



For Hawaii's Families with Seriously Ill Children

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**HUGS Hosts a 70's disco-themed Gala on May 13, 2023
"Groovin' with HUGS" at the 'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach Pool Deck and
Honors Owner of Sunset Ranch, Greg Pietsch**

HONOLULU – HUGS (Help Understanding & Group Support), a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping Hawaii's families with seriously ill children, will host its annual gala and largest fundraiser of the year, on Saturday, May 13, 2023 at the pool deck at 'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach.

The 70's disco-themed HUGS Gala, called "Groovin' with HUGS" will honor Greg Pietsch, owner of Sunset Ranch, for his many years of support of HUGS through the years, and his environmental contributions to the community. HUGS' memorial garden for HUGS children that have passed away, is located at Sunset Ranch at no cost to HUGS. "I'm humbled and honored to be recognized at this year's HUGS Gala," said Pietsch. "I can't imagine a better organization to support and I look forward to continuing to build and strengthen my relationship with this wonderful organization."

Groovin' with HUGS begins at 5:30 p.m. for sponsors and VIP ticket holders and from 6:30pm for general admission, with no-host cocktails, a raffle and silent auction with mobile bidding. The gala will feature food and bar stations, private cabanas for company sponsors and the top disco hits of the 70's. Jody Kamisato, Ukulele artist and instructor/owner of Ukulele Hale, will serve as the emcee.

"All HUGS programs and services are offered free of charge to the families we serve," said Amy Morton-Sogi, HUGS Executive Director. "Through the generous support of our donors, HUGS is able to provide comprehensive programs and services to each HUGS family member so they don't face their journey alone."

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Table sponsorships of 8 are available at \$3,500, \$8,000 and \$10,000. Individual tickets are also available for the general public, VIP tickets with early admission at \$300 and General Admission tickets are available for \$250 per person. Current sponsors include Islands Hospice, ATLAS Insurance and Island Energy Services to name just a few. Funds raised will make a difference for Hawaii's families with a child living with a serious illness. For information about Groovin' with HUGS, please visit www.hugshawaii.org/groovin-with-hugs.

About HUGS

HUGS' (Help Understanding & Group Support) mission is to strengthen Hawaii's families and improve their quality of life as they face the emotional and financial hardships of caring for a seriously ill child. Programs address the emotional, social, physical, and financial needs of the entire family and each family member; all programs and services are free of charge. Since 1982, HUGS has helped thousands of families with a seriously ill child, up to 21 years who suffer from a range of diverse illnesses, throughout the state. For more information, visit www.hugshawaii.org.

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