



HPGS 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

Here we are at the end of 2023, gearing up for Holiday festivities, planning trips to see family and friends. It's hard to believe how fast this year has flown by.

This is the time of year that organizations prepare for the next legislative session 2024, submitting new bill ideas and resubmitting bill ideas that didn't go through in the last session. The Kupuna Caucus, led by Senator Sharon Moriwaki and Representative Cory Chun asked that 5 top priorities be decided by vote by members of the Kupuna Caucus. Their top 5 bills being submitted this year are:

- Establish a Paid Family and Medical Leave program to allow workers to take time off, and still receive part of their income, when they need to care for their own serious health needs or those of a loved one, or to bond with a new child, per HB236 (2023). Similar to the 14 states that have already passed paid family leave laws, the program would:
 - be a state-run benefit program, like Social Security or Medicare
 - be funded by small payroll deductions that go into a state fund, which workers would apply to when they need to take leave
 - not require employers to pay employees while they are on leave, since they would be paid from the state fund
 - provide different amounts of paid leave, depending on the type of leave that they need (e.g., medical, parental, caregiving)
 - be available to both full and part-time workers
 - provide a higher portion of wages to lower-income workers, so they can afford to take the leave
 - ensure that employees have a job to go back to after they take leave
- Establish a caregiver tax credit that will allow family caregivers to offset some expenses such as day care, home care services, home modification, medical equipment, etc. that they incur to care for their loved ones. The care recipient does not necessarily have to live with the family caregiver nor included as a dependent on

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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 General Membership Meeting
Thursday, Jan 18 at 11:30am
Join Online Via Zoom

HPGS MEMBER NEWS

The HPGS Board approved to donate \$1,500 to **The Caregiver Foundation** from its 2023 Community Support budget. Gary Powell, their Executive Director, emailed the following: We are deeply grateful and humbled by the generous gift received from HPGS. We had a great evening at our 15th Anniversary Celebration, Starlight Fancies 2023 and your gift will help fund the charitable work supported by The Caregiver Foundation through our Pulama Aloha fund. This fund underwrites, among others, our educational programs, community outreach efforts, the CNA Scholarship program, and our new initiative - the Youth Caregiver Support Program. Mahalo for your commitment to our kupuna and those who care for them.

AARP Hawaii had the following in the November 2023 AARP Bulletin that HPGS wanted to share: To help in an advocacy campaign for a family caregiver tax credit in the 2024 session of the Hawaii State Legislature, AARP is asking caregivers to share their stories. AARP is pushing for a tax credit to offer some of the expenses incurred in caring for loved ones. Several states have enacted or are considering such a credit. If you have a **caregiving story to share**, email Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, at asuganakagawa@aarp.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CON'T)

their tax return.

- In 2023, HB916 proposed raising the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for Medicaid recipients living in a LTC facility from \$50/month to \$75/month. It was referred to HUS/HLT, FIN but never heard. Unfortunately there was no Senate companion bill. We need a Senate bill to get this passed. The amount has not increased since 2007 - and that increase from the original \$30/month took almost 9 years to pass. The \$30/month is a federal requirement that comes from the resident's social security check. All of their income, except the \$30/month, goes to the facility as their cost share. Anything above the \$30/month comes from the State General Fund. Other states with a much lower cost of living are much more generous to their Medicaid LTC residents (see attachment). Medicaid's PNA is the amount of monthly income a Medicaid-funded resident can keep as personal income to buy clothing, shoes, postage stamps, Cable TV, cell phone, haircuts, etc.
- Fund the Hawaii Healthy Aging Partnership Program (HAP) for \$600,000 to implement evidence-based fall prevention and chronic disease self-management programs. HAP has offered EnhanceFitness and Better Choice Better Health to empower kupuna and their caregivers to prevent falls, make healthy decisions, and engage in healthier lifestyles since 2007.
- Fund the Department of Health's Kupuna Fall Prevention Campaign. This fall prevention program in operation for 18 years, has continued to operate and reduce falls for the last 9 years, in spite of severe cuts to its operating budget. When fully budgeted at \$100,000 per year, Hawaii had the lowest fall and injury rate in the nation according to CDC statistics. (MMWR 2014)
- There are other important bills that will be submitted by individuals and other organizations that are to benefit kupuna and family caregivers. Due to the Maui fires, most appropriations will go to rebuilding Lahaina and helping the citizens of Maui recuperate from the devastation. Subsequently, funding for many bills that will be submitted will not be available, but there are many things that can be accomplished without direct funding. It looks to be a very exciting legislative session for 2024.

As the outgoing President of HPGS, I would like to thank the HPGS Board for their support and all the members of HPGS that recognize the importance of what we do as a team. I will support our new President, Laurie Adamshick of Rulon&Adamshick Elder Law Attorneys, and I am looking forward from her strong leadership in the upcoming year.

Merry Christmas and wishes for a Prosperous and Happy New Year!
Kathy

2024 HPGS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Attached to this newsletter is the 2024 HPGS Member Renewal Form. It can be printed and mailed with a check; or if wishing to pay with a charge card, go to www.hpgs.org and renew online.



hawaii pacific gerontological society

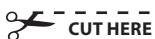
Founded in 1979, the **Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society** is the largest nonprofit multidisciplinary group of professionals, individuals, companies and organizations in the field of aging in Hawaii. Membership opportunities available to all islands consists of gerontology educators, students, medical and social service personnel, older adults (kupuna), caregivers, companies and organizations from every sector of the community. Federal I.D. #99-0211232

HPGS discusses, networks, and shares information about issues and policies affecting Hawaii kupuna, to include career and job fairs, expos, webinars, etc. They also provide scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students interested in careers in aging, as well as tuition assistance for workers seeking to upgrade their knowledge in this field.

Benefits of an HPGS member includes:

- The HPGS monthly **newsletter** is distributed electronically and filled with age-related news, events, activities, job openings, announcements, and more.
- **Webinars** presented by professionals in the aging field are free to members on a regular basis.
- Throughout the year, there are **events** to bring HPGS members together for timely and relevant issues, discussions, and educational opportunities, as well as networking events and quarterly General Membership Meetings.
- HPGS prides itself in offering **scholarships** for those pursuing education in the field of aging, thus creating fundraising options.
- A two-day biennial **conference** is held in odd-numbered years and offers professional and educational venues on aging research, practice and policy for Hawaii, while also attracting national and international participants.
- HPGS members receive electronic **notices** on significant events, opportunities available, and other announcements.
- The HPGS **website** provides a resource of news, events, membership, etc. Company member's information and individual member's names will be placed on the HPGS website.
- There are a number of **committees** where membership involvement is welcomed.

For further information, please contact
Sherry Goya, HPGS Executive Director at sgoyallc@aol.com or 808-722-8487
Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society • P. O. Box 3714 • Honolulu, HI 96812 • www.hpgs.org



2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Contact Name: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Facsimile: _____

E-Mail: _____

Website: _____

Annual dues (check one):

- \$10 for individual 65 and over
- \$20 for individual under 25 years
- \$80 for individual 26 to 64 years
- \$100 for company/organization (includes the contact person listed)
- \$50 for Associate Member (individual of company member)

Date Paid: _____

Payment Amount: _____

Check Enclosed: # _____

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 and use fillable form.



10-15 March 2024, Fukuoka-city, JAPAN

Let's Share Asian Style of Long-term Care!

ACAP Study Tour on Fukuoka- Care Challenges



- **Registration Fee** with Lodging (5 nights 5 Breakfast, 4 lunches, 2 Dinners, Materials, and Bus): Each 106,000JPY (**US\$ 700**)
<https://niccs.nishitetsutrans.com/niccs/en/app/BN813>
- Airfare Expense to Fukuoka-city: Out-of-pocket expenses
- **Deadline : 31 January 2024**
- **Secretariat:**
hirata@aso-education.co.jp



Produced by

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