



News, Advocacy & Connections from the Hawai'i Academy of Family Physicians

HAFP Newsletter | Fall 2026



Physician Feature: Getting to know Dr. Amy Guyton

Where are you practicing now, and what does your practice look like?

I am currently practicing on the west side of Kauai with Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH) at its satellite clinic in Eleele. I have the privilege of working alongside two incredible family physicians who continue to inspire me and deepen my love for our specialty.

Is there a particular area of family medicine you're especially passionate about?

I am passionate about women's health and obesity medicine. For the past six years, I have taken OB call and have especially enjoyed providing prenatal care and being part of the delivery experience. In 2023, I became board certified in obesity medicine to expand my knowledge and develop additional skills to help patients achieve sustainable weight loss through meaningful diet and lifestyle changes.

[Click to read more.](#)



Finding Wellness in the Midst of the Storm

Kanani Dilcher, MD

Program Director, Hawai'i Island Family Medicine Residency

A reflection on moral injury, presence, and finding the places where we can still heal

Aloha Family Medicine 'Ohana,

This past week was an interesting one on Hawai'i Island.

As Program Director of the Hawai'i Island Family Medicine Residency, I strive to bring my Integrative Medicine training into the way I guide our resident physicians and faculty—not simply by teaching the tools of wellness, but by creating space for contemplation about what it means to be well while caring for others.

I have come to think of wellness as a duet.

The physician and patient both need to meet in a place where healing can occur. If the physician is not fully present in the patient-physician interaction, something essential is lost. If the patient is unable to be present and engaged, healing is also more difficult. We bring our knowledge, our stories, our nervous systems, and our humanity into the room with us.

Sometimes, though, the system surrounding that room makes presence incredibly difficult.

[Click to read more.](#)

Family Dinner: Would you Join Us?

HAFP is exploring a new idea we're calling "Family" Dinner - a casual opportunity for family physicians to get together, connect, and enjoy some time with colleagues outside of work.

The idea is simple: no agenda, no presentation, and no CME. Just an opportunity to grab a meal or a drink, catch up with colleagues, meet other family physicians, and talk about whatever is on your mind.

Before we start planning, we want to hear from you!

Please take a minute to complete our brief survey and let us know what you think.

Opportunities for Rural Physicians: Get Involved with HOME RUN

Looking for an opportunity to support the next generation of Hawai'i's health care workforce and make a difference in rural communities?

The **Hawai'i Outreach for Medical Education in Rural Under-Resourced Neighborhoods (HOME RUN)** program, offered through the Hawai'i Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, provides opportunities to strengthen health professions education and connections within Hawai'i's rural and underserved communities.

Family physicians are uniquely positioned to share their experience, serve as mentors and role models, and help learners better understand the rewards and challenges of practicing in communities across our islands.

HAFP members interested in learning more about HOME RUN and opportunities to get involved are encouraged to visit the program website.

Learn more: [Hawai'i Outreach for Medical Education in Rural Under-Resourced Neighborhoods \(HOME RUN\)](#).

Advocacy News

Hawai'i at the Congress of Delegates: Resolutions, Advocacy & Your Voice

Congress of Delegates - Resolutions

The entire AAFP congress experience can be overwhelming for delegates, especially for new attendees. As an elected delegate or alternate delegate, our job is to represent your voices at the national level, and one of the main ways we do this is through writing resolutions and submitting testimony. The impetus for resolutions often comes from our daily lives - experiences with patients, insurance companies, and employers. Large AAFP state chapters, like California, often submit 5+ resolutions each year. Hawaii, a small state, aims to submit at least one resolution per year.

Sometime after the annual AAFP Congress of Delegates, held immediately before the AAFP Family Medicine Experience, our state chapter will have a call for resolution ideas. Please reply to these emails if you have any suggestions! Once ideas for resolutions are received, our delegation assigns someone to draft a resolution, which is then shared with the HAFP Board of Directors and HAFP Legislative Committee for comments and revisions. The resolutions continue to be revised until early summer, at which point we

post them to the AAFP Congress of Delegates community to see if any other states want to co-sponsor the resolution. In August, the resolutions are submitted to AAFP for review.

[Click to read more.](#)

HAFP Takes Hawai‘i’s Voice to Capitol Hill

Drs. Marti Taba and Robert Carlisle represented HAFP at the **Family Medicine Advocacy Summit (FMAS)** in Washington, D.C., June 14–16, 2026.



During the Summit, they participated in educational sessions focused on some of the most pressing advocacy issues facing family medicine, including leveraging personal experiences to shape policy, responding to public health misinformation, addressing corporate consolidation, increasing investment in primary care, and conducting effective advocacy meetings.

They also learned more about the **Triple Double Initiative**, an effort of the AAFP and National Association of Community Health Centers focused on significantly increasing investment in primary care, strengthening the primary care workforce, and expanding the number of patients receiving care through community health centers.

Following the educational sessions, Drs. Taba and Carlisle were joined by Basil, a third-year medical student at George Washington University with family ties to O'ahu. Together, they headed to Capitol Hill, visiting the offices of Senator Mazie Hirono, Representative Ed Case, and Representative Jill Tokuda to advocate for issues important to family physicians and their patients.

Their advocacy included legislation addressing the elimination of patient copays for Chronic Care Management (CCM), H-1B visa fees affecting physicians, and greater accountability within Medicare Advantage—including timely prior authorizations, appropriate review of denials, and timely payments.

AAFP leaders also discussed the potential for bipartisan, bicameral legislation aimed at simplifying MACRA and MIPS. HAFP's Legislative Committee hopes to continue engaging Hawai'i's congressional delegation as additional details become available.

Thank you to Drs. Taba and Carlisle for representing Hawai'i's family physicians in Washington and ensuring that our members' voices—and the needs of our patients and communities—are heard at the national level.

HAFP Foundation Update: Travel Grant Recipient Kalpana Balaraman's Experience Attending AAFP Future

There is something fitting about the fact that the AAFP headquarters sits in the Kansas City area, near the geographic center of the contiguous United States. But perhaps the significance is not simply that Kansas City is near the middle of the country. Historically, Kansas City was a place where people gathered, prepared, exchanged resources, and began journeys along the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trails. Kansas City is a place of convergence, connection, and departure, and those are also fundamental ideas in family medicine.

In some ways, that history reflects what family medicine strives to be. Family physicians stand at the crossroads of healthcare - between prevention and treatment, childhood and adulthood, physical and mental health, the individual and the family, the clinic and the community. Patients may come to them at the beginning of a journey whose destination we cannot yet know. The role of family physicians is not always to determine where they should ultimately go, but to know them well enough to help them navigate the journey, and, whenever possible, to accompany them along the way. [Click to read more.](#)



Represent Hawai'i at the 2027 AAFP National Conference of Constituency Leaders

HAFP is seeking nominations for members to represent Hawai'i at the **2027 AAFP National Conference of Constituency Leaders (NCCL)**, April 16–18 in Kansas City, Missouri.

NCCL brings together family physicians from across the country to develop leadership and advocacy skills, share perspectives, debate resolutions, help shape AAFP policy, and elect national leaders.

HAFP is accepting nominations for delegates representing the following constituencies:

- Women
- BIPOC
- New Physicians
- International Medical Graduates (IMG)
- LGBTQ+ Physicians or Physician Allies
- Physicians with Disabilities or Physician Allies

This is a great opportunity to become more involved in organized family medicine, build connections with family physicians from across the country, and ensure Hawai'i has a strong voice in AAFP policy and leadership.

Members may nominate themselves or another eligible HAFP member. Selected delegates must be available to attend the full conference. HAFP provides financial support

toward approved conference-related expenses, with the 2027 reimbursement amount to be determined by the HAFP Board of Directors.

Interested in representing HAFP? Submit a nomination today!
[Complete the HAFP NCCL Delegate Nomination Form](#)

Help Lead HAFP: 2027–2028 Board Nominations Now Open

Are you interested in helping shape the future of family medicine in Hawai'i? HAFP is now accepting nominations for leadership positions beginning in 2027.

Serving in HAFP leadership is an opportunity to help guide the Academy's priorities, strengthen our work on behalf of family physicians and their patients, and represent the voice of family medicine both in Hawai'i and nationally.

Positions open for nomination include:

- **President-Elect**
- **At-Large Director** – 3-year term, two positions available
- **Delegate to the AAFP Congress of Delegates** – 2-year term, one position available
- **Alternate Delegate to the AAFP Congress of Delegates** – 2-year term, one position available

Specific eligibility requirements apply to the President-Elect and AAFP Delegate positions and are outlined on the nomination form.

Self-nominations are encouraged! You may also nominate another HAFP member who you believe would be a strong addition to the Academy's leadership.

Nominations will be accepted through **October 2, 2026**.

Ready to get involved? Submit your nomination today!

[Complete the HAFP 2027–2028 Board of Directors Nomination Form](#)

Upcoming Events



**HAWAI'I ACADEMY
of FAMILY PHYSICIANS**

HAFP MEMBERSHIP

Social

IN NASHVILLE



DURING THE AAFP CONGRESS OF DELEGATES / FMX

Join the Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians for an evening of food, drinks, and fellowship during the AAFP Congress of Delegates and FMX!

Whether you're attending Congress as a delegate or alternate, participating in FMX, or simply in Nashville for the week, we hope you'll join your HAFP colleagues for a relaxed evening of conversation and connection.



**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 21, 2026**



6:00 – 9:00 PM



MARTIN'S BBQ JOINT
Downtown Nashville



\$20 PER PERSON
Registration fee helps HAFP support and coordinate this special member gathering.



REGISTER NOW: hafp.info | Questions? Contact us at info@hafp.info





We can't wait to see you there!

REGISTER TODAY!
SPACE IS LIMITED.

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Wednesday, October 21, 2026

6:00–9:00 PM

Martin's BBQ Joint – Downtown Nashville

Come enjoy some great Nashville BBQ, catch up with colleagues, and connect with fellow HAFP members while we're all together in Nashville.

Registration: \$20 per person

[Registration](#)

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