

Hale Makua

Compassion. Commitment. Community.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hale Makua CEO Speaks About the Elderly in America at the International Conference on Aging in Shanghai

KAHULUI, Hawaii (Hale Makua) October 15, 2008 – Hale Makua CEO, Tony Krieg, spoke at the 2008 International Conference on the Development of Old Age Programs in Shanghai, China. The Conference invited experts in the gerontological field from around the globe to discuss the exponential growth of the world's aging population, and what kind of programs nations are putting into place to accommodate the needs of our elders. Mr. Krieg's presentation focused on an overview of caring for the frail elderly in the U.S., and focuses on a new program that Hale Makua has implemented as an alternative to nursing home care.

The current state of funding for long-term care in the U.S. is such that Medicaid is the major source of public financing for long-term care in institutions such as nursing homes, however increasing fiscal pressures are threatening Medicaid's ability to continue this funding, with the average cost of care being \$70,000 in the U.S. per year. The rapid increase in the cost of care, the development of home and community based alternatives, and losses nursing facilities are experiencing from federal Medicaid reimbursement have all contributed to a decrease of nursing home beds across the nation at a time when the frail elder population is increasing.

On the bright side, alternatives such as community-based long-term care, on average, are about one third the cost of comparable nursing home care. Hale Makua's newest Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), Maui PACE, is one such program, the only one in the State of Hawaii, and one of 14 rural programs nationwide. PACE programs are designed to provide comprehensive medical and social services coordinated by a group of specialists functioning as a care-giving team centered around the belief that it is better for the well-being of seniors with chronic care needs and their families to be served in the community whenever possible. By delivering all of the medical and supportive services needed, PACE is able to provide the entire continuum of care and services to seniors with chronic care needs, while maintaining their independence in their home for as long as possible.

To view Mr. Krieg's full presentation from the Shanghai conference, please visit Mr. Krieg's blog at: http://halemakua.typepad.com/long_term_care_thoughts/

About Maui PACE:

Maui PACE is a program of Hale Makua, a leading provider of home and community based health care services. Maui PACE is one of over 50 Programs for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly in the United States, which are provider-based programs. PACE uses an interdisciplinary team approach to integrate, deliver, and coordinate all the care and service Maui PACE participant's need. Because of the complex issues of caring for older individuals with multiple diagnoses in a community setting, the flexibility provided by the PACE model of care is key to successfully maintaining frail older adults in the community for as long as possible.

About Hale Makua:

Hale Makua is a private, non-profit corporation established in 1946 with a mission to provide excellence in healthcare in our home and yours. Hale Makua is widely know for its two long term care nursing locations: one in Wailuku caring for 124 residents, and the other in Kahului currently accommodating up to 238 residents. Hale Makua also has a Home Health Care Agency, which provides health care (including skilled nursing, physical therapy, and infusion services) and social work services to over 250 homebound clients of all ages. Other Hale Makua programs include out-patient rehabilitation, respite care, Maui PACE, and adult foster family.

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