



hawaii pacific gerontological society

Volume 43, No. 11

November 2022

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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

On behalf of the board of directors of the Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society, I would like to thank you in advance for this year's successful fundraiser! At the writing of this newsletter, the event has raised over \$7,000 to support scholarships for students focusing on care for Hawaii's kupuna. We appreciate your generosity, but there is still time to make a donation at [www.hpgs.org](http://www.hpgs.org) or complete the attached flyer. Special congratulations and thank you to John McDermott and his Ombuddies, our emcee, Marilyn Seely and our true hero who is our Long-Term Care Ombudsman Volunteer Coordinator, Lynn Niitani.

This year's event will be coming from 'Olelo Community Television and thanks go to them in advance for their encore presentation, as they produced last year's fundraiser too. Next year we hope to broadcast live, in-person, but for the second year in a row, we are grateful for 'Olelo's help! Thank you 'Olelo!

If you miss the show, or loved it so much you want to see it again, Oahu's, 'Olelo will rebroadcast the HPGS: 6th Annual Scholarship Fundraising Event on channel 53

- 11/3/2022 5:30pm
- 11/21/2022 8:00pm
- 11/23/2022 10:00pm
- 11/28/2022 8:00pm
- 11/29/2022 4:00pm

Please help spread the news that the HPGS training awards program is open year-round, The Eldercare Worker Training Award is designed specifically for persons currently working with, or planning to work with, older adults. These awards of \$750 per applicant provides tuition assistance for workers who enroll in credit or noncredit courses and certificate programs, which enhance their knowledge and skills in areas related to aging. Selected programs can be either in local classroom settings or online. The HPGS Eldercare Worker Training Award applications are accepted on a rolling basis, funds permitting per year. HPGS will restart the Tony Lenzer Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships in Aging scholarships to college students interested in careers involving aging and older people in Spring 2023.

HPGS wishes you and your loved ones a Happy Thanksgiving! Remember, being grateful is appreciating what one has, as opposed to what one wants. Being thankful implies you are acknowledging your thanks for something that someone has given you. Grateful to be thankful, is the gratitude attitude we hope for all and to all a Mahalo Nui Loa,

-Rick Tabor, honored to be your HPGS 2022 President

**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 Kupuna in Hawaii.

## HPGS NEWS

The October 2022 AARP Bulletin wrote that **AARP Hawaii** is seeking volunteers to bolster outreach and advocacy for the state's older residents who face high prescription drug prices and other pressures. It continued that "Among the activities that volunteers can undertake are write letters to the editor and testifying to lawmakers about their experiences with high medication costs, as well as the importance of Social Security, Medicare and affordable housing." **AARP Hawaii** also needs communications volunteers to help with social media and audio and visual presentations. Training for volunteers will be provided. For details, email [hiaarp@aarp.org](mailto:hiaarp@aarp.org) so you can be invited to recruitment and orientation meetings with will be held in November and December.

## SOCIAL SECURITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for approximately 70 million Americans will increase 8.7 percent in 2023, the Social Security Administration announced today. On average, Social Security benefits will increase by more than \$140 per month starting in January.

The 8.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 65 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2023. Increased payments to more than 7 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 30, 2022. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits). The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

To view a COLA message from Acting Commissioner Kijakazi, please visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vgm5q4YT1AM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vgm5q4YT1AM).

Information about Medicare changes for 2023 is available at [www.medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov). For Social Security beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare, their new higher 2023 benefit amount will be available in December through the mailed COLA notice and my Social Security's Message Center.

## ELDERCARE WORKER TRAINING AWARD

The October HPGS newsletter announced a training awards program designed specifically for persons currently working with, or planning to work with, older adults. These awards will provide tuition assistance for workers who enroll in credit or noncredit courses and certificate programs, which enhance their knowledge and skills in areas related to aging. Selected programs can be either in local classroom settings or online. Visit <https://form.jotform.com/220825985500053> for more information and apply. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

## RECONNECTING WITH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES



**Uyanga Batzogs** was born and raised in Mongolia. She earned her PhD in Social Welfare in May 2022 and plans to develop new and better services for multi-generations, especially for older adults. She has lived in Hawaii while completing her MBA degree at Shidler School and worked for Waimanalo Health Center as the CFO. She wrote in her 2019 email when she received the HPGS scholarship:

"While running a business in Mongolia, I founded a non-profit, helping older adults to have a place to socialize in a senior center and assist them to get part time employment. However, sustainability is always a challenge due to funding issues. I love working with seniors and I currently volunteer and teach board games to older adults in Hawaii, at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UH. My husband and I have four children, aged from 7 to 19. My grandparents inspired me to study gerontology because they are leading active lives. Thank you very much for providing me the scholarship. This is great support for me to expand my knowledge in gerontology and follow my passion to be an active aging advocate."

## OMBUDSMAN "DID YOU KNOW?"

Originating in Sweden as an independent official to investigate complaints against government officials and agencies, the ombuds role has taken a variety of forms and adapted to a variety of needs over the last 200 years. The ACL-funded State Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program takes an advocacy-oriented approach. Each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam has an Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman led by a full-time state ombudsman. Under authority provided through the Older Americans Act, the offices investigate and resolve complaints about nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other residential care settings.

Their work is resident-directed. Most cases — 64% in 2021 — come to the LTC ombudsman from residents themselves or their families or friends. Ombudsmen also work to resolve problems that they find through observation or discussions with residents and staff during their regular visits to LTC facilities. In fact, in 2021, seven percent of cases originated with the LTC ombudsman. Other agencies and organizations, concerned individuals, facility staff, and resident or family councils were also sources of complaints.

The LTC ombudsman uses information gathered during an investigation to advocate for the resident and to resolve complaints to the resident's satisfaction. Such advocacy could include educating the provider of services, negotiating a solution to the problem, empowering the resident, or seeking legal or administrative remedies. The experiences of residents also inform systems advocacy, as state LTC ombudsmen and their representatives comment on laws, regulations, and public policy.



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# 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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Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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)