



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH

Monday, July 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: The Dilemma of Hospital Discharge Planning. Speakers:** Nancy Moser and Caroline Cadirao, Grants Managers for Executive Office on Aging
- 12:30 Questions and Answers
- 12:45 Announcements
- 1:00 Adjourn

Lunch Host: Rose Ann Poyzer

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

Notes from June Luncheon: What Does HAH Do for Seniors?

Coral Andrews, RN, MBA, Vice President, replaced scheduled speaker George Greene C.E.O. who was traveling out of state. The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is a non-profit organization representing Hawaii healthcare providers.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii worked with a range of stakeholders from the private and public sector to pass legislation requiring home care agencies to be licensed. Home care agencies provide services to consumers in their homes or home-like settings such as bathing, feeding, grocery shopping, etc. The services are consumer directed as opposed to home health services, which are physician directed and include services such as skilled nursing, physical therapy, etc.

Prior to the law being passed, a general excise license was all that was required for a home care agency to operate and have access to elderly and disabled in their homes. Nationwide, there is a trend toward requiring licensure with the goal of providing minimum protections in some of the following key areas: a criminal background check, a communicable disease check, and minimum competency training so that aides can assist consumers in the areas described above without causing jeopardy to the consumer.

A group of stakeholders is in the process of writing the Administrative Rules and all are hopeful that the appropriation to the support the regulatory staff in the Department of Health will be secured during the 2011 Legislative Session. *“We urge your continued support on this important measure so that consumers can be assisted in making appropriate choices when determining who should provide home care services to themselves and their loved ones”.*

Troubling Reports on Discharge Planning Leave Hospitals with Some Explaining to Do

With the health reform implementation process under way, some hospitals around the country have come under scrutiny for their cost containment measures and their high infection rates. For years now, hospitals have been discharging patients after shorter stays in order to save money, but a new study of Medicare heart failure patients seems to suggest that the shorter stays are not even cost-effective.

The study, conducted by a cardiologist at Yale University and set to be published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, concluded that patients who were discharged from the hospital after a short stay were more likely to return to the hospital for additional care within a month of their initial treatment, making the entire process very expensive. The data from the study found that while the length of hospital stays for heart failure patients declined by 26 percent, the readmission rate increased from 17.3 percent to 20.1 percent. To read the Wall Street Journal story on the study, go to <http://bit.ly/a7j4z6>.

Early discharges are not the only problem hospitals face, as high infection rates have left many fearful of going to the hospital. A Consumer Reports study of intensive care units at 926 hospitals across the country found that some hospitals have strikingly high infection rates.

SUGGESTED ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION WITH CANDIDATES

- A. Can anything be done about the Governor not releasing funds for bills passed by the legislature?
 - B. How to support home and community based services to keep frail elders off of Medicaid.
 - C. What is the most viable source of revenue for funding health and social services in the future, since the Emergency Budget Fund is only a temporary source?
-

POST SESSION FORUM—THE GOOD, BAD AND UGLY, Part 2 **Suggestions for 2011 legislation from attendees**

- **Mandate Hawaii Dept. of Education Administration to provide semiannual reports to the legislature to show how DOE's internal memos to all schools informs/instructs the implementation of ACT 99, Caregiver consent, training of staff to become aware of existing affidavits giving caregivers of minors authority to make decisions when parents are absent.**
- **Legalization of prostitution would provide revenue source, regulate health of prostitutes.**
- **Condemn portions of Estate Lands now fallow for use in building affordable housing.**
- **Consider a single payer plan for health care.**
- **Death with dignity.**
- **Moratorium on all government and union pay increases for the duration of the recession.**

In response to Rep. Finnegan's remarks, "The legislature doesn't have to share a six-year plan like the Governor". *They do and did consider the Governor's budget. In fact they adopted many of her recommendations. Editor*

More than 7 out of 10 people with Alzheimer's disease live at home where the family provides almost 75% of the care. A person with the disease will live an average of 8 years and as many as 20 years.

RECESSION AFFECTS OLDER WORKERS!

The number of unemployed workers age 55 and older increased by 331% from 2001 to 2009.

The unemployment rate for older persons today is well above what it has been for the past six decades. And the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has reported a dramatic uptick of age discrimination charges, with the highest number of charges ever filed in 2008—24,580, a 29% increase from 2007. *To Serve, AARP Foundation, summer 2010*

2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION ROUNDUP

Like the rest of the nation, the Hawaiian legislature made needed reforms in order to balance the state's \$1.2 billion budget deficit. The Democrat-led legislature used innovative ways to deal with the crisis - such as raising the taxes on petroleum products, a measure that lessens Hawaii's dependence on foreign oil and reinvests in renewable energy sources, and voting to reroute sitting monies from the Hurricane Relief Fund terminate teacher furloughs and ensure that students remain more days in the classrooms. Notably, the legislature had to override 11 out of 14 vetoes by their Governor.

PROGRESS: Not vetoed:

Our top priority, Senate Bill 2469, which includes an appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund (the Rainy Day Fund) for Kupuna Care services **has not been vetoed but still needs to have funds released by the Governor.**

HB1902 Extends sunset date for the Long Term Care Commission to 2012.

HCR 13 Extends deadline for Home for Life taskforce.

VETOED:

HB1212 Disallows the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs from disclosing pending complaints against a business or professional to the detriment of consumers who need the information for informed decision-making. **Hurray! We supported this veto.**

SB2472 Allows grand children of elderly housing project residents to temporarily reside with residents in certain family crisis situations.

SAFEGUARD #5: Another Health Care Myth Debunked: Taxing Health Benefits

With so much misinformation going around about health care, it is important to continue addressing the false rumors about reform as they arise. There is an internet scam regarding W-2 tax forms that has been in circulation since the passage of health care reform. In the health care reform law, there is a provision that W-2s will now have a box where the employer puts the cost of a worker or retiree's health care. Nothing is added to income. **It is simply a for-your-information box and does nothing to change a person's income or taxes owed.**

THIS AND THAT

1. Kilohana Senior Enrichment Center. The center is still awaiting approval of its proposal to provide Adult Day Health services. They've been waiting since last September.
Does anyone have a contact with organizations that would like to donate services--like musical performances for the seniors, sponsoring field trips, other service projects. Call 373-2700.
2. Project Dana PIN grant. Project Dana is looking for "persons in need" who are receiving respite care at Day Care or Day Health centers and may qualify for a \$600 grant.
Contact Project Dana for information. 945-3736
3. Hawaii Meals on Wheels. Joanne announced that Hawaii Meals on Wheels is available to provide meals to seniors living from Hawaii Kai to Waipahu and Ewa. Hot meals are delivered by volunteers every weekday. Vendor kitchens prepare the meals.
4. Aging In Place Conference, July 31, 8:30 a. m. to 3:00 p. m., Ala Moana Hotel
5. A lawsuit was filed against the Department of Health by the law firm of Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing and the Hawai'i Disability Rights Center regarding damages to individuals caused by cutbacks in the Adult Mental Health Division.
6. Saturday, July 31 2010 marks the 167th anniversary of the restoration of the Hawaiian Kingdom Entertainment all day, 10:00am - 6:00pm. Thomas Square, Beretania and Victoria
7. August 13, 1:30, Room 229, Next Kupuna Caucus Meeting. Agenda: Housing, Silver Alert, Adult Protective Services, Healthy Partnerships.



Kokua Council for Senior Citizens
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<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
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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