



HAWAII'S VOICE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

NOTICE DATE CHANGE

Please join us for lunch
MONDAY, May 14, 2007

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 pizza, salad, Dessert by Eloise. \$5.00 donation

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

12:00 PROGRAM: HAWAII STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOSH GREEN, M.D. Successes and Disappointments on Health and Caregiving Bills – 2007. Preparing for 2008: Concerns, Studies, and Commissions. Dr. Green is Chair of the House Health Committee and was Chair of Health Care Taskforce.

12:30 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Lunch Host: Charles Shoppach

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 10:00 A.M. PRECEEDING LUNCH

NOTES FROM APRIL MEETING – Bruce Bottoroff

DIVIDED WE FAIL – A MOVEMENT FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

For most Americans, affordable health care and long-term financial security go hand in hand. Too many people struggle to pay for health care and worry whether they will have real retirement security. That's why AARP has launched Divided We Fail, a long-term campaign to amplify the voices of Americans who believe that health and long-term financial security are the most pressing domestic issues facing our nation and our community. Initial efforts will be framed around starting a conversation and generating "Millions of Voices for Change." AARP will collect your personal stories, concerns and ideas on our Web site and through our publications. We will then use your voices to pressure candidates and elected officials to end gridlock and develop bipartisan solutions for health and financial security.

Divided We Fail is about educating voters, building an army of people committed to change and publicizing candidates' positions, so that everyone can compare where they stand on these critical issues. For more information, or to join the Divided We Fail movement, call the AARP Hawaii state office at 808-545-6006.

THE RIGHT OF WAY: PEDESTRIAN AND DRIVER SAFETY TIP

Drivers: Look out for pedestrians that may be hidden from view by other vehicles that have stopped. Watch for pedestrians in the crosswalk as well as oncoming traffic when making a right or left turn.

Pedestrians: Look left, right, then left again for vehicular traffic before stepping into the roadway. Continue to look for oncoming vehicles while crossing.

Keep to the right of the crosswalk, and be patient and alert when crossing the street.

BIPARTISAN ELDER JUSTICE ACT INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), and Reps. Rahm Emanuel (D-IL) and Peter King (R-NY), introduced the Elder Justice Act on March 29th ([S. 1070](#) and [H.R. 1783](#)). NCOA is a Coordinating Committee member of the Elder Justice Coalition, a bipartisan, 525 member group which supports both bills.

The bills would:

- Establish an Elder Justice Coordinating Council chaired by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Attorney General and would include the head of every federal agency that is involved with elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Establish an Advisory Board to the Coordinating Council that would have 27 private citizen members who are experts and advocates on the issues surrounding elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Award grants to establish and operate both stationary and mobile forensic centers and to develop forensic expertise pertaining to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Provide a federal funding source for Adult Protective Services (APS) programs. Up to this point, there has not been dedicated federal money to support APS programs.
- Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out activities that provide incentives for individuals to train for, seek and maintain employment in long-term care facilities and provides funding through 2011 to support these activities.
- Address LTC staffing problems by establishing incentive grants to attract qualified staff, retain staff, training staff and management.
- Require all adjudications of criminal violations by nursing facilities or employees to be reported, as well as consumer rights information, on the official Nursing Home Compare Website.
- Improve the training of surveyors with respect to investigating allegations of abuse, neglect and misappropriation of property in programs and long-term care facilities that receive payments under Medicare and/or Medicaid.

To learn more about elder abuse, neglect and exploitation, visit the [National Center on Elder Abuse web site](#).

The Institute for the Future of Aging Services also released a report entitled "[The Long-Term Care Workforce: Can the Crises be Fixed?](#)" The report examines: (1) the composition of the long-term care workforce, why it is perceived to be in crises and future trends; (2) explores the range of options to ensure an adequate supply of competent long-term care professionals; and (3) identifies high-priority information gaps that will strengthen the evidence base for future workforce improvement.

EDEN AT HOME

The Eden Alternative is a wonderfully innovative concept for changing the delivery and environment of long term care facilities. They have recently shared the results of a pilot program here in Hawaii re-thinking how we care for our elders and each other in the home. A key concept is that the elder is an active participant in their care plan. Thus there are no "caregivers" or "care receivers" but there are "Care Partners".

Paying attention to only the physical needs is not enough. The bulk of suffering among our elders is loneliness, helplessness and boredom. An antidote to loneliness is easy access to human and animal companionship. Having the homebound elder participate in decisions concerning their daily life and care, not making decisions for them, is the antidote to helplessness. Creating an environment in which unexpected and unpredictable interactions and happenings can take place is an antidote to boredom.

YOU ARE INVITED

**2007 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW
"THE GOOD, BAD, AND UGLY"**

HEAR ASSESSMENT OF PAST SESSION BY LEGISLATIVE LEADERS:

SPONSORED BY THE HAWAII ALLIANCE OF RETIRED AMERICANS(HARA)

WHEN: JUNE 13, 2007, 8:30 TO NOON

WHERE: STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 329

A light lunch will be provided.

Key legislators will offer their perspective of the session and ideas for the next session. After their presentation, any member of the audience can suggest issues of concern for their consideration for the 2008 session.

Members of all Senior Advocacy groups have been invited to this event to encourage our combining forces in order to become more effective. Kokua Council has representatives on the Board of HARA. Our contribution to this effort is our Annual Community Forum in October where we hear concerns from all the groups and formulate our legislative priorities for the coming legislative session. Call 597-8838 to reserve a place.

2007 LEGISLATURE ENDS; HOW WE FARED

PASSED, Going to Governor for Signature

*Kokua Council Top Priority issues

*HB10 Mandates DHS to negotiate rebates with drug manufactures. But **Vetoed** by Governor.

*SB 1916 Support of family caregivers by appropriating funds for Kupuna Care and 1 Stop Centers, extending joint legislative Committee on family caregiving and includes grandparents raising grandchildren, requiring needs assessment of caregivers and families.

*SB12 Reinstalls oversight of Health Insurance by Insurance Commissioner, removes sunset date.

HB375 Increases penalties for drivers who fail to stop for pedestrians to \$150, to pedestrians who jaywalk to \$100. Pilot project to test crosswalk safety. Study adequate time to cross intersections.

*SB1184 Adult Protective Services changes dependent to vulnerable, allows department to investigate when adult has been abused OR is threatened with abuse.

SB1182 Increases Personal Needs Allowance from \$30 to \$50 for residents in LTC facilities.

Included in DHS budget: Provides comprehensive dental care for indigent adults (was HB325).

HB1337 Improves consumer protection in pre-paid funeral trusts.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING, Legislature allots 25 million to keep Kuhio Gardens affordable.

HB 807 Establishes Office of Long Term Care Ombudsman by statute.

DEAD

VOTER OWNED ELECTIONS, U.H. CENTER ON AGING, EXPANSION OF SAGEPLUS AND OMBUDSMAN SERVICES TO NEIGHBOR ISLANDS.



20 South Vineyard Blvd.
 Honolulu HI 96813
 www.kokuacouncil.org

Hawaii's Voice for a Better Future

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 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	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