



hawaii pacific gerontological society

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HPGS 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 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,

We hope you are enjoying your summer and finding opportunities to relax and recharge. As we move closer to fall, we wanted to share a few exciting updates from HPGS.

Preparations continue for our 10th Annual Tony Lenzer Scholarship Fundraising Event, which will be held on September 11, 2026, at 15 Craigside. We are looking forward to honoring Suzanne Chun Oakland for her many contributions to Hawaii's aging community and hope you will join us for this special evening. Tickets are still available, and your support helps make our scholarship program possible.

We are also pleased to share that we continue to receive and review applications for this year's Tony Lenzer Scholarship Program. It is inspiring to see so many individuals interested in pursuing careers that serve our kūpuna, and we look forward to recognizing this year's scholarship recipients at our upcoming fundraising event.

Looking ahead, the HPGS Board has begun working on preliminary plans for the 2027 Biennial Conference. We are excited about the ideas taking shape.

Finally, please save the date for our next **HPGS General Membership Meeting** on **Thursday, October 1st**. We are pleased to have HPGS Board Member Travis Motosue as our featured presenter. Additional meeting details and presentation information will be shared as the date approaches.

Thank you for your continued commitment to HPGS and our mission. Your support, engagement, and dedication help strengthen our organization and the aging services community throughout Hawaii. We look forward to seeing many of you in September and appreciate all that you do to support our kūpuna.

Mahalo nui loa,
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.

WELCOME TO HPGS

Individual

Heaven Nakahashi

EVENTS

Kokua Mau

Wednesday, August 19th

5:15pm to 6:30pm

Palliative Pupus in Person
in Queen's Conf Center
or via Zoom

Tuesday, August 11th

12:30pm to 4:30pm

Advance Care Planning Class HPH

Wednesday, August 26th

8am to 4:30pm

Wilcox MedicalCenter Conf Rm B/C
Advance Directives & Provider
Orders for Life-Sustaining
Treatment Facilitator Training

Project Dana

Outreach Events

Big island Volcano Resource Fair
Saturday, August 9th, 9am to 12pm

Mililani Bon Dance Tabling
Mililani Hongwanji Temple
Saturday, August 22nd, 5pm to 9pm

Hawaii for Health Walk
Neal Blaisdell Park in Aiea
Saturday, August 29th, 8am to 12pm

C4C Events

Support Group Talk Story Session
Wednesday, August 12th,
10am to 11:15am
Honpa Hongwanji HI Betsuin & Zoom

Planning Ahead for the Passing
Saturday, August 22nd, 10am to 12pm
Moiliili Hongwanji Mission

To register, email csgs@projectdana.org
or call 808-945-3736.

HPGS 2026 SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

The Workforce Development Committee of HPGS received 13 scholarship applications for this year's three awards of \$3,000 each. The committee had a hard time reviewing all applications from those who want to continue their education on behalf of Hawaii's senior community. They were also encouraged that there are many students looking into supporting our seniors.

All monies raised at the HPGS annual fundraiser goes to college students every year. The Board and committee are committed to supporting the annual Tony Lenzer Scholarship Fundraiser to keep awarding students.

Susie Chun Oakland is the 2026 honoree that the board chose because of her commitment to supporting and keeping seniors active in mind and body. Her dedication in the legislature for 26 years supported many senior programs throughout Hawaii, then as the Program Director of the largest senior center in Hawaii, Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, in Liliha. Susie continues to serve on numerous non-profit boards of directors, working on affordable housing, child well being, culture and arts, immigrant and refugee, persons with disabilities, education, and sustainability and environment protection issues. Please join Susie and the HPGS board on Friday, September 11th from 5:30pm at 15 Craigside. Attached is the reservation form, or go to www.hpgs.org to register online.



HPGS ELDERCARE WORKER TRAINING AWARD



The Eldercare Worker Training Award is open to applicants all year around. HPGS was happy to award another "Eldercare Worker Training Award" in July to **Sheryl Doropan**. She wanted to say: "I am deeply honored and sincerely grateful to the Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society for selecting me as a recipient of \$750. Receiving this scholarship means so much to me, and I truly appreciate the confidence and support HPGS has shown in my education and professional journey. This scholarship will greatly reduce the financial burden of my training and allow me to focus on learning the skills and knowledge necessary to become a stronger advocate and caregiver for Hawaii's aging population. Your generosity encourages healthcare professionals like me to continue pursuing excellence and reminds us that our commitment to serving others is recognized and valued. I look forward to applying what I learn in both my current role and throughout my future career. My goal is to provide compassionate, patient-centered care that promotes dignity, independence, and quality of life for every older adult I have the privilege of serving. I also hope to inspire others to consider careers in gerontology and elder care, where the need for dedicated and compassionate professionals continues to grow."

IMPORTANT SURVEY

The State Department of Health's Executive Office on Aging and County Offices on Aging are conducting a needs-assessment survey to better understand the needs of older adults in Hawai'i. They requested our kōkua in sharing this survey through your networks, programs, and communication channels. Partnership will help ensure broad statewide participation, especially from communities and populations whose voices are essential for planning purposes. The responses will help improve programs and services for kūpuna and caregivers, and guide future planning at the state and county levels. The survey link is here (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G2K6XKZ>).