



hawaii pacific gerontological society

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June 2021

HPGS 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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HPGS members who have not yet renewed for 2021 should go to www.hpgs.org (under Membership) and renew in order to get a discount at the HPGS Biennial Conference set for September 15th & 16th.

The Board will continue to provide monthly newsletters, quarterly general membership meetings, and informative webinars. They hope that HPGS members can become engaged by submitting articles, offering ideas of speakers, and providing information through webinars.

Contact Sherry Goya, HPGS Executive Director at 808-722-8487 or sgoyallc@aol.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



DEBBIE KIM MORIKAWA
PRESIDENT

As we plan for HPGS' biennial conference this September, I'm reminded of our founder, Dr. Tony Lenzer and a comment made by Former AARP Hawaii State Director Barbara Kim Stanton. "No one (referring to Dr. Lenzer) has done more to advance our understanding of what it means to grow older in Hawaii and prepare a generation of state policymakers to begin addressing the challenges and opportunities of our aging population."

Dr. Lenzer founded HPGS with one of the main goals being to encourage professional development of students interested in careers related to gerontology and geriatrics. It's critical that we develop this pipeline of students to create an adequate workforce that ensures an age-friendly future for our kūpuna.

At our biennial conference, two students will be presented with a Tony Lenzer Student Scholar Award and each will receive a \$2000 scholarship. We are also encouraging student participation in the conference by offering FREE REGISTRATION to INTERESTED STUDENTS. Students will be able to attend the conference for free to improve their understanding of different issues in the field of aging. These students will also have the opportunity to meet, discuss and provide feedback about the type of opportunities that would better support their career journey in the field of aging.

Please contact Workforce Development Chair, Christy Nishita, Ph.D. at cnishita@hawaii.edu for more information. And don't forget to SAVE THE DATE, Wednesday and Thursday, September 15 & 16, 2021, so you can attend this year's virtual conference!

May was Older Americans Month, with a theme of "Communities of Strength." Nominations were sent in for the Outstanding Older American in each county, and two from each county were chosen for their outstanding contributions to their communities. The winners were Dimples Kano and Russell Maeda from Kauai County; Mary Trotto and Robert Carroll from Maui County; Annie Kuamoo Kaaukai and Wayne Kawachi from Hawaii County; and Rose Leong and Nash Keel from Honolulu County. The contributions of these Outstanding Older Americans in their volunteerism truly make our communities "Communities of Strength!"

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of HPGS is to increase awareness of and interest in the field of gerontology by providing networking and educational opportunities, as well as scholarships, to Hawaii's workforce or other interested parties, in which to support the creation of needed policies and programs that will enhance the quality and age-friendly services to our Kūpuna in Hawaii.

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

HPGS awarded **M a d i s y n Polendey** with a \$500 scholarship for the Eldercare Worker Training Award in mid-May. She is a nursing student currently attending Chaminade University in her freshman year. The scholarship will assist in paying for the tuition so she can attend the *Hoaloha Nursing Aide Training Program* in July.



## WELCOME TO HPGS

Apologizes to the following new HPGS members whose first or last names were misspelled in the May newsletter:

Roxanne De Vries  
Erik Grey  
Donna Shitabata

### INDIVIDUAL

Andrew Mason

## EVENTS

### St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii

Maylynn Wong (808) 547-8138 or  
mwong@stfrancishawaii.org

**Thursday, June 17th • 5-7pm**  
"Resolving Conflict without Blame"

**Thursday, June 24th • 5-7pm**  
"Brain Injuries, Stroke  
and Spinal Cord Injuries:  
What Everyone Needs to Know"

**Saturday, June 26th • 9:30-11am**  
"Career Changes that Lead to Better  
Work-Life Balance"

**AARP Hawaii**  
**Friday, June 18th at 2pm**  
Operation Protect Veterans  
aarp.event.com

## HPGS BIENNIEL CONFERENCE

Here's a "sneak peek" of two presentations being offered at the HPGS conference on September 15th and 16th. When the entire program is ready to present to HPGS members, and the public throughout Hawaii and beyond, the form will be sent out. HPGS members will receive a discount, so be sure you have renewed for 2021.

- Peter Kalde, CEO of the American Society on Aging ([www.asaging.org](http://www.asaging.org)) will be a keynote speaker and talk about understanding best practices and lessons learned from across the country of how ASA organizations remained resilient during and beyond Covid. HPGS is a member of ASA.
- Lois Ricci, Ed.D, GNP RN, from Kennesaw State University in Georgia, will discuss how breakthrough discoveries on aging have been made addressing critical issues confronting older adults.

### VIDEO PRESENTATIONS WELCOMED

Some HPGS members may remember the biennial conferences of the past that offered "Poster Presentations," but now HPGS members are invited (and encouraged to pass it along to others) to make a video poster presentation proposal that addresses the conference theme: "Foresight 2021 and Beyond." Given that the conference will be virtual this year, the "poster" will be a 2-3 minute video presentation. HPGS welcomes video presentations from all disciplines, professions, undergraduate and graduate students. The video poster could highlight a community program, new project, or research study in the field of aging. Concentrate on two or three of the most important messages to convey. These might be main objectives, most impactful outcomes, or the long-term goals of your project or program. Prioritize the ideas to present the audience with memorable main ideas.

The deadline to register as a video poster presentation participant is EXTENDED to **Friday, June 18, 2021**. Video Poster Proposals can be submitted via the website at [www.hpgs.org](http://www.hpgs.org). The Program Committee will review video presentation proposals, and everyone will be notified by the end of June. All entries will be contacted via email about submitting the completed video and will be sent a link to a Google Drive to upload the video in a common video format (for example .mp4).

## KONA KONNECTION

Happiness is teaching children how to do what you love. Intergenerational sharing passes on valuable experiences. During COVID, Kona Kupuna Daniel Medeiros (husband of HPGS Board member Sara) and AI Bento share their love of the sea and fishing knowledge with neighbor keiki.

