



hawaii pacific gerontological society

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May 2026

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HPGS has open enrollment for new members throughout the year. HPGS members may renew for 2026 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**



KRISTINA WONG  
PRESIDENT

Aloha HPGS Members,

As we move into May, we are grateful for the continued support and generosity of our community. We have several important updates and upcoming opportunities to connect.

**Mahalo for Continued Generosity**

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mark and Carol Ann Solien for their recent \$5,000 contribution through their charitable foundation. We are grateful for their ongoing support of HPGS and the positive impact it continues to make.

**Tony Lenzer Scholarship Update**

The co-chairs of the HPGS Workforce Development Committee are Christy Nishita and Kendi Ho. They were pleased to share that our late March meeting regarding the Tony Lenzer Scholarship was productive and encouraging. Building on that momentum, Kendi Ho has coordinated a follow-up meeting focused on strengthening networking opportunities, increasing funding, and expanding outreach efforts. This meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18 at 1:15 PM for scholarship awardees and honorees. We look forward to continued progress in growing this important initiative.

**Upcoming General Membership Meeting**

Please join us for our next general membership meeting on Thursday, May 21. We are pleased to welcome Representative Cory Chun, who will be representing the Kokua Caucus and providing legislative bill updates. While we had previously anticipated Senator Moriwaki's participation, she will be off-island on that day. We appreciate Representative Chun stepping in and look forward to an informative session.

Thank you all for your continued support of HPGS. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and continuing our work together.

Mahalo,  
Kristina Wong

**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.

## MAHALO FOR RENEWING

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### Maui County Office on Aging

Hi'ilei Akaka  
Octavio Barretto  
Rowena Dagdag-Andaya  
Thelma Fetalvero  
Kristi Ishikawa  
Kristen Kagoshima  
Devin Kan-Hai  
Casey Kaya  
Sanya Lucas  
Claudette Medeiros  
David Nakama  
Denise Ropa  
Timmy Satot  
Karen Sumer  
Cary Valdez  
Maria Van Kleek  
Angela Danish

### Healthcare School of Hawaii

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

May 16th - Castle  
May 17th - Maui • Aiea • Pearl City  
May 18th - Baldwin • Waipahu  
May 19th - Radford • Kahuku • Kalani  
May 21st - Kea'au • Olomana • King Kekaulike • Roosevelt  
May 22nd - Molokai • Ka'u • Kapaa • Kauai • Kapolei • Leilehua • Waianae • Waimea • Hilo • Kaiser • Niihau  
May 23rd - Honoka'a • Konawaena • Kohala • Lana'i • Hana • Farrington • Kailua • Nanakuli • Waialua • Kaimuki • Kealakehe • Kulanihako'i • Pahoa • Waiakea  
May 24th - McKinley • Mililani • Lahainaluna  
May 26th - Moanalua  
May 27th - Campbell • Kalaheo

## HPGS ELDERCARE WORKER AWARD



HPGS recently awarded \$750 to **Cheryl Jacobs**, who was approved to receive the HPGS Eldercare Worker Award. She emailed the following, "Mahalo Nui Loa for awarding me the scholarship for the Eldercare Worker Training in Gerontology. I am deeply grateful for your generosity and support. This scholarship will greatly help defray the cost of my training and allow me to continue pursuing education and professional development in caring for our kūpuna. Your investment in students and workers entering the field of gerontology strengthens the future of elder care in Hawai'i and helps build a more compassionate and knowledgeable workforce." Cheryl also wanted to say, "I truly appreciate the encouragement and confidence that HPGS has shown in me. I look forward to applying the skills and knowledge I gain through this training to better serve older adults and our community. Thank you again for your kindness, support, and commitment to advancing gerontology and elder care in Hawai'i."

There are still funds available for this scholarship program and can be found online at [www.hpgs.org](http://www.hpgs.org). HPGS will provide six \$750 awards this year to cover tuition costs to enroll in a credit or noncredit eldercare worker certificate program, which will enhance their ability to work with older individuals. Selected programs can be either in local classroom settings or online.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

According to Sunday's May 10th Honolulu Star-Advertiser, these are two bills relating to kupuna that have been passed on to the Governor for his signature: (1) **Kupuna Care**, HB 1706 HD1 SD2, Establishes and funds the one-year KupunaAloha Pilot Program to provide in-house healthcare services to individuals who do not qualify for other government assistance, and (2) **Hearing Loss**, HB 1974 HD1 SD1 CD1, Mandates and funds the State Health Planning and Development Agency to create and publish a comprehensive state plan addressing hearing loss.

## AGING AND DISABILITY REPORT

With this 2026 issue, the Aging & Disabilities Issues annual publication turns 21! Offering an overview of legislative movement dealing with aging, disabilities, caregiving, and long-term care services and support in Hawaii. This report not only focuses on the priority issues that deserve the serious attention of our lawmakers, advocates, and the public, it creates much needed awareness. Aging & Disabilities issues is a joint project of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC), the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), the Executive Office on Aging (EOA), and the Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society (HPGS). Their support is gratefully acknowledged.





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# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, May 21, 2026

11:30am via Zoom

Learn about the kupuna-related bills from the past legislative session by Representative Cory Chun.



**Representative Cory Chun**

Elected in 2022, Representative Cory Chun represents portions of Pearl City, Waipahu, and Crestview. He currently serves as the House co-convenor of the Legislative Kūpuna Caucus, a group of over 200 members working collaboratively to develop legislation that supports Hawai'i's kūpuna. As co-convenor, he introduces the House version of the Kūpuna Caucus Legislative Bill Package, which features the top five measures selected by the caucus each year.

Before serving in the Legislature, Representative Chun was a longtime advocate for cancer research and continues to maintain strong partnerships with organizations such as the Alzheimer's Association and the American Cancer Society, many of which play a vital role in supporting kūpuna care. In addition to his work with the Kūpuna Caucus, he has championed key legislation benefiting older adults, including the establishment of a Silver Alert program under the Department of Law Enforcement, a provisional licensure pathway for mental health professionals, and expanded insurance reimbursements for telephonic telehealth services.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83160703026?pwd=qp1nnydpZCiQxkrEm158J0fgQVhT7t.1>

Meeting ID: 758 509 7318

Passcode: 4ruPYhNZ2