



hawaii pacific gerontological society

Volume 44, No. 11

November 2023

HPGS 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kathy Wyatt, President
Laurie Adamshick, President-Elect
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Kristina Wong

Sherry Goya, Executive Director
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HPGS has open enrollment for new members throughout the year. HPGS members may renew for 2023 any time online at 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



KATHY WYATT
PRESIDENT

It's been an exciting year for us at Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society!

As you know, we had our Biennial Conference in September, which was amazing. Then we had our Annual Tony Lenzer Scholarship Fundraiser, where we honored Gary Simon for all he has done to improve the lives of Hawai'i's kupuna. HPGS was able to raise almost \$9,000 for our scholarship program for next year. It was a very successful program.

In October, Savy Macalena and I attended the National Alliance for Caregiving's inaugural Caregiver Summit in Washington D.C. It was the first advocacy summit focused on America's 53 million family caregivers. The two-day event included conversations on how to improve the lives of family caregivers and interactive sessions on championing our first-ever National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers. Family caregivers and family caregiver coalition leaders from across the country assembled for Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill, where we visited with Hawai'i's Senators and Representatives to ask for their support for legislation that would help family caregivers. It was a very empowering experience. Hawai'i is recognized as being far ahead of the game when it comes to advocacy for our kupuna and family caregivers.

As we move into 2024, there will be some changes to the HPGS family. I will be stepping down as President, and we welcome Laurie Adamshick of Rulon Adamshick, Elder Care Attorneys. We are also welcoming three new Board Members who will be a great asset to our organization. Early in 2024, we will begin planning our 2025 Biennial Conference and the 2024 Tony Lenzer Scholarship Fundraiser. We will also plan the quarterly General Membership Meetings where educational offerings are scheduled to cover relevant and important topics for you.

All in all, HPGS is a vibrant, robust organization bringing together professionals and students from many diverse backgrounds to enhance the education vision of our Founder, Dr. Tony Lenzer.

Happy Thanksgiving!!

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 Hawai'i'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.

EVENTS

Mayor's 47th Annual Craft & Country Fair Saturday, November 18th from 9am to 1pm

Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall
Visit 39 Generations Magazine
Partners
Buy crafts, food, pottery, plants, etc.
Support the Honolulu City's
Senior Clubs

Sat, Nov 18, 9am to 12pm
98-939 Moanalua Road, Aiea
Dementia, Loneliness & Caregiving
RSVP: kwyatt01@aol.com or
call 808-798-8706.

Tues, Nov. 28, 4pm – 6pm
1464 Lower Main St, Wailuku, Maui
Understanding Dementia Part 3 & 4
By Lacie Molzon, Ohana Care Maui
RSVP: debgalvez@ohanacaremaui.com

Hawaii SHIP is offering in-person counseling sessions on Oahu at two public libraries. This service is free and unbiased, so you won't be sold a Medicare plan. Contact Hawaii SHIP to schedule your appointment to speak to a counselor about your current coverage or compare Medicare plans for 2024.

Date: **November 15, 2023**
(Wednesday)
Time: 10 AM-2 PM
Location: Nanakuli Public Library
(89-070 Farrington Hwy,
Waianae, HI 96792)

Date: **November 29, 2023**
(Wednesday)
Time: 10 AM-2 PM
Location: Pearl City Library
(1138 Waimano Home Rd,
Pearl City, HI 96782)

Date: **December 1, 2023**
(Friday)
Time: 11 AM-3 PM
Location: Pearl City Library
(1138 Waimano Home Rd,
Pearl City, HI 96782)

**Call Hawaii SHIP (808-586-7299) or
contact us online (hawaiiship.org)
to schedule an appointment today!**

HPGS TONY LENZER SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

The beautiful chapel at the Arcadia was the backdrop for this year's 7th Annual Tony Lenzer Scholarship Fundraiser, which was held via Zoom that honored Gary Simon. Kathy Wyatt, HPGS President was the MC, and they both sat among the cameras, lights, TV monitors, keyboards and computers from 5:30pm. The program for the evening was filled with live and video testimonies, as well as presentations of certificates from Governor Josh Green, Mayor Rick Blangiardi, the Hawaii State Senate and the City Council of Honolulu.

Governor Green wrote: "On behalf of the people of Hawaii, we are honored to recognize Gary Simon for his outstanding advocacy on behalf of Hawaii's Kupuna. Gary has dedicated many years to championing the needs of our senior citizens, leaving a lasting impact on our community."

There were a number of "Gary's friends," who wanted him to know of the impact he made on their lives. Everyone agreed that he was a quiet but funny guy, who was wise, kind, smart, and most of all very helpful to Hawaii's kupuna, their caregivers, friends and families. Everything he has done was for others, and the testimonies were from those who knew him from as far back as 1990 and some for just a few months. The impact Gary has on everyone is genuine and always with a great smile and hug. HPGS was honored to recognize Gary Simon for the 7th Annual Tony Lenzer Scholarship Fundraiser. And speaking of Tony Lenzer, a cofounder of HPGS and the University of Hawaii's Center on Aging, Gary said that he saved a telephone message that Tony left on his phone years ago so that he can listen to it from time to time. Tony's legacy still lives on in many people's lives and Gary is no exception.



HPGS BOARD NEWS



A valuable board member and daughter of Tony Lenzer, the co-founder of HPGS, has decided to concentrate on things nearer to her home in Kailua-Kona. **Sara Medeiros**, however, vows to continue to support the Tony Lenzer Scholarship as she has done for so many years. HPGS will keep the memory of her father in the forefront of their thoughts with annual scholarships for college students in the field of gerontology.



Also taking a step back from the HPGS board to concentrate on a really full-time job at the Alzheimer's Association is **Tonya Hammond-Tullis**. The HPGS Board appreciates her time on the board. Those who were at the HPGS Conference this year had the pleasure of meeting her at the HPGS table, since she was the conference chair of the Exhibitor's Committee for Friday, September 8th.

HPGS MEMBER NEWS

The 4th Annual Thanksgiving Meal Drive-Thru Fundraiser for **Hawaii Meals on Wheels** will feature a delicious meal pack, to include a ready-to-eat turkey with all the fixings. Meal pack orders must be received by Nov 10. As part of this year's fall benefit, generous supporter, including First Hawaiian Bank, Par Hawaii, the Pettus Foundation, The Queen's Health Systems, and UHA Health Insurance, have offered to match every gift you give by Thanksgiving up to \$55,000! That means every \$1 you give will be matched to become \$2 to help more kūpuna! For questions, please contact Evelyn Fonseca at (808) 784-2761 or efonseca@hmow.org.

Catholic Charities Hawaii's Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center (LMPSC) located at 1640 Lanakila Street is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and except holidays. It offers seven ethnic clubs, provides over 30 classes and hosts many special events. Healthy activities for seniors involve exercise classes and health screenings. Scheduled seminars to keep our kūpuna safe include topics ranging from pedestrian safety to securing personal finances. For more information, contact Susie Chun Oakland at suzanne.oakland@catholiccharitieshawaii.org

A MESSAGE FROM GARY SIMON

Dear Members of the Board of the Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society,

Mahalo nui loa for the tremendous honor of publicly recognizing my work over the past thirty-plus years. I never expected to be honored. In fact, my natural instinct is to avoid promotion and publicity. I will be the first to acknowledge that, in my advocacy for the wellbeing of Hawai'i's kūpuna, I have been embedded in teams with committed, steadfast members allowing us to perform and accomplish the extraordinary. Our achievements are vibrant reflections of the work and passion of these team members. Some of these teams included Tony Lenzer and the previous elite honorees – Rose Nakamura, Barbara Kim Stanton, Cullen Hayashida, Emmett White, and John McDermott. A small group of selfless and dedicated advocates can improve our world.

Similarly, I am fortunate and privileged to serve on boards and committees and in organizations with many of you, the officers and directors of HPGS. Our collective resonance amplifies our strengths and efforts.

My drive and journey has never been about me. It is about advancing a community where kūpuna and their families flourish and prosper. Our calling is to cultivate and shape such a community. Indeed, our achievements will be our legacy that future generations can enhance further. The board and members of HPGS feel this desire deep within their souls.

My heart will embrace this honor from HPGS forever.

May God bless you, and may God bless Hawai'i's kupuna.

*With warmest aloha and heartfelt gratitude,
Gary Simon*



*My purpose – revering our kūpuna and powering our future.
Our son with his Obaachan.*

NEW HPGS BOARD MEMBERS

At the November 9th HPGS Board meeting, the following individuals were voted as new Board members:



Courtney-Paige DiMaggio is a Native Hawaiian Registered Nurse at the Moloka'i Department of Health Public Health Nursing and a clinical lab instructor for the CNA class at University of Hawaii Maui College-Molokai Campus.



Kendi Ho recently completed her doctoral research at the University of Hawai'i in Second Language Studies in the Spring of 2023. Her mixed methods research focused on perceptions of (un)successful cross-cultural interpersonal communication in home care with older adults from stakeholders' perspectives.



Kristina Wong has worked in the medical field since 2005. As the Care Manager at ALTRES Home Care, she manages all aspects of home care service and develops tailored care plans based on the individual needs of each client and their family.