



Na Leo Ola

Newsletter of the Hawaii Medical Association

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Mele Kalikimaka Hau'oli Makahiki Hou

As 2023 comes to an end, we look back on a year filled with great accomplishments and challenges. We also look forward to making 2024 an even greater success, and our members are a big part of that effort. We are so grateful for your membership. Thank you for belonging to the HMA 'ohana.

Grants Awarded from Ola Pono Ike Proceeds



L-R: Dr. Angela Pratt, Marc Alexander, Dr. Patty Tran, Dr. Jill Omori, Interim Dean Dr. Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, Dr. Teresa Schiff

Due to the generosity of our members, we were able to award five grants to Hawaii nonprofits from the proceeds of Ola Pono Ike 2023:

- H.O.M.E Project - \$3,000
- Ohana Medical Mission - \$3,000
- Street Medicine Training Program - \$3,000
- Maui Native Hawaiian Chamber Foundation - \$1,000
- Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce - \$1,000

Support HR 6683 to Avoid 3.37% Medicare Physician Payment Cut

We've been sounding the alarms that physicians are facing yet another Medicare payment cut - 3.37% starting in 2024. However, a bi-partisan group of legislators introduced **H.R. 6683** the "**Preserving Seniors' Access to Physicians Act**." If enacted, it would completely eliminate the scheduled 3.37% physician payment cut.

Contact your members of Congress today and urge them to fix the flawed Medicare physician payment system by supporting H.R. 6683. Congress only has until January 19th to act; contact your congressional representatives before then. Take action now!

US Senate
Mazie Hirono

email at hirono.senate.gov

Brian Schatz

email at schatz.senate.gov

House
Ed Case - D1

email at case.house.gov

Jill Tokuda - D2

email at tokuda.house.gov

The Year in Review

Executive Director's Message *by Marc Alexander*



Like many of us, I can't believe 2023 is coming to a close and the holiday celebrations are upon us. Looking back on 2023, there

are many accomplishments for which the HMA 'ohana should be proud. I want to highlight some of these because it's a joy to recognize what together we have accomplished:

- HMA - in collaboration with JABSOM and the University of Hawaii Foundation - was awarded a grant from The Physicians Foundation for our project, "Advancing Rural Behavioral Health Integration via Telehealth."



- The new PacWest Continuing Education Accreditation Collaborative (PCEAC), which was formed to support the state medical society (SMS) CME accreditation programs across the Northwest and Pacific (including American Samoa and Guam), was implemented.
- We have in place new management agreements with the Hawaii Radiological Society (HRS) and the Hawaii Medical Foundation (HMF). The first audit of HMF was completed, yielding a clean audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.
- HMA successfully led the strategic planning process for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Hawaii, producing a board and membership approved plan, *Into the Future Together*.



- Our collaboration with the Clinical Education Alliance expanded to include discounted training for the new MATE Act. We are able to offer a discount for all eligible Hawaii providers, with an additional discount for HMA members.



- HMA membership grew a modest 19% this year continuing our strong rebuilding trend. The Council approved a new group membership discount policy which is being rolled out, providing discounts to several groups, including physicians associated with JABSOM.
- This year's Ola Pono Ike was held on October 14, 2023. The 2023 honorees were: Dr. Kalani Brady (Physician of the Year), Dr. Jerris Hedges (President's Award), and Rep. Mark Nakashima (new Community Service Award).
- Three CME@HMA programs were offered this year, working with Hawaii Pacific Health, totaling 15 CMEs.

- HMA started Conversations at HMA, featuring physicians and other healthcare leaders. Topics have included public policy, an interview with HMSA CEO/President, Dr. Mark Mugiishi, and Lahaina healthcare updates. All previous episodes are available for viewing on HMA's YouTube Channel.
- HMAConnect continues to release episodes, including an interview with Dr. Nadine Tenn Salle and AMA Vice President of the State Advocacy Resource Center, Kai

- Sternstein. All episodes are available through the HMA website.

- Two HMA leaders were appointed to the Hawaii Medical Board in 2023, Drs. Elizabeth Ignacio and Angela Pratt. Dr. Pratt was also named a 2023 Healthcare Hero by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii.

- The HMA Public Policy Committee was very active this past session, with successes including increase in the Medicaid reimbursement rate, the new loan repayment program, the adoption of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, additional protections for abortion services for patients and providers, and various bills impacting behavioral health.



- HMA leadership published two editorials in the Sunday editions of the Honolulu Star Advertiser, one on raising Medicaid payments, and the other applauding progress in healthcare.

2024 promises to be even more active as our membership grows and HMA becomes even more engaged with physicians and the community. Mahalo to all our members and collaborators.

*Mele Kalikimaka me ka
Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!*