



Na Leo Ola

Newsletter of the Hawaii Medical Association

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Join Us on April 7 for *Conversations* AT HMA Legislative Update

Advocacy for Hawaii's physician community is one of the primary functions of the Hawaii Medical Association. The work being done during the legislative session on behalf of our physicians is critical to the way medicine is being offered and practiced in Hawaii, and shapes the future of Hawaii's healthcare landscape.

To make sure our members have the latest information on our progress, this edition of *Conversations at HMA* will focus on providing important updates on the status of bills and resolutions that directly affect Hawaii's physicians.

Presenting our update will be **Dr. Jerry Garcia**, Chair of the HMA Public Policy Committee, and **Dr. Elizabeth Ann Ignacio**, HMA President. Their efforts - along with the efforts of numerous volunteer physicians and our entire Public Policy Committee - have resulted in important progress being made over the last two legislative sessions.

Conversations at HMA
Monday, April 7, 2025 • 5:30 p.m.
Legislative Update
\$10 In-Person, Free on Zoom
Register at hawaiimedicalassociation.org

In-person attendance limited to the first 25 registrants. Dinner is included with in-person attendance and is limited to HMA members only; you may invite one (1) guest at the HMA member price of \$10; consider inviting a colleague as an introduction to HMA's important work and networking opportunities.

This edition of *Conversations at HMA* sponsored by the Hawaii Medical Foundation and the Hawaii Medical Association.

Get Ready for Ola Pono Ike 2025!

The 26th annual **Ola Pono Ike Gala** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 25, 2025** at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom I - III.

Reconnect with your fellow medical professionals over a sumptuous dinner while enjoying the music of the **Makaha Sons!**

We also present our highest honors of the year as we celebrate:

Angela M. Pratt, MD
Physician of the Year

Jerry Wang Van Meter, MD
Lifetime Achievement

Kaohimanu Dang-Akiona, MD
President's Award

We're also raising funds for these deserving medical nonprofits:

JABSOM Home Project
NAMI Hawaii
Ohana Medical Mission
Hawaii Medical Foundation

Save the date, and watch this newsletter and our website for important updates and registration information! We hope to see you there!



Rx4Miracles' prescription savings program is designed to lower out-of-pocket medication expenses while supporting children's hospitals.

Launched in collaboration with Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, Rx4Miracles provides savings on both brand name and generic medications for uninsured and underinsured patients, as well as those with high-deductible health plans, HSAs without prescription benefits, or non-covered medications.

Many patients experience "sticker shock" at the pharmacy counter when faced with high medication costs. Rx4Miracles helps relieve this burden by offering discounts of up to 80% at over 68,000 pharmacies nationwide.

Rx4Miracles has also launched a mobile app, allowing patients to:

- ▶ Instantly access their digital savings card
- ▶ Find the lowest prices at nearby pharmacies
- ▶ Compare costs on brand and generic medications

HMA encourages members to share this valuable resource with their patients. The Rx4Miracles program is HIPAA-compliant, requires no enrollment or income qualifications, and is available to everyone.

Patients can access the program by downloading the Rx4Miracles app, or by printing a free savings card at **Rx4Miracles.org**.

For more information, please email info@Rx4Miracles.org or call (833) 511-9500.

Executive Director's Message *by Marc Alexander*



Neighbor Island Chapters

At the January 2025 HMA Council meeting, a robust discussion on how best to serve our growing neighbor island membership took place. It was decided that since Maui and Hawaii Island no longer have active county-level medical societies, HMA would pause the requirement for neighbor island physicians to join a county society. This pilot will run for a period of two years. HMA is also making a commitment to host neighbor island gatherings of physician members at least annually, in a format yet to be determined. The cost of HMA membership with the special neighbor island discount will now be only \$420 per year, effective immediately.

National Medicaid Action

In late February, the Hawaii Medical Association joined the other 49 states and the District of Columbia in a coalition letter to both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, expressing serious concerns about proposed cuts to Medicaid. These cuts would disproportionately impact at-risk and rural communities, and ultimately have a negative impact on the entire healthcare system. See the article below for more information.

State Legislative Update

As we go to press, our work on prior authorization continues to show progress, with **SB1449** having cleared its final committee hearing in the House. Also, our other prior authorization bill **HB250** is scheduled for its final hearing by the Senate Committees on Ways and Means, and Commerce and Consumer Protection on April 2nd at 10:00 am. After this stage, it is likely both prior authorization bills will go to conference committees made up of members from both the House and Senate who would be tasked with agreeing on final versions. As always HMA members can access the latest legislative news on the members only "2025 legislative updates" page.

Protecting Medicaid

Congress is considering plans to cut Medicaid to help pay for tax cuts, with the House budget resolution targeting \$880 billion or more in potential reductions to federal Medicaid spending. Medicaid is the primary program providing comprehensive health and long-term care to one in five people living in the U.S. and accounts for nearly \$1 out of every \$5 spent on health care. Reductions in Medicaid could have implications for enrollees as well as plans, providers, and state budgets.

The Hawaii Medical Association has joined with medical associations from all 49 other states and the District of Columbia to ask Congress to protect Medicaid. You can read these letters, and view a graphic - courtesy of the California Medical Association - that explains the far-reaching effects of cutting Medicaid by visiting the HMA website at hawaiimedicalassociation.org.