Hawaii Medical Association 2024 Legislative Priorities

The Hawaii Medical Association is committed to long-term and systemic changes in public policy that advance community health, improve the care of patients, and ensure Hawaii physicians can practice medicine with integrity and excellence. Our priorities reflect these commitments, while taking into account the current political climate and the ongoing need to provide support for recovery efforts on Maui.

Our Public Policy Committee influenced a number of successful pieces of legislation in 2023, most notably:

- Increasing Medicare reimbursements to 100% of Medicare levels
- Adopting the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
- Adding $10 million in 2024 and $20 million in 2025 to the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program for Healthcare Professionals
- Approving taxation of electronic smoking devices
- Passing bills positively affecting telehealth, provider protections and reproductive care

To maximize continued successes in this challenging legislative session, the Public Policy Committee will primarily focus on the following priorities:

### Access to Care
Address the critical Hawaii physician shortage using a sustainable, multifaceted approach. This includes removing barriers that make the practice of quality medicine economically and personally unfeasible, reexamining prior authorization, and expanding incentives to recruit and retain physicians.

### Quality of Care
Ensure all patients receive high quality care by promoting team-based healthcare led by physicians. Support non-physician providers in offering care within the scope of their training and under the appropriate supervision of physicians.

### Behavioral Health Treatment
Advocate for improved and expanded behavioral health services to address the growing crisis of mental health disorders present in our community. Support comprehensive, wrap-around services for substance use disorder treatment and homelessness as these are inextricably connected with psychiatric disease.

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**2024 Hawaii Medical Association Officers**

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Jerris Hedges, MD - Treasurer • Marc Alexander - Executive Director

**2024 Public Policy Coordination Team**

Beth England, MD - Chair • Linda Rosehill, JD - Government Relations
Marc Alexander - Executive Director

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