



Na Leo Ola

Newsletter of the Hawaii Medical Association

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Discounted DEA-Compliant Courses Available Through HMA

Beginning June 27, 2023, the **Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act goes into effect**, and requires new or renewing DEA licensees to complete a one-time total of at least eight (8) hours of training on opioid or other substance use disorders and the appropriate treatment of pain. The purpose of this training is to provide concentrated education and resources to promote the safe and effective prescribing of controlled substances when clinically appropriate for a legitimate medical purpose.

In partnership with the Clinical Education Alliance, **HMA will be offering courses that fulfill the**

MATE Act requirement. These courses will be available online-on demand and through live webinars.

Who Needs This Training?

All DEA registered prescribers, including physicians (MDs and Dos), podiatrists, dentists, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, physician assistants, physician associates and other DEA registrants who are authorized to dispense controlled substances in the state.

Discounted Pricing Available to All HMA members get a special \$100.00 discount when registering! In addition, as a service to all Hawaii's

physicians and DEA registered prescribers, **HMA has negotiated a \$50.00 discount for all non-HMA Hawaii healthcare providers.** If you know colleagues who will need this training, have them use the discount code HMA50 for on-demand courses and HMAWEB50 for the live webinar courses.

Registration for online-on demand and webinar courses is now open.

To get the HMA member code and to register, visit the HMA website at hawaiiomedicalassociation.org, sign in as a member and get the discount codes in the accompanying article.

President's Message

by Angela M. Pratt, MD, FACOG, MBA



Aloha kakou,

The month of June marks a few special days: Flag Day, Father's Day, and Juneteenth.

It's also time for the summer solstice, which is the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere and the traditional beginning of summer.

The days are longer, the temperature is rising, and we're preparing for an exciting second half of 2023!

By the time this is published, Dr. Bernard Robinson, Dr. Jerry Van Meter, HMA executive director Marc Alexander and I will have returned from Chicago, where we attended the AMA House of Delegates Annual Meeting. It's important for HMA to stay in touch with colleagues

from around the country, and we look forward to sharing our accomplishments and making contributions at the national level.

At home, I'm emboldened by our recent rise in membership. Attracting more physician members is a sign our efforts are being noticed, and current members

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Executive Director's Message *by Marc Alexander*



The Hawaii Medical Association was strongly represented at the June Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association in Chicago. Our delegation included AMA Delegates Drs. Bernard Robinson and Jerry Van Meter (both past presidents of HMA), along with HMA President Dr. Angela Pratt, serving as AMA Alternate Delegate. Dr. Aaron Wolbrueck, a resident at Tripler Army Medical Center, was an AMA Delegate for the resident physicians section, while I participated in meetings of the state medical society directors.

Our delegation actively participated as well in meetings of the PacWest Conference which caucuses on issues of a common concern for our region of the country. Via Twitter, we reported on happenings at the AMA, which are available as "Highlights from the 2023 AMA Annual Meeting" on the AMA website. Fixing Medicare was a top priority for the House of Delegates (see separate article), as well as the mental health of physicians and AI (Artificial Intelligence) in prior authorization.



Hawaii Representatives, L-R: Aaron Wolbrueck, DO - AMA resident delegate; Jerry Van Meter, MD and Bernard Robinson, MD - AMA delegates; Angela Pratt, MD - HMA President, Ian Fowler, MD - TAMC; Marc Alexander - HMA Executive Director

The new AMA President is Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld, a practicing anesthesiologist, senior dean, and tenured professor of anesthesiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin; Dr. Pratt participated in the inauguration ceremony representing HMA. In his inaugural speech Dr. Ehrenfeld ended with a strong commitment to science, ethics, and equity: "Let us hold firm to science and the ethics of our profession. Let us serve with honor, with courage and commitment. And let us always fight for a more inclusive, and more equitable, tomorrow."

The future of AMA and HMA looks bright!

President's Message

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are actively seeking to grow our numbers. While our task to increase membership is far from over, it's heartening to see more physicians understanding the importance of having a strong local medical society.

If you've brought in new members to HMA, I send my heartfelt congratulations and thanks. If you've told a colleague about HMA and asked them to join, I applaud your efforts and encourage you to keep spreading the word. If HMA hasn't been on your radar lately, I implore you to be more involved. We make the greatest impact on the healthcare landscape of Hawaii when our membership actively participates, and when our membership numbers increasingly reflect our physician population.

We're making a difference collectively. Keep making a difference individually by asking your colleagues to consider HMA membership.

Join the Effort to Fix Medicare Now

The fight for Medicare physician payment reform has lasted well over a decade, and the system remains on an unsustainable path. Temporary patches and ongoing cuts to the Medicare physician payment system have left physician practices and patient access to

care at serious risk. Payment cuts, freezes and redistributions have further exacerbated the challenge, yet Congress and the administration are still not focused on fixing the root of the problem - the payment system itself. But it's time for that to change. It's essential that leaders

in Washington work with the physician community on immediate, preventative measures, as well as long-term solutions that will reform the payment model once and for all.

Visit fixmedicarenow.org and see how you can join the fight!



Kapono Chong-Hanssen, MD

BS, Dartmouth College

MD, USC Keck School of Medicine

Clinical Work, LACH

Family Medicine Residency, JABSOM

Ho'ola Lahui Hawaii / Kauai Community Health Center, Medical Director

NLO Tell us a little bit about your medical journey.

KCH As a Native Hawaiian growing up in Iowa, I became interested in cultural differences in communication from a young age. In high school, I noticed challenges my grandparents had communicating with their doctors, resulting in one tutu preferring to pass away at home, self-treating with cannabis rather than cancer treatment or even hospice care, and another angered by his doctor's pestering to consume Ensure nutrition

Member Spotlight

supplements as the mainstay of his terminal cancer treatment. On the other hand, my father expressed a deep appreciation towards an oncologist who was able to take a thorough medical history from my grandpa with the ease of a conversation over coffee amongst farmers at the town square cafe. My father also shared observations about the need for primary care doctors able to care for diverse populations from his experience as a workers' compensation attorney, often representing immigrant agricultural laborers, and sociology classes in college expanded my understanding of how primary care gaps in the American health care system lead to widespread poor outcomes.

NLO What are you most proud of in your medical career?

KCH As the medical director of the only Federally Qualified Health Center and Native Hawaiian Health Care System office on Kaua'i, I am particularly proud of how our organization contributed to the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic on our island, particularly making vaccinations, testing, treatment, hygiene supplies and information

available to the unsheltered, public housing, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, and Ni'ihau community populations.

NLO Any hobbies, interests, pastimes outside of medicine?

KCH I have been involved in youth soccer coaching since completing residency, and I was particularly proud of coaching Waimea High School boys to their first Kaua'i Interscholastic Federation and a state tournament birth in a decade. I also enjoy cooking and surfing.

NLO Any wishes for our state and/or Kauai re: healthcare?

KCH I hope we are able to solve the impending rural primary care crisis. Unfortunately physician authority and happiness are being encroached upon from many angles. I love the culture of Hawai'i, and we can offer a lifestyle unmatched anywhere else in the world for physicians who want to help care for the people who are my source of rejuvenation in the face of all the frustrations. Hopefully better unity amongst physicians and leadership from organizations like HMA can help us change the trajectory of health care in Hawai'i for the better.

CME@HMA July 21 & 22, 2023 • Register at hawaiimedicalassociation.org

Earn up to five (5) CME credits (approval in process). Topics and speakers:

- Addiction and Behavioral Issues in the Healthcare Professional: A Supportive Response, by William F. Haning, III, MD, DFASAM, DLFAPA
- Innovations in Community Health: The Hawaii Maternal Telehealth Access Program, by Men-Jean Lee, MD
- Palliative Care: Best Care Possible for Our Seriously Ill Patients, by Rae S. Seitz, MD
- Demystifying Radiation Therapy, by Samuel R. Birer, MD
- Cognitive Decline: Aging vs. Dementia, by Kore K. Liow, MD, FAAN, FACP

This is a hybrid event, in-person at the HMA offices and virtual via Zoom. For more information and to register, please visit hawaiimedicalassociation.org.

2023 Legislative Report Now Available

Your Public Policy Committee worked tirelessly to advocate our legislative priorities. Read about the progress made this session at hawaiimedicalassociation.org.



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