



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

Please join us for lunch

MONDAY, June 22, 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: Various Pizzas, Salad, Drinks, Dessert by Eloise \$5.00 Donation

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

12:00 Program: “**Long Term Care: Threat to Hawaii’s Future?**”, **Stuart Ho**, AARP Hawaii State President and Chair of the Legislature’s Long Term Care Commission. Ho served as a director on TIAA-CREF Mutual Funds boards from the mid-1970s until the early 2000s. He also served as a University of Hawaii regent, state representative and as a member of a dozen corporate and charitable boards of directors.

12:30 Questions and Answers

12:50 Announcements

1:00 Adjourn

Lunch Host: John Cannell

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

On June 18 beginning at 7:30 p.m., PBS Hawaii will present a special two-hour Island Insights program featuring the 56 minute independent documentary “The Graying of Hawaii”. The film explores Hawaii’s planning and readiness to address the needs of our rapidly growing elder population. Some of the filming was done at a Kokuka Council meeting!

ST. FRANCIS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM INTRODUCES STAY HEALTHY AT HOME

A membership of \$600 a year, also available to caregivers, include home safety evaluation, health screenings, follow-up assessments, chronic disease self-management education, pharmacist medication reviews, information and referral and financial counseling. Pamela Witty-Oakland, chief administrator, says, “It’s an affordable alternative to assisted living facilities and nursing homes. It’s about \$1.37 a day for peace of mind, especially for caregivers who are working full-time and trying to care for an elderly parent.”

Tags Poll: National Security (5/14)

* 51% disagree with Cheney's statement that America is now less safe. 56% of Americans want a direct diplomatic engagement with Iran.

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES: Signed by the Governor:

Act 244 -- The Big Island Fair Elections Act remains intact for the 2010 maiden voyage. The Act permits the Big Island County Council to use Senate Bill 884 which did not end up raiding any money from the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund. Establishes pilot project for comprehensive public funding of Hawaii County Council Elections for three election cycles, beginning in 2010. House Bill 345 (which would have delayed Act 244) has been stopped.

Act 048 Requires employers to notify employees annually of their entitlement to family leave.

Act 058 Increases tax tobacco products to 60% of wholesale price and deposits 33% of proceeds into community health centers. Veto overridden.

PENDING SIGNATURE OF GOVERNOR (VETO DEADLINE IS JULY 15)

Family leave data collection(HB982). Expands data collection to private employers on number of employees using family leave. \$

Home Care Agencies (SB415) Protects consumers by requiring DOH to license home care agencies. \$

Universal Health Care(HB1504) Creates Health Authority to develop a comprehensive plan.

SUMMARY OF "GOOD, BAD AND UGLY FORUM *Contributed by Al Hamai, Pres. HARA*

Our 3rd Annual HARA/Kokua Council Legislative Review held on May 13 at the State Capitol, Conference Room 329 was in the words of several participants "the best so far."

We had about 75 participants, representing thirty one (31) senior advocate organizations. As in past Reviews, the topic of our Review was "The Good, Bad, and Ugly, An Assessment of the Past Session by Legislative Leaders." Our legislative session ended on May 8, so this was very timely topic. We had a session for the Senate President and the Speaker; a session with the majority leader of both houses, a report of the Legislature's Kupuna Caucus and Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place with legislators Chun Oakland, Lee and Thielen.

Each session was followed by questions and answers by participants. Finally, after the sessions, they were asked to suggest items for the consideration of the next legislature. They did it verbally and on index cards, which have been compiled and will be shared with the various organizations and legislators.

I opened the Review, welcomed the legislators and the participants and introduced **Larry Geller**, President of Kokua Council, a HARA affiliate, which joined HARA in co-sponsoring this 3rd Legislative Review. Larry and I co-hosted the Review. Before introducing the Senate President and the Speaker, I noted that this was a very difficult session because of the humongous deficit projected in the state budget. I noted that **HARA had taken a position that if given a choice of drastically cutting or**

eliminating the safety net programs for seniors, the poor, disadvantaged and student, or an increase in tax revenue, HARA favored an increase in revenues and that HARA members will make the shared sacrifices with other citizens to balance the state budget.

I commended the legislators for raising tax revenues, rather than making drastic cuts or eliminating the safety net programs. I asked the participants to join me in showing their support to the courageous legislators.

For the first time a reporter from the Star Bulletin attended this Review. A local TV sent a cameraman, who took some film, which was shown on the TV station, according to one of my friends.

Five senior advocates were honored and presented with the HARA/Kokua Council Shining Light Award:

1. **John Hayakawa**, legislative analyst, a community member of the HARA Board
2. **Wes Lum**, assistant specialist at the Center on Aging at the University of Hawaii,
3. **Michael Sumja**, Chair of PABEA,
4. **Rep. Cynthia Thielen**, Ass't Minority Leader,
5. **Laura Manis**, Vice President of Kokua Council and a member of the HARA Board

Thanks to Larry Geller and Joanne Kealoha for recording the Review; Representative **Tom Brower and Cynthia Nyross** of his staff for making the arrangement for our use of Conference Room 329; **Laura Manis**, Chair of Forum Arrangements Committee and all the participants. Mahalo to all of you.

SUGGESTED 2010 LEGISLATION FROM ATTENDEES AT 2009 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

“THE GOOD, BAD, AND UGLY”

- To have a Department of Aging at the cabinet level. Right now the Dept. of Health and DHS control all aging issues and do as they see fit.
- What happens to young people in foster care after they become 18 years old? I wasn't prepared to care for myself at age 18.
- Why do they keep making transitional housing where people must leave after 2 years? Is somebody checking on what services are offered these people to enable them to get out on their own.
- The greatest issue remains-finding an adequate funding basis for long-term care program services.
- Continued support for family caregivers; kupuna care funding, paid family leave, cash and counseling for non-Medicaid, posting care home inspections on web, ADRC funding. Also need more regulation to address problems in case management of foster homes-conflict of interest, case management in nursing homes without walls, independent of HMO's.
- Support examining legislation that would collect \$ from out-of-state property owners
- Support for HB818 (posting care home inspections on web), case management issue by Ohana Care and Evercare HMO's for Quest Expanded
- Tax and control use of marijuana would raise more money than tax on tobacco. Need to start talking about this.
- Affordable Long Term Care, civil union measure, Hawaii's sustainability, Kupuna Care.
- Interested in a definition of funeral authority.
- Long term care solutions, funding for Kupuna Care waitlist, ADRC, Senior centers, increase Medicaid match. We need to strength our safety net infra structure (home & community based services).
- Support Healthy Aging programs. For every \$1 invested in prevention/intervention returns on investment in medical cost savings \$5.60 in Hawaii.
- Who is checking on all the people living on the beach with children? Are there enough facilities provided for women needing to escape abusive partners?
- Get Dept. of Public Safety to improve program for parents exiting from incarceration; give info for reconnecting with their children, but do not interfere with caregivers and house rules for children until ex-con parents can take full responsibility. Incarcerated parent cannot pay child support, need support/information to inform court or parent must pay big bill when freed.
- Create accountability for both licensed case managers and HMO's providing LTC management for residential care since DHS has outsourced this service.
- Stop sending eviction notices when a senior living in public senior housing gets care of a grandchild in crisis. Instead provide a waiver for a time until the senior can find suitable housing.
- Democratic Party Kupuna Caucus: Aging @Home care options, assisted/escorted transport/transparent info on care facilities inspections, LTC options, promote wellness, prevention insurance coverage, adult protective services standards, coverage, services and budget.

Letters to Editor

Thank you again, and thank all the members for continuing to lead on Senior issues. Without this great group, those issues would fall to the back. We have a lot to do, and I'm grateful to be part of the action! Aging in place is important, as I see so many families trying to do this, but without having the necessary structures in place. The City must change its building code and lift restrictions on families adding rooms to house aging family members. I don't know if the Mayor has ever looked at this need. mahalo to all of you! *Cynthia Thielen*

“I strongly believe that Americans should have the choice of a public health insurance option operating alongside private plans. This will give them a better range of choices, make the healthcare market more competitive, and keep insurance companies honest.” *Pres. Barack Obama, Politico, June 3, 2009*



Kokua Council for Senior Citizens
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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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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	
___\$5.00	___\$100.00	___\$25.00	DONATIONS _____

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