



Na Leo Ola

Newsletter of the Hawaii Medical Association

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HMA Annual Awards

Special Recognition for Service to Our Community

Each year, the Hawaii Medical Association honors three individuals for their outstanding service to our physician community and to our island home. These are the highest awards we bestow, and they serve to recognize jobs well done, a commitment to the people of Hawaii, and lives well lived.

The following individuals have made tremendous contributions to our community and have made Hawaii a better and healthier place for everyone:

Whitney Limm, MD

Physician of the Year

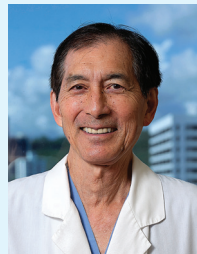


Whitney Limm, MD is Executive Vice President of Clinical Integration and Chief Physician Executive for The Queen's Health System

(QHS). He stands as an exemplary physician leader whose commitment to surgical excellence, and compassionate approach to patient interaction have significantly shaped healthcare in Hawaii. With expertise in minimally invasive surgery, Dr. Limm has played a pivotal role in mentoring and guiding the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Tom Kosasa, MD

Lifetime Achievement



Tom Kosasa, MD has practiced obstetrics and gynecology for over 50 years and in that time has delivered over 10,000 babies! He rose to

the rank of Major in the U.S. Army; is an accomplished pilot and flight instructor; and is a seasoned race car driver. Dr. Kosasa has also influenced new generations of physicians as professor emeritus and past chief of reproductive endocrinology at JABSOM. Dr. Kosasa continues to have a student with him for every delivery.

John Henry Felix, PhD

Community Service



John Henry Felix, a native of Hawaii, has practiced "Servant Leadership" since the age of eight through his involvement with Scouting,

Junior Red Cross and the March of Dimes. John Henry's career as a labor leader, businessman, educator, and public and community servant is well documented, and he has received more than 200 awards locally, nationally and internationally for his contributions. He currently serves as the Executive Chair of the Hawaii Medical Assurance Association.

Join Us and Help Congratulate these Amazing Individuals

Our Ola Pono Ike Gala Dinner is where we gather as physicians and recognize our three awardees. Visit hawaiiimedicalassociation.org and make your reservations today. There are still a few sponsor tables and individual seats left; your presence helps to honor the accomplishments of these three great men, while building camaraderie within our physician community.

OLA PONO IKE

Saturday, October 19, 2024

Hilton Hawaiian Village

Coral Ballroom • 5:30 p.m.

Executive Director's Message *by Marc Alexander*



Many physicians and patients have commented on HMA's recent leadership in the passage of the General Excise Tax exemption bill for private practice physicians and other healthcare professionals serving Medicare, Medicaid, and TRICARE patients. It certainly was a victory for patients and physicians, and would not have been possible without all of us working together. But there remain many other

issues impacting patient care, public health, and physicians which require even more collaboration and commitment. Rolling back the burden of unnecessary prior authorizations, improving support for rural healthcare, and increasing reimbursements for Medicare, are just a few examples. For us to make traction on issues such as these, which directly impact the physician shortage and patient care, we need all physicians to join together – exactly the purpose of the Hawaii Medical Association. First established in 1856, HMA is the umbrella organization uniting all physicians in Hawaii, regardless of specialty, whether private practice or employed, rural or urban. With a united voice, committed to supporting physicians, patients, and public health, physician leaders can continue to improve the health of their patients and our community, especially the most vulnerable including our kupuna and Native Hawaiian populations.

I hear frequently from private practice physicians, especially in the rural areas of Hawaii, about their struggles with the “business” of medicine. But what I hear from employed and private practice physicians alike is the growing feeling of isolation and disconnection from colleague physicians, contributing to the loss of joy and comradery in the “profession” of medicine. Medicine is first and foremost a profession of care, and this includes the care and respect for physicians themselves.

If you are a physician, visit the HMA website (hawaiimedicalassociation.org/page/membership), to learn more about the benefits of membership and how to join or renew your membership today. Your patients and your community need all physicians to be together today, so we can have a healthier tomorrow.

Update Your Member Profile and Keep Your Membership Current

Keeping our members informed, providing educational opportunities, adding member benefits, and building community are crucial services of the Hawaii Medical Association. You can help us create a better and stronger HMA by:

- **Updating Your Member Profile.** We need current contact information to keep you informed on the latest issues.
- **Keeping Your Membership Dues Current.** We can't provide strong advocacy, education or benefits without your support.
- **Inviting Your Colleagues to Join HMA.** A large and active membership makes our voice stronger at the highest levels of influence.

If you need assistance or a current membership invoice, please contact **Mark** at m.conching@hawaiimedicalassociation.org.

HMAConnect and Conversations at HMA Keep our Members Informed

Besides our CE@HMA program and the Na Leo Ola newsletter, HMA produces two informational series that cover topics of interest to our members:



HMAConnect

HMAConnect is the podcast of the Hawaii Medical Association. We speak with experts in the medical field, along with politicians, business leaders and community members that have an influence on the practice of medicine.

You can listen to our two latest podcasts - interviews with **Michael Suk, MD** and **Emily Carroll, JD** from the American Medical Association - by visiting our website at hawaiimedicalassociation.org.

Conversations AT HMA

For Conversations at HMA, we invite subject matter experts to discuss important topics in an informal setting. Members are allowed to submit questions during the interview.

You can find our latest Conversations at HMA - a discussion on physician well being with representatives from **Pu'ulu Lapa'au** - and all past Conversations by visiting our YouTube Channel.