



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

Please join us for lunch

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2009

PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE TO 3RD MONDAY AND EXTENDED TIME

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 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: Homemade Spinach Lasagna, Salad, Drinks, Dessert by Eloise \$5.00
Donation

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

12:00 PROGRAM: ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORUM, "BE PART OF THE SOLUTION": PANEL OF LEADERS OF LEGISLATIVE CAUCUSES PLUS NEEDS OF NON-PROFITS, SERVICE PROVIDERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND A VOTE ON TOP ISSUES. Step 1 in deciding Kokua Council 2010 legislative priorities.

1: 30 Adjourn

Lunch Host: Diane Stowell

Board meeting: 1 0:00am Preceding Lunch.

NOTES FROM SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

ACLU-89 AND STILL DEFENDING CIVIL RIGHTS: ACTIVISM AT ANY AGE. LAURIE TEMPLE, STAFF ATTORNEY

The American Civil Liberties Union was founded in 1920. Locally a staff of 5 and volunteers are working to defend the individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and the bill of rights and to extend them to those that have traditionally been denied.

During the 2009 legislative session, besides monitoring hundreds of bills, ACLU testified in writing or in person on over 85 bills and resolutions. Four bills were enacted into law and 3 resolutions were adopted. The bills passed (SB777) requires any state-funded sex education program to provide medically accurate sexuality education, (SB539) ensures that the Dept. of Public Safety focuses on reentry and reintegration support and services. (SB1058) establishes a taskforce to examine current medical marijuana medical laws and make recommendations for improvement. (HB358) allows for the development of an alternative program to incarceration for persons with drug addictions.

Legislative priorities for 2010: Supporting Civil Unions, Eliminating Mandatory Minimum Sentences,

Emergency Contraceptives dispensed in Emergency Rooms and Voting for Incarcerated Individuals.

For more information visit their website at www.acluhawaii.org or call 522-5906.

U.H. MANOA REVITALIZES CENTER ON AGING BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2009

Interim Director, Dr. Colette Browne plans to provide the academic and administrative leadership to encourage research, policy and educational initiatives on issues of aging for the state, region and nation.

Primary tasks will focus on:

- Developing the Center's long-range development goals and objectives,
- Initiating cross-disciplinary discussions of current projects and potential projects of research and collaboration among key faculty,
- Reviewing educational offerings and trainings in aging, and
- Developing the Center's program of research for the purpose of securing public and private funding opportunities.

PROPOSED 2010 KUPUNA CAUCUS LEGISLATION, (others may be added later)

1. Silver Alert System for Missing Seniors
2. Fall Prevention Task Force
3. Extend LTC Commission Sunset Date to 2011
4. Amend current statute to allow the creation of one educational and medical consent form for children raised by grandparents and others
5. Concurrent Resolution Regarding Housing Policies Permitting Grandparents to Live in Elderly Housing Projects Until An Alternative Housing Option is Found When They Care for their Grandchildren in a Crisis Situation
6. Extend Life of Home for Life Task Force

NEW IMPROVED ELDER ABUSE LAW

A law passed last legislative session covering Elder Abuse and Neglect widens the coverage of those abused adults now protected by the rules. *Ko'ua Council lobbied for this change.*

Instead of "Dependent adult" the law is now entitled "Vulnerable" Adult Abuse and Neglect and is available to any person 18 years of age or older who because of mental, developmental or physical impairment is considered vulnerable to abuse.

What does vulnerable mean?

- Any of the above persons who are unable to communicate or make responsible decisions to manage their own care or resources: or
- Carry out or arrange for essential activities of daily living; or
- Protect oneself from abuse.

A vulnerable adult is one who has suffered abuse or is in danger of abuse if immediate action is not taken.

Report adult abuse and neglect anonymously by calling 832-5115 Monday through Friday between 7:45am and 4:30pm.

COMING TO PBS STATIONS IN OCTOBER

MINDS ON THE EDGE: Facing Mental Illness zeros in on wrenching situations playing out every day in hospital ERs, on city streets and school campuses, in courtrooms and in jails, as Americans struggle with serious mental illnesses like schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. The dramatic scenario of this Fred Friendly Seminars program reveals personal dilemmas facing individuals and families, medical practices that can be obstacles to treatment, and public policies that are falling short.

Moderated by Frank Sesno, the program features Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, Nobel-Prize-winning neuroscientist Eric Kandel, Pulitzer-nominated journalist Pete Earley, and other panelists from law, medicine, and public policy — including several who have personally faced the challenges of mental illness and offer their riveting insights.

Visit the Minds on the Edge Web site for TV schedule information and multimedia content on serious mental illness. If you miss the program on-air, you can watch online after 10/1.

According to "Health Insurance and Mortality in US Adults," American Journal of Public Health, forthcoming December 2009, 102 people in Hawaii die each year because they lack health insurance.

SENIOR FAIR SURVEY RESULTS- 89 respondents

1. What should our Governor and legislators do to meet economic crisis? Top suggestions:
Taxes were biggest items:
 - 1) Tied for No.1: **Increase** taxes on G.E.T. to 5%, raise tax on top 10% of wealthy, increase hotel tax, tax rate on liquor, cigarettes, entertainment, out-of state and country speculators, better collection and enforcement. **Decrease** taxes on real property for seniors, stop raising taxes, eliminate rail tax on GET.
 - 2) Next highest: Cut back on bureaucratic personnel, use more volunteers, take a pay cut.

2. Has economic crises affected you personally? Yes 62 No 27
In what way?
 - 1) Higher taxes,
 - 2) Higher prices,
 - 3) Laid off or worry about state job, lower pay

3. What issues are of greatest concern to senior citizens?
By far and away the greatest concern:
 - 1) Paying for health care, prescription drugs and long term care.
 - 2) Next was the high cost of living, rising costs food, gas, rents, housing, taxes.
 - 3) Third was transportation.

Gift card winners: Florence Wong, Harley Holderbaum, and Carol Williams

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kapi'olani Community College's TV Series Dedicated to Hawaii's Seniors and Their Families!

Hosted by Cullen Hayashida & David Nakamaejo

August 24 – December 15, 2009, Mondays at 8:30pm & Tuesdays at 11:30pm on Channel 55 (1/2 hr)

Call to suggest topics or issues that you would like to see on

Kupuna Connections Oahu – Call (808) 734-9469 Email: cullen@hawaii.edu

November: 2, 3, Physical Exercise, Move it or Lose It. 9, 10, Physical Therapy. 16, 17, Managing your Medication. 23, 24, Physical Therapy On Home Modification. 30, Affordable Home Repair Loan Program.

Hawaii Civil Liberties Symposium: Marriage equality, the struggle to defend women's right to reproductive freedom; prison conditions, re-integration after incarceration. immigrant communities, DNA & privacy.

November 14, Saturday, 1-4pm. Blaisdell Exhibition Hall, free and open to the public.

We use our email list for those who wish to receive this Newsletter by email, to notify members of action alerts in advocacy, for important meetings or briefings. Please send your email to Samcox@hawaii.rr.com



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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Secretary	Lynda Johnson, 247-2220, lbj065@hawaii.rr.com	Newsletter	Jeanne Y. Ohta, jyohta@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	
____\$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