



IMUA KA HEKE "The Best Go Forward"

HPGS Quarterly Newsletter

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Message from the President: Coming Up! HPGS Biennial Conference in October



By: Eldon Wegner

Mention the acronym HPGS, and most people in Hawaii will think of our biennial conferences. The 16th Biennial HPGS Conference is Monday and Tuesday, October 18th and 19th. Two years of careful planning and lots of work have gone into the preparation, thanks especially to the

Conference **Co-Chairs Eme Kim and Tony Wong**. Special thanks also to **Sarah Yuan and Michael Cheang**, who co-chaired the Program Committee. Many others worked on the Planning Committee and Subcommittees. It has taken a genuine team effort to put this conference together and I am so grateful for all of your efforts. We believe that this year's conference will be especially exciting.

The theme of this year's conference is "Preparing for the Aging Tsunami: Hawaii and Pacific Rim Perspectives." Our conference aims to inspire us to make positive responses to the challenges ahead as our population ages. The plenary on Monday morning will provide information about new developments in Japan and Korea from Dr. Takeo Ogawa and Dr. Sung-Nam Cho, gerontology experts in their respective countries. Japan and Korea are experiencing rapid aging and have developed new policies and programs to address the challenges. The plenary session on Tuesday will focus on the directions of our national policies, featuring John Rother from AARP, and Dr. Joshua Wiener will also inform us about innovative policies and programs by other states. During the afternoon on both days, there are sessions providing an opportunity to reflect upon and discuss the implications for Hawaii of the information provided in the morning. Tuesday afternoon will feature a session where candidates for governor will be asked about their positions in regard to aging

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issues and their vision for the next eight years. The full program, including break-out sessions, can be found on the HPGS website.

Early registration is due before **September 19, 2010**, after which the cost of registration increases significantly. A reminder that the registration fee also includes 2 years of membership in HPGS. Please do not procrastinate in registering for this wonderful conference. To register, see our website at www.hpgs.org and click on 2010 Conference. You can register on-line and pay through Pay-Pal. Or if you prefer, you can download the registration form and mail in a check. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Besides the conference planning, HPGS has been engaged in other activities. In June, HPGS held a well-attended quarterly meeting on Maui with a speaker from the Alzheimer's Association, organized by **Dawn Meaney**, **Tony Lenzer** and **Chris Ridley**, co-chairs of the Scholarship Committee, have awarded scholarships for this coming year to **Wan Chian Tsai**, **Colleen McCracken**, and **Cora Godinez**. In addition, Tony and Chris have developed a process to award scholarships to graduate students and to working professionals for extra training, thanks to a generous donation from Assisted Living Options Hawaii. See the website for information and for application forms.

Constructing the HPGS website has been a major undertaking for this year. **Suzie Schulberg** has been wonderful and patient in working through the many challenges, the latest of which is implementing Pay-Pal to make possible on-line payments and donations. Take a look and I'm sure you agree, that the website is fantastic and will enhance communication with our members and the wider community.

Finally, our August event is a potluck beach picnic! Save Sunday (August 29th) afternoon at 3 pm for a fun day of enjoyment at Magic Island. Thank you **Brenda Lau**, **Dawn Meaney** and **Leslie Tanoue**,

our program committee. See the article in this newsletter for more specific information.

HPGS End of Summer Potluck Picnic

Sunday, August 29, 2010
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Magic Island Beach Park

HPGS members, their families and friends are invited to share an afternoon of fun in the sun with great company and delicious food.

Bring your favorite dessert, snack, or finger food to share.

Between 3:00 and 3:15 p.m., a HPGS representative will be located at the last lifeguard tower closest to Magic Island to guide you to the exact location of the HPGS tables.

Please RSVP as soon as possible to **Dawn Meaney** at dawn@plazaassistedliving.com and indicate which dish you would like to bring.

Register for the HPGS 16th Biennial Conference

Preparing for the Aging Tsunami:
Hawaii and Pacific Rim Perspectives

October 18 & 19, 2010

Hilton Hawaiian Village
Honolulu, Hawaii

For more information about the conference, please visit <http://www.hpgs.org/advocacy-outreach.htm>. You can also download your registration form from this site.

What Do You Want To Ask the Candidates For Governor?

On October 19, during the HPGS biennial conference, KHON's Kirk Matthews will moderate a forum for Hawaii's gubernatorial candidates. We will provide Mr. Matthews questions to ask, reporter style, to help conference attendees learn about candidates' knowledge, concerns, and visions about Hawaii's rapidly aging society.

Please send us your comments and, most importantly, your questions for the candidates. Mail them to **HPGS Editorial Committee, HPGS P. O. Box 3714, Honolulu, Hawaii 96812** or e-mail them to hpgs.hawaii@gmail.com

Seeking Exhibitors for the HPGS Biennial Conference

The U.S. is bracing itself for the major impact and changes that will restructure our society as the baby boomers enter their "golden years" and redefine Aging. This year's conference will explore how we must examine and craft new public policies, services, businesses in order to prepare for this aging tsunami that will challenge our resources, culture and economy.

Target Conference Participants: Over 300 people are expected to attend including colleagues from the Pacific Rim countries such as Japan and South Korea. Attendees from local, national and international areas include:

- Elder care practitioners in the health and human service field
- Businesses providing financial, legal and other products and services to the older population
- Administrators, managers, and planners in public and non-profit agencies serving both older adults and other populations
- Charitable and faith-based organizations
- Applied researchers, students, and advocates

Exhibitor Booths available as follows:

- ▶ \$150 per booth (Non-Profit rate)
- ▶ \$250 per booth (For-profit rate).

Fee includes: one (1) skirted table (6' x 30") and two (2) chairs.

Exhibit areas are set for October 19, 2010, the second day of this conference. Early set-up on the afternoon of October 18, 2010 can be arranged.

Deadline for Applications extended to September 15, 2010.

For more information and application, please go to the HPGS conference weblink at <http://hpgs.org/advocacy-outreach.htm> (Exhibitor Information/Guidelines) or please contact:

- **Percy Ihara** at (808) 368-6747 or email: percy.ihara@hotmail.com
- **Kyle Yanabu** at (808) 979-3391 or email: kyanabu@jhnetwork.com

HPGS Survey

The HPGS Program Committee is interested in your feedback. Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey at the link below by August 31, 2010:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5B8YV3B>

If you have any difficulty opening the link, please type the address in your web browser.

HPGS Board of Director Nominations

It's that time of year again when we are seeking out nominations for those who are interested in serving a 2-year position on the HPGS Board of Directors. This is a rewarding way to make a difference and get more involved in HPGS. We are currently looking to fill the following positions: President-Elect, Secretary, and 3 vacant Members-at-Large positions. If you are interested or know of anyone

who would be a good nominee to serve on the board, please email **Dawn Meaney** at dawn@plazaassistedliving.com by no later than October 1, 2010. If you would like more information on what the duties of these positions entail, please do not hesitate to contact Dawn Meaney.

HPGS E-mail List

If you would like to receive e-mail updates, please e-mail us at hpgs.hawaii@gmail.com with your name (first and last). Please also inform us if you would like to receive the quarterly newsletter via e-mail instead of snail mail.

Call for HPGS Newsletter Articles

Please email announcements, short articles (3-5 paragraphs long), jokes, cartoons, or pictures (including captions) that may be of interest to individuals in the gerontology community that you want to include in the November 2010 issue to hpgs.hawaii@gmail.com by November 8, 2010. Depending on relevancy, urgency, and available space, not all articles submitted may be included. Content may also be edited.

HPGS at the 4th Annual Aging In Place Conference

By: Michiyo Tomioka

HPGS participated in the 4th Annual Aging in Place Conference at Ala Moana Hotel on July 31st. There were a variety of workshops by speakers from public and private agencies who gathered to educate and support seniors and their caregivers. Many people stopped by the HPGS table to learn about our work and especially about the upcoming HPGS Biennial Conference. The conference will be

convening at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel on October 18 and 19, 2010.

Thanks to Percy Ihara for providing the free table and to Suzie Schulberg for creating a nice showcase board.



Thanks to Eldon Wegner, Merlita Compton, and Leslie Tanoue for helping!

NATIONAL NEWS

Social Security Proposes Legislation to End Furloughs of Federally Paid State Disability Workers

*By: Mark Lassiter,
Social Security Press Officer*

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, today announced that the agency is submitting legislation to Congress that would prohibit states, without the Commissioner's prior authorization, from reducing the number of state personnel who make disability determinations for Social Security or the hours they work below the amount the agency authorizes.

"It is long past time that states end these unconscionable furloughs and hiring freezes that needlessly harm citizens with disabilities,"

Commissioner Astrue said. “States realize no fiscal savings whatsoever from these actions and this legislation would prevent needless delays in the disability determination process. I am grateful for the President’s support and urge Congress to move quickly to help us make this provision the law of the land.”

More than a dozen states have implemented furloughs and hiring freezes that affect the federally paid state workers who make disability determinations for Social Security. The state agencies that employ these workers in their disability determination service (DDS) components receive 100 percent of their funding from the Federal government. Accordingly, states do not save any money by imposing furloughs and hiring freezes on federally funded employees. Rather, they slow benefits to some of the most vulnerable citizens – for example, furloughs in California in fiscal year 2010 delayed payment of over \$11 million in benefits to more than 40,000 citizens with disabilities. State-imposed furloughs and hiring freezes also reduce state income tax revenue and increase unemployment in the state.

“The members of Local 1000 have always believed that furloughing federally funded positions doesn’t make economic sense and that has been proven in California during these past 18 months that Governor Schwarzenegger has imposed furloughs on state employees,” Yvonne Walker, President of Service Employees International Union Local 1000 said. “I applaud Social Security for initiating legislation that would prevent further bad economic policy from going forward. This provision will not only help DDS workers, but the claimants who rely on the services our members provide.”

“We commend the Commissioner for his forceful and dedicated leadership in taking this bold action,” said Susan X. Smith, President of the National Association of Disability Examiners (NADE). “Our members are witness to the impact the current economic recession has had for disabled citizens and we are working hard to meet the dramatic increase in claims for benefits. These furloughs further compound the problems faced by disabled citizens by creating unnecessary delays in the

processing of their claims. NADE urges quick action with regards to this legislative proposal.”

Social Security Travels Too

*By: Jane Yamamoto-Burigsay,
Social Security Public Affairs Officer in Hawaii*

Have you ever considered a visit abroad? Or maybe you’re planning to live overseas for an extended period of time. Whether you’re outside the country for a week or a decade, you may be unaware of how to reach Social Security in the event that you need to conduct business with us while you’re away. Fortunately, in most corners of the world you can get help from a federal benefit officer or other trained personnel.

The Department of State embassies and American consulates abroad have personnel who are specially trained to provide a full range of Social Security services, including taking applications for all types of benefits, processing applications for new or replacement Social Security cards, and an array of other Social Security business.

Americans in American Samoa, British Virgin Islands, Canada, and Puerto Rico may obtain services directly from Social Security field offices located there. In other territories or countries, contact your local embassy or consulate to find out which office to visit for your Social Security needs.

But before visiting or moving abroad, remember that the most convenient office may be in your own home. Social Security’s website is a valuable resource for information. There are a number of services and forms offered to people living outside the United States on our international operations site. You can find it at www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign. While you’re online, you can read more about our international services. Another helpful reference on moving out of the country is the online publication *Your Payments While You Are Outside the United States*, which is available at



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www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10137.html

You also may want to visit our International Programs website, where you can learn about International Agreements between Social Security systems, payments while you are outside the United States, and the Social Security systems of other nations. Just visit

www.socialsecurity.gov/international

If you don't have a computer or prefer to do business over the phone, you're always welcome to call Social Security at **1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)**. If you are in a foreign country, you will need to pay for the call because we do not offer toll-free service for calls from outside the U.S. If you call, please do so during normal business hours for the U.S. Eastern Standard time.

If you're leaving the United States for any period of time, don't think you'll have to leave Social Security behind too. Social Security will travel with you.

LOCAL NEWS

Earn A Certificate of Competence in Activity Aide at Kapi'olani Community College

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program offers this excellent opportunity for those working in Care Homes, Foster Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, Nursing Home, Adult Day Centers and other senior care programs. Increase your skills and strengthen your marketability in senior care. The Certificate requires two classes: HLTH 118 Therapeutic Interpersonal Skills (3 credits) and OTA 119 Therapeutic Activities (2 credits). For more information, call **Carol Paul Watanabe at 734-9227** or email her at paulwata@hawaii.edu