family Caregiver Coalition will have its family caregiver day and resource fair on Friday, Feb. 26, 2010 from 9:00am – 1:00 pm, 3rd. Fl., the State Capitol

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ATTITUDINAL FACTORS PREVENT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FROM FULLY PARTICIPATING IN OUR SOCIETY

- Twenty percent of people with disabilities over 18 do not finish high school.
- Thirty-three percent eat out in restaurants at least once a week.
- 71% aged 18-64 do not have jobs.
- They are almost twice as likely as non-disabled people to say that inadequate transportation is a problem.
- Lack of access to public buildings and bathrooms is the reason why 4 out of 10 do not participate in community activities such as going to church or voting.
- 21% report that, on one or more occasions, they did not get the medical services they needed in the last 12 months.

Changes in Application Procedure Effect Access to Handi-Van.

As of October 14, applicants are being required to **appear in person** and be assessed to determine their eligibility for renewal or for initial Handi-Van card. The Honolulu County Commission on the Status of Women has asked for clarification on issues that can place additional hardship on elderly and disabled.

- ❖ What was the reason for the change?
- ❖ Since the Handi-Van will be unavailable until approval, what plans have been made to help people get to their in-person assessment?
- ❖ What are the qualifications of those doing the assessment?
- ❖ What is the wait time for an appointment?

JOB OPENING

Child & Family Service is looking for a Case Manager to provide linkages between respite workers and family caregivers. Case manager would provide assessment of the caregiving situation, linkage to workers, counseling to reduce caregiver stress, guidance on being an employer of respite workers. Also prescreen respite workers and maintain a database of workers. Good telephone and communications skills a must. Fast paced environment requires an organized individual.

Job requires a Bachelors Degree and 1 year experience in the Social Service Field. Helpful to have experience working with Seniors and Caregivers.

For more information, please contact Valerie Taylor, Program Director, at 543-8468 or visit their website at <http://www.childandfamilyservice.org/openings.php>



Kokua Council for Senior Citizens
of Hawaii Education Fund, Inc.
20 South Vineyard Blvd.
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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. “

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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