



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

Please join us for lunch

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 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 Subway Sandwiches, Salad, Drinks, Dessert by Eloise \$5.00 Donation

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

12:00 PROGRAM: WHAT'S AVAILABLE FOR CARE OF VETERANS. Sara Tompkison, MSW, Caregiver Assistance Pilot Program and Rosemary Na'a, Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Foster Home Coordinator, Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Worked with the severely mentally ill adult population at Kahi Mohala Partial Hospitalization Program and Assertive Community Treatment at Helping Hands Hawaii..

1:00 Adjourn and Announcement: No December Luncheon—Happy Holidays!

Lunch Host: Grace Furukawa

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

Board Retreat: December 7, 9:00 a.m.

NOTES FROM SIXTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORUM— OCTOBER 19, 2009

FRUSTRATION, WORRIES, SUGGESTIONS AND PERSISTENCE

The sixth annual Kokua Council Community Legislative Forum brought together over 60 representatives of the legislature, community organizations and concerned individuals to discuss community needs and concerns and to share ideas for legislative action in the coming session. The discussion this year of both the panelists and the audience were colored by the concern of everyone for a budget shortfall, the economic crisis and concern for the most vulnerable.

The Forum helps Kokua Council identify those issues that will be top legislative priorities for our organization. And, finally, the Forum is a way to encourage organizations to work together to achieve common goals and objectives. Kokua Council will continue to support past issues that are still pending. The following presents a summary of the issues presented by the Panel:

Rep. John Mizuno, Human Services Committee: In response to complaints he wants better oversight of case managers, to better control drug abuse, making Sudafed a schedule 5 drug requiring a doctor's prescription, creating a task force to better address domestic violence, to help curb obesity by requiring fast food establishments to list calorie information and voting by absentee ballots.

Rep. Marilyn Lee, Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving: Committee meets jointly with the Kupuna Caucus on the first Friday of each month, 2pm, State Capitol Room 229. The committee will support bills that provide service to help people age in place and extend time for the Home For Life Task Force. They intend to follow up the Paid Family Leave Act to see if the state started the process of collecting data?

Rep. Cynthia Thielen, Women's Commission Is working to pass a Silver Alert system with bipartisan support similar to the Amber Alert system as well as a progressive tax break for caregivers.

Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Kupuna Caucus: Working to preserve gains in Adult Protective Adult Services, Kupuna Care, and Senior Centers. Will follow up on task forces and commissions for Long Term Care, Fall Prevention, Grandparents Raising Grandparents, and fall prevention.

Rep. Michael Magaoay, Vice-Speaker, Suggested negotiating with Hawaiian Home Lands for use of land or existing structures in urban center to develop senior services.

Request from audience to post on the web amendments to bills at least 24 hours ahead to a hearing.

FROM ADVOCATE GROUPS AND PROVIDERS:

Doug Kreider, OASIS: is developing mental health improvement services to underserved populations and their caregivers, the elderly and the homeless. There is a need for sub acute services for those who don't qualify for aid.

Barbara Stanton, AARP: It is important to keep critical positions especially for services that bring in funds and where the most important person is dismissed. AARP is concerned that the administration is not releasing state funds needed to get matching Federal grants. AARP supports Kupuna Care, LTC taskforce funding, and will be watching the impact on seniors of any new taxes.

Bruce McCullough, HARA: Kupuna Care must be funded and money released to ease the wait-list. Other issues are lower prescription drug prices and Long Term Care funding. While HARA has always been against raising the GET in the past, the current fiscal crisis has changed their views and revenue raising should be considered.

Alex Santiago, PHOCUSED: We must all work together to support a key issue like Kupuna Care.

Kat Brady, WOMEN IN PRISONS: Prison reform: Mandatory sentences are too severe for nonviolent crimes and should be revised, incarcerated women must not be separated from families and sent to mainland, treatment cheaper than prison.

Debbie Shimizu, NASW: Will support civil unions, emergency contraception in hospital emergency rooms. The Silver Alert. She is alarmed at suggested change in the Handivan application process requiring handicapped people to be approved in person when they have no way to get to the application office.

Cullen Hayashida, Kapiolani Community College: The Kupuna Education Center is focusing on workforce development by training para-professionals and family members in LTC caregiving. Long term care financing and services must be supported.

Pat Urieff, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: 14,000 grandparents are raising 35,000 children here. Legislators, educators, government administrators need to include these Grandparents when writing legislation/directives for caregivers and education their workers re rules and regulations. Managers of public housing must give Grandparents reasonable time to find other housing when they suddenly are required to house their grandchildren. Two weeks is not enough.

Jeanne Ohta, Drup Policy Forum: Enhancing the medical marijuana program and instituting fines instead of jailing those who are arrested with less than 1 ounce of addictive substance.

Lyn Moku, Family Caregivers Coalition: The Coalition will focus on educating 2010 candidates on caregiver issues and will support funding for Kupuna Care.

Kent Anderson, Family Promise: Believes that everyone has a right to decent shelter and is supporting programs that help people become self-sufficient in order to obtain housing. Keep or increase rental housing trust fund, release city funds for affordable housing.

John McDermott: PABEA Legislative Committee: The committee is seeking support for having care home inspections posted on the internet to help families find appropriate placement for their family member.

Pat Stanley, Democratic Party Kupuna Caucus: Wants to include part-time workers in Hawaii's pre-paid health plan, as well as prescription drugs, mental health services in rural communities and give incentives for prevention.

BALLOT RESULTS: The audience was asked to list their top 3 issues of concern to give guidance to the Kokua Council Board in selecting their 2010 legislative priorities.

Below are the votes.

- 1) Support for funding Kupuna Care (11)
- 2) Inspections of care homes posted on the internet (10)
- 3) Change drug policy from incarceration to treatment (save big bucks for the state) (7)
- 4) Support increased housing for the homeless including grandparents raising grandchildren(5)
- 5) Getting funds released by Governor to support services provided by law.(5)
- 6) Silver Alert (4)
- 7) Raise revenue (3)
- 8) Certification and oversight of case managers(2), Lower Rx costs, (2) Community College workforce development (2)
- 9) Others mentioned, mail in ballots, campaign-spending reform, oppose legalized gambling, rescind 3 strikes law.

RISK FOR SWINE FLU (WITHOUT REALIZING IT!)

Whether you decide to get a flu shot this year or not, it's important to take steps to prevent yourself from getting the seasonal flu, as well as H1N1, commonly referred to as swine flu.

Too many people are *not* washing their hands correctly, despite all the advice to get scrubbing. The U.S. earned a measly B- on a recent report card that was issued by the Soap and Detergent Association based on the results of an independent telephone survey.

Frequent hand-washing, as often as 10 times a day, is one of the most recommended defenses against the flu, but 39% of respondents seldom or never wash after coughing or sneezing. And almost half of the respondents who do wash only do so for 15 seconds or less, despite recommendations to wash for 20 seconds or more. Whistle "Happy Birthday" twice while scrubbing all surfaces on hands and between fingers, and dry hands completely. Turn off the faucet and open the bathroom door with a paper towel to keep hands clean.

HOSPICE HAWAII FEATURES OUR OWN, ROSE ANN POYZER

Kokua Council board member Rose Ann Poyzer is the lead story in the October-December 2009 issue of the Hospice Hawaii quarterly newsletter. Thirty years ago, Poyzer along with a group of hospice caregivers and experts (including Dr. Tony Lenzer, Kokua Council Vice-President) got together to talk about expanding hospice care options in the community. They realized that patients and families needed more than just health care and so developed programs that provided support to their families and loved ones through the grief and bereavement process.

Poyzer remained on the Board many years and helped the organization remain a leader in addressing issues facing the hospice and palliative care industry. Kokua Council board member, Marilyn Seely, continues our connection with Hospice Hawaii as a member of their Board of Directors.

Big Island Fair Elections Act Kicks off January 1 !

On January 1st, candidates for Big Island County Council will be able to file their "Declaration of Intent" to try and qualify as a fully publicly funded candidate. In 2008 Hawaii became the 9th state to implement a full public funding option for elections. We will be looking closely at the program as we go into the 2010 elections to see what elements of Act 244 are working well, and which ones need improvement.

**NO LUNCHEON MEETING IN DECEMBER. SEE YOU JANUARY 25, 2010
HAPPY HOLIDAYS**



Kokua Council for Senior Citizens
of Hawaii Education Fund, Inc.
20 South Vineyard Blvd.

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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	Address changes: Lyn Molu, 532-0806, lyn.moku@nmss.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	
___\$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