



**WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH**

**Monday, February 22, 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, Dessert**—\$5.00 Donation
- 11:45 Welcome, Introductions and Remarks, Larry Geller, President
- 11:55 **2010 Census**
- 12:00 **Program: “Together We Can”, Elizabeth Bethea, New Director of the Elderly Affairs Department (EAD) of the City and County of Honolulu. She has been in Social work practice for over 30 years, specializing in gerontology, direct practice, community organization, program administration and staff development training. Formerly, Bethea was Branch Chief for the Adult & Community Care Services Branch in State of Hawai’i, Dept. of Human Services.**
- 12:30 Questions and Answers
- 12:45 Announcements
- 1:00 Adjourn

**Lunch Host: Tony Lenzer, Beatrice Terumoto**

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

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)

**2010 Board of Directors**

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Larry Geller, President Tony Lenzer, First Vice-President Laura Manis, Second Vice-President Lynda Gretz, Secretary Evelyn Shepard, Treasurer	George Fox Jim Shon Marilyn Seely Charles Carole Richard Miller <b>Wes Lum</b>	T.J. Davies Lyn Moku Phyllis Hiramatsu Rose Ann Poyzer Eloise Monserrat

## **NOTES FROM JANUARY MEETING-WHAT IN THE WORLD IS POLST(Physicians Order for Life Sustaining Treatment)**

The Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) program is designed to improve the quality of care people receive at the end of life. It is based on effective communication of patient wishes, documentation of medical orders on a brightly colored form and a promise by health care professionals to honor these wishes. Time has shown the flaws in implementing the present Advanced Directives leading to the development of POLST.

1. POST is a distillation of the Advanced Directive. It allows EMS to follow these orders.
2. The POLST form allows you to make a decision along the whole continuum of care from no resuscitation to full resuscitation.
3. POLST must be signed by the patient or decision maker and the physician who has examined them. The patient or decision maker can revoke POLST at any time.

Copies should be given to M.Ds, hospitals and posted on refrigerator doors

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### **KOKUA COUNCIL SUPPORTS CIVIL UNIONS BILL**

Kokua Council wrote to House Speaker Calvin Say and members of the House to explain why HB444, the civil unions bill, should be passed by the State Legislature. Former representative Jim Shon wrote the message for the Board. "Among our concerns are the complex and expensive financial and legal challenges that seniors face, particularly those for whom marriage is not an option.

"Many who would benefit from this bill are facing their retirement years with much uncertainty as to their ability to fully support their loved ones. Please take this step to assist many seniors in Hawaii who may not have the benefit of or be able to afford expensive legal services. We urge you to vote in favor of this bill."

Speaking from personal experience, Shon wrote: "This bill probably is not seen as a senior citizen bill, but they are probably the group most directly affected. I personally have had member of my family who in their later years chose to live together, aunts who never married, etc., and they would certainly have benefited from this."

Our support of Civil Unions is one of our continuing efforts. We supported it in 2007 and also in 2008. Advocates from Lambda Legal and the ACLU of Hawaii announced the next move in this struggle for equal rights in the Aloha state – to pursue this matter in Hawaii state court.

### **KOKUA COUNCIL AT FAMILY CAREGIVER DAY**

We will have TABLE AND DISPLAY at Family Caregiver Day and resource fair on Friday, Feb. 26, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m., 3rd. Fl., the State Capitol. On display and for distribution will be our 2010 Legislative Priorities, newsletters, instructions on how to advocate **AND** a drawing for a gift card for Consolidated Theaters.

### **CHANGES COULD MAKE MORE SENIORS ELIGIBLE FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG HELP IN 2010**

Beginning the first of this year, changes in Medicare began making it easier for some beneficiaries to qualify for additional help with their prescription drug plan costs. Under the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, seniors will no longer have to count help that they receive from someone else toward their expenses - including rent, mortgage, heat, food and property taxes - as income. Also, life insurance policies will no longer count as a resource when determining eligibility. For more information on eligibility, visit <http://bit.ly/3DdoA> or watch the webinar at <http://bit.ly/6arF1c>. You can apply for the program online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), by calling 1-800-772-1213, or by applying at your local Social Security office.

**MOST USEFUL ROOM AT THE CAPITOL: THE ACCESS ROOM**

Learn about their tools and help in advocating; tracking bills, how a bill is passed, writing testimony, best way to testify at a hearing, sending in testimony and more!

**Come to a 'Drop In' Workshop at the Public Access Room (Room 401, State Capitol)**

**Tuesdays, 12 noon – 1 p.m. Thursdays, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.**

**No need to register, just show up and let us know you're ready to learn!**

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### **ADVOCACY FOR JUSTICE AWARD**

**Inaugural Recipient: Kat Brady & Community Alliance on Prisons**

Community Alliance on Prisons is pleased to announce that Kat Brady and the community initiative she has coordinated for more than a decade was the first recipient of the Advocacy for Justice Award at the CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY & JUSTICE STUDIES MINI-CONFERENCE on Thursday, February 4, 2010 at the Ala Moana Hotel.

Renowned criminologist, Meda Chesney-Lind, who nominated Community Alliance on Prisons for the award said, “Kat Brady is admirable and this is a well deserved award for all the untold hours she has worked on behalf of those who have so little access to the corridors of power. She has spoken with and for them, and does it tirelessly and with good humor (and most of all) persistence.”

Sen. Will Espero, Chair of the Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee in the Senate said, “Kat has definitely earned this special award. Her initiative and tireless efforts is a model for commitment and dedication to a cause. She is an effective advocate.”

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### **GETTING TO KNOW OUR FRIENDS**

- **HARA:** Hawaii Alliance of Retired Americans, Has a national affiliation, represents 17,000 retirees, mostly retired workers, advocates for increased funding for Kupuna Care, family caregivers, posting on WEB evaluations of care and foster homes, lowering Rx drugs, Long Term Care.
  - **PABEA:** Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs, Legislative Committee, prioritizes legislative proposals affecting older adults and advocates on behalf of PABEA.
  - **PHOCUSED:** Promotes the delivery of health and Human services to vulnerable populations. Advocating for funding for Kupuna Care.
  - **CAREGIVER COALITION:** Promotes education, support and outreach to nonprofessional, professional caregivers. Advocating for financial incentives and expanded respite services.
  - **GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN:** Supports legislation that will allow minor children under cared for by grandparents to receive necessary medical and educational needs.
  - **ELDERLY AFFAIRS DIVISION (EAD)** attend February meeting to find out!
  - **COMMON CAUSE:** Nonpartisan grassroots organization advocating for publicly funded elections, increased disclosure and lobbyist reforms.
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### **MABEL MCCONNELL 1908-2010, CHARTER MEMBER OF KOKUA COUNCIL**

“I knew Mabel since the 1980s when we organized the Kokua Council for Senior Citizens at Moiliili Community Center. She was one of the charter members. She was a Senior Citizens Vista Worker assigned to Moiliili Community Center when I was the Executive Director. In addition to her work with Kokua Council she helped organize health screening at MCC. She came to us after she was laid off from the Department of Health under mandatory retirement (which she protested vehemently as age discrimination).

She was also a founder of the Senior Citizens Computer Network (called Senior Net) and coordinated Computer Training at Pohai Nani , when computers and internet were still unfamiliar. Kokua Council helped get grants for the initial computers and instructors.” *Sam Cox*

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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. "

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
Vice President	Laura Manis, 597-8838, manis@lava.net	General Info	Eloise Monsarrat, 839-1545
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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>	
___\$5.00	___\$100.00	___\$25.00	<b>DONATIONS</b> _____

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