As caregiving touches everyone, the mission of the Hawai‘i Family Caregiver Coalition is to improve the quality of life of those who give and receive care by increasing community awareness of caregiver issues through continuing advocacy, education, and training.

Over the years, the Hawai‘i Family Caregiver Coalition has supported our community by sponsoring the following projects:

- Holo Imua Kakou Legislative Reception
- Family Caregiver Awards Program – a joint venture with KHON2’s Elderhood Project
- Aging & Disability Issues Report
- Family Caregiver Awareness Day
- Education/Resource Fairs
- Family Caregiver’s Speakers’ Bureau
- Family Caregiver’s Kit for Businesses

For more information, please contact:
Hawai‘i Family Caregiver Coalition
P.O. Box 3088
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96802
Email: hawaiifamilycaregivercoalition@yahoo.com

Organized in 1979, the Hawai‘i Pacific Gerontological Society (HPGS) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is “to provide professionals and students in the field of aging with vital information, workshops, networking, and scholarships to enhance the gerontology workforce, to support the creation of needed policies and programs, and to deliver excellent service to the aging population in Hawai‘i and the Pacific.”

If you are interested in pursuing this mission, please accept this invitation to join the Hawai‘i Pacific Gerontological Society.

For more information, visit us on the web or write us at:
Hawai‘i Pacific Gerontological Society
P.O. Box 3714
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96812
Web: www.hpgs.org

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) is a governor-appointed state agency whose mission is to promote the independence and civil rights of individuals with disabilities. DCAB supports family and caregiving programs, as well as universal and accessible design to allow individuals to live in the community versus institutional settings.

For more information, contact:
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The Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA) takes the lead role in aging issues on behalf of older persons in Maui County. As the designated lead agency at the local level, MCOA promotes and protects the well-being of the older person in Maui County.

For more information about MCOA, please contact:
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The eighth annual Aging & Disability Issues 2013 is a report that offers an overview of legislative issues dealing with aging, disability, caregiving, and long-term care. Its purpose is to call attention to the priority issues which deserve the serious attention of our lawmakers, advocates, and the public. This publication is a joint project of the Hawai’i Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC), the Hawai’i Pacific Gerontological Society (HPGS), the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB), and the Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA). Their support is gratefully acknowledged.

Aging & Disability Issues 2013 has five sections. Section 1 describes the ongoing efforts to restructure and expand services for frail elder and disabled persons and for family caregivers. The state is emerging from a difficult four years of economic recession and a revenue crisis which required reductions in many programs. Faced with difficulties in meeting expanding needs with fewer resources, both public and private agencies have made innovative efforts to be more efficient in their operations and in targeting their resources to the greatest needs. Fortunately, the federal government, especially the Administration on Community Living, was able to continue to channel resources for elderly and disabled services. A major priority has been to strengthen community-based services that enable persons to age in place and for persons with disability to live independently – thus reducing the need for more expensive residential care. These initiatives also empower clients to have more control over critical decisions that affect the quality of their lives.

At the time of this writing, the U.S. Congress is deadlocked over a solution to end the sequester, which could drastically undermine the economic recovery and the provision of public services unless Congress can agree on an alternative path to addressing the long-term deficit of the federal government. The Older American’s Act authorizations expired in 2011, and the Administration on Community Living is proceeding on a year-by-year extension. Re-authorization could also shift priorities for funding. While these two matters cast a shadow of uncertainty, this report is written with the assumption that Congress will agree on a plan to end or minimize the effects of the sequester and re-authorize the Older American’s Act without major changes to the direction of current programs.

Sections 2, 3, and 4 discuss the priority aging and disability issues before the 2013 Legislative Session. People are most likely to be motivated to support public policies when they perceive that a problem may affect them personally. In addition to a summary of bills, Aging and Disability Issues 2013 includes personal stories which describe difficulties any of us could experience when faced with aging or disability. These stories provide a human face to legislative issues by illustrating how these issues are embodied in the very human experiences of individuals and families.

Specifically, Section 2 describes the legislative priorities of the aging network and aging advocacy organizations, and notes the critical bills which address these priorities. Section 3 describes the priorities of the disability community and the bills in the current legislative session that address these priorities. Section 4 discusses additional bills that are important to elder and disabled persons. Readers interested in the fate of particular bills should consult their representative or senator’s office, or look up the measure by number (e.g., HB 1234) on the legislative website, www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

Section 5 concludes Aging and Disability Issues 2013 with a listing of available information, education, and resources relevant to aging and disability issues.
A New Day for Elder & Disabled Persons & For Family Caregivers

The Current Context

The past year has seen positive growth in Hawai‘i’s economy and in the growth of state revenues, and an acceleration of these trends is forecast for the coming year. Governor Abercrombie has noted that the increase in resources will make possible some repair to the safety net of programs for vulnerable populations and an opportunity to move ahead with his “A New Day in Hawai‘i” agenda. His current budget proposal includes welcome support for Executive Office on Aging programs and for undertaking additional initiatives for elderly and disabled populations.

Positive changes are underway – typically outside of public view – to fulfill the Governor’s promise to create a more effective and efficient state government. These efforts include reducing fragmentation between departments and consolidation of some responsibilities to increase effectiveness. Initiatives have been underway in this area by administrative action in many cases without the need for more legislation. The Executive Office on Aging, along with its partners in the aging and disability networks, are undergoing a set of initiatives to implement a systems change. Federal grants, as well as state and county funding, have assisted these initiatives, and in some instances, the changes will also result in leveraging additional federal and private funds to the state. These and other efforts at consolidation should greatly enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of long-term care services for both elderly and younger disabled persons.

Aging & Disability Resource Centers

An important example is a national effort to consolidate aging and disability systems. Over the years, separate bureaucratic programs and funding streams have developed for elders and persons in various categories of disability. Nevertheless, older adults and other persons with disabilities have similar problems and require many of the same services. The U.S. Administration on Community Living and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provided initial funding for state and county offices on aging to create Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), which are designed to provide both older citizens and other disabled adults single access to the myriad available programs. ADRCs use a software program for a multi-faceted needs assessment to identify the needs of the person and ADRC staff to help arrange for appropriate services. In the near future, the system will include T-CARE, a caregiver assessment and intervention. The system also generates many statistical measures that will facilitate greater understanding of unmet needs and trends, and provide a basis for many kinds of research on the delivery of services.

ADRCs are being developed by each county office on aging and are at various stages of development. Maui County was recognized this year as meeting the criteria for a “fully functioning” ADRC. As a consequence, the county is eligible for funds from the federal Affordable Care Act to partially support the ADRC’s operating expenses, receives additional funding by CMS for care transitions, and is eligible to apply for other federal grants. The goal is for all counties to reach the federal criteria for a “fully functioning ADRC” by 2016.

Person-Centered Care Transition Planning

The Executive Office on Aging received a federal grant to examine hospital discharge practices and develop a system for “person-centered” care transition planning. The goal is to ensure that individuals with long-term support needs are offered services and support to return home safely from a hospitalization and avoid preventable re-hospitalizations. The success of this federally-funded pilot program has enabled Maui’s ADRC to help Medicare recipients in their care transitions and charge CMS on a fee-for-service basis.

Community Living Program

The Community Living Program follows the principle of “cash and counseling” or “consumer directed” programs which have been implemented in the Medicaid programs of many states. Studies have found that these programs have positive results in improving the functioning and sense of well-being of patients. The program empowers consumers by offering them a cash benefit. The consumer, with the help of a coach and financial manager, has flexibility in choosing what kinds of help he or she needs, and who will provide the needed assistance. The person is permitted to hire family or acquaintances and has flexibility (Continued)
Eight years ago, at the age of 49, Lee McCluskey quit his job and moved in with his mother Helen in Makiki after she suffered a hip fracture and insurance would no longer cover home care. After work, he returns home to provide care for his frail mother who is now 96, which includes shopping, cooking, cleaning, bathing, dressing, and laundry. He also prays with her to “keep her religious spirits high.”

Lee is happy to have found assistance through Project Dana, which sends supportive volunteers to visit, “talk story,” and provide social interaction. “I can’t think what I would do without the Project Dana services,” said Lee. “It would be hard to fill the void.”

Son Can Work Due to Project Dana Respite Help

The Kupuna Education Center

The 2006 Legislature enacted ongoing support for the development of the Kupuna Education Center (KEC) at Kapi‘olani Community College. The Center provides a comprehensive program of education for paraprofessional caregivers, as well as for family caregivers and for the well elderly. The Center also works with other community colleges throughout the state to disseminate the curricula and other resources with the goal of making these programs available statewide.

The program addresses the workplace shortages of paraprofessionals to assist in home care as well as residential settings. Recently, it has launched a web-based education program for paraprofessionals working in residential care homes. KEC also offers non-credit, short-term courses in different venues on O‘ahu for informal family caregivers. Many family caregivers feel inadequately prepared to care for their family member. The program offers courses focused on general caregiving skills and issues, as well as information for caring for persons with specific conditions. In addition, the program produces Kupuna Connections, an ‘Olelo television program for caregivers. These programs are intended to elevate the quality of care provided both by professional and informal family caregivers.

The Center also offers healthy aging courses, such as nutrition and exercise and chronic disease self-management. For the well elderly, the college is innovating computer courses for the elderly and personal enrichment courses that explore opportunities for civic engagement and encore careers following retirement.
Consolidating Licensing & Monitoring

In line with the Governor’s plan to create more efficient and more effective government, responsibility for licensing and monitoring institutional and community-based care – including case management, community care foster family homes, adult residential care homes, and adult day care – is being consolidated in the Department of Health by transferring some of these functions from the Department of Human Services. These responsibilities have suffered from fragmentation and inconsistent standards. The intention is to create a more coherent and effective system of monitoring the care in different settings. Family caregivers wish to be assured that their family member receives high quality care when entering a formal care environment.

Healthy Aging Partnership

Most of the attention by both public and private programs focuses on eldercare for the frail elderly. However, reducing the incidence of disability and serious health problems is far less costly than having to undergo complex treatments and receiving long-term care assistance. There is a national initiative for older adults to participate in evidence-based health promotion programs. Unfortunately, funding for preventive programs typically receives low priority. Nevertheless, two programs have been initiated in Hawai‘i.

The first is Better Choices, Better Health (Ke Ola Fono – Healthy Living), which is a chronic disease self-management program. The program is a public-private partnership led by the Executive Office on Aging with the four Area Agencies on Aging, the Department of Health, and the University of Hawai‘i in partnership with 40 service providers throughout the state. From 2006 to 2011, there were 1,542 graduates of this program statewide. An evaluation by University of Hawai‘i researchers found that graduates had decreased physician office visits, hospitalizations, emergency room visits, and reduced symptoms, and an increased number of days spent in physical activity. These outcomes translate into significant health care cost savings.

The second program in the Healthy Aging Partnership is Enhanced Fitness, which serves near-frail elderly persons with the aim to improve their health status and physical functioning through group exercise sessions. This program has been implemented in eight sites on the Island of Kaua‘i between 2006 and 2011 and had 291 participants. University of Hawai‘i evaluation of the program indicated graduates had significantly reduced their number of falls, improved upper body strength, and improved mobility and balance. These results suggest the program is important in reducing injuries and in enhancing overall health status.

The current budget of $426,722 and other contributions funds 47-plus Better Choices, Better Health six-week workshops statewide and seven Enhanced Fitness sites on Kaua‘i, one site on O‘ahu, and five sites on Maui. Additional funding from the federal government and private foundations is being sought to sustain the program and to expand both programs to reach those who could benefit throughout the state. The evidence clearly notes that investing in these programs is cost effective.

Active Aging

New initiatives are being taken to promote active aging, which focuses on engaging older persons in the life of the

(Continued)
community, enabling the community to benefit from the knowledge and experience of retired persons. Persons who retire wish to have lives that are meaningful and interesting. New initiatives by the Kupuna Education Center assist older persons in exploring ways to continue engagement through volunteering or encore careers. Society needs to create more interesting and challenging opportunities for older persons, since the new generation of retirees enjoys better health and education than past generations. The Executive Office on Aging is exploring a partnership with the Kupuna Education Center to expand efforts to support active aging and to disseminate these programs statewide.

Enhancing the Civil Rights & Independent Living of Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities of all ages seek the opportunity to participate in the life of the community and live rich and meaningful lives. This is the concept of equal access and non-discrimination as enacted by a variety of federal laws, most notably the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Federal Fair Housing Act (FFHA), the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA), the Air Carriers Access Act (ACAA), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Environmental modifications have been made through improved codes for facility and site design to ensure access to buildings, transportation facilities, and outdoor sites. Nevertheless, the agenda to assure equal rights continues to need further expansion. Concurrent with the agenda of civil rights is the agenda of independent living, a model that enhances the ability of individuals with disabilities to control the decisions that affect their lives. This model is not always complementary to the caregiving model, although the need for services is often similar. For example, a young person with a spinal cord injury and a frail elder person in his 80s may both seek a home that is designed with accessible features, an adapted vehicle to accommodate a wheelchair lift, and a disabled person's placard. However, the young person may live independently, work, and seek to do all his or her tasks independently, while the elder person may rely upon his son or daughter for mobility and other caregiving tasks.

Measures to Balance Employment & Eldercare

In Hawai‘i, the majority of family caregivers are employed. Balancing caregiving and employment is a necessity for many households, and yet the burden of doing both is highly stressful to caregivers and is also associated with loss of productivity in the workplace from absenteeism and interruptions due to emergencies. On the other hand, many caregivers have to reduce their work hours or quit work altogether, which has a profound impact on the standard of living of their families and their future economic security.
In recent years, interventions to assist caregivers are attempting to reduce these negative impacts of caregiving. The federal family leave program provides for unpaid leave for a period each year in most employment situations. A few states have enacted paid leave programs to reduce the economic impact of time taken for caregiving. Employers can also institute policies and conditions that assist caregivers, such as flexible work hours, information in the workplace about services to assist with care, and caregiver support groups.

In Hawai‘i, several proposals have been made in recent years to broaden the definition of family members included under the family leave act and also to broaden the type of care to include more long-term care needs. A few years ago, a proposal for instituting paid family leave was considered by the Legislature but not passed. We can expect continued effort for public policies supporting employed caregivers.

In the coming year, the Hawai‘i Family Caregiver Coalition will be working with AARP Hawai‘i to provide workshops in selected places of employment. These workshops will offer education for employed caregivers as well for employers concerning the issues faced by employed caregivers. The workshops will include information about workplace policies and interventions that can ease the problems caregivers face while continuing to be employed.

**Multiple Services Balance Grandson’s Work & Caregiving**

When 102-year-old Louise was no longer appropriate for assisted living in Garden City, New York, Robert Lucas, 35, made the decision to bring his grandmother to West Maui to live with him. Grandma Louise suffers from mild dementia and slight mobility issues. Mostly she cannot be left alone and needs someone to cook, clean, and look out for her.

For the first few months, Robert received no services and he had to quit his job in the restaurant industry. Once he found his way to adult day care, home-delivered meals, homemaker, the Maui Economic Opportunity senior bus, and caregiver respite from Nahoaloha Neighbors Helping Neighbors, he started a personalized tour business so he could set his work hours around caregiving and household duties. On days when Louise is not in day care, he takes her to the beach and carries her to the sand. He says he gets a lot of aloha from people when he shows up with grandma.

“I really could not have kept my life together without these wonderful services,” said Robert. “Now I can work to support us, and even have a small social life.” With the 75 hours of caregiver respite each year, he can take a rare weekend off – “something a 35-year-old man needs now and again.”

Life is sweet for this multi-generational family. Louise was crowned queen of the day care center’s fundraising walk recently, and when she could not understand why she was the queen, Robert told her, “because you are the prettiest.”

**Conclusion**

This section has reviewed the multiple efforts taking place to restructure and extend services for the disabled and elder populations and family caregivers. Taken together, these developments are increasing access to needed services, increasing the efficiency of providing services, and raising the quality of care for the disabled and frail elders and their caregivers. In addition, new efforts focus on enhancing the quality of life of the well-elderly and disabled persons in our community. The efforts are due to initiatives in public policy and programs, as well as in private organizations and by partnerships between public and private agencies. The challenge is to mobilize the political will to see these projects fully realized.
Section 2  The Aging Network

Priorities of the Aging Network & Related Legislation

Introduction
In the fall of 2012, senior advocates and public officials met to consider legislative priorities for the forthcoming 2013 session. This group included AARP Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i Alliance for Older Americans, Hawai‘i Family Caregiver Coalition, Kokua Council, Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Honolulu Elderly Affairs Division, Hawai‘i County Office on Aging, Kaua‘i Office on Elderly Affairs, Maui County Office on Aging, and the state Executive Office on Aging. Discussions among the advocates indicated broad consensus on state responsibility for helping its citizens deal with the following issues:

1. Meeting the care needs of low-income elders who are frail, ill, and disabled, but not eligible for Medicaid
2. Helping families identify appropriate services for their loved ones
3. Assisting future generations with the high cost of long-term care
4. Helping older people avoid serious accidental injury and death through falls
5. Creating awareness of the epidemic nature of Alzheimer’s Disease and supporting programs to help patients and families cope with this and other dementia-related illnesses
6. Encouraging programs that use the knowledge, experience, and talents of older people, and in recognizing that the older population represents a valuable human resource

The balance of this section will briefly describe what is being done in each of these six areas, and will identify the legislation currently being considered to support each of them.

Kupuna Care
Low income, frail elders receive home- and community-based services through a program called Kupuna Care, a critically important safety net that allows elders to remain in familiar settings and is a more economical alternative to institutional care. Eight different types of services are offered. These include: adult day care, assisted transportation, attendant care, case management, chore service, home-delivered meals, homemaker service, and personal care. Governor Abercrombie’s proposed budget includes $9 million for the Kupuna Care program, establishing this as a line item in the General Budget.

Related Legislation
Funding for the Kupuna Care program can be found in the state budget bill, House Bill 200, and in the omnibus aging bill, Senate Bill 106. The intent of both bills is to increase the base budget of the Executive Office on Aging by an additional $4.2 million for each year of the biennium. This represents an important step forward, inasmuch as the sum is approximately twice what was formerly in the base budget for Kupuna Care.

Aging & Disability Resource Centers
As the older population expands, so does the number and variety of services available to them. While this has obvious benefits, it also creates problems for elders and family members trying to find needed services. Making the situation even more difficult is the fact that an older person may require different types of interventions from several service providers, and the picture itself may change as the person moves through different phases of illness or disability. Therefore, families often require assistance in identifying what help is needed, and where it can be obtained.

These problems have led to the development of Aging & Disability Resource Centers in each county, which provide information about services available to older and disabled people. ADRCs also provide assessments, evaluations, and options counseling for anyone—a particularly valuable resource for those who apply for assistance through public programs. State funds are needed to create a fully functioning ADRC system throughout the state.

Related Legislation
House Bill 200, the state budget bill, includes a $1.4 million funding request for ADRC development. Other bills that appropriate funds for ADRC development are Senate Bill 106 and House Bill 1432.
Long-Term Care Financing

Today’s older generation faces many challenges, but it is important to look beyond these to the needs of future generations. The majority of tomorrow’s elders will probably develop one or more serious chronic illnesses, requiring some level of long-term care. Yet, relatively few people of any age are prepared to pay the high cost of long-term care for any length of time. In 2012, Hawai‘i’s Long Term Care Commission recommended that the Legislature consider creating a social insurance program to help Hawai‘i’s residents pay for long-term care. Two previous attempts to establish a publicly funded LTC insurance program were unsuccessful. The Commission recommended that, as a first step, the legislature fund a feasibility study, along with an actuarial analysis of the possible costs of such a program. The Commission also indicated that public education was essential if there is to be community support for a mandatory social insurance program.

Related Legislation

Senate Bill 104 and House Bill 1 require the Director of the Executive Office on Aging to contract for a feasibility study of policy options and an actuarial analysis of the costs of a limited, mandatory, public long-term care insurance program. House Bill 200, the state budget bill, requests $380,000 funding for these studies.

House Bill 2 and Senate Bill 103 both request the Executive Office on Aging to conduct an education and awareness campaign on long-term care, and have the campaign independently evaluated. The estimated cost of a campaign ranges between $450,000 and $600,000.

Alzheimer’s Disease

In recent years Alzheimer’s disease has become a major cause of death in the older population. It is a progressive condition, for which there is currently no cure. Alzheimer’s disease and other dementia patients frequently require extensive care, either in the home or in an institutional setting. The Executive Office on Aging established a task force to deal with this critical issue, which may ultimately affect as many as half of the 85 and over population. A coordinator is needed to implement the task force’s recommendations.

Related Legislation

Senate Bill 106 establishes a position for an Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia services coordinator within the Executive Office on Aging. The estimated cost to fund a coordinator and its operating expenses is $90,000.

Prevention of Falls

Falls are the major source of serious accidental injuries among older adults. They frequently result in hospitalization, which in turn may lead to other serious problems – even death. Older people are at greatest risk in the home, but much can be done to prevent falls from occurring. A Falls Prevention Coordinator would work closely with the Executive Office on Aging, the Falls Prevention Consortium, and other key stakeholders to implement a comprehensive statewide program to reduce falls and their consequences.

Related Legislation

The state budget (HB 200) and Senate Bill 105 permit the Department of Health to establish a statewide fall prevention and early detection program. The cost would be $39,277 for FY14 and $78,555 for FY15 for a Health Educator IV position to focus on fall prevention for older adults.

Kupuna Care Enables Full Time Caregiving Without Burnout

What strikes you when you meet the youthful Brandi-Lee is her fierce dedication to providing care for her ailing elder family members in Kahului, Maui. She left home at age 18 to pursue and receive a bachelor’s degree in secondary education from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, but soon put aside her dreams to teach high school when she was recalled to Maui after her mother Barbara suffered a heart attack and diabetes-related kidney failure. That was 12 years ago. In the interim, Brandi-Lee took on caring for her grandmother Madeleine Carreira, who showed signs of progressive dementia, and eventually her late father Thomas Gouveia, who was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2009.

As Brandi-Lee struggles everyday to make sure everyone is okay, she has many times reached the end of her emotional and physical endurance. What helps her cope with constant exertion is that she is not alone in this struggle. Kupuna Care Services assists her mother with personal care, home delivered meals, and homemaker services. She also receives caregiver respite and transport to kidney dialysis.

The help with meals, housework, and personal care for my mom really saves me,” said Brandi-Lee. “Without them I would have given up long ago.” Perhaps what saves Brandi-Lee the most, though, is her caregiver respite service. At first, she would use the time to run errands, pay bills, and shop. But the nurse taught her to spend the time for herself. “So now I get in a walk or movie just so I can get a real break,” she said. “It really helps me to keep going.”
Priorities of The Disability Community & Related Legislation

Parking for Disabled Persons
The parking program for persons with disabilities is a program that is used by individuals with mobility disabilities to maximize independent living and mobility. Whether the mobility is through independent travel or offered by a caregiver, the need for accessible parking stalls is very real. Given the limited parking stalls for the population in general, parking stalls reserved for individuals with disabilities are often at a premium, and hence, misused and abused. Governor Abercrombie’s administration proposed raising the motor vehicle registration fee by $1 to address these problems.

Related Legislation
House Bill 892, Relating to Funding for Parking for Disabled Persons, proposes to increase the motor vehicle registration fee by $1 to fund the disabled persons’ parking program. This fee would increase the ability of the program to issue the placards with the highest level of quality assurance to reduce fraud, as well as expand public education, outreach, and enforcement efforts throughout the state. Moreover, the program will return general funds currently used to maintain the program to the general fund to be better used for other social programs.

Employed Caregiver of Disabled Son & Brother
Susan Rocco, 63, works full-time as a program coordinator for the Special Parent Information Network (SPIN), a partnership between the Disability and Communication Access Board and the Department of Education that provides information and support to parents whose children receive special education services. Over the years, however, Susan realized that her true calling is as a family caregiver. She became a single parent to her significantly disabled son, Jason, when he was just three, managed the care of an elderly aunt until her death in 2006, and now also cares for her older brother, Skip, who has rheumatoid arthritis and a mental health condition.

Jason is now 32 and is dependent on Susan and his daytime caregiver for help with eating and other daily activities, as well as medical monitoring for a seizure disorder and cardiac disease. Jason’s caregiver is provided through the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver, without which Susan would be unable to work.

“The two things that have made a huge difference in my quality of life,” says Susan, “are having the continuity of a wonderful caregiver who understands Jason’s needs as well as I do, and learning to embrace my role as a caregiver without comparing my life to those with more freedom....”

Animals Assisting Disabled Persons
Federal law expanded the use of various animals as accommodations for individuals with disabilities in workplace, public, and residential settings. It is well recognized that animals have been able to provide positive therapeutic benefit for individuals who are elderly or who have a disability. However, distinguishing between therapeutic, comfort, emotional support, or companion animals from
service animals – the latter performing a task for a person with a disability beyond merely being present to accompany the person – has been difficult.

Related Legislation

House Bill 1316 and Senate Bill 328, Relating to Animals, allows a landlord to charge a tenant's security deposit for the purpose of paying for damages caused by an animal and authorizes the landlord as a condition of a rental agreement to add to the security deposit an amount for an animal to reside in the premises. The additional cost is waived for an animal deemed to be a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability.

Access to Information

Access to information – particularly at public meetings – in the fast growing digital age is of concern to individuals with disabilities as the use of the Internet expands. As state agencies post agendas, notices, and other information on the web to inform citizens of its meetings and actions, the need for accessible public meetings and notices grows. Unfortunately, House Bill 330, which addressed this issue, has been deferred but it may be taken up in the next legislative session.

Comprehensive Services Center for the Deaf

Individuals who are deaf, hearing impaired, or deaf-blind have been an underserved and often unserved group in vocation or independent living skills programs, in part due to the inherent challenges in effective communication. After many, many years of planning, efforts are blossoming to establish a Comprehensive Services Center for this population. Such a center would offer a multitude of services to enable persons to receive social and adjustment services, independent living services, American Sign Language classes, financial and money management services, and other vocational services to enhance their ability to live independently in the community.

Related Legislation

House Bill 1430 and Senate Bill 148 would provide an appropriation for the establishment of a Comprehensive Services Center for the Deaf.

Conclusion

The above bills, while certainly not the entirety of the focus of the disability community, highlight some of the key issues in the 2013 Legislature that have traditionally not been tracked or actively monitored by the aging community or network.
Other Bills Relevant to Aging & Disability Issues

This section discusses legislation introduced as part of the Kupuna Caucus legislative package, as well as other measures proposed by individual legislators. The Kupuna Caucus is an informal organization of legislators, advocates, and older adults that reviews legislative needs and develops an agenda of bills and resolutions each year. The measures listed below are grouped primarily under two main topics: Financial Abuse and Consumer Protection and Quality of Care.

Financial Abuse

In recent years, financial exploitation of older people has become a more visible and prevalent problem. While much of this abuse is perpetrated by family members, a wide range of scamming practices have been detected involving bank accounts, credit cards, and other financial instruments. The state has the responsibility to protect older people against all forms of abuse, including financial abuse. This year, six bills were introduced in the Legislature to deal with this issue. All of them involved the reporting responsibilities of financial institutions.

Related Legislation

**Senate Bill 102** proposes financial institutions be required to report suspected abuse to both Adult Protective Services of the Department of Human Services and to the appropriate county police department immediately or as soon as practical by phone, fax, or e-mail. Adult Protective Services would undertake an investigation and needed interventions, and the appropriate police department would be required to conduct a criminal investigation of the complaint. **House Bill 867** contains similar provisions.

Consumer Protection & Quality of Care

In Hawai‘i, as in many others states, providing services to older and disabled adults in their own homes has become big business. Until very recently, anyone could open a home care agency by simply taking out a business license and paying the state excise tax. While many legitimate home care businesses have emerged, consumers find it difficult to make reasonable choices when selecting a home care agency to provide help for a family member. As a result, in 2009, the Legislature passed a law requiring all home care agencies to be licensed and regulated by the state. However, it has taken time to develop the appropriate regulations, and for the state to put these into effect. A bill to correct this problem was introduced this year.

A similar problem occurs when consumers try to select a care home, adult foster home, or other residential facility for a loved one. Hawai‘i has about 1,000 licensed care homes, and 500 adult foster homes. Consumers have to rely upon advice from friends, neighbors, or perhaps a knowledgeable professional in judging whether a given home would be suitable. For specific information about a facility, a consumer has to make a written request to the Department of Health and wait 10 days for a copy to be sent to them. Frequently, decisions have to be made within a day or two, in which case the current system is unworkable. A partial solution to this problem has been proposed.

Related Legislation

**Senate Bill 137** appropriates an unspecified amount to the Department of Health to establish one full-time position to facilitate the licensing of home care providers. **House Bill 120** allows and **Senate Bill 358** mandates the Departments of Health and Human Services to post reports of major patient care violations by residential care facilities, foster families, and day and health centers on their websites.

Other Legislation

While many other bills relating to aging were introduced at the 2013 session, few remain “alive” at the time this report was written. Because of its creative funding possibilities, one bill of interest is **House Bill 7**, which would establish a Kupuna Trust Fund in a community nonprofit organization. The fund would draw monies from both public and private sources, including local, state, and federal agencies. It would provide grants to meet the future needs of the elderly and dependent adults. **House Bill 158** and **Senate Bill 54** would allow the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs to recommend to the Governor appointment of non-ex officio members to lifetime positions on the board, and to honor them for exemplary service and commitment to the field of aging.
Information, Education & Research Resources

Public & Nonprofit Agencies

**Hawai'i Aging and Disability Resource Center**
A one-stop source for information, assistance, and access to services and care for older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers.
Website: www.hawaiiadrc.org
Phone: (808) 643-2372
TTY Line: (808) 643-0889

**Executive Office on Aging**
Wes Lum, Director
Phone: (808) 586-0100
Fax: (808) 586-0185
Email: eo@hawaii.gov
Website: www.hawaii.gov/health/eoa/index.html

**Kaua'i Agency on Elderly Affairs**
Kealoha Takahashi
County Executive on Aging
Phone: (808) 241-4470
Fax: (808) 241-5113
Email: elderlyaffairs@kauai.gov
Website: www.kauai.gov/OCA/Elderly

**Maui County Office on Aging**
Deborah Arendale,
County Executive on Aging
Phone: Main Office: (808) 270-7774
Lahaina: (808) 661-2387
Hana: (808) 248-8833
Moloka'i: (808) 553-5241
Lana'i: (808) 565-7114
Fax: (808) 270-7935
Email: aging@mauicounty.gov
Website: www.mauicounty.gov/departments/Housing/aging.htm

**Hawai'i County Office of Aging**
Alan Parker,
County Executive on Aging
Phone: Hilo: (808) 961-8600
Kona: (808) 323-4390
Fax: (808) 961-8603
Email: hcoa@hawaiiantel.net
Website: www.hcoahawaii.org

**Elderly Affairs Division, City & County of Honolulu**
Elizabeth Bethea,
County Executive on Aging
Phone: (808) 545-6001
Fax: (808) 536-2288
Email: bstanton@aarp.org
Website: www.aarp.org/states/hi

**AARP Hawai'i**
Barbara Kim Stanton, State Director
Phone: (808) 768-7705
Fax: (808) 768-7720
Email: ebethea@honolulu.gov
Website: www.elderlyaffairs.com

**Disability and Communication Access Board**
Francine Wai, Executive Director
Address: 919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101, Honolulu, HI 96814
Phone: (808) 956-6243
Fax: (808) 956-5964
Email: hakupuna@hawaii.edu
Website: www.manoa.hawaii.edu/hakupuna/index.html

**Public Policy Center**
Dr. Susan Chandler, Director
Phone: (808) 956-4237
Fax: (808) 956-0950
Email: handler@hawaii.edu
Website: www.publicpolicycenter.hawaii.edu

Educational & Research Institutions

**The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

**Center on the Family**
Dr. Grace Fong, Interim Director
Phone: (808) 956-4132
Fax: (808) 956-4147
Email: gfong@hawaii.edu
Website: www.uhfamily.hawaii.edu

**Center on Aging**
Dr. Christy Nishita,
Interim Director
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa,
Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: (808) 956-5001
Fax: (808) 956-9582
Email: whcoa@hawaii.edu
Website: www.hawaii.edu/aging

**Ha Kupuna: National Resource Center for Native Hawaiian Elders**
Drs. Kathryn Braun, Colette Browne, and Noreen Mokuau,
Co-Principal Investigators
Phone: (808) 956-6243
Fax: (808) 956-5964
Email: hakupuna@hawaii.edu
Website: www.manoa.hawaii.edu/hakupuna/index.html

**Kapiʻolani Community College**

**Kupuna Education Center**
Dr. Cullen T. Hayashida, Long-Term Care Development Coordinator
Phone: (808) 734-9108
Fax: (808) 734-9128
Email: cullen@hawaii.edu
Website: www.kupunaeducation.com
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