



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH

Monday, February 28, 2011

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 by Marilyn—\$5.00 Donation**

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

12:00 Program: Dr. Wes Lum, New Director of the Executive Office on Aging. “Challenges for the Elderly in Hard Times”. Dr. Lum formerly headed the Caregiver Coalition among other responsibilities involving the elderly.

12:20 **Questions and Answers**

1:00 **Adjourn**

Lunch Host: Diane Stowell

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

TIME TO PAY YOUR 2011 KOKUA COUNCIL DUES. Look at your address label to see last payment date. Individual dues continue to be \$5.00. Lifetime: \$100, Organization: \$25.00. Send payments to Kokua Council, Harris Methodist Church, 20 S. Vineyard, Honolulu HI 96813. Donations are welcomed. Check our website at www.kokuacouncil.org

CLARIFICATION ON KUPUNA CARE FUNDING.

The funds recently released for Kupuna care is in addition to funds already in the State's base budget. Additional funds are needed to help shorten the long waiting lists for services because of our aging population. Kokua Council advocates for these funds be added to the base budget, to alleviate the necessity of going to the legislature each session.

GOV. ABERCROMBIE ON PENSION TAX

“My proposal will create no additional burden on people who really need this tax break. The proposal will affect individuals with an annual federal Adjusted Gross Income of \$37,500 for single filers and \$75,000 for couples.” *Star-Advertiser. 2/6/11*

NOTES FROM JANUARY LUNCHEON: Joy Yadao, St. Francis Palliative Care

Palliative care at St. Francis differs from Hospice Care and is not just pain relief any more. It is for anyone with a serious illness who wants to make sure that whatever future the rest of their lives may hold, someone will be there to help them be comfortable and be at peace. Care can be provided at any stage of an illness and at the same time as curative treatment. A team consisting of a doctor, social worker, nurse and minister after referral from your family physician will consult with the patient and family wherever the patient is, including all health care settings.

The goals are to enhance the quality of life for the patient and family and help them understand and discuss life decisions. At present, there is no waiting list and St. Francis Healthcare System absorbs the cost. Call 547-8068 for more information.

The Kupuna Caucus has introduced the following bills to help support the cost. SB941, HB512, Palliative Care, Requires policies of accident and health or sickness insurance to provide coverage for palliative care. Defines palliative care.

President's State of the Union Address Avoids Call to Cut Social Security

President Obama said, "To put us on solid ground, we should also find a bipartisan solution to strengthen Social Security for future generations. And we must do it without putting at risk current retirees, the most vulnerable, or people with disabilities; without slashing benefits for future generations; and without subjecting Americans' guaranteed retirement income to the whims of the stock market."

On Meet The Press recently, President of the Senate, Senator Harry Reid was asked if America should "fundamentally change" Social Security to deal with the national debt. Many other Democrats have flubbed this question, but Reid hit it out of the ballpark. He said: "One of the things that always troubles me is when we start talking about the debt, the first thing people do is run to Social Security. Social Security is a program that works...Stop picking on Social Security."

PAST KOKUA COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES WE MAY CONTINUE TO SUPPORT

The Board of Directors will be examining these issues in light of new information and changing times.

Death with Dignity	Legalization of Medical Marijuana,
Against legalization of gambling	Caregivers: respite (financial aid, training, house modifications)
Living Wage	Caregiving workforce development and training
Increase of affordable housing	Lowering the cost of Rx drugs
Pedestrian Safety,	Pre-paid Funeral Trusts plans (100% refunding, Oversight)
Support for the Homeless	State sponsored long term care insurance
Cash and Counseling	Against tax credits as solution to high cost LTC Insurance
Improve discharge planning	Improve case management services,
Licensing of Home Care Agencies	Increase and simplify access to community-based services
U.H Center on Aging	Expansion of LTC Ombudsman services to Neighbor islands
Home for life taskforce	Trigger date for appointments to task forces
Public Funding of elections	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Posting complaints on Informational practices Website	

Message from Public Access Room (PAR)

- The Legislature's website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov) has enhanced its committee pages – for any particular committee, you can now view not only its members, but also the measures currently in its hands, the hearings it has scheduled and news and information related to its proceedings. Just go to the “House” or “Senate” page, select “Committees” and go from there.
- Do you receive email alerts when a hearing is scheduled? Now that all the legislative committees have been formed, don't forget to update your alert list. And remember, you can also request to be advised when particular bills or resolutions are scheduled. Go to the “subscribe to hearing notices by e-mail” link on the Legislature's “Bill Status and Documents” page. We've attached helpful instructions here for those new to the alert procedures.
- Want to see all the bills introduced? Don't forget the ‘list of lists’ down near the bottom of the “Bill Status and Documents” page (the list is actually entitled, “2011 Regular Session Bills Introduced, Passed, and Vetoed”). This is where you'll find lists of all Senate Bills and House Bills, in a format that's easy to browse and export.
- Interested in seeing documents published on a particular day? This is also where you will find the links to the “Daily Documents” reports.

Questions? Call or email PAR, and we will be glad to assist you.

LETTER FROM SEN. DAN INOUE: “Last month, we lost out on the opportunity to pass an omnibus federal budget. The failed omnibus included 141 earmarks, totaling about \$321 million for Hawaii. These monies would have funded:

- Road construction and public transit buses for all the counties;
- Renewable energy initiatives in wind, solar, biomass and bioalgae, ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) and electric vehicles;
- Support for farmers and ranchers in the diversification of our agricultural base, and our need for food security;
- Greater access to quality health care, educational and job training opportunities for those most in need;
- Cutting-edge innovation in science and technology, supporting many of Hawaii's most promising high tech small businesses.

REAPPORTIONMENT PLANNING TO START.

This will effect the development of policy and distribution of resources. In Hawaii, The President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and the minority leaders from each house each select 2 redistricting commissioners and 4 advisory committee members. The commissioners then select a ninth member to become chair. This results with both Republicans and Democrats equally represented on the commission. The appointments must be made and the first meeting held by May 1. Their report is due 180 days later after holding at least 1 hearing on each island and is final unless challenged in court. This seems like a good system and politicians are not directly involved, Commissioners owe their positions to politicians and seem to be chosen to protect the interests of those who selected them.



Kokua Council for Senior Citizens of Hawaii Education Fund, Inc.
 20 South Vineyard Blvd.
 Honolulu, HI 96813
<http://www.kokuacouncil.org>

Return Service requested

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

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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