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***“Creating a better Hawaii for our elders”***

**HPGS Quarterly Newsletter**

**Volume 24, Issue 1**

**March 2013**

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**Honolulu Police Community Foundation  
Makes 2-year Grant To Project Dana**

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*Submitted by: Dr. Cullen Hayashida*

The Honolulu Police Community Foundation presented the first installment of a two-year a grant in the amount of \$5,362.00 to Project Dana, a Faith-In-Action program, and the Kupuna Monitoring Systems, Inc. at a check presentation and photograph opportunity event in Honolulu. The two organizations (Project Dana and Kupuna Monitoring) have partnered to provide health and safety assessment, monitoring and communications services to the elderly in their homes and places of residence in the event of falls or other disabilities. The total 2-year amount of the donation from HPCF is \$11,264.00.

Accepting the check from the entire Board of Directors of the Honolulu Police Community Foundation and President Lee D. Donohue were Rose Nakamura, Administrator, Project Dana; Michael Hirano, Home Safety Coordinator, Project Dana; and Cullen Hayashida, President, Kupuna Monitoring Systems, Inc.

Project Dana, a non-profit organization, provides a variety of services to frail, elderly and disabled residents and Kupuna Monitoring sells and leases medical alert equipment and personal emergency response system services to the elderly and disabled. The two organizations requested a grant that would fund one year of services for ten (10) at-risk elderly residents in the islands, including determining eligibility, assessing risk, installation and provision of monitoring services and accompanying equipment.

“Many of our residents are aging in their homes and are at risk of not being able to summon help if they fall or become disabled somehow. The Honolulu Police Community Foundation is dedicated to improving the health and welfare of all Hawaii residents, so this is a consistent use of the funds we raise and we are pleased to be able to help provide this service to those in need,” said Board President Lee Donohue.

*(continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1):

Contact: Lynne Waters, Publicity Chair  
(808) 383-6439, [lynnetwaters@aol.com](mailto:lynnetwaters@aol.com)

For more information, visit the following websites:

[www.projectdana.org](http://www.projectdana.org)

[http://www.projectdana.org/home\\_safety\\_program.htm](http://www.projectdana.org/home_safety_program.htm)

[www.kupunamonitoring.com](http://www.kupunamonitoring.com)

[www.honolulucommunitypolicefoundation.org](http://www.honolulucommunitypolicefoundation.org)

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## Message From the HPGS President

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Aloha HPGS Ohana,

I am blessed to be surrounded by a great board. We all have a common desire to enhance the general well-being of older individuals in the State of Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. The new 2013 HPGS Officers and Board of

Directors are **Shannon Miyazaki** (President-Elect), **Michiyo Tomioka** (Secretary), **Leanne Clark-Shirley** (Member at Large), and **Samantha Tsoi** (Member at Large). **Kyle Yanabu** (Treasurer), **Merlita Compton** (Member at Large), **Tony Lenzer** (Member at Large), **Dane Marcouiller** (Member at Large), **Christy Nishita** (Member at Large), and **Earl Bradbury** (Member at Large) are continuing their existing terms. I am also grateful for **Suzie Schulberg** (Past President), for leading HPGS so admirably and ending her 2012 term on a high note with an outstanding conference.

At the HPGS mini-retreat on January 26, 2013, we focused on our goals for 2013: (1) collaborate with other coalitions and organizations in sponsoring educational sessions, (2) improve our website, and (3) increase awareness of HPGS Scholarship and continue to raise funds for the conference and scholarship.

Through a collaborative effort with Child and Family Service and the Hawai'i Family Caregiver

Coalition, we will sponsor an educational seminar designed to tackle one of today's tough issues - the needs of caregivers who are caring for those with dementia.

Laura Bauer, MPA, Director of National Initiatives for the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, will share about the REACH Intervention program, which is designed to sustain the physical and emotional health of caregivers. Valorie Taylor, of Child and Family Service will provide a local perspective on how the program is being implemented here in the Islands. This evening seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, 3/27/13, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at 15 Craigsides. Please join us.

And this is just the beginning. We are now working on other programs, including an event on Maui in June and a digital storytelling presentation by Janette Sargent-Hamill in July. Stay tuned for more details on these sessions. This will be an exciting year! And we will soon begin planning our 2014 conference as well.

I would like to add that I appreciate all of you and the work that you do. I realize our everyday responsibilities can be overwhelming at times, and I appreciate each of you for volunteering your time and making HPGS a priority. The bottom line is that our kupuna deserve the best. They built our state, pouring their heart and soul into the foundation that we all enjoy today.

In my work at St. Francis Hospice, I have the opportunity to witness how patients and their families make each day count. There is a lesson in that for all of us. I encourage you to start your caring conversations with your family and friends about end of life issues. Live well and make each moment precious.

Mahalo,  
**Felicia Marquez-Wong**, L.S.W., Q.C.S.W., C.T.  
HPGS President

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## HPGS Quarterly Meeting in March

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HPGS Members, Friends and Colleagues,  
please join us for a special presentation co-sponsored by HPGS, Child and Family Service, and Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition:

**The RCI-REACH Intervention  
for Caregivers of Persons with Dementia**

**Laura Bauer, MPA**

Director of National Initiatives for the Rosalynn  
Carter Institute for Caregiving



Learn about the REACH Intervention, a program designed to reduce caregiver burden and improve or sustain caregiver physical and emotional health.

Valorie Taylor, Child and Family Service (CFS) will also speak about the implementation of the RCI REACH program into CFS's Caregiver Programs.

**Wednesday, March 27, 2013  
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.  
15 Craigside, Top Floor  
15 Craigside Place, Honolulu, HI 96817**

Please RSVP to  
Felicia Marquez Wong at  
[FMarquezWong@stfrancishawaii.org](mailto:FMarquezWong@stfrancishawaii.org)  
or Valorie Taylor at [vtaylor@cfs-hawaii.org](mailto:vtaylor@cfs-hawaii.org)  
by March 13, 2013.

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## Call for HPGS Newsletter Articles

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Please e-mail announcements, short articles (3-5 paragraphs long), or pictures (including captions)

that may be of interest to individuals in the gerontology community that you want to include in the May 2013 issue to [hpgs.hawaii@gmail.com](mailto:hpgs.hawaii@gmail.com) by May 3, 2013. Depending on relevancy, urgency, and available space, not all articles submitted may be included. Content may also be edited.

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## HPGS E-mail List

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If you have not been receiving e-mail updates and would like to, please e-mail us at [hpgs.hawaii@gmail.com](mailto:hpgs.hawaii@gmail.com) with your name (first and last) and e-mail address. Please also inform us if you would like to receive the quarterly newsletter via e-mail instead of snail mail.

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## HPGS Membership and Dues

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The membership year for dues runs from October 1st through September 30th of the following year. It does not follow the regular calendar year. If you did not attend the HPGS conference last year, please submit your membership renewal form and dues to HPGS.

Membership categories are as follows:

- Student (\$10)
- Regular (\$25)
- Senior (aged 60+) (\$10)
- Organization (\$50)
- Lifetime (\$300)

For the membership (renewal) form, please visit our website at [www.hpgs.org](http://www.hpgs.org). Mail your membership renewal form and check payable to "HPGS" to

**HPGS  
P.O. Box 3714  
Honolulu, HI 96812**

For questions regarding your membership status, please e-mail HPGS at [hpgs.hawaii@gmail.com](mailto:hpgs.hawaii@gmail.com)

## Pictures From the HPGS 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting in December 2012

*Photos submitted by: Suzie Schulberg*



*L to R: Michiyo Tomioka, Kyle Yanabu, Samantha Tsoi, Christy Nishita, Dane Marcouiller, Felicia Marquez-Wong, Merlita Compton, Leanne Clark-Shirley, Shannon Miyazaki, Suzie Schulberg, and Dawn Meaney.*



*L to R: Suzie Schulberg, Kyle Yanabu, Samantha Tsoi, Michiyo Tomioka, Dane Marcouiller, Christy Nishita, Valerie Yontz, Felicia Marquez-Wong, Leanne Clark-Shirley, Merlita Compton, Jim Cone, Shannon Miyazaki, David Kushimaejo, Cynthia Arnold, Dan Ihara, and Dawn Meaney.*

## LOCAL NEWS

### KCC Plans Further Development Of Its Direct Care Paraprofessional Training Program in 2013

*Submitted by: Dr. Cullen Hayashida*

KCC's Kupuna Education Center has been invited to participate in a multi-state innovation grant

funded by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Beginning in January 2013, the KCC Kupuna Education Center will partner with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the Schmieding Center for Senior Health and Education to expand its Elder Stay @ Home paraprofessional training program. This new 3-year initiative will include the inclusion of new training modules, the use of hybrid online teaching to reach the neighbor islands and the availability of a micro-loan program to assist students to finance the training. The Schmieding approach to paraprofessional training is being tested in Arkansas, Hawaii, California and Texas.

For further information, go to [www.kupunaeducation.com](http://www.kupunaeducation.com) or contact Toni Hathaway at 734-9108.

### KCC Kupuna Education Center Offers Online Continuing Education

*Submitted by: Dr. Cullen Hayashida*



Does your agency need an efficient way to introduce elder care issues to your new hires and your existing staff who do not have a gerontology background? Let your computer provide access to training and continuing education in the comfort of your office or home. KCC's Kupuna Education Center now has a variety of topics on practical skills in 30 minutes segments. Employers can assign their employees without have any “down time” for them attend classes outside the office.

Check out the new online training for direct care workers at [www.kupunaeducation.com](http://www.kupunaeducation.com) and click on the yellow hands. Call Emelyn Kim at Kupuna Education Center 734-9460 to learn more or to



arrange a convenient demonstration for a group of your staff.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **Social Security Announces New Online Services Available With A *My Social Security* Account**

*Submitted by: Jane Yamamoto-Burigsay,  
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Hawaii*

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, today announced the agency is expanding the services available with a *my Social Security* account, a personalized online account that people can use beginning in their working years and continuing throughout the time they receive Social Security benefits. More than 60 million Social Security beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients can now access their benefit verification letter, payment history, and earnings record instantly using their online account. Social Security beneficiaries also can change their address and start or change direct deposit information online.

“We are making it even easier for people to do their business with us from the comfort of their home, office, or library,” Commissioner Astrue said. “I encourage people of all ages to take advantage of our award-winning online services and check out the new features available through an online *my Social Security* account.”

Social Security beneficiaries and SSI recipients with a *my Social Security* account can go online and get an official benefit verification letter instantly. The benefit verification letter serves as proof of income to secure loans, mortgages and other housing, and state or local benefits. Additionally, people use the letter to prove current Medicare health insurance

coverage, retirement or disability status, and age. People can print or save a customized letter.

Social Security processed nearly nine million requests for benefit verification letters in the past year. This new online service allows people to conduct business with Social Security without having to visit an office or make a phone call, and very often wait for a letter to arrive in the mail. It also will reduce the time spent by employees completing these requests and free them to focus on other workloads.

People age 18 and older can sign up for an account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). Once there, they must be able to provide information about themselves and answers to questions that only they are likely to know. After completing the secure verification process, people can create a *my Social Security* account with a unique username and password to access their information.

People age 18 and older who are not receiving benefits can sign up for a *my Social Security* account to get a personalized online Social Security Statement. The online Statement provides eligible workers with secure and convenient access to their Social Security earnings and benefit information, and estimates of future benefits they can use to plan for their retirement. In addition, the portal also includes links to information about other online services, such as applications for retirement, disability and Medicare.

“Given our significantly reduced funding, we have to find innovative ways to continue to meet the needs of the American people without compromising service,” said Commissioner Astrue. “These new enhancements will allow us to provide faster service to more people in more places.”

For more information, please go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount)



hawaii pacific gerontological society

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