



# KŌKUA MAU

*“Continuous Care”*

## Hawai‘i Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

### Kokua Mau September Newsletter

September 2010

Dear Jeannette,

I hope this finds you well. As usual, there is much going on in our community.

#### **Rev. Dr. Mits Aoki - In Memorium**

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of Rev. Dr. Mits Aoki. He was a pioneer in the field of death and dying, influencing profoundly many people in Hawaii and around the world.

There will be a memorial service for him on Saturday September 18 at Church of the Crossroads in Moiliili. Visitation will begin at 1pm and the service at 3pm. A large crowd is expected so be sure to leave time to find parking.

You can read several an obituary and an 2008 article about Mits at [www.kokuamau.org](http://www.kokuamau.org). We also have copies of the Living Your Dying DVD that was done about Mits nearly 10 years ago, which captures well his spirit and teaching. For more information please visit our [website](#). To download the [order form click here](#). Please post the order form or distribute it through your network.

#### **Telehealth Resource Center Funded**

Health and Human Services has awarded over \$1 million in funding to the Telehealth Resources Center Grant

#### **This Month's Events**

- Mits Aoki Memorial
- Telehealth Resource Center
- Interesting Palliative and EOL Articles
- Mission Possible IV: Save the Date

#### **Quick KM Links**

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Please call before you fax, so we can make sure the fax machine is on.

Please note we are on HST.

**E-mail: [info@kokuamau.org](mailto:info@kokuamau.org)**

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Program. The program provides technical assistance to help healthcare organizations, networks and providers implement cost-effective telehealth programs service rural and medically underserved areas and populations. The program is designed for entities with a successful track record in helping to develop sustainable telehealth programs.

Linda Axtell-Thompson, Kokua Mau board member, is very involved with this initiative which is also discussing tele-palliative health, especially for rural areas. University of Hawaii was awarded \$324,984.

Click here to learn more about the [Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative](#).

### **Interesting Palliative and End-of-life Care Articles**

There have been several interesting and much discussed articles that have come out recently. The first is a [New Yorker article](#) by Atul Gawande, MD and eloquently describes the process of different doctors and patients as they make end-of-life decisions, including his own considerations as he struggles with care decisions for his patients.

Another important feature article appeared in The New York Times, [Frank Talk About Care at Life's End](#) by Jane Brody. The article focuses on new palliative care laws and new research, including The New England Journal of Medicine study.

And finally a much discussed study *Early Palliative Care for Patients with Metastatic Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer* published in [The New England Journal of Medicine](#) (N Engl J Med 2010; 363:733-742). The study reported that among 151 patients with newly diagnosed metastatic lung cancer, those who received palliative care, which is care focused on symptoms, along with standard cancer therapy had a better quality of life, experienced less depression, were less likely to receive aggressive end-of-life care and lived nearly three months longer than those who received cancer treatment alone.

Please note that the links to the articles are provided as a service. The host sites decide how long articles are available on-line. (This means you should visit the links as soon as possible.)

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**Save the Date:**

**Queen's Medical Center Conference on Pain and Palliative Care: Mission Possible IV**

Thursday, November 11, 2010, 7:30 am - 4:35 pm  
The Queen's Conference Center

This annual conference brings national and local experts together for a full day of excellent presentations. Plan to attend!! For more details visit our [calendar](#).

Kokua Mau meets on the last Thursday of every month from 3-5pm. Please contact [Jeannette](#) for more details. All are welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Jeannette Kojane  
Executive Director

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