HAWAIʻI MEDICAL ASSOCIATION · HONOLULU COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

HMA–HCMS Member Survey: Results Summary

Public summary · "The Future of HMA and HCMS" · 24 responses, October 3–7, 2026

Executive Summary

HMA and HCMS jointly asked members how a closer partnership or consolidation should take shape. The 24 responses received show:

- **Strong support for exploring a partnership.** 71% (17 of 24) feel favorably about exploring a closer partnership or consolidation, 25% are neutral and 1 respondent is unfavorable.
- **Full consolidation is the most-preferred model.** 46% prefer one board and one set of bylaws. A further 17% prefer a unified organization with a dedicated Oʻahu chapter; 1 respondent prefers the status quo, and 25% are unsure.
- **Statewide advocacy is the top priority.** 22 of 23 respondents ranked strong statewide advocacy as the most important goal for a unified organization.
- **Concerns about the risks of combining are low.** No listed risk was rated a high concern (4 or 5) by more than 3 respondents, and 65–82% rated each risk 1 or 2.
- **The benefits members value most** are reduced administrative duplication (83%), a stronger unified advocacy voice (78%) and simplified membership (78%).
- **Neighbor-island representation matters.** Respondents who commented on governance asked for guaranteed representation of every county in a unified organization.

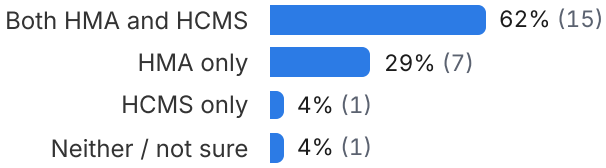
> **Reading these results.** With 24 self-selected responses, these figures show the direction of member opinion, not a statistically representative sample of HMA or HCMS members. Percentages are shown with counts in brackets. Not every respondent answered every question, so each chart shows its base (n).

About the Survey

- **Purpose:** to inform a joint HMA–HCMS steering group exploring whether a more unified organization could better serve Hawaiʻi's physicians, while preserving what is distinctive about each organization. No structure has been chosen and no decisions have been made.
- **Method:** an online survey issued jointly by the Presidents of HMA and HCMS. Responses are confidential and reviewed only in aggregate. 24 responses were received between October 3 and October 7, 2026.
- **Rating scales:** 1–5 ratings run from 1 (lowest: not at all valuable, not a concern, very unfavorable) to 5 (highest).

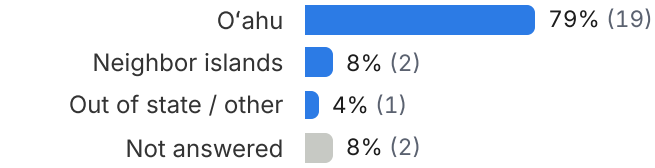
Who Responded

Membership



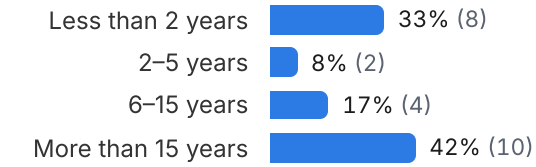
n=24

Primary practice location



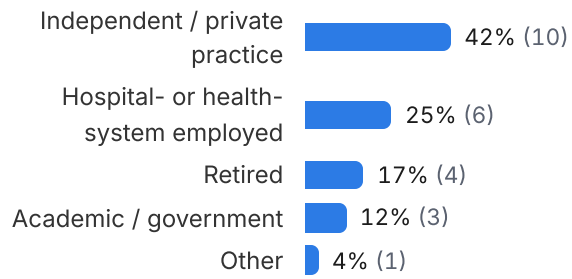
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Years of membership



n=24

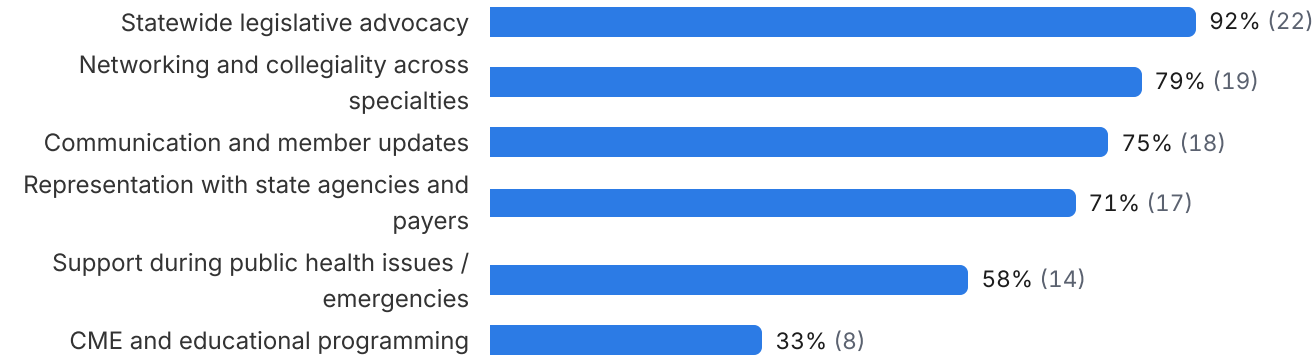
Practice setting



n=24

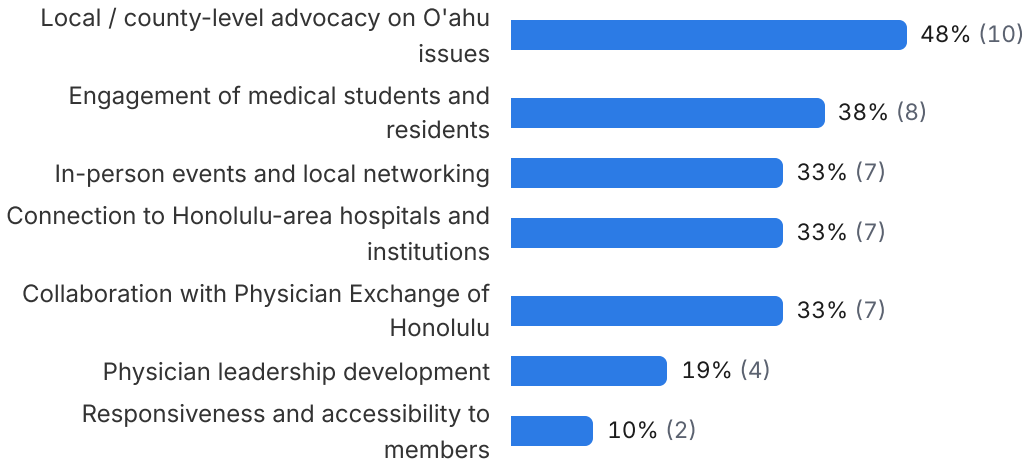
What Members Value Today

What HMA does well that should be preserved



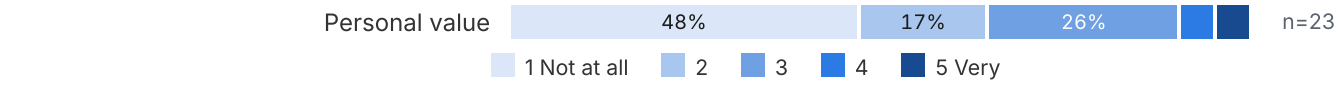
Select all that apply · n=24

What HCMS does well that should be preserved



Select all that apply · n=21. 5 of these respondents wrote that they were unsure what HCMS does or had not had contact with it.

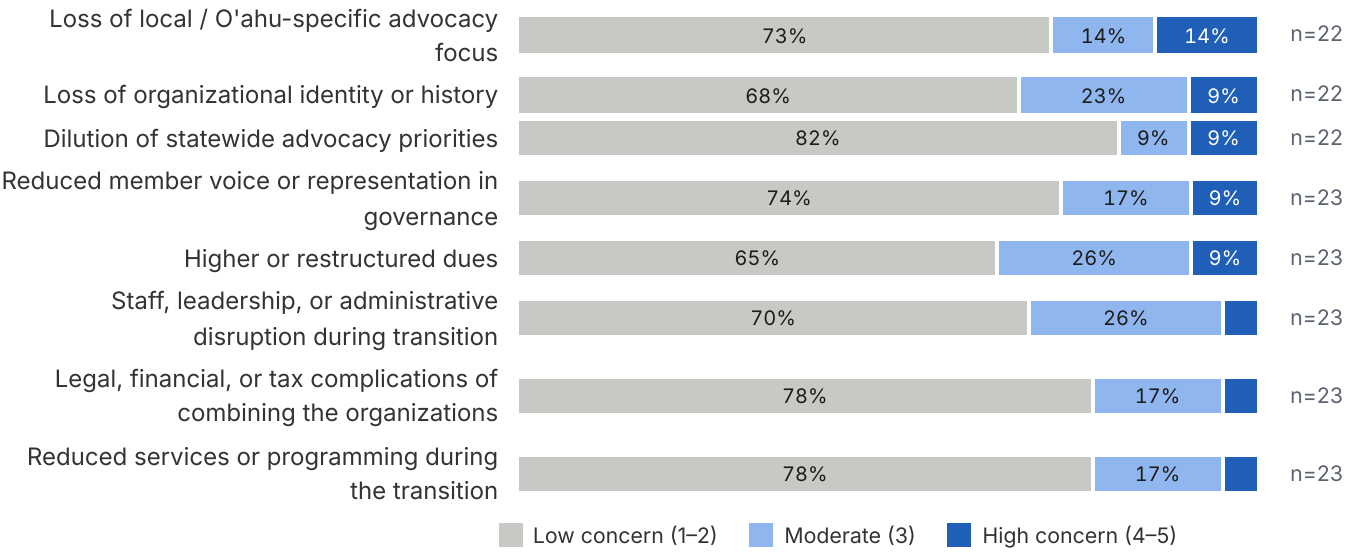
How valuable is a distinct, locally focused county-level organization?



n=23. 15 of 23 (65%) rated it 1 or 2; 2 rated it 4 or 5. Several comments said a county-level organization matters more on the neighbor islands than on O‘ahu.

Concerns About Combining

For every risk listed, most respondents rated their concern low. In open-ended answers, the largest group said they had no significant concerns.

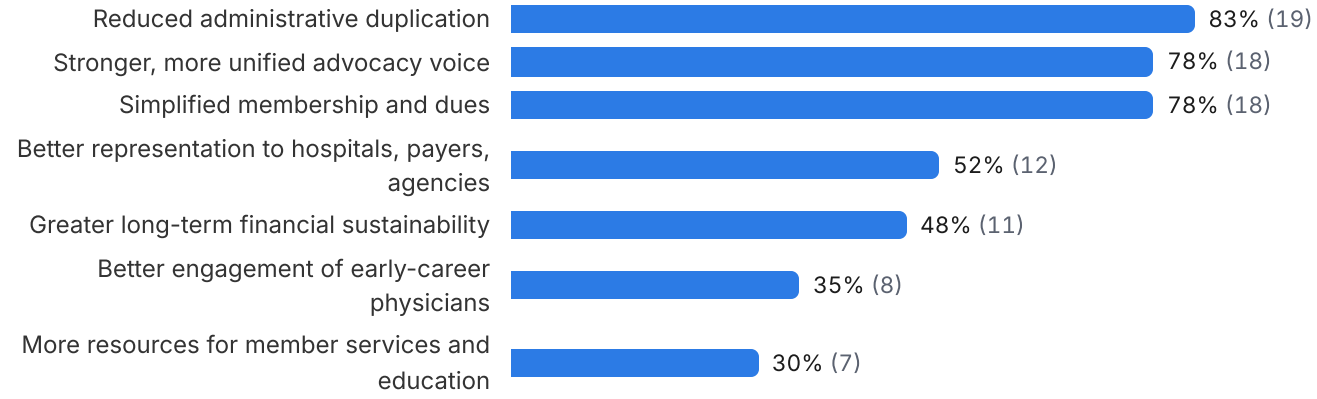


Each risk rated 1 (not a concern) to 5 (major concern). Sorted by share of high-concern ratings.

Single biggest concern (open-ended, 12 answers). The most common answer was “none”. Concerns that were raised included the future of the Physicians Exchange of Honolulu, retaining leaders and member participation, and protecting HMA's recent effectiveness. One neighbor-island respondent noted that a separate Honolulu society can reinforce a perception that health policy is O‘ahu-centric.

Benefits and Priorities

Benefits that would matter most in a combined organization



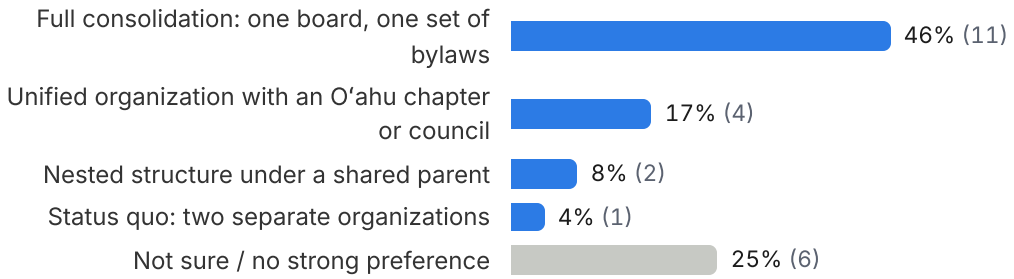
n=23. Respondents were asked to select up to three; some selected more.

Ranking of goals for a unified organization

Goal	Ranked first	Average rank (1 = most important)
Strong statewide advocacy	22 of 23	1.1
Financial sustainability and efficient operations	1 of 24	2.6
Member services, educational opportunities, and community services	1 of 24	3.0
Strong local / county-level representation	0 of 24	3.2

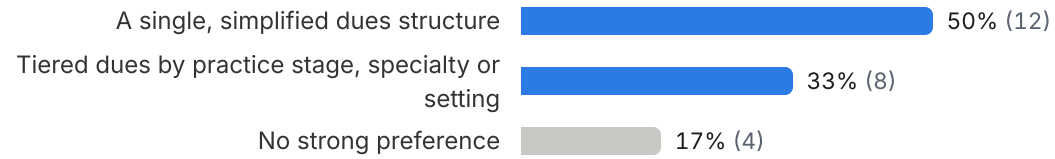
Governance and Dues Preferences

Preferred governance model



n=24

Preferred dues structure



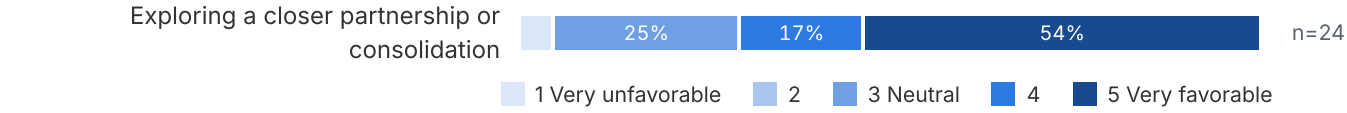
n=24

Representation across the islands

Eight respondents described how leadership should reflect all islands. Suggestions included:

- guaranteed seats for every county, regardless of membership numbers
- representation in proportion to the number of practicing physicians
- a set number of delegates per island
- a dedicated officer for neighbor-island affairs
- continuing county representation on the HMA Council

Overall Direction



n=24

Questions members want answered before any proposal

- How the unified organization's governance and leadership would be structured
- How representation would be assured for every island, and balanced between health-system-employed and independent physicians and between primary care and specialists
- How staffing and administration would be organized
- The future of the Physicians Exchange of Honolulu
- Whether some HCMS roles could become county chapters within HMA
- Keeping the process transparent