



Na Leo Ola

Newsletter of the Hawaii Medical Association

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Mark Your Calendars for the HMA Annual Meeting

Throughout the year, the Hawaii Medical Association is working hard at improving the healthcare environment by concentrating on advocacy, collaborating with partners, and finding value-added benefits that can enrich our members' lives. And each year, HMA holds an annual membership meeting to keep our members informed.

We invite all HMA members to attend our Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.. This is the time when our leaders report on the accomplishments of the past year, and take a look at the goals and challenges ahead. We also announce our new leaders for 2026.

HMA Annual Membership Meeting
Thursday, October 9, 2025 • 5:30 p.m.
Virtual via Zoom
Register online at hawaiimedicalassociation.org

Your presence helps our leaders stay engaged with the general membership, and ensures that we have a quorum for the annual meeting.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual meeting. We highly encourage all members to attend via Zoom. To register, please visit hawaiimedicalassociation.org.

** to view and participate in our annual meeting via Zoom, you will need a smartphone or computer, along with internet access.*

*** this meeting is for members of the Hawaii Medical Association. When registering, please provide your name and email for membership verification.*

President's Message

*by Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD,
FSIR, FACR*



As we head toward October and my term as HMA President closes, I look back with humility and thankfulness to have served in this role. The experience has been an incredible education, and I continue to learn and grow from my Hawaii physician colleagues - solid and strong, creative and kind, unfailingly committed to providing high quality and safe care for our communities.

Hawaii healthcare has met continued challenges including our significant clinical workforce shortages, the exacerbated physician and team burnout, the broken payment system, health inequities and access disparities. I know well that our HMA work is not done.

But I feel inspired and emboldened by our HMA successes achieved with aloha, and I look forward to continuing our work, empowering patients,

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Executive Director's Message *by Marc Alexander*



The Importance of Comradery Among Physicians

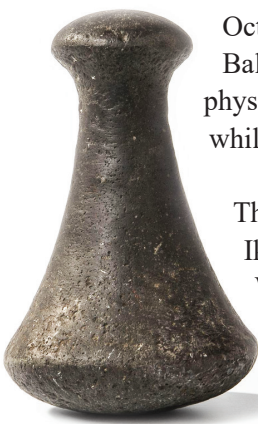
In a profession as demanding as medicine, comradery among physicians is not just a luxury—it's a necessity. The support and understanding shared among colleagues provide a vital buffer against the stresses and emotional toll that come with caring for patients day in and day out, and the administrative burden which has become endemic to the practice of medicine today. HMA's membership is very diverse, with employed and private practice physicians, those in urban and rural areas, leaders in government, healthcare, and the insurance industry, primary care and specialists of every stripe, those just starting their practice and physicians long-retired but active in the community, and the same range of political positions as found in the community at large. With this wonderful diversity, what unites physicians first and foremost is their shared profession as physicians, and the shared commitment expressed in the motto of our campaign with the American Medical Association, **"Your Care is at Our Core."**

Events such as HMA's **Ola Pono Ike**, and even smaller hybrid gatherings like **Conversations at HMA**, exemplify, foster, and celebrate the power of these connections, relationships, and fundamental *raison d'être* of the physician.

Ola Pono Ike, which brings together healthcare professionals from around the state to celebrate and honor exemplary physician leaders, offers physicians a valuable opportunity to step out of the clinical and administrative environment and connect with each other on a personal level. These gatherings encourage open dialogue, mutual support, and the sharing of experiences that help physicians realize they are not alone in their challenges, and they can count on each other for support.

Ola Pono Ike is on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom, starting at 5:30pm. To host a table and register, visit the HMA website at hawaiimedicalassociation.org.

Ola Pono Ike is Just a Month Away - Reserve Your Spot Today!



The 26th annual Ola Pono Ike Gala is scheduled for Saturday, October 25, 2025 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom I - III, 5:30 p.m. Reconnect with your fellow physicians and medical professionals over a sumptuous dinner while enjoying the music of The Makaha Sons!

The Hawaii Medical Association has hosted the Ola Pono Ike Gala Dinner to bestow our highest honors of the year. We recognize HMA member physicians who have made a difference for the health of our island home; this year, we're proud to honor three physicians who exemplify the spirit of practicing medicine in Hawaii:

Angela M. Pratt, MD - Physician of the Year
Jerry Wang Van Meter, MD, Lifetime Achievement
Kaohimanu Dang-Akiona, MD, President's Award

Make your reservations today at hawaiimedicalassociation.org.

Help Increase Membership by Inviting Colleagues to Ola Pono Ike

The Ola Pono Ike Annual Gala is a time for physicians to socialize and network with colleagues in a convivial atmosphere.

We find it's also the perfect opportunity to introduce new physicians to HMA, and you can do your part by inviting a non-member colleague to be your guest at Ola Pono Ike. Consider sponsoring a table and bringing prospective member physicians.

For information on table sponsorships, contact Ellie at 808-536-7706, or at ola@hawaiimedicalassociation.org.

Conversations

Thursday, October 23, 2025
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
In-Person and Virtual via Zoom



Conversations at HMA is excited to host Michael Suk, MD, as our special guest.

Dr. Michael Suk is the Immediate Past Chair of the American Medical Association's Board of Trustees. He will share the latest developments at AMA, highlights from the last AMA annual meeting, and his take on the upcoming legislative session.

This edition of Conversations at HMA will also feature a light dinner and an opportunity to meet

Dr. Suk. Due to space constraints, in-person attendance is limited to the first 25 registrations (preference given to HMA members). Register early for a chance to speak with Dr. Suk. Dinner and meet-and-greet with Dr. Suk is \$10.00.

All other attendees can listen to Dr. Suk's conversation for free via Zoom. You will need a smartphone or computer with internet access to access the virtual presentation. Zoom invitation will be emailed once you register.

To register, please visit hawaiimedicalassociation.org.

About Michael Suk, MD

Throughout his career, Dr. Suk has been a national voice on the role of organized medicine, resident work hours, the social determinants of health, and a wide range of pressing public health issues. An active and engaged leader from his earliest days in organized medicine, Dr. Suk was the first medical student and first Asian American elected to the AMA Board of Trustees in 1994. He has also served on the AMA Council on Medical Service and as chair of the AMA Resident and Fellow Section, where he spearheaded governance guidelines on resident work hours. In 2016 he was appointed to the board of directors of the AMA Political Action Committee in Washington, D.C., helping to advance advocacy for the medical profession. Reflecting his expertise in performance excellence, quality and safety, he also serves on The Joint Commission Board of Commissioners where he is currently chair.

A White House Fellow under President George W. Bush and a Baldrige Executive Fellow, Dr. Suk is widely recognized for his ability to bridge clinical, legal, business and policy perspectives to drive transformative change.

President's Message

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leveraging data, fostering interdisciplinary partnerships, and improving communication to build a healthier future for all of Hawaii.

*Mahalo nui loa and
Salamat po*
for the honor of this term

Nonprofit Spotlight

To highlight the nonprofits we support through Ola Pono Ike, we're featuring each grant recipient with a short profile.

Founded in 1968 as a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization, the Hawaii Medical Foundation supports charitable, scientific, educational, and literary needs in the medical community.

Currently, major support is in the following areas:

- Geriatrics Fund for Department of Geriatrics, JABSOM
- Medical Education
- Patient Education
- Administrative / Fiscal Support for CME-approved medical education course
- White Coat Ceremony: JABSOM entering medical school class ceremony
- 'Imi Ho'ōla Movie Project
- Future project: Annual Physician Leadership Academy

If you'd like to make a donation to support any of these important projects, visit hawaiimedicalfoundation.org.