



KŌKUA MAU

“Continuous Care”

Hawai‘i Hospice and Palliative
Care Organization

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Kōkua Mau Receives \$466,800 grant from the
Stupski Family Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation
to Improve Care and Support for those with Serious Illness**

Kōkua Mau, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing quality palliative and hospice care in Hawaii, received a two-year grant for **“Improving Care and Support for those with Serious Illness”** from the Stupski Family Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation. Members of Kōkua Mau include hospice providers, health plans, hospitals, physicians and other healthcare professionals, and engaged community members.

“Kōkua Mau is committed to being a catalyst to inspire Hawaii residents to be more fully vested in conversations and decisions relating to quality of life especially at the end of life,” said Jeannette Koiijane, Kōkua Mau’s Executive Director. “We need to dramatically shift how people and their loved ones approach these discussions. We know that getting people talking about what is seen by many to be a taboo subject will help prevent crisis, relieve stress, and get people the right care at the right time in the right place. With the support of this grant, we believe we can help to facilitate positive change in communities across our islands.”

Koiijane said Kōkua Mau would like to help more individuals and families adopt advance care planning years before an illness or crisis as the first step to ensure a better quality of life. The grant will be used for community engagement, professional education and networking, and system and policy change. Specifically, the funds will be used to expand the organization by hiring an advance care planning coordinator and to build capacity by conducting formative research, and developing and executing fundraising and communications campaigns.

Lori Miller, Executive Director of Kauai Hospice and Board President of Kōkua Mau said: “Over the past 15 years, Kōkua Mau has been building our capacity by offering training for professionals and healthcare organizations in palliative, hospice and end-of-life care, and by sharing best practices in conversations with patients and families about their wishes and values surrounding treatment for serious illness. With this generous grant from the Stupski Family Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation, we can now expand and strengthen our programs and engage our entire community more fully as we continue our work.”

(Over)

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About Kōkua Mau

Kōkua Mau believes people of Hawaii 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. The nonprofit organization was founded as a statewide end-of-life care coalition in 1999 under a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community-State Partnership grant and as a direct result of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Living and Dying with Dignity. In June 2007, Kōkua Mau merged with the Hawaiian Islands Hospice Organization to form Kōkua Mau, Inc., a statewide hospice and palliative care organization. Its purpose is to improve quality of life for people living in Hawaii by promoting excellence in hospice, end-of-life care, palliative care, and early advance care planning.