

HAWAII MATTERS

QUARTERLY REPORT

JAN / FEB / MAR 2024

AIR TIME: 6:30AM; LENGTH: 30 MINUTES

KUMU HONOLULU

JANUARY 2024

JANUARY 7, 2024 – Tati Guzman (HMSA) / Medicare

We discuss the basics of Medicare, what it is, the different Parts, what those Parts cover, new facets for next year, open enrollment, group retiree plans at workplaces, Medicaid vs Medicare, third party brokers, Medicare scams, and how to navigate the complexity.

JANUARY 14, 2024 – Ken Hiraki PSHF / Education

The public schools in Hawaii have general funds for educators to request materials for their classrooms and students for the school year. There are times when a teacher will buy items out of their own money to help the class better understand a lesson or a timely event captures the imagination of the campus. Ken Hiraki talks about Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation's scholarships for Teachers, a means to encourage creativity in the classroom.

JANUARY 21, 2024 – Ryan Naka (Project Vision Hawaii) / Access Challenges

Guest Ryan Naka is a VP with Project Vision Hawaii (PVH). They're a non-profit that provides health and human services to access-challenged communities and vulnerable populations. He discusses: the origins of PVH in 2015, the types of services they provide, the Pulama Ola medical respite kauhale outside Queen's Hospital, the Moving Forward program and its work with former prisoners, their work on Maui after the fires, and other neighbor island services.

JANUARY 28, 2024 – Andria Tupola / Human Trafficking in Hawaii

Andria Tupola is a City Council member in Honolulu. She organizes a conference in Hawaii that helps to bring awareness of human trafficking. She talks about some of the signs to look for. The impact of social media, how culture affects his issue, possible legislation that might help fight trafficking.

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FEBRUARY 4, 2024 – Emily Gordon (DOH) / Healthy Practices

Our guest is the Public Health Educator for the State of Hawaii Dept. of Health. Topics covered today include the Department's response to the Maui wild fires, the importance of planning for public health situations, the importance of washing our hands, why people need the reminders, making washing hands and cleanliness in general a daily habit, some of the viruses out there such as RSV, which is particularly dangerous to very young and older people, the details of washing your hands properly, hand sanitizers, staying home when you're sick.

FEBRUARY 11, 2024 – TRISH KAJIMURA / MENTAL HEALTH

This week, we welcome in Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director for Mental Health America of Hawaii. She and her staff are part of a national organization that helps promote mental wellness through education, advocacy and service. She speaks about how MHA of Hawaii tries to help reduce the stigma of mental illness and improve the overall care, treatment and empowerment of those with mental illnesses and their families.

FEBRUARY 18, 2024 – CAROLE KAI / GREAT ALOHA RUN CHARITY

Carole Kai is the founder of the Great Aloha Run. She and Claire Nakamura-Roshon, who helps run the event, explain the longevity of the event, the organization, how the charity works, the history of the run, number of participants, how charities can receive funds, and other topics. Carole explains the reason doing charity work is so important to her. They also share details on the GAR Expo and how to register.

FEBRUARY 25, 2024 – COLIN WILLIS (DOH) / SUGARY DRINKS

Colin Willis is the Public Health Nutrition Coordinator for the State Dept. of Health. He addresses the danger of consuming too much sugar, especially sugary drinks. He instructs us where to look on the nutritional label for this specific information and the effect they have on Hawaii children. He puts forth recommended drinks that have no added sugar: water and milk as well as alternatives to look for in the grocery store.

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MARCH 3, 2024 – Joe Logan Chief of Police / Crime in Honolulu

We sit down with Honolulu Police Chief Joe Logan. Topics include his history and background, his qualifications, what he brings to HPD. Logan touches on the concept of community policing. He discusses the challenge of staffing HPD. He addresses the perception of the increase of violent crime and how HPD is addressing that perception. He also talks about Hawaii's drug problem, including fentanyl, and how HPD is training officers to deal with this problem. HPD has brought back what was used to be known as a cadet training program to help with staffing issues. And also the civilian pathway into the department.

MARCH 10, 2024 – Western Pacific Fishery Management Council / Fishing in Hawaii

Our guests are Josh DeMello (fishing analyst) and Gil Kualii (member of the advisory panel) for the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council. They explain what their organization does, some of the issues the Council navigates such as fishing methods, managing the fishing supply, collecting data, policing the fishing industry, the Council's ecosystem approach to management, overfishing, the Council's oversight of the commercial fishing industry practices. They also talk about their "Fish ID 101" initiative. And they stress the importance of having a fishing industry that will continue to serve and feed Hawaii forever.

MARCH 17, 2024 – Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii / Drug Abuse Prevention

We talk to the Executive Director of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii, Greg Tjapkes. Topics include the basics of the CDFH drug prevention efforts, Hawaii's standing in the fight against drugs, some of the key tactics used. We focus in one of the programs-Strengthening Hawaii Families. Greg also highlights one of the successful programs, Teen Link Hawaii, especially how substance use affects brain development in youth. We talk about the importance of parents communicating with their children across all topics. Tjapkes talks about the organization's stance on marijuana use. He warns against the increased danger of marijuana and THC.

MARCH 24, 2024 – John Mizuno & Sam Moku / Homelessness in Hawaii

Our guests are John Mizuno, the State Coordinator on Homelessness, and Sam Moku, his counterpart for the City & County of Honolulu. They discuss the general state of homelessness in Hawaii, the collaboration between the state and city governments, some data points, reasons people become homeless, states exporting their homeless, Hawaii's Return to Home program, exploring other programs from other cities that might be applied in Hawaii, the CORE project (the Crisis Outreach team).

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MARCH 31, 2024 – Tina Yamaki / Retail in Hawaii

Today's episode concentrates on the retail landscape in Hawaii. Our guest is Tina Yamaki, the President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii. We discuss the business climate in Hawaii, the challenges retailers face, how Covid affected retail, the effects of the Maui fires, the local jobs market, competing in retail, technology's effect on retail, the RNH mentoring program, traits for a successful career, and more.