



hawaii pacific gerontological society

Volume 46, No. 2

February 2025

HPGS 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

Laurie Adamshick, President
Cynthia Arnold, Secretary/Treasurer
Kathy Wyatt, Past-President

Directors:

Ku'u De Monte
Courtney-Paige DiMaggio
Kendi Ho
Tada Meya
Lesley Milligan
Travis Motosue
Christy Nishita
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 2024 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



LAURIE ADAMSHICK
PRESIDENT

The deluge of rain we were hit with last week was quite a reminder that we are now in rainy season. Hopefully your home didn't suffer and you managed to stay dry. With the power out and our to-do lists hampered, it also offered us a reminder to slow down, reflect and appreciate.

As you are probably aware, the Hawaii State Legislature reconvened on January 15 last month to begin its 2025 session. The following day we got an introduction to the top five bills supported by the Kupuna Caucus from Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Director of Advocacy at AARP Hawaii, at our online General Membership Meeting (you can view the recording of her presentation on our website at <https://hpgs.org/events/>)

To assist you in following these bills, they are:

- Relating to establishing a Caregiver Tax Credit
HB701 & SB879
- Relating to the state Rent Supplement Program for Kupuna
HB703 & SB878
- Relating to Medicaid funding for in-home services
HB702 & SB877
- Relating to expanding eligibility for SNAP benefits and food pantries
HB704 & SB881
- Relating to outreach to underserved for Medi-Medi benefits
HB705 & SB880

There are other bills related to kupuna that you may also be interested in. They are:

- Relating to establishing a Kupuna Home Equity Conversion Mortgage program
HB1306 & SB843
- Relating to health insurance coverage for hearing aids
SB1494

As members of HPGS, many of whom work to provide services to help support our kupuna, we should all be aware of these bills and offer our support of those we believe will make a positive difference. The Legislative Reference Bureau has downloadable instructions on how to track the bills you are interested in here: <https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/11/Measure-Tracking.pdf>. Once you have determined which bills you want to support, Audrey provided very helpful downloadable guides of how to create an account and submit testimony, either written or on Zoom (again, see <https://hpgs.org/events/>). We hope you will get involved this year and will find these resources helpful in doing so.

Please remember to renew your membership in HPGS for 2025, if you have not already done so. I just renewed mine online, and it was easy. Go to <https://hpgs.org/membership/2/>

With gratitude and aloha,
Laurie

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

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EVENTS

Generations Magazine Senior Fair at Windward Mall

Friday, February 21st

10am to 2pm

Free to the Public

HPGS BOARD INDUCTION

The HPGS Board officers and new directors who joined in the middle of 2024 were installed to the board at the HPGS General Membership Meeting held on January 16th. All were thanked for their work on behalf of HPGS.

President: Laurie Adamshick

President-Elect: Kristina Wong

Secretary/Treasurer: Cynthia Arnold

New Directors:

Kuunani De Monte

Tadahiro Meya

Lesley Milligan

Travis Motosue

Mahalo to these continuing directors:

Courtney-Paige DiMaggio

Kendi Ho

Christy Nishita

Kathy Wyatt

HPGS 2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Mahalo to the following HPGS members who have renewed their 2025 membership since the last newsletter:

- 15 Craigsid e • AARP Hawaii
- Horace Farr • Mae Fujii
- Cullen Hayashida • Islands Hospice
- Tadahiro Meya
- Senator Sharon Moriwaki
- Rulon & Adamshick LLC • Gary Simon
- UH Center on Aging

HPGS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

A big Mahalo goes out to Audrey Suga-Nakagawa for her presentation on behalf of AARP Hawaii regarding the bills being presented to this year's legislature. She said that a Kupuna Caucus package of five bills were offered to the legislature listed below:



- Caregiver Tax Credit
- Increased Medicaid Funding for In-Home Services
- Enhance senior housing program targeting 62+ and are homeless/risk for homelessness
- Expanding eligibility for SNAP benefits and food pantries
- Med-Medi Project - Outreach to underserved populations for Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare savings program, Extra Help, etc.

Other bills that the legislature will be looking at include paid family leave, increase in Medicaid reimbursement for in-house provider and care homes, establish the use of a standard cognitive screening tool to be administered to all patients at their annual wellness visit, Hawaii retirement savings program, and a Parkinson Registry for outreach and prevention.

Audrey said to get involved, you can testify in hearings (written or oral, in-person or Zoom) by knowing the bill number, offer your name with position (support, oppose or comment only), and give reasons for your position. Contact the Committee chair to share your support via a phone call or email, and share stories with the media to get your bill noticed.

The entire meeting is on the HPGS website. (www.hpgs/events/org).

HPGS NEWS

Maria Morales has been selected as the next Executive Director of **Project Dāna**. Their recent press release read, "Maria has been a cornerstone of Project Dāna for nearly a decade, beginning as a student volunteer and later excelling as the Program Coordinator for our Caring for the Caregiver (C4C) program. In her early years with Project Dāna, Maria was fortunate to be mentored by our founding Executive Director, Mrs. Rose Nakamura, whose legacy of compassionate service continues to guide our mission." They also said that Maria's transition to the Executive Director role will occur once they hire a new C4C Coordinator. Josh Levinson will continue to serve as Interim Executive Director during this time, ensuring stability and continuity for the organization. After Maria assumes her new position, Josh will transition into a consulting role, providing critical support for Project Dāna's ongoing evolution. Congratulations to Maria!

The **Generations Magazine Senior Fair** at Windward Mall will be held on Friday, February 21st from 10am to 2pm. There will be 40 tables of Generations Partners who will offer free information, answer questions, provide valuable handouts and a "stamp card" which attendees can fill it out to enter a drawing for \$50 gift certificates to restaurants and stores, with a chance for a grand prize of a Vacations Hawaii Vegas room and meal package for two. This event is free to the public.