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Welcome to Kōkua Mau

Kōkua Mau is a Movement to Improve Care for those with serious illness and their loved ones. We are Hawaii's trusted resource for accurate information on **Advance Care Planning (ACP)** including **Advance Directives** and **POLST, palliative care**, which provides relief from the symptoms and stress of illness, and **hospice care** which provides the best care possible at the end of life. (*Kōkua Mau* means '*Continuous Care*' in Hawaiian.)

Collaborating since 1999: Kōkua Mau – A Movement to Improve Care. As a network of organizations and individuals we bring to the forefront meaningful, thoughtful and sensitive conversations on improving care and support for those with serious illness. We are viewed as a thought leader working to ensure that every individual has the right to quality care throughout their lives, including at the end of life. We advocate for quality palliative and hospice care within the medical and legislative communities in Hawai'i.

Our goal is to create a community in which advance care planning conversations are the norm. We are fostering a movement to change social norms in Hawai'i regarding **conversations** and decisions around serious illness and end-of-life care, and to provide all individuals and communities with greater choice and control regarding their quality of life. We do not focus on the end of life, but rather the quality of life.

[Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)

We hope that you will find useful Hawai'i-focused information and resources for yourself, your loved ones and those you care for.

Advance care planning (ACP) can take place years before an illness or crisis occurs and is the first part of the continuum of planning for one's legacy wishes. To make this possible **Advance Directives** and **POLST** are key documents and our **Let's Talk Story Program** is available for public and professional education.

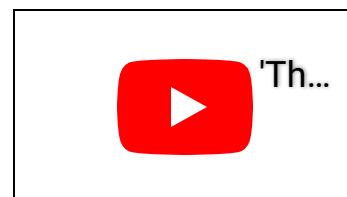
Palliative care is specialized medical care for people living with a serious illness. This type of care is focused on providing relief from the symptoms and stress of the illness. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family.

Hospice is specialized care which focuses on the needs of the person and loved ones in the last weeks and months of life and is seen as best care possible for those at the end of life.

In our **Tool Kit** you find all Kōkua Mau materials (as PDF files) in one place.

Kōkua Mau's vision is a community where: the people of Hawai'i are treated with dignity, compassion and love throughout their lives.

To make that vision a reality, Kōkua Mau's mission is: to weave a lei of caregiving and support so that the people of Hawai'i facing serious illness can live in the place of their choice, with relief of pain and suffering and according to their values, beliefs and traditions.



Now is the time -
tomorrow is here

Breaking the Ice: Personal
Stories on End-of-Life
Issues

[More Kokua Mau videos](#)
[Kokua Mau YouTube
Channel](#)

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| DEC 5 | 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm HST
Public Advance Care Planning Classes on Zoom Dec 2024 |
| DEC 5 | 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm HST
Last Kokua Mau meeting in 2024 |
| DEC 17 | 8:00 am - 4:30 pm HST
Advance Care Planning (ACP), Advance Directives and Provider Orders for Life- |

Our hearts go out to everyone impacted by the devastation on Maui. The pictures and stories are truly heartbreaking and we are sending our aloha and prayers to our Maui 'Ohana.

The tragedy on Maui still unfolds. We are all looking for ways to support and help our friends and colleagues on the ground for the long haul. At this time, financial donations seem to be the best way to give. Our friends and colleagues at Hospice Maui have created a fund for disaster assistance to provide crucial support and relief efforts in the aftermath of the devastating wildfires. [More](#)

[View Calendar](#)

NEWS

[Advance Care Planning for Native Hawaiian Kupuna with Puni Kekauoha](#)

October 11, 2024

[Samoan translations of key Kōkau Mau documents](#)

October 3, 2024

[The Fine Art and Science of Pain and Palliative Care 2024](#)

September 18, 2024

[Innovations in Advance Care Planning](#)

September 5, 2024

[Planning Ahead: How Kōkua Mau Supports Families Facing Serious Illness](#)

August 28, 2024

[Kōkua Mau's Palliative Care Awareness Committee Reports](#)

August 14, 2024



What's New in 2024?

November 2024

The Fine Art and Science of Pain and Palliative Care 2024

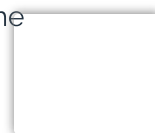
Mon November 11

8:00 am — 4:30 pm

This Queen's Medical Center one-day conference was designed to enhance practitioners knowledge and competence in pain management and palliative care to reduce patients' acute and chronic symptom distress and enhance overall well-being. It was open to all health care professionals in and beyond Hawai'i.

October 2024

Follow us on Instagram to read the text with the pictures and see the posted videos



Samoan Translation of key documents

[Samoan translations](#) of key Kōkau Mau documents make it a dozen: We now feature 12 multilingual translations of the six key documents interpreters, translators and loved ones can use to facilitate communication.

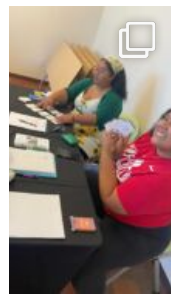
August 2024

Kōkua Mau wins prestigious national Trailblazer award

The **National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO)** and **Council of States** has awarded Kōkua Mau with the prestigious **Trailblazer Award**, recognizing our extraordinary efforts in establishing palliative care initiatives to improve care for those with serious illness in Hawai'i.

"Kōkua Mau was instrumental in securing CMS approval of a new Palliative Care Service Benefit for their Medicaid population, the first in the United States," said Logan M. Hoover, Vice President of Policy and Government Relations, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

"This achievement is the result of years of work and collaboration with their partners to improve care for those with serious illness. Kōkua Mau serves as an example that all states can look to when looking for pathways to expand access to palliative care." [More](#)





Load More

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June 2024

Governor Josh Green signed the bill Act 98 on June 27, 2024!

After the signature Act 98 is effective immediately. No changes to POLST forms is needed. Please update your operating procedures. Thank you to everybody who submitted testimony for SB2529 SD1. [More](#)

Dr. Jared Rubenstein, a pediatric palliative care doctor and medical educator, was our guest speaker at the Kōkua Mau meeting in

June. **Dr. Rubenstein** is a wonderfully engaging speaker who is using innovative approaches to helping people communicate about challenging topics in healthcare. He is passionate about teaching all healthcare workers how to incorporate palliative care into their work, and increasing public education about palliative care. He was also recently named by AAHPM as an **Emerging Leader in Hospice and Palliative Care**. [View the recording](#).

May 2024: CMS Approves **Hawai'i MedQuest Palliative Care Program** – First State in the USA

On **May 7, 2024**, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a new State Plan Amendment (SPA) in Hawai'i to cover community-based palliative care services **making Hawai'i the first state in the nation to do so!!** [More](#)

April 25, 2024 Kōkua Mau Meeting

How is Hawaii doing in Serious Illness Care? How do we compare with other states?

Please [watch the video](#) of a presentation on the **ACT Index** by **Torrie Fields**, presenting the latest data for Hawai'i, allowing us to track our progress and compare with other states. [More](#)

March 2024

Noelani Ahia from Maui with the topic **Grieving Lahaina: Past and Present**. The intimate connection between 'āina and Kānaka and the space needed to heal. [Watch the video](#).

Highlights from 2023

Two new videos about our work:

- Video: [Highlights Kokua Mau Activities 2023](#)
- Video: [Quick overview Kōkua Mau Website](#)

September 2023 at our Kōkua Mau meeting we will heard updates from **Hospice Maui** from **Melanie Dwyer** and about the amazing work of the **Kupuna Collective**. [Details](#)

July 2023: Chuukese Translations of Key Documents

Adding Chuukese as the 11th language is a milestone for us. **Chuukese** was the most requested language over the years and we are proud to have worked with an excellent translator. We are grateful to secure a grant that made it possible.

The Updated and Improved POLST for Hawai'i



The new POLST form is on the [website](#) as of June 29, 2023.

If you have the pre-May 2023 Hawai'i POLST version, it remains valid and **does not expire**.

The Hawai'i POLST Task Force made improvements to our Hawai'i POLST Form, with input from local key informants, reviewing the national POLST form and best practice in other states. We encourage everyone to use the updated version of POLST. (Change approved by the DOH May 2023.) More: our [POLST Information](#) page.

Watch the 15-minute video: [Improved Hawaii POLST Form 2023 step-by-step essentials with Dr. Fischberg](#)

To read more about POLST visit our website at: kokuamau.org/polst.
If you would like a short article for an in-house newsletter to

highlight the changes and the importance of POLST, please let us know.

April 2023: Kōkua Mau meeting presentations by the [Bereavement Network of Hawaii](#). [more](#)

March 2023: Community Health Workers

CHW are a valuable resource in our communities, connecting people with resources and being a bridge to health care and providers. Learn more about CHW and the valuable work they do and help and strategize about ways CHW can help those with serious illness. [Recordings available](#)

In Memoriam: Aloha Greg LaGoy

We were deeply saddened to learn that Greg LaGoy, CEO of [Hospice Maui, Inc.](#), passed away January 4, 2022. To honor the life and legacy of Dr. Gregory LaGoy, Hospice Maui has established the [Greg LaGoy Memorial Fund](#).

Our [COVID-19 Resources Page](#) provided up-to-date information, webinars, guidelines and materials helpful for our members and supporters.

Events from 2022, 2021 & 2020 in the [archive](#)

Ongoing Current Events:

- Kōkua Mau [Monthly Meetings](#) – open to all on zoom (last Thur. of the month)
- [Palliative Pupus](#) – **open to all** on zoom (3rd Wed. every second month)
- [Hospice and Home Health Webinar Series](#)

- [Bereavement Network of Hawaii: latest Bereavement Support List](#)
- [eNewsletter Online Archive](#)
- [A Culturally Relevant Palliative Care Curriculum for US Affiliated Pacific Islands](#)

[Register here](#) to receive **free Kōkua Mau e-Newsletters** with local and national updates and events.

Kōkua Mau's vision is a community where: the people of Hawai'i are treated with dignity, compassion and love throughout their lives.

To make that vision a reality, Kōkua Mau's mission is: to weave a lei of caregiving and support so that the people of Hawai'i facing serious illness can live in the place of their choice, with relief of pain and suffering and according to their values, beliefs and traditions.

Kōkua Mau depends on donations and annual membership fees to carry on with our work. Please help us improve quality of life for people living with serious illness or at the end of life here in Hawaii. This is a community wide effort that needs everyone's support.

- ▶ *I want to join Kōkua Mau as an individual [member](#)*
- ▶ *I want my [organization](#) to join Kōkua Mau*

[Support Kōkua Mau](#)

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- [Our Lets Talk Story Program](#)
- [Advance Care Planning](#)
- [Advance Directive for Hawaii](#)

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- [Information about POLST for Hawaii](#)
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