



hawaii pacific gerontological society

Volume 43, No. 6

June 2022

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HPGS has open enrollment for new members throughout the year. Current HPGS members may renew for 2022 any time online at www.hpgs.org or print the form and pay with a check.

The Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society distributes monthly newsletters and hosts three general membership meetings.

HPGS encourages all members to submit articles, email the board with suggestions for speakers, and/or volunteer on a committee.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



RICK TABOR
PRESIDENT

Aloha HPGS members & friends. We hope you are enjoying the graduation parties, picnics and all that summer brings our Islands. With some folks making an all-out-attempt to return to pre-covid times, please be safe.

In our May 19 General Membership Meeting we heard from Christy Nishita, PhD, of the University of Hawaii Center on Aging, Interim Director & Gerontologist; Colby Takeda of Kupuna Care Corps; Keva Dekay of Our Kupuna, and Lori Lau of Lanakila Pacific who offered an informative discussion on intergenerational connections and new approaches to technology resulting from the pandemic. We are grateful for the efforts of these professionals who are working to make a difference for all of us.

The HPGS' scholarship program is now accepting applications for the Tony Lenzer Scholarships in Aging. This program is part of an ongoing effort by HPGS to encourage and support college students interested in careers involving aging. In an effort to also encourage those interested in training for a position as an eldercare worker, the HPGS Eldercare Training Scholarships program will pay a generous portion of the training cost. Both scholarships are an effort by HPGS to increase the workforce serving older adults. For more details or to apply go to <https://hpgs.org/scholarships.html>

Keep an eye out for our new and improved website coming soon. It is undergoing a major rework with the goal of making it easier to access and navigate to the information you want. It is also the site of our current Job Board that connects member job opportunities with great candidates.

Highlights from the 2022 state legislative session are on page 3 of this newsletter. There were incredible bills passed and upsetting bills that failed. Two passages to celebrate are the funding for five full time Long Term Care Ombudsman positions, one for each island, and Hawai'i Saves, an optional retirement savings plan for employees not covered by a tax-qualified retirement plan.

Until next month, aloha nui loa,

Rick Tabor

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.

HPGS MEMBER NEWS

An HPGS member replied to HPGS Executive Director Sherry Goya's email when the newsletter was sent to her in early May. The newsletter is one of Sherry's responsibilities, and all issues can be found at www.hpgs.org; however, she would like to say that Board member and chair of the newsletter committee, Laurie Adamshick, also assists her. The HPGS member wrote: "Aloha, Sherry, I enjoy reading your outstanding newsletter, which consistently reflects your expertise as the editor in chief with well-written features, beautiful photographs, additional blurbs that highlight timely events, and advisories from your partner programs like Social Security and the Senior Medicare Patrol."

EVENTS

Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Hawaii

Assuring Quality
A Hallmark of Healthcare
Presented by Justin Lam
Thursday, June 9th, 10 to 11:30am
Via Zoom - Email: info@smphawaii.org

Alzheimers Association Caregiver Symposium

June 15th, from 10 until 2
Link: tinyurl.com/caregiversymposium

SURVEYS

The Dept Health and EOA has two surveys to help assess the needs in the community.

To access the survey for Aging in Hawaii, which looks at issues facing our kupuna and tomorrow's older adults, please click on the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OpenA_EOA

To access the Hawaii survey that looks at issues facing Hawaii's caregivers, please click on the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OpenCG_EOA

HAWAI'I LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans and Kokua Council, held their 19th annual Good, Bad and Ugly Legislative Wrap-Up Session on Monday, May 23rd.

Senate President Ron Kouchi, Speaker Scott Saiki, Senators Sharon Moriwaki, Rosalyn Baker, Stanley Chang, and Joy San Benaventura, as well as Representatives Sylvia Luke, Gene Ward, Troy Hashimoto, Adrian Tam, and Gregg Takayama, discussed the session's "Good, Bad and Ugly" legislative results. Here is a summary of some of the legislation affecting older adults:

The **Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** has been managed by John McDermott, the sole full-time position covering 13,000 Hawai'i residents in long-term care statewide. LTCOP will now hire and certify five full-time island-dedicated Ombudsmen, providing adequate statewide staffing.

Hawai'i Saves, the Hawaii Retirement Savings Act will establish a state-run IRA program that will be offered beginning July 1, 2024, by employers who have been in business for more than two years and have one or more employees. It does not apply to businesses that have offered a tax-qualified retirement plan for the past two years. While the bill would require employers to automatically enroll covered employees into the state's program, they would have the option to opt out.

The Department of Human Services will appropriate funds to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative **dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees**, provided that it obtains maximum federal matching funds and pursues all funding sources, including private grants, prior to expending any general fund appropriations.

The **driver's license** renewal period for seniors was extended from two years to four years for licensees who are 70 years of age or older but younger than 80 years of age.

The proposal to merge the **Kupuna Care and Kupuna Caregivers** programs to give them more flexibility passed with \$1.5 million. It is hoped the Elderly Affairs Division will collect data on those requesting services, receiving services and on a wait-list for services.

As for the bad and ugly, Lila Mower, President of the Kokua Council, said "We hope that two goals that are dear to some kupuna advocates will gain success next year: insurance coverage to make hearing aids more accessible to those with hearing impairment, and what is euphemistically called "compassionate care" for those in their last days."

Failing to pass this session was a bill asking for state funding for the **Hawaii State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)**, a crucial program administered by the Hawaii Department of Health Executive Office on Aging to help people to navigate Medicare and make informed health insurance decisions. Additional state funding for this 100% federally funded program will help enhance services.

To watch the Good, Bad and Ugly please go to: <https://youtu.be/bcs6jkoW6Ok>

RECONNECTING WITH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES



Andrew Angeles "The HPGS scholarship helped me successfully graduate from Hawaii Pacific University with a Masters Degree in Social Work in May of 2019 and become a Licensed Social Worker in March of 2020. I serve kupuna who are military veterans by helping them access services from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the community. My goal is to help them achieve a quality of life that honors their wishes. I am grateful to HPGS for its support in my journey to serve our kupuna veterans."

TONY LENZER SCHOLARSHIPS

The Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society (HPGS) raises funds and awards scholarships to college students with a serious interest in careers involving aging and older people. This year, HPGS is proud to offer five (5) undergraduate and graduate scholarships at \$2500 each. Please visit our website (<https://www.hpgs.org/scholarships.html>) to learn more and forward this information to your students. The deadline for applications is July 1, 2022.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads our nation's observance of Older Americans Month. The theme for 2022 is "Age My Way".

Every year, Hawaii has a big celebration. Each of the four counties, Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, and Honolulu, asked for nominations from the public for outstanding Older Americans, and a man and a woman are chosen from each county out of all the nominations. The nominees are chosen because of their contributions to the community; and from Kauai County are Colleen Kasperek and Timothy Albao; from Maui County, JoAnn Rockwell and Ernest Rezents; from Hawaii County, Lucy Makuakane and Daniel Perreira; and from Honolulu County, Mae Fujii and Clarence Agena.

Olelo will be broadcasting the entire Hawaii Older Americans Month celebration on June 3rd, at 10am; and rebroadcast on June 5th at 6pm, June 6th at 8am, and June 7th at 4pm.

HPGS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

One of the best HPGS General Membership Meetings was held on Thursday, May 19th via Zoom. Christy Nishita, Ph.D., Interim Director from the **UH Center on Aging** began the meeting by discussing the value of social connections for older adults and connections across generations in particular. She discussed the challenges during the pandemic and the opportunities for innovation in the approaches to support older adults. She then introduced the 3 programs- **Kupuna Care Corps**, **Our Kupuna**, and Lanakila Pacific's new **KupunaU** program. To close, she highlighted other opportunities to get involved with the Kupuna Collective (www.hiphi.org/kupuna) as well as UH Center on Aging's and HPGS' workforce development efforts. She also reminded the group about the HPGS scholarship opportunities. Visit the HPGS website to learn more (<https://www.hpgs.org/scholarships.html>).



Colby Takeda, CEO of Pear Suite, shared an update from **Kupuna Care Corps**, a joint collaboration with Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society, Age-Friendly Honolulu, and Pear Suite. Since launching last year, Kupuna Care Corps has helped to train over 50 nursing, social worker, public health, and community health worker students, exposing them to local social service resources, empathy and communication skills, and career paths in aging. Utilizing an online data platform, student volunteers support the social well-being of older adults through regular needs assessments, health education, regular check-ins, and resource linking to improve quality of life and increase independence. The project has already impacted thousands of lives and will continue into the fall with ongoing trainings. For more information, please contact colby@pearsuite.com.

Our Kūpuna supports low-income homebound kūpuna across Hawaii to ensure food security and safe in-home aging. Our Kūpuna matches each kūpuna with a nearby community volunteer who regularly checks on and shops for their kupuna by picking up and delivering essentials like groceries, medication, and household supplies. While food security is Our Kūpuna's primary mission, Our Kūpuna also aims to drive initiatives focused on isolation among the aging, compassionate and human-centered community volunteerism, and client-centered training for the next generation's professionals. Program Director Keva DeKay presented about Our Kūpuna's progress, innovative programs, and opportunities for community engagement. Intergenerational engagement offers supportive stimulation for the aging community, and there are many ways for students of all ages to connect with Hawaii's aging and in-need. Kupuna or volunteers can sign up on our website: ourkupuna.com.

Lanakila Pacific was excited to introduce Kupuna U—a collaborative online platform funded by the Administration for Community Living - at the May 19th HPGS General Membership Meeting. Kupuna U is a place where service providers can offer their virtual activities and resources to a wider audience of local seniors. Seniors must register for Kupuna U and both registration and usage data will be provided to Kupuna U providers (for your enrollment and billable services as needed). If your organization has senior members, your members can also access Kupuna U and benefit from the variety of content provided by the network of partner providers. Come join us as we create a new virtual community for seniors to learn, socialize, and enjoy! For information on how to become a Kūpuna U partner provider or to schedule a demonstration of the platform, please contact James Li, email: jli@lanakilapacific.org or call (808) 356-8581.





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Announcing 2022 Tony Lenzer Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships!

The Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society (HPGS) raises funds and awards scholarships to college students with a serious interest in careers involving aging and older people.

This year, HPGS is proud to offer five (5) undergraduate and graduate scholarships at \$2500 each.

**Visit <https://www.hpgs.org/scholarships.html>
to learn more and apply.**

Deadline: July 1, 2022

"I am very grateful that HPGS has selected me as one of this year's scholarship recipients. I would like to thank HPGS and all of my mentors for supporting me in my academic journey. I want to impact change for Kupuna, and advocate for additional services and opportunities for older adults. I would also like to provide education for older adults and their families, helping to guide them as they make tough decisions or changes that come with the aging process."

- Chelsie, 2021 Scholarship Winner