



# Hawaii & Social Work

Propedeuse-uitreiking

13 November 2009

# Pabien but...

- At the university it is all about a Master
  - Not the document (paper)
  - But the knowledge and wisdom it stands for
  - And the capacity to act and bring positive lasting change
- Feast in the aula must always be an intellectual celebration

What is the relationship  
between Hawaii and Social  
Work?

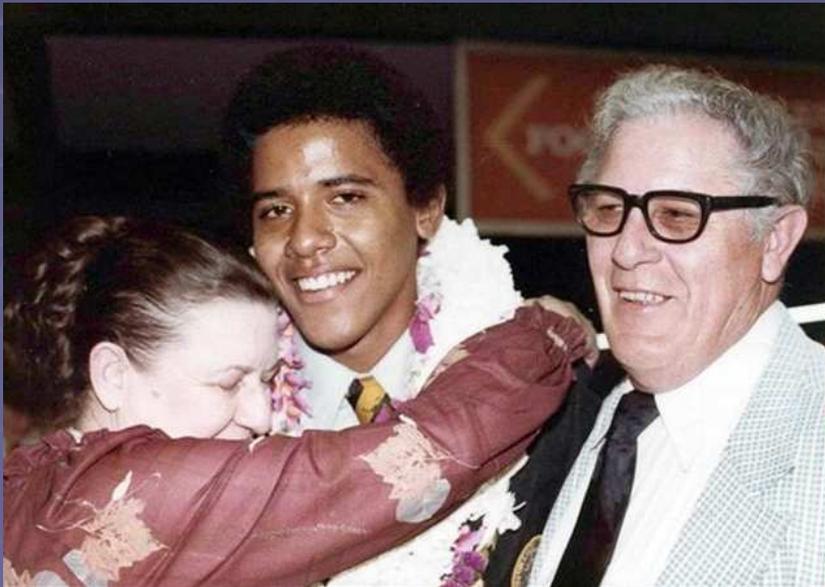


# President Barack Obama

- But what does the President has to do with Social Work?

# “Dreams from my Father”

- Son of a social worker
- A social worker (community worker) in Chicago before he went to study law at Harvard University in Boston



# Obama the community worker

- After four years in New York City, Obama moved to Chicago, where he was hired as director of the Developing Communities Project (DCP), a church-based community organization originally comprising eight Catholic parishes in Greater Roseland (Roseland, West Pullman and Riverdale) on Chicago's far South Side. He worked there as a community organizer from June 1985 to May 1988. During his three years as the DCP's director, its staff grew from one to thirteen and its annual budget grew from \$70,000 to \$400,000. He helped set up a job training program, a college preparatory tutoring program, and a tenants' rights organization in Altgeld Gardens. Obama also worked as a consultant and instructor for the Gamaliel Foundation, a community organizing institute.

# Obama's approach

- In theory, community organizing provides a way to merge various strategies for neighborhood empowerment.
- Organizing begins with the premise that (1) the problems facing inner-city communities do not result from a lack of effective solutions, but from a lack of power to implement these solutions; (
- 2) that the only way for communities to build long-term power is by organizing people and money around a common vision; and
- (3) that a viable organization can only be achieved if a broadly based indigenous leadership — and not one or two charismatic leaders — can knit together the diverse interests of their local institutions.

- This means bringing together churches, block clubs, parent groups and any other institutions in a given community to pay dues, hire organizers, conduct research, develop leadership, hold rallies and education campaigns, and begin drawing up plans on a whole range of issues — jobs, education, crime, etc. Once such a vehicle is formed, it holds the power to make politicians, agencies and corporations more responsive to community needs. Equally important, it enables people to break their crippling isolation from each other, to reshape their mutual values and expectations and rediscover the possibilities of acting collaboratively — the prerequisites of any successful self-help initiative.

# So he was a Social Worker...

- He is who he is because he is a Social Worker
  - More than because he is a Harvard Lawyer

# Inaugural speech



# A model of what Obama is saying

Government	Civil Society	Market

# Greenspan's Confession (2008)

- It's been almost one year to the day from one of the most remarkable confessions in recent political history. Alan Greenspan, speaking before a Congressional hearing, admitted that he had been wrong. Not only had he been wrong about policy, but wrong about "how the world works." Greenspan said it was distressing, but his ideology — the lens through which he interpreted reality — turned out to have been proven faulty.
- Greenspan was a libertarian, a firm believer in markets

# John Paul II

- "More and more, in many countries of America, a system known as "neoliberalism" prevails; based on a purely economic conception of the human person, this system considers profit and the law of the market as its only parameters, to the detriment of the dignity of and the respect due to individuals and peoples. At times this system has become the ideological justification for certain attitudes and behavior in the social and political spheres leading to the neglect of the weaker members of society. Indeed, the poor are becoming ever more numerous, victims of specific policies and structures which are often unjust."
- from *Ecclesia in America* (No. 56), Report of the Synod of America (1997)

# Government

- The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works, whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, a retirement that is dignified.
- Where the answer is yes, we intend to move forward. Where the answer is no, programs will end.
- And those of us who manage the public's dollars will be held to account, to spend wisely, reform bad habits, and do our business in the light of day, because only then can we restore the vital trust between a people and their government.

# Market

- Nor is the question before us whether the market is a force for good or ill. Its power to generate wealth and expand freedom is unmatched.
- But this crisis has reminded us that without a watchful eye, the market can spin out of control. The nation cannot prosper long when it favors only the prosperous.
- The success of our economy has always depended not just on the size of our gross domestic product, but on the reach of our prosperity; on the ability to extend opportunity to every willing heart -- not out of charity, but because it is the surest route to our common good.

# Civil Society

- What is demanded then is a return to these truths. What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility -- a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character than giving our all to a difficult task.
- This is the price and the promise of citizenship.
- This is the source of our confidence: the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny.

# What is Civil Society?

- **Civil society** is composed of the totality of voluntary civic and social organizations and institutions that form the basis of a functioning society as opposed to the force-backed structures of a state (regardless of that state's political system) and commercial institutions of the market.
- It is the shock absorber of the failing market and government.

# Social Capital

- kan algemeen omschreven worden als 'de hulpmiddelen die in een gemeenschap aanwezig zijn om de gezins- en sociale organisatie vorm te geven.' Deze hulpmiddelen vinden hun voedingsbodem in acties zoals gemeenschapsactiviteiten, sociale steun en participatie. Belangrijke elementen van sociaal kapitaal zijn de kwaliteit van sociale relaties, groepslidmaatschap, formele en informele netwerken, gedeelde normen, vertrouwen, wederkerigheid en inzet voor de gemeenschap. Welke elementen precies deel uitmaken van het sociaal kapitaal hangt af van de gehanteerde definitie.
- Social Workers are bankers too

# The Third Way

- "On the one hand there is capitalism, an economic system governed by market forces but where economic power is concentrated in the hands of a few who own or control productive capital. On the other hand, socialism, in its many forms, is an economic system governed centrally by a political elite, with even more highly concentrated ownership and economic power. Logically, a 'third way' would be a free-market system that economically empowers all individuals and families through direct and effective ownership of the means of production--the best check against the potential for corruption and abuse."

# “The Audacity of hope”

- A Social Worker is the President of the United States
  - He cleans up the mess of Accountants, MBAs and Lawyers
  - He makes engineers work on green energy

# *Yes we can!*

- Become the Prime Ministers of **Pais Curaçao**
  - We see the potential in you
  - *Congratulation*