

KOKUA



COUNCIL

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH.

Monday, November 22, 2010, 11:30-1:00PM

THE HARRIS METHODIST CHURCH

Miyama Main Hall

Nuuanu and South Vineyard Blvd.

Ample parking-driveway off Nuuanu Ave.

AGENDA

11:30 **Lunch:** Various pizzas, salad, drinks, dessert, \$5.00 donation

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

12:00 **Program:** Bonnie Ho, Executive Director, Kilohana Senior Enrichment Center: "Community Based Senior Services on Oahu—Day Care and Day Health, What are they? Where Are They?"

12:20: **Questions and answers**

12:30: **Preparation for Advocacy**

12:45: Announcements

1:00 Adjourn

LUNCH HOST:

BOARD MEETING: 10:00 A.M. PRECEDING LUNCH

NO COST OF LIVING FOR SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS IN 2011

The federal government announced that tens of millions of Social Security recipients will go through another year in 2011 without an increase in their monthly benefits, marking only the second year without an increase since automatic adjustments for inflation were adopted. The first year was 2010.

The cost-of-living adjustments, or COLAs, are set each year by an inflation measure that was adopted by Congress back in 1975. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) announced that when Congress returns in November, he will press for passage of \$250 in emergency relief for Social Security recipients and disabled veterans to compensate for the lack of a COLA.

That same proposal was defeated in the Senate on March 3, when only one Republican voted to allow the amendment to be considered. Sanders said the estimated \$13 billion cost of the help for seniors is only a fraction of the \$70 billion in annual tax breaks that Senate Republicans are pushing for the wealthiest Americans.

ALERT'S SUCCESSFUL RESULTS: UNBELIEVABLE RENT INCREASE

The 48% rent increase letter was premature & not approved by the Board. They are reworking the numbers to reflect the savings to be experienced after the renovations are complete. They are also looking at a 40-year HUD loan instead of a 25-year bank loan. The rent increase should fall between 10 & 15 %. Mahalo to all who helped. Aloha, George Fox

MAYOR'S 37th ANNUAL CRAFT AND COUNTY FAIR

Neal Blasdell Center Exhibition Hall, Saturday, November 20, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER, *Larry Geller*

Although the election is over, newspaper and TV pundits are busy predicting what the new Congress will do with old issues like the economy, climate change, and yes, social security and Medicare. The Deficit Commission, popularly called the "Cat Food Commission," is due to report on December 1.

The majority of voters agree that Social Security and the rest of the social safety net should be preserved. Our leaders in Washington, though, seem unaware of this. They're still hell-bent on reforming Social Security and shrinking Medicare.

Our daily paper didn't waste time calling for reform of Social Security, Medicare, and other "entitlement" programs—they pushed for it in an editorial the day after Election Day. They know very well that Social Security does not contribute to the deficit—it's paid for in advance. Behind the propaganda campaign, of course, is the desire to grab hold of the trust funds for corporate gain. When corporations speak, our leaders pay heed.

The incoming Republican-controlled House is likely to push strongly for entitlement reforms. They will further restrict Medicare payments to hospitals and doctors, making it hard to find specialists who participate in the program.

President Obama, who appointed the "Cat Food Commission" by executive order, also stacked it with 14 of the 18 members committed to balance the federal budget at the expense of seniors. Since 14 votes are needed to pass any recommendations, the outcome is pre-ordained. And a Republican-controlled House Budget Committee is likely to grab onto its recommendations. The commercial press will go along happily.

Seniors need to become active to protect both Medicare and Social Security. Before there were threats, but soon the real battle may begin.

LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN NOW COVERS FOSTER HOMES, *John McDermott*

In the past we have not gone into the Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFH) because in Hawaii they are "certified" not "licensed." We were recently told by the Administration on Aging that this distinction doesn't matter and that we are required to make our services available to all residents

The LTCOP is volunteer-based. Because of this added responsibility, the LTC Ombudsman needs more volunteers.

We recruit, screen and carefully train our volunteer ombudsmen to visit the residents of their assigned facilities on a weekly basis. They also meet with us monthly for continuing education. They "talk story," offer friendship and support to residents who often don't have family available or capable of advocating on their behalf. Our conversations are confidential. We want to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all our residents. If they have a complaint, we want to work with the facility to correct that problem and make the facility a better home for everyone. We don't write deficiencies or have anything to do with licensing. Our only goal is how can we make this facility more home-like, safer, and more comfortable for the residents. Call John McDermott.586-7268 to volunteer.

NOTES FROM SEVENTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORUM- OCTOBER 25, 2010

Passion, Frustration, Suggestions and Persistence

The seventh annual Forum brought together over 60 representatives of the legislature, community organizations, administrators, business and concerned individuals to discuss community needs, concerns and ideas for legislative action in the coming session. The discussion this year was colored by the concern for the continuing economic crisis impacting services for the most vulnerable.

The Forum helps Kokua Council identify issues that will be our top priorities and is a way to encourage organizations to work together to achieve common goals. Kokua Council will continue to support past issues that are still pending. The following presents a summary of the issues presented by the panel.

Sen. Chun Oakland, Legislative Kupuna Caucus: List includes continuing support for Long term Care Commission, ADRC, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Senior Centers. Will seek funds for Kupuna Care, fall prevention coordinator and to establish a task force. Complete list available in her office.

Colette Browne, Center on Aging, UH: Is conducting research that will provide a basis for public policy: Ethnic comparisons of long-term care health pattern, practices, needs and preferences in Hawai'i and examining poverty rates among middle aged and older adults in Hawai'i. Examining equivalent knowledge needed for long-term care placements by nursing home discharge planners, elders and their caregivers. Investigating the role of race/ethnicity/culture in nursing home discharge planner recommendations. Implementation and evaluation of a model research-training program for Aging Network professionals. Migrant long-term care work, policy and practice. Reinstall Advanced Certificate on Aging.

Percy Ihara, Publisher Generations Magazine: Rebirth of magazine providing a voice focusing on senior services and issues. Suggested convening a Forum for Business leaders to involve them in supporting underfunded community services.

Nancy Moser, Executive Office on Aging: Told by administration to not ask for any increases in funds. Is continuing to care on research funded by Federal Government on discharge planning,

ADVOCATES

Steven Tam, AARP: Release funds for Kupuna Care and put increase in base state budget.

Sarah Kamida, LTC Ombudsman: Require unannounced inspections (*different from visits which are unannounced*) of care homes and post results of all on the web for consumers to use in placement.

Alex Santiago, Phocused: Release the rainy day funds. Services that support community care for seniors, children, are not being provided adequately resulting in increased institutionalization at more cost to the state. Domestic violence shelter is closing.

Wes Lum, Caregivers Coalition: Working with KHON on elder project, Caregivers Day.

Bruce McCullough, HARA: Release of rainy Day Funds, better discharge planning, unannounced care home inspections, case management oversight, Department of Aging, Consumer complaints continue to be posted on internet.

Jeanne Ohta, Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii: Improve medical marijuana program, change oversight to Dept. of Health, fines instead of criminal convictions for those arrested with less than 1 ounce.

Gary Simon, Pabea Legislative Com.: Enact fiscal measures to spread burden across entire population, preserve safety net, develop essential public-private partnerships. Support family caregivers, improve monitoring, access & quality of care in community based settings, health promotion and chronic disease management. Greater autonomy for the Executive on Aging, re-establish Caregiver Resource initiative.

Henry Curtis, Life of the Land: Pedestrian and bicycle safety. Suggest posting on web videos of lawbreakers.

Jean Aoki, League of Women Voters: Protect Social Security. Funds are separate from the budget and do not effect the deficit.

Stan Michaels, Fall Prevention Task Force: 85% of admissions to the E.R. are the result of falls. No one is in charge to develop a coordinated program of prevention. Need a coordinator.

Kat Brady, Community Alliance on Prisons: Accountability and transparency in justice system, no shackling of pregnant incarcerated women in labor, sentencing reform, parole and treatment not incarceration.

BALLOT RESULTS

- 1) Release Rainy Day Funds (Kupuna Care etc.,SB2469) (26)
- 2) Post online care home inspections. (7) Decriminalize medical marijuana. (7)
- 3) Approve unannounced inspections. (6)
- 4) Coordinator for fall prevention. (4)
- 5) Reform criminal justice system. (3)
- 6) Repair state housing / homeless. (2) Extend Long Term Care Commission. (2)
- 7) Department on Aging. (2)
- 8) Others, Save Social Security, Mental health support, Handivan issues, Silver Alert, Advance certificate on Aging.



Kokua Council for Senior Citizens
 Hawaii Education Fund, Inc.
 20 South Vineyard Blvd.
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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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Secretary	Lynda Gretz, lbj065@hawaii.rr.com		
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