



hawaii pacific gerontological society

Volume 46, No. 10

October 2025

HPGS 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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HPGS has open enrollment for new members throughout the year. HPGS members may renew for 2025 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

Aloha kakou!

Now that our biennial conference for 2025 is behind us, the intrepid Board at HPGS is working on our final event of the year: Our Annual Tony Lenzer Scholarship Fundraiser Reception to be held at Arcadia on Friday, November 14, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. This year's special honoree is Jeannette Koiwane. Many of you know Jeannette from her outstanding work around the state on behalf of Kokua Mau, educating and advocating to improve serious illness and end-of-life care. Over the years Jeannette has graciously been a contributor to the educational sessions offered by HPGS, and most recently headed up an excellent panel presentation on palliative care at our last conference.

Jeannette's work over the last several decades has touched so many lives. If you have an older loved one who has a green POLST (Provider Order for Life Sustaining Treatment) form on their refrigerator then you have been touched by the work of Jeannette and Kokua Mau. Under her leadership, Kokua Mau shepherded the creation of the POLST in Hawaii beginning in 2009, and over the years had it translated into 13 languages so that your loved one's preferences as to care in a medical emergency can be immediately provided to first responders. Many kupuna are grateful to have an opportunity to have their wishes known in the event an emergency prevents them from expressing them.

The mission of HPGS to increase awareness of the field of gerontology includes supporting our workforce serving older adults. Our workforce needs to grow to keep up with the increasing number of people becoming kupuna in our state every year. We offer our support through our annual Tony Lenzer Scholarship program and Eldercare Training Awards. These programs offer financial support and encouragement to those studying for a career impacting older adults. With this worthy cause in mind, I hope you will join us on November 14 in celebrating Jeannette Koiwane in person and the many accomplishments that have improved the lives of our kupuna.

With gratitude and warmest 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, and otherwise to support the creation of needed policies and programs that will enhance the quality and number of age-friendly services to our Kūpuna in Hawaii.

KUPUNA HANDBOOK

The 2025 Kupuna Information & Assistance Handbook was recently distributed to anyone interested in having valuable information on senior housing options, meal assistance, transportation, community services and much more. Family and caregivers can find resources to adult day-care, in-home care, safety and fall prevention, and support group classes.

The Elderly Affairs Division (EAD) has been the designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for Oahu since 1973. Created by the Older Americans Act of 1965, EAD is one of approximately 620 designated AAA sites nationwide. Its mission is to develop a comprehensive and coordinated system of services to assist older persons in leading independent, meaningful, and dignified lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

Call the Kupuna Helpline for information and assistance on navigating community resources: 808-768-7700 or check their website at www.elderlyaffairs.com.

MAHALO

HPGS recently received a donation from **Audrey Kubota**, in memory of Laura Manis who worked with Tony Lenzer to promote policies that would benefit seniors. The HPGS scholarship fund appreciates this donation supporting students entering the geriatric field.

Michael Tong attended the HPGS conference as an undergraduate who received a Tony Lenzer scholarship and wanted to say "Mahalo for the opportunity to attend the incredibly inspiring and purposeful event relevant to my passion for biomedical, public health, and health disparities research." He is also seeking experiences in specialized clinical job opportunities in medicine and healthcare, aspiring to explore his interests in fields including gerontology through full- or part-time positions. Email Michael at mstkong@hawaii.edu if you have a career opportunity for him.

HPGS TONY LENZER SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

This just a reminder that the **9th Annual Tony Lenzer Scholarship Fundraiser** will be held on Friday, November 14th from 5:30pm at the Arcadia. Jeannette Kojane will be honored and recognized as someone who takes pride in serving those who need serious illness care. As the Executive Director of Kokua Mau since 2010, she works with many companies, organizations and government agencies statewide. The registration form is attached to this newsletter. If you are unable to attend but would like to recognize Jeannette, recorded videos will be accepted by Kathy Wyatt, Fundraising Chair, at kwyatt01@aol.com and shown on November 14th.

WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Here is more information about the three new HPGS Directors:



Joseph Adriano is the Chief Financial Officer of Waimānalo Health Center, where he works to ensure financial stability so the organization can continue providing essential health services to the community. With over 20 years of experience in healthcare and nonprofit financial leadership, Joseph is especially interested in learning more about the needs of Hawai'i's elderly population to better serve them. His passion for this work has grown deeper as he recently became the caretaker for his 91-year-old mother, giving him a personal perspective and empathy for our kūpuna and the importance of supporting them with dignity and care. He holds an MBA from Hawai'i Pacific University and a BBA in Accounting from Temple University.



Gina Plummer is a Program Manager with the Alzheimer's Association Aloha Chapter, where she oversees Care and Support programs and community partnerships across Hawaii. She brings a strong background in program management, volunteer leadership, and caregiver education, with advanced degrees in Higher Education Administration and Curriculum & Instruction. Gina is passionate about equity, inclusion and building resources for kupuna and caregivers, and she is excited to serve on the HPGS Board of Directors to help strengthen support for Hawaii's aging community.



Nargis Sultana is a Ph.D. candidate in Public Health Sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, concentrating on community-based translational research. Her research focuses on improving accessibility to urban green spaces to enhance the health and well-being of older adults. With a background in Urban and Regional Planning and Library and Informational Sciences, and a deep concern for the well-being of aging populations, her goal is to continue researching and advocating for age-friendly urban environment, and older adults' digital literacy to support older adults' physical, social, and mental well-being.



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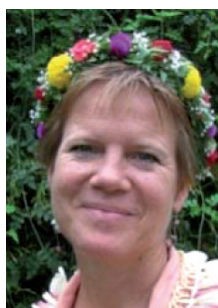
Please join us in person in honoring

Jeannette Koijane

9th Annual HPGS Tony Lenzer Scholarship Fundraiser

Reception at Arcadia with Pupu & Wine

Friday, November 14, 2025, 5:30pm

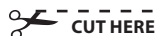


Jeannette Koijane is this year's honoree of the HPGS Tony Lenzer Scholarship Fundraiser because of her commitment since 1988 to serving those who need serious illness care. Since 2010, Jeannette has been the Executive Director of Kōkua Mau, which was established in 1999 as a statewide network to lead the movement to improve care for everyone.

Kōkua Mau partners with health plans, health care systems, hospices, government agencies and other organizations statewide. With Jeannette's leadership, they strive to make advance care planning and open communication about care and support for those with serious illnesses and their loved ones, including end-of-life, the cultural norm. The Kōkua Mau website is seen as the statewide resource for quality, non-biased information on resources and information on serious illness, including palliative care, hospice care, bereavement and Advance Care Planning, along with Advance Directives and POLST, with information in 13 languages.

Jeannette received her graduate degree in Public Health from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and her undergraduate degree from Cornell University. She has been involved with serious illness care since 1988, beginning in the field of HIV/AIDS, working with the AIDS Memorial Quilt as the Director of International Programs and then a variety of research and educational positions in Berlin, Germany, and San Francisco. Jeannette has also worked in the US Affiliated Pacific Islands helping to develop palliative care programs through a collaboration with the Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands, the University of Hawaii Cancer Center, and the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Please join us in recognizing and honoring Jeannette at this year's Fundraiser Reception. Proceeds will go to support the HPGS annual Tony Lenzer Scholarship program for students with a serious interest in professional work related to aging, long term care and/or death and dying.



CUT HERE

Name: _____

Company (Optional): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: \$125 per person. Tickets requested: _____ = \$ _____

TABLE SPONSORS: ____ Gold (\$3000) ____ Silver (\$2000)

Tables seat seven people. LIMITED SEATING

Any seat not spoken for can be donated back to the HPGS scholarship fund. How many seats will be available? ____

DONATIONS: Made to HPGS for the Tony Lenzer Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

Mail this form and check

payable to HPGS to

P. O. Box 3714 • Honolulu, HI 96812

Use the fillable form and pay with a charge card at <http://www.hpgs.org>.

HELP US EVEN MORE! HPGS is a non-profit organization and you can help us even further by adding 3% to your total to cover PayPal's credit card processing fees. Mahalo!

A recorded video testimony is welcomed. Contact Kathy Wyatt at kwyatt01@aol.com.

To learn about Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society, please check out www.hpgs.org