



KŌKUA MAU

"Continuous Care"

Hawai'i Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

2nd Kōkua Mau Newsletter

April 2012

Special Report: Annual Assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

Dear Jeannette,

Message from: Emese Somogyi, MD, FAAHPM , Chair of Board, Kōkua Mau

The Annual Assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and the American Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association was held in Denver, Colorado, from March 7-10. Jeannette Kojane, our executive director asked me to share my impressions.

If I had to summarize in a single line, I would use the title of Ira Byock's new book "*The Best Care Possible*."

It says it all. As the hospice and palliative care community, we have long been the pioneers of improving the life, medical and societal care of people affected by advanced stages of illness. In doing so, we embrace the basic, but often forgotten mission of medicine; caring for individuals and communities, and not just their diseases.

If you are reading this, you know that already. So why am I writing about it?

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Featured Article



Help us meet our ambitious goal:

100 Kōkua Mau members for 2012!

We have listened to your feedback. We are offering the Stakeholder KM [Membership](#) for 2012 starting at \$40 (\$25 for students or persons in training) per year.

Of course, we are grateful if you can join as a [Sustainer](#) at \$100 or more to help us reach our financial goals more quickly. And

Because health care is at a tipping point and cannot move forward without successfully and widely integrating the lessons of palliative care. The focus of health care improvement has to be the experience of the end user, that is the patient and family. As Diane Meier, one of the undisputed leaders and visionaries of our field reminded us, this uncompromising focus on the end user is what made Steve Jobs and his products the ultimate success story of our time.

Just think about it. "The Best Care Possible". Such a simple message. It transcends the stumbling stones of politics, legal debates, and payment systems.

Improving the experience of patients and families is what hospice and palliative care professionals have been doing for decades. We need to seize the moment and get our message out. Ours is a successful model of providing medical care that is patient and family centered, high quality, coordinated, yet less costly.

Our initiatives improving palliative care integration into the health systems of Hawai'i are getting national attention. Anna Loengard, the CMO of St. Francis HealthCare System presented our work at the Assembly. She talked about creating an insurance benefit allowing simultaneous curative treatment and supportive care, commonly referred to as "concurrent care." HMSA's Quality Incentives for advance care planning and palliative care was also discussed. What follows below is a closing comment by the moderator, Diane Meier.

"Everybody, take notice, because the future is here. Hawai'i is doing what the rest of the country will be doing in 5 years."

I could hardly imagine greater validation of our work. Kōkua Mau is on the cutting edge. Our focus is right on target. We hope that you will consider [joining](#) us and that you will take an active role in our projects. Kōkua Mau's goal to ensure that the people of Hawai'i have universal access to the best care possible requires active participation of our members, old and new. Several active workgroups are looking for new members. We are crafting new projects. Our [monthly Kōkua Mau meetings](#) are open to all. Hope to see you there.

Aloha,
Emese Somogyi, MD, FAAHPM
Chair of Board, Kōkua Mau

yes - it is tax-deductible.

Membership is the backbone of Kōkua Mau's budget and helps us to be a financially sustainable organization. Just follow the steps outlined on our [website](#).

We especially encourage organizations to join. If you have recommendations of organizations who might want to support Kōkua Mau's [Vision and Mission](#), please let us know. A personal introduction from somebody they know well is always best.

Our Members

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Sat. 4/21 Kupuna Power Day at the Capitol

Come down to the State Capitol for the first annual ***Kupuna Power***. Sat. April 21, 2012 - 9:00am to 11:00am

The event celebrates the Kupuna and seeks to empower them with important information relating to everyday life as a senior. [Flyer and press release](#) with additional details on our website.

Thur 4/26 Kōkua Mau March Meeting

Please join us on Thursday, April 26 from 3-5pm for our next [Kōkua Mau meeting](#). Meetings are open to all and are held at St. Francis on Liliha Street and parking is validated. There will be a presentation by Jeannette Koiijane from the national POLST meeting as well as updates from the recent NHPKO meeting in Washington DC in March.

ASCO new recommendation advocates starting palliative care at the time of diagnosis

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) recommends steps to ensure that physicians initiate candid discussions about the full range of palliative care and treatment options soon after patients' diagnosis with advanced cancer (defined as incurable disease). [Read their policy statement](#) and find more links on their website.

Reminders:

Tuesday Family Caregiver Classes

The Child & Family Service - `Ohana Care Program is very excited to have a wonderful Caregiver Group facilitator who is bringing new life to their support group. Potential topics can be found [in their flyer](#).

Tuesday Mornings, April 3 to June 26. [More on our website](#)

Eden at Home Trainings

The *Caring for elders who live at home* workshop focuses on changing perceptions of elders at home and in the community. Information and flyers about workshops in [Honolulu, Maui, and Kaua'i on our website](#).

Sat **April 28** Sprecklesville, **Maui** (register by April 14)

Sat **May 5** Lihue, **Kaua'i**

Sat **May 19 Honolulu** (limited to 20 participants)

Wed. 5/16 Palliative Pupus

The next [Palliative Pupus](#) will be held on Wed. May 16 from 5:15 to 7:00pm at the Queen's Conference Center. This clinical case discussion is open to all (although RSVPs are appreciated.) Parking and other [details on the website](#).

2012 Aging and Disabilities Issues Booklet

The 2012 Aging and Disabilities Issues booklet is now available ([Download PDF file](#)). The seventh annual publication offers an overview of legislative issues dealing with aging, disability, caregiving, and long-term supports and services. The purpose is to call attention to the priority issues which deserve the serious attention of our lawmakers, advocates, and the public.

This is a joint project of the Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition, the Hawai'i Pacific Gerontological Society, and the Maui County Office on Aging. The booklet was distributed to legislators in March 2012 during a Family Caregiver Advocacy Day.

Best regards,

Jeannette Kojjane
Executive Director

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