

Our Beginnings

In 1998, the Governor of Hawai'i's Blue Ribbon Panel on Living and Dying with Dignity saw the need to dramatically improve awareness and understanding of hospice care in the state. This set the stage for Kōkua Mau, which was founded in 1999 as a statewide end-of-life care coalition with support from a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community-State Partnership grant.



Our Present and Future

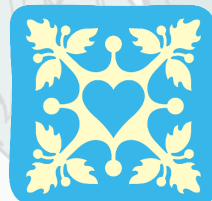
Today, the coalition is the state's leading organization responding to the clarion call to improve the quality of life for Hawai'i residents by promoting hospice, end-of-life care, palliative care, and advance care planning. Our ultimate vision is to ensure everyone in Hawai'i is treated with dignity and compassion and they and their loved

Our Vision

We envision a community in which the people of Hawai'i are treated with dignity, compassion and love throughout their lives.

Our Mission

Our 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
Continuous Care

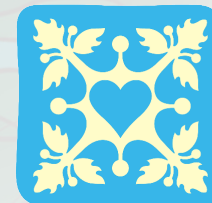
A Movement to Improve Care

Contact Information

Kōkua Mau
P.O. Box 62155
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96839
(808) 585-9977
kokuamau.org

Kōkua Mau

Leading Change to
Improve Care
in Hawai'i



KŌKUA MAU
Continuous Care

A Movement to Improve Care

No one likes to talk or think about their mortality.

It's even harder to bring up the subject with family members. We would prefer to talk about anything else but death. It takes courage and cultural sensitivity to break through taboos to talk about the uncomfortable subjects of advance care planning, palliative care and hospice care.

Kōkua Mau, a nonprofit organization composed of Hawai'i's leading healthcare organizations, physicians and other healthcare professionals and individuals, has successfully brought these difficult subjects out in the open. This has generated meaningful, thoughtful and sensitive conversations to improve care and support for those with serious illness.

With a broad network of professional support, Kōkua Mau has become a thought-leader and catalyst for positive transformation in healthcare, serving as the voice and advocate for healthcare policy changes and facilitator of courageous conversations about end-of-life care in communities throughout the state so that all of Hawai'i's people can have access to better care and enjoy a better quality of life.

Kōkua Mau actively creates change at multiple levels to improve care:

Community Engagement

We support people who have a serious illness and their loved ones by providing information to help them understand their options and make informed decisions. We also refer them to resources in the community, including palliative care and hospice programs in our state.

Our "Let's Talk Story" program provides customized presentations to churches, temples, service clubs, and other organizations. These are complemented by our participation at healthcare, caregiver and senior events.



Accurate, Timely Information

Our website provides easy-to-understand information, including free handouts for professionals, family members, and anyone considering advance care planning. We have also created an original worksite wellness program to promote advance care planning in the workplace.

Professional Education and Networking

Kōkua Mau creates numerous opportunities for healthcare professionals to learn and share experiences with each other to collectively move the healthcare community forward in improving care.

Policy and Systems Change

We actively pursue opportunities to make the healthcare system more responsive to the needs of seriously ill people and their loved ones. We partner with hospitals, healthcare systems, health plans and the legislature to advise, advocate, train and educate to facilitate strategic healthcare transformation.

Kōkua Mau successfully spearheaded the legislative passage of Provider Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) in Hawai'i in 2009 and generated support to extend signing privileges to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in 2014.

Kōkua Mau is the state-designated lead agency for POLST (Provider Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment) and our website is a valuable resource.