



hawaii pacific gerontological society

Volume 43, No. 9

September 2022

**HPGS 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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HPGS.808@gmail.com

HPGS has open enrollment for new members throughout the year. Current HPGS members may renew for 2022 any time online at [www.hpgs.org](http://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

Just like that, summer became fall and it's football season again.

August was filled with events and activities. Dr. Poki'i Balaz, Kathy Wyatt and I participated in PABEA's Strategic Planning Day on August 4th. PABEA, the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, consists of community members who offer input to the Executive Office on Aging.

On August 5th, members of the HPGS Board were present at the Governor's signing ceremony of the Kupuna Bill. August 5 was also proclaimed Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Day. Mahalo to all who worked so hard to make the Kupuna bills a reality.

The Hawai'i Young Healthcare Professionals / HPGS Industry Professional Mixer at the Pitch Sports Bar on August 9 was a success and a great opportunity to get acquainted with some of our talented young healthcare providers.

On August 11th Dr. Sandra von Doetinchem was voted in as a new HPGS Director. Sandra is an associate faculty member at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and focuses on educational opportunities for learners of all ages. She is currently also involved in data analysis of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education for mature adults.

The HPGS Workforce Development committee announced that nine scholarship awardees were recently chosen. Congratulations to each of them! Their personal profiles are being added to the Scholarship page of the HPGS website, if you are interested in learning more. We hope to hear from some of them at the September 15th HPGS General Membership Meeting.

Governor David Ige will be the keynote speaker at this month's General Membership Meeting. We look forward to hearing his take on his time in office and accomplishments, particularly on actions taken to protect us from the early days of the pandemic.

The Club 100 members who represent the families of many who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion during World War II, invite you, your family and friends to help decorate 1,000 heroes' graves with flowers on Saturday, September 24th, from 8am at Punchbowl. Help is also needed with 100 Nisei veteran graves at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe. A joint memorial service at Punchbowl will be held on Sunday, September 25th, from 9:30 to 10:30 am.

Mahalo 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 MEMBERSHIP

### NEW Individual

Danielle Akiona  
Phoebe Hwang  
Landen Kukahiwa  
Kelson Oshiro  
Laura Reichhardt  
Michael Tong  
Dr. Sandra von Doetinchem  
Kokoro Yamazaki

### Company Kapahulu Center

## HPGS SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

The 2022 HPGS scholarship fundraiser will remain virtual, as it has been for the past two years. All proceeds will support the Tony Lenzer Graduate and Undergraduate scholarships. This year's honoree is **John McDermott**, Hawaii State Long-Term Care Ombudsman since 1998. He advocates for the well being and safety for Hawaii's Kupuna population, with attention to those that reside in long-term care and assisted living facilities.

John's greatest achievement since taking his position with the State was to have five full-time state ombudsmen for Neighbor-Islands (Kauai, Maui, Hilo, Jon and one more for Oahu) made a part of the State budget. That goal was fulfilled when Governor Ige signed that legislation into law this past July. Kudos to John for his continued leadership to support Hawaii's Kupuna.

Donations may be made online at [www.hpgs.org](http://www.hpgs.org) from now until November 30th by clicking on the "Donate" button. Those who wish to write a check may print and complete the attached form and mail to HPGS at P. O. Box 3714; Honolulu, HI 96812. HPGS is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) association. If there any questions, please contact Sherry Goya, HPGS Executive director at [sgoyallc@aol.com](mailto:sgoyallc@aol.com) or 808-722-8487.

## HPGS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The final General Membership Meeting for the Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society will be held via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9326683629>). The keynote speaker will be Governor David Ige, talking about his years at the capitol and how Hawaii's kupuna were an important part of the journey. See the attached flyer for more information about the meeting.

## NEW HPGS BOARD MEMBER



On August 11th Dr. Sandra von Doetinchem was voted in as a new HPGS Director. Sandra is an associate faculty member at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and focuses on educational opportunities for learners of all ages. She holds a PhD and MEd in lifelong learning/older adult education and is currently also involved in a grant which focuses on of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education for mature adults. She is an Associate Specialist faculty member at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Outreach College, and previously served as Department Chair of Outreach College's Continuing and Professional Program department. Before joining the University of Hawaii, Dr. von Doetinchem worked at UC Berkeley's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Sandra holds a doctorate in lifelong learning from the University Tübingen, Germany, and a Master's degree in continuing education and adult learning from the University Duisburg-Essen, Germany. Her dissertation focused on education in older and oldest-old age in comparison between the United States and Germany.

## RECONNECTING WITH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES



### Ruby Young, 2017 Recipient

I am currently working as a nurse practitioner hospitalist in Seattle, Washington. I treat adult and older adult patients that are hospitalized for various illnesses. I am grateful for the impact that I am making as a healthcare professional. Working in the last two years during the pandemic has been challenging, to say the least. I am reminded of the support I have received in the past and present, including the support I have received from organizations like HPGS. I hope that I will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of my patients, particularly the geriatric population. They are the reason that I went into the healthcare field in the first place.

## HPGS & HYHP MIXER

There were over 45 members from HPGS and Hawaii Young Healthcare Professionals who gathered for a joint industry mixer at Pitch Sports Bar in Kaka'ako on August 9th. There was tasty food, refreshing beverages, and lots of opportunities to network across the healthcare and aging sectors. The goal of this event was to raise awareness of the wide variety of careers in aging, connect students and young leaders to local aging professionals, and also help to recruit new volunteer care navigators for the Kupuna Care Corps project. Leaders from both organizations, including HPGS president Rick Tabor, shared their respective of both organizations and their joint enthusiasm towards future collaborations. Special thanks to past HPGS Scholarship recipients, Phoebe Hwang, Whitney Katsutani, and Eric Wolfe, for helping to plan this event.

## 2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

HPGS was proud to award five students of gerontology with the **Tony Lenzer Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarship** last month and a check for \$2,500 each. Christy Nishita, the HPGS Workforce Development Chair, thanked her committee for their hard work. Congratulations go out to:



**Melody Halzel**, who is a PhD Student in the Public Health program at UH Mānoa, is a graduate assistant in the Center on Disability Studies. Her current research focus is on the design and implementation of accessible gardens for people with Dementia and their caregivers. As a public health professional, Melody will devote her career to ensure inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities and older adults in all aspects of society.



**Landen Kukahiwa** said: "I am an undergraduate student at the Chaminade University of Honolulu aiming to become a physician in geriatric medicine. My interest in geriatric medicine stems from an appreciation for all that the kupuna have done for Hawaii's community and a need to give back and advocate for the elderly community."



**Michael Tong** is pursuing a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies at UH Mānoa, aiming to serve as a physician and educator in Hawaii. He holds reverence for our kupuna and want to advocate to help them age gracefully in a vocation that can help uplift them and the wellbeing of their families.



**Kai Wang**, wrote: "Thank you so much for this scholarship. As a first-generation, international doctoral student studying abroad in the US, this HPGS scholarship motivates me to serve as a lifelong learning educator for older adults in the Asia Pacific region. Because I see the potential of this "golden-aged generation," I want to contribute to the field of aging with the scientific knowledge of human learning.



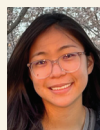
**Kokoro Yamazaki** is pursuing a B.S in Biology as a 2nd-year undergraduate student at UH Manoa. She has gained an interest in geriatrics after volunteer and clinical experiences back home on Maui, while being surrounded by the elder community growing up. Koroko looks forward to new experiences and giving back to my community.

### NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

With the \$25,000 grant from the **Nakao & Mieko Yoshinaga Family Fund**, a donor advised fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation, the HPGS Workforce Development Committee awarded \$2,500 to four nursing students in Hawaii.



**Bailey Laguna** is from Mililani, and currently a junior in nursing school about to tackle a whole new world of venture. His grandparents are profound figures in her life that embodies everything that he hopes to be as a person. It is only instinctual that Bailey has a genuine career interest in nurturing the very population he owes it all to.



**Marissa Iwahashi**, wrote: "I was born and raised in Hilo, Hawaii and am now attending nursing school at UH Manoa. I became interested in a career in aging after my clinical and work experiences with patients and my personal hopes that I could continue to help this population."



**Kelson Oshiro** was born and raised on the island of Kauai, and worked in healthcare in various administrative and clinical roles. His interest in the aging population started with his first job working for a primary care physician. Kelson saw how professional, passionate, empathetic, and knowledgeable he was towards his elderly patients and their families. This is something Kelson will carry on as an Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner.



**Danielle Akiona**, said: "I'm a Native Hawaiian with a desire to give back to my lāhui by caring for our kūpuna. Kūpuna hold a special place in my heart as they're the ones who've paved the way for the next generations. I want to mālama kūpuna as a mahalo for all they've done."



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# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, September 15, 2022

11:30 am

Via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9326683629>

Welcome by HPGS President Rick Tabor

Meet a few of the 2022 HPGS Scholarship Winners

HPGS Scholarship Fundraiser Honoree Announcement

2023 HPGS Biennial Two-Day Conference



Keynote Speaker: Governor David Ige

“My years in the legislature and Governor’s office  
and how it related to Hawaii’s Kupuna.”

RSVP: Sherry Goya ([sgoyallc@aol.com](mailto:sgoyallc@aol.com))





hawaii pacific gerontological society

# 6th ANNUAL HPGS FUNDRAISER

Thursday, November 3, 2022, 5:30pm  
Zoom link to be sent to registered attendees.

Honoring

## John McDermott



The Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society is honoring John McDermott for his undying devotion to Kupuna and their families throughout the state of Hawaii and our nation. John went from grammar school to the University of Notre Dame, arriving in Hawaii as counselor and assistant chaplain at the Hawaii State Hospital in May 1985. Wishing to remain in Hawaii, John went on to work at Hale Kipa, Chaminade, University of Hawaii, Catholic Charities, Maunalani Nursing Home, and Hale Nani Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

It was in August 1998 that John’s journey as the Hawaii State Long-Term Care Ombudsman began. As the Ombudsman, he advocates for the wellbeing and safety for Hawaii’s elder population, with attention to those that reside in long-term care and assisted living facilities. His greatest achievement since taking his position was to have five full-time state ombudsmen

for Neighbor-Islands (Kauai, Maui, Hilo, Kona and one more for Oahu) made a part of the State budget. That goal was fulfilled when the Governor signed that legislation into law in July 2022.

He continues to fight for prevention of elder abuse and neglect, resident veterans, long-term care initiatives, nursing home staffing requirements, reducing language barriers, elder prisoners, increasing the personal needs allowance, and end-of-life decision making.

The 2022 HPGS fundraiser will remain virtual, as it has been for the past two years. All proceeds will support HPGS and the scholarship fund. Donations may be made online at [www.hpgs.org](http://www.hpgs.org) from now until November 30th by clicking on the “Donate” button. Those who wish to write a check should complete the form below and mail to HPGS, P. O. Box 3714; Honolulu, HI 96812. HPGS a nonprofit 501(c)(3) association. If there are any questions, please contact Sherry Goya, HPGS Executive Director, at 808-722-8487 or [sgoyallc@aol.com](mailto:sgoyallc@aol.com).

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Company (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and check payable to HPGS to P. O. Box 3714 • Honolulu, HI 96812

To pay by charge card, go to [www.hpgs.org](http://www.hpgs.org) and use fillable form.

Donation made for the HPGS Scholarship Fund in the amount of  
 \$50  \$100 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Please email me the Zoom link to attend on November 3rd

To learn about Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society, please check out [www.hpgs.org](http://www.hpgs.org)