



hawaii pacific gerontological society

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August 2021

HPGS 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sherry Goya, Executive Director
808-722-8487 • sgoyallc@aol.com

P. O. Box 3714
Honolulu, HI 96812
www.hpgs.org
HPGS.808@gmail.com

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

Just last month I was looking forward to the coming months with optimism and hope. Since then the COVID-19 case counts have multiplied and the positivity rate has gone from 2% to 8%, with cases occurring primarily in people who are unvaccinated.

I'd like to ask you to remember that many of our most feared and deadly diseases have been eradicated, or suppressed, because of vaccines.

Remember polio? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tell us that in the early 1950s, before vaccines were available, polio outbreaks caused more than 15,000 cases of paralysis each year. Following the introduction of vaccines, polio cases plummeted to fewer than 100 in the 1960s and fewer than 10 by the 1970s. We've seen similar results for mumps, measles, tuberculosis, chicken pox, the flu, and other diseases that once took millions of lives.

While these diseases are still with us, vaccinations have kept us safe for generations.

Today, the COVID-19 virus and its Delta variant have affected 36 million Americans. The virus has caused 617,000 deaths in the United States, 543 of which were Hawaii residents, with a disproportionate number of deaths among those 50 years and older and with underlying health conditions like heart and lung disease, diabetes, obesity, and so on.

Vaccines against COVID are widely available (and free) and we urge everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible. While some of you may be fearful, this is a public health issue affecting our entire community.

Here are a few facts:

- The vaccine is safe.
- No safety protocols were skipped in the vaccine development (see an explanation at <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/is-the-covid19-vaccine-safe>).
- With every passing day, there's a risk that a more highly transmissible and deadly variant may develop which is resistant to vaccines.
- Even though the majority of kūpuna in Hawaii have been vaccinated, there is a risk to their health and safety if new variants evolve and spread.
- With so much opinion and speculation circulating, it's important to get your information from reliable sources.

(Continued on Page 3)

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.

WELCOME TO HPGS

INDIVIDUAL

Vicki Belluomini
Terry Crews
Kristi Ishikawa
Roxsand Okuna
Nadine Ontai
Rae-Ann Pagatpatan
Sharon Vitousek

EVENTS

Senior Medicare Patrol Hawaii

webinars:

August 16 -- 10:15 am - 11:00 am
Go-Getter's Guide for Protecting the
Whole Ohana

By Roseann Freitas, Better Business
Bureau

August 17 -- 10:15 am - 11:00 am
Medicaid Scams News, Updates
and Alerts

By Timothy Tate, Department of the
Attorney General

Join via Zoom using this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/3124825354?pwd=MHE4Y0pDWHIZenZCcmRKcjRCaS9Gdz09>

HPGS CONFERENCE VIDEOS

There will be 18 **video presentations** at this year's conference from students, professors, nonprofits, and companies who serve Hawaii's seniors. Here are a few presentations which may be of interest are:

"The Impact of Nature-Based Interventions for Caregivers of People with Dementia" by Melody Hazel from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

"A Critical Helpline for Asian Pacific Islander older adults: by Heather Chu of the National Asia Pacific Center on Aging.

"Career Pathways in Eldercare" by Christy Nishita, Ph.D. at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

2021 HPGS CONFERENCE

Did YOU register for the September 15th & 16th **HPGS Biennial Conference** yet? It is intended for elder care practitioners in the health and human service fields, business, government agencies, nonprofits and faith-based organization serving older adults, applied researchers, students in gerontology, advocates for seniors, and seniors interested in continuing their education as they age. YOU will hear breakthrough discoveries on aging, research on changes in the field of gerontology, the truth about lymphedema, the economic implications of population aging, and much more, with their theme of "Foresight 2021 and Beyond." University students may be eligible for a FREE registration by contacting Christy Nishita at cnishita@hawaii.edu.

Featured speakers and presenters will be from Singapore, New York, Chicago, Georgia, California, as well as experts from Hawaii. Here's a glimpse at some of the conference presenters:



"Care of the Aging Eyes - New Innovations" by Tyrie Jenkins, MD, nationally renowned ophthalmologist and surgeon. She is widely known as a LASIK pioneer, performing user vision correction in 1997 and was the first to do so in Hawaii. Dr. Jenkins has also participated in several medical missions to Marshall Islands, China, Samoa and Vietnam. Learn about the latest innovations in eye care for the aging population.



"Aging in the 21st Century: The Promise and Potential of the Boomer Generation" by Dr. Harry Moody, a graduate of Columbia University (Ph.D.) in philosophy from (1973). He has taught at Columbia, Hunter College, New York University, and the University of Santa Cruz. Dr. Moody is the author of over 100 scholarship articles, as well as a number of books, including Ethics in an Aging Society, Aging: Concepts and Controversies (10th edition).



"Breakthrough Discoveries on Aging, Research on Changes in the Field of Gerontology" by Lois Ricci, Ed.D, GNP, RN, who is a geriatric nurse practitioner/educator and is now a consultant and adjunct faculty with Kennesaw State University in Georgia. She is with the CareNet Project at the Rosalyn Carter Institute for Caregiving, as well as a facilitator and master trainer for the AARP/University of CT Disrupt Aging Classroom project.



"Caring for those with Serious Illness: We Can Do Better" by Dr. Rae Seitz, who is a Harvard trained palliative medicine specialist who was instrumental in the design, build, and establishment of home-based palliative care first at Kaiser Permanente Hawaii then at HMSA as the lead for Supportive Care, and Dr. Sharon Vitousek, a graduate of Williams College, the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine and the UH Internal Medicine Residency Program.

HI LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman protects the human and civil rights of residents. It was established by federal and state statutes and responds to complaints and problems of residents of long-term care facilities such as nursing homes, adult residential care homes, assisted living facilities, community care foster family homes and other long-term care facilities. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman operates through the State Executive Office of Aging. The services of the program are free and available statewide.

The following is a partial list of rights of residents depending on what type of home is selected. If any of these rights are denied or violated, you are entitled to seek help outside the facility:

- Be treated with respect and dignity
- Be free from chemical and physical restraints
- Manage your own finances
- Voice grievances without fear of retaliation
- Associate and communicate privately with any person of your choice
- Send and receive personal mail
- Have your personal medical record kept confidential
- Be given advance notice of transfer or discharge
- Not be humiliated, harassed, or threatened

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman,
Executive Office on Aging
250 S. Hotel Street, 3406
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-586-7268
john.mcdermott@doh.hawaii.gov

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CON'T)

- There is a greater risk to our keiki under 12 who are not yet able to be vaccinated.

Unless more people get vaccinated, we will not succeed in stopping this pandemic and resuming our normal lives again. This is a matter affecting the greater good of our community, not an issue of someone's freedom of choice.

While the decision to get vaccinated is ultimately a personal one, we hope you will consider the safety of your family, friends, co-workers, and everyone you come into contact with. By getting vaccinated, you're protecting all of them, as much as you're protecting yourself.

HPGS FACEBOOK GUIDLINES

HPGS members may have noticed that we posted below on the HPGS Facebook page on July 22, 2021.

"The HPGS Facebook page will share information that promotes the HPGS mission..."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 Hawai'i."

HPGS has turned off our Facebook notifications to enhance the information shared, minus the comments. If you have a questions, please contact HPGS' Facebook administrator, Rick Tabor at rtabor12@twc.com, who will share or research an answer for you. Mahalo.

WE MAKE IT HAPPEN! BY: KATHY WYATT

Before I moved to Hawai'i eleven years ago, I had no idea that I could actually make a difference in the running of our government. I would venture to say that most "ordinary folks" don't know it, either!

Anyone can get involved in community affairs on the local, state and federal levels. We have the freedom to discuss, deliberate and debate solutions in our neighborhoods, counties and state. "Democracy relies on ordinary citizens to improve our communities."

It's easy to get involved. You can contact your state Representative, your Senator, your city council, and many other entities and ask what are their priorities for legislation. You can choose which of them to fight for and then submit testimony for or against. For senior issues, you can contact your Area Agency on Aging, Office of Aging, Elder Affairs Division, and find out what legislation is being discussed. You can come to the Kupuna Caucus that meets once a month and hear what other citizens are talking about, and you can have the opportunity to speak, too!

There are so many ways that you can get involved, and your voice will be heard. It's exciting, meaningful, and fun!





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2021 Biennial Conference
Foresight 2021 and Beyond
Innovations in Aging
September 15 - 16, 2021
'A Virtual Conference'

Registration Form

Foresight 2021 and Beyond
Wednesday & Thursday, September 15 & 16, 2021
'A Virtual Conference'

The HPGS 2021 Biennial Conference will have four featured and ten educational presentations from international, national, and local speakers. It is intended for elder care practitioners in the health and human service fields, businesses, government agencies, non-profits and faith-based organizations serving older adults, applied researchers, students in gerontology, advocates for seniors, and seniors interested in continuing their education.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Organization/Company (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

- I will be attending BOTH days.
I am a video presenter.
I am a presenter (No Charge).

Table with 4 columns: 2021 DATES, REGULAR REGISTRATION, LATE REGISTRATION, and rows for MEMBER, NON-MEMBER, STUDENT SENIOR 65+.

Total amount being paid with this registration form is \$_____ (check attached)

Please send your completed form, along with your check, payable to Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society and mail to:

HPGS Biennial Conference
P. O. Box 3714
Honolulu, HI 96812

For charge card registrations, go to www.hpgs.org and register online.



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2021 Biennial Conference
Foresight 2021 and Beyond
Innovations in Aging
September 15 - 16, 2021
"A Virtual Conference"

Sponsorship Form

The Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society (HPGS), a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring an adequate workforce and resources in the field of aging, is seeking sponsors for its upcoming virtual 2021 Biennial Conference on September 15th & 16th. The conference theme is "Foresight 2021 and Beyond" and invites attendees to hear current research and evidence based practices that impact the lives of our seniors. The conference will be held virtually, by POP Creative Media, with a Control Room at the Ala Moana Hotel.

The conference is intended for senior care practitioners in the health and human service fields, businesses providing financial, legal and other products and services to the senior population, nursing home administrators, managers and planners in public and nonprofit agencies serving seniors and other populations, advocates and volunteers, university students, as well as Boomers and family members.

Over 300 people are expected to attend this two-day conference which will have presentations conducted by local, national and international experts on cutting edge technologies, health and wellness, businesses, innovative programs and services that promote the well-being of seniors. HPGS is seeking sponsors to help defray conference expenses. The conference fees are at an affordable rate to attract attendees such as seniors and students in the aging field. Benefits of sponsorship are listed below.

SPONSOR SHALL RECEIVE:

GOLD SPONSOR
(donation of \$2,000 or more)

- Acknowledgement in the conference program
Full page PDF ad in the conference program
Two conference registrations for two days
30-second video as .mp4 file to be aired twice during the conference on each day.
Link to your website will be available.
Company name/logo will be on a sponsorship banner and shown throughout the two-day conference.

SILVER SPONSOR
(donation of \$1,000 to \$1,999)

- Acknowledgement in the conference program
Half page PDF ad in the conference program
Two conference registrations for two days
Link to your website will be available.
Company name/logo will be on a sponsorship banner and shown throughout the two-day conference.

BRONZE SPONSOR
(donation of \$500 to \$999)

- Acknowledgement in the conference program
One-fourth page PDF ad in the conference program
One conference registration for two days
Link to your website will be available.
Company name/logo will be on a sponsorship banner and shown throughout the two-day conference.

FRIEND OF HPGS
(Donation to HPGS)

- Acknowledgement in the conference program

We have chosen this sponsorship level: [] Gold [] Silver [] Bronze [] HPGS Friend

Amount of our check attached is \$ _____

Deadline is August 23, 2021 to complete this form, write check to HPGS Biennial Conference, and mail to P. O. Box 3714; Honolulu, HI 96812.

Company Name _____ Website _____

Contact Person _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone# _____

Mahalo for supporting the HPGS 2021 Biennial Conference!