



Na Leo Ola

Newsletter of the Hawaii Medical Association

Volume 4, Issue 10

October 2024

Ola Pono Ike 2024 a Huge Success

The 25th annual Ola Pono Ike Gala, held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village on October 19, 2024 was a magical night. Our extremely patient guests and volunteers struggled through horrendous traffic due to a parade in Waikiki, but once there, it was a time for celebration!

We can't thank our amazing volunteers, along with the staff and management at the Hilton, enough for transforming the Coral Ballroom into an elegant space that enhanced the atmosphere for our event. We all know of the ongoing strike, and certain concessions had to be made due to staff shortages, but the Hilton pulled the evening off without a hitch.

We congratulate our three honorees, who embody the aloha spirit by going above and beyond to serve our community:

Whitney M.L. Limm, MD
HMA Physician of the Year Award

Thomas S. Kosasa, MD
HMA Lifetime Achievement Award

John Henry Felix, PhD
Manawale'a Community Service Award

We also raised funds to assist three medical nonprofits who are making a difference:

JABSOM HOME Project
Ohana Medical Mission
NAMI Hawaii

It was truly a memorable night of celebration for our physician community. For more photos, visit hawaiiomedicalassociation.org.



Executive Director's Message *by Marc Alexander*



Ola Pono Ike 2024 was a grand success! From the awesome honorees - John Henry Felix, Ph.D., Whitney Limm MD, and Tom Kosasa MD - to the entertainment by the unmatched Makaha Sons. Our emcees - the unflappable Steve Uyehara and Liz Chun - guided us masterfully, while Dr. Sandra Fryhofer of the American Medical Association celebrated physicians and their unwavering commitment to the care of patients. And we can never have an Ola without Drs. Kalani Brady and Angela Pratt opening the event with an oli and pule. Despite the crazy traffic and labor dispute, attendees filled the Coral Ballroom of the Hilton Hawaiian Village to salute our honorees. The team of volunteers included community members and over 30 medical school students from the John A. Burns School of Medicine - hosted for dinner by generous HMA and community members. Major sponsors included the Queen's Health Systems, MIEC, Dr. Tom Kosasa, and Dr. Angela Pratt, along with Allied Builders System, HMSA, JABSOM, Hawaii Pacific Health, Punahou School, Vicky Cayetano & Ginny Tiu, Diamond Head Seafood, Kuakini Hospital, and Dr. Ivica Zalud. We're grateful to all our sponsors, without whom we would not have filled the ballroom with over 400 people! Mahalo to Drs. Angela Pratt and Jerris Hedges, this year's chair and co-chair, Ellie Ventula-Honda, our Ola Pono Ike lead, and her incredible committee of volunteers. It's all about team, and team HMA is ready for 2025!



Psychotropic Medications and
Thyroid Screening
November 14, 2024 • 5:00p

This special presentation will address **SCR 34 (2024)** which requests "the Hawaii Medical Association and the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association to convene a roundtable to establish medical protocols to ensure that an individual's thyroid function is tested before psychotropic medications for mental illness are prescribed."

Conversations at HMA will be presented virtually via Zoom on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. It will begin with a formal presentation led by HMA member **Gerald Busch, MD, MPH**. Dr Busch is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in Psychiatry and Child/Adolescent Psychiatry and has added qualifications in Addiction Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry. He is certified by the American Board of Preventive medicine in Addiction Medicine.

Virtual attendees will have a chance to ask Dr. Busch questions at the end of the conversation by typing their questions using the Q&A function on Zoom.

To register for this informative talk visit hawaiimedicalassociation.org and click on the Conversations banner at the top of the page. Information on the resolution is available at Measure Status (hawaii.gov).

Transfer of Appeal Granted

On September 20, 2024, the Hawaii Medical Association and the American Medical Association jointly filed a motion for leave with the proposed friend of the court brief in the Nitta vs. HMSA case. Basically, this means that the court must rule to accept our brief which is in support of Dr. Frederick Nitta, a member of HMA. Our proposed brief is also included in the motion.

On October 23, 2024, the Hawaii Supreme Court agreed to receive the appeal directly for the Nitta vs. HMSA case. HMA attorney Clay Kekina is tracking applicable rules governing briefs, timelines, and other possible actions. Overall, this is considered good news, but as always, we remain cautiously optimistic and vigilant.

The order granting the transfer, motion, and brief are available at hawaiimedicalassociation.org.

Fix Prior Authorization

One of the issues that our membership has highlighted for action is prior authorization. To this end we have established a new webpage, **Fix Prior Authorization Hawaii**, available via the HMA website. We encourage physicians and patients to listen to the introductory podcast, *Understanding Why Prior Authorization Matters*; with Emily Carroll, Senior Attorney with the AMA Advocacy Department. This interview by HMA provides an excellent overview of the issue by the AMA's top expert on prior authorization.