



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE STATE CAPITOL FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL
POST LEGISLATIVE FORUM
"THE GOOD, BAD AND UGLY"

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2010
8:30 am to 1:00 pm
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 325
COST: FREE

Kokua Council and HARA (Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans) are cosponsoring this event. Key legislators will offer their view 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 2011 session. All Senior advocacy groups, Senior service providers and State Administrators are being invited to encourage combining our forces in order to be more effective.

Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

To reserve a space, please RSVP to Laura Manis at 597-8838 or manis@lava.net
**THE ABOVE EVENT REPLACES OUR REGULAR LUNCHEON MEETING AT HARRIS
METHODIST CHURCH.**

NOTES FROM MARCH MEETING—ROB PEREZ, Staff writer, Honolulu Advertiser

Perez actually started research for his series in 2008 when he did an article on nursing homes. His editor encouraged him to broaden his scope to all of long term care. Realizing the extent of the problems, he decided to focus on out-of-home care and leave in-home care for later. To prepare he looked at 3000 pages of documents, conducted about 500 interviews and found problems everywhere. He emphasized that there is good care to be had if you look. And that is one of the problems--how to look. For that reason, he said it is important to post on the web the results of care home inspections.

The public response to his series has been overwhelmingly favorable with people calling and emailing their own stories of their experiences in trying to get good placements and services for family members. He was shocked to learn that care home operators are not required to carry liability insurance.

In response to a question, he thought the most flagrant practice lies with hospital discharge planners. Some practices he mentioned included recommending care home operators who are friends but not qualified to care for the needs of the patient. Some get kickbacks. This results in bad placements and shuffling of the patient back to the hospital. In some cases, care home operators personally solicit clients who are still hospital patients raising the issue of invasion of privacy.

An appreciative audience told him they were anxiously awaiting his research on in-home care and wishing him luck in surviving the purchase of the Advertiser by the Star Bulletin.

DON'T FORGET!

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

LEGISLATIVE REPORT AS OF MAY 1ST

PASSED: SENT TO GOVERNOR

- SB2469 Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund (Rainy Day fund). Appropriates funds for Kupuna Care and other programs essential to public health and welfare. **Thanks to Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Sen. Donna Mercado Kim and Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland for their leadership. Please Call the Governor at 586-0034 and ask her to sign the bill and release the funds.**
- SB2473 Allows grandchildren of elderly housing project residents to temporarily reside with the residents in certain family crisis situations. Affords residents evicted for raising grandchildren-in-crisis in their housing project units priority status to return to project housing.
- SENATE RESOLUTION SR35 Urges providing of education to incarcerated parents to ensure child support issues are addressed without delay and upon release, to prepare them for reintegration with their children and families, including grandchildren who have raised their children.

Auwe! Senate voted to pass HB1212 which reduces public access to consumer complaints. 18 ayes, 7 nos. Call the Governor and tell her to veto bill, 586-0034 or Governor.Lingle@hawaii.gov

Governor's Sign or Veto deadlines*

The deadline varies according to when the bill was enrolled to the governor.

- If bill is enrolled to Governor before last 10 days of session (*on or before April 15th*): - **10 days** to sign or veto, otherwise it becomes law without signature.
- If bill is enrolled to Governor in the last 10 days of session (*April 16th or later*):- Intent to veto by **June 21st**; - bill becomes law without signature if neither signed nor vetoed by **July 6th**

TAXES AND TEA PARTIES

Last year's economic stimulus package cut federal taxes by \$232 billion. Most Americans are paying lower taxes this year than last but you wouldn't know it by the flurry of Tax Day Tea Party protests made up of activists protesting paying taxes.

This week the *New York Times* and the Gallup organization jointly released a poll of self-identified Tea Party supporters. While 92 percent of respondents believe the country is drifting toward socialism, nearly half also said either they or someone in their household benefits from either Social Security or Medicare.

"The thing about democracy, beloveds, is that it is not neat, orderly, or quiet. It requires a certain relish for confusion."— *Molly Ivins*

PEDESTRIAN FINES: DID YOU KNOW?

The Law is Clear: Violations	FINE
• Crossing on the "Don't Walk" or flashing signal	\$130
• Jay walking	\$130
• Entering/crossing a roadway closed to pedestrian traffic	\$130
• Failing to stop for pedestrians in same half of the roadway	\$130

SAFEGUARD NUMBER #3: With New Laws Come New Frauds

The New York Times' Calmes writes: "(Secretary of Health & Human Services) Sebelius wrote to state officials to urge that they take action against 'scam artists' reportedly marketing fake insurance policies to exploit the new law overhauling the health care system. 'Unfortunately, scam artists and criminals may be using the passage of these historic reforms as an opportunity to confuse and defraud the public,' Mrs. Sebelius said in a letter to state insurance commissioners and attorneys general. In the letter and in a speech at the National Press Club, she described reports of people setting up toll-free telephone numbers and going door-to-door peddling phony policies, in some cases falsely claiming that the new law established a limited enrollment period for buying government-subsidized insurance."
<http://nyti.ms/dqXJ52>

WHAT ARE THEY DOING!!!

Some of the largest U.S. health insurers are changing their accounting practices to book administration costs as medical costs in an attempt to circumvent new industry reforms, according to a U.S. Senate panel's report released on Thursday. Under the healthcare law passed in March, insurers must adjust their spending habits to meet new requirements. For example, large group plans must spend at least 85 cents of every premium dollar paid to them on actual medical care as opposed to administrative costs, while individual and small group plans must spend 80 cents.

For example, WellPoint Inc "has already 'reclassified' more than half a billion dollars of administrative expenses as medical expenses," it said.

You're invited to attend: Aging on Oahu: Understanding Care Options and Costs, FREE

Aging on Oahu: Understanding Care Options and Costs, Mission Memorial Auditorium. Saturday, June 5, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Register online at <http://agingonoahu.eventbrite.com> or by phone at 768-770

Part 1 (9:00 – 10:30 a.m.): Staying at Home. Learn about home and community based services like transportation, home delivered meals, chore services, home companion and case management. Find out about the "safety net" in our community for people who don't qualify for Medicaid yet don't have the resources to pay for the services they need. Featuring a panel of local non-profit service providers. Facilitated by Jackie Boland, Associate State Director for AARP Hawaii.

Part 2 (10:30 a.m. to noon.): Housing Options for Seniors: There may be a point in your life when you or the elders you care for feel the need to move to housing where long term care services are available on site. There are several types of long term care housing available on Oahu including Independent Living Facilities, Assisted Living facilities, Care Homes, Foster Care, and Nursing Homes. Find out more about each type of housing, how people are paying for them, and obstacles to accessing them. Presented by Geriatrician, Dr. Ritabelle Fernandes, MD, MPH, FACP. **Sponsored by the Elderly Affairs Division of the City and County of Honolulu and AARP Hawaii.**



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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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
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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