



Na Leo Ola

Newsletter of the Hawai'i Medical Association

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It's Almost Time for **OLA PONO IKE** Reserve Your Table Today!

Saturday, September 26, 2026
Hilton Hawaiian Village
Coral Ballroom I - III, 5:00 p.m.

The Hawai'i Medical Association hosts the Ola Pono Ike Gala Dinner to bestow our highest honors of the year. We recognize HMA member physicians who have contributed greatly to our profession, and have shown repeatedly to give selflessly of themselves. This year, we're proud to honor:

Kore Kai Liow, MD
Physician of the Year

Benjamin Young, MD
Lifetime Achievement

There's still time to register! Make your reservations at hawaiimedicalassociation.org today!

HMA Annual Meeting September 17, 2026 • 5:30 p.m. Virtual via Zoom

All members are invited to attend the HMA Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. Our annual meeting will inform members on the activities of our state organization, plans for its future, and the results of the 2027 HMA Leadership Elections.

To register, please visit hawaiimedicalassociation.org.

Conversations **AT HMA**

Thursday, September 24, 2026
5:30 p.m. on Zoom

Register at hawaiimedicalassociation.org

Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, Immediate Past President of the AMA, will give HMA members and the community an update on issues impacting physicians and patients. He is also making time to address our JABSOM students.

This edition of Conversations at HMA is being co-hosted by the Hawai'i Medical Foundation. To register, please visit the HMA website.



President's Message *by Nadine Tenn Salle, MD*



Healthcare in Hawai'i faces significant challenges—access, workforce shortages, administrative

burden, rising costs, and practice sustainability. Yet beneath many of these concerns is something less easily measured: trust. In a small state where physicians, hospitals, health plans, government, and community organizations depend upon one another—and where limited resources must serve patients across multiple islands—our ability to work together matters.

In 1994, Hawai'i's Unfinished Healthcare Agenda brought together leaders to examine many of the same pressures we confront today: workforce, access, cost, primary care, and how to care for geographically dispersed communities. Thirty-two years later, the persistence of these issues should give us reason to revisit that work. Perhaps our unfinished agenda offers not simply a historical reference, but a roadmap. We have learned that no single health system, payer, government agency, or physician group can solve these problems independently. Progress will require rebuilding trust among these groups and ensuring that physicians—who see daily where the system works and where patients fall through its gaps—are part of the formula for improving access to high-quality healthcare throughout our state.

We saw what collaboration can accomplish during the last legislative session. HMA's Public Policy team, led by Drs. Ignacio, Marzo, and

Carlisle, worked across organizations and perspectives on behalf of physicians, providers, and patients. That collaboration allowed HMA to bring the practical experience of practicing physicians into policy discussions. As we approach the 2027 legislative session, we need an engaged physician membership to continue that work.

Elections are coming up. Some of our most trusted colleagues are seeking to continue their service on HMA's key committees. Let us continue to support them. We are also fortunate to have new nominees stepping forward, including Drs. Ferdinand Hui, Shane Morita, Cassandra Simonson, Jeff Loh, Jennifer Mbuthia, and Kathleen Kozak. Their willingness to participate matters: HMA is strongest when its committees reflect physicians from different practices, specialties, institutions, and communities. Please support our colleagues as they become more active in HMA and consider how you, too, might participate.

Conversations have also begun with the Honolulu County Medical Society about developing a more formal partnership. These discussions are early, but they recognize a practical reality: Hawai'i's physician community is relatively small, and dividing our limited time, talent, and resources among disconnected efforts does not necessarily serve us—or our patients—well. A stronger, more connected physician community can give physicians a more effective collective voice while preserving the relationships and perspectives that make each organization valuable.

Finally, please join us Saturday, September 26, for Ola Pono Ike, when we celebrate physicians who have served our community. Recognizing these colleagues is more than ceremonial; their careers remind us that much of what works best in Hawai'i healthcare has always depended upon relationships, service, and commitment to community. As we celebrate this year's honorees, consider whom we should honor next year.

Our healthcare agenda may remain unfinished, but it is ours to help shape. Rebuilding trust begins by showing up, working together, and once again making the physician voice an active part of Hawai'i's solutions.

Participate in the 2027 HMA Leadership Elections

It's time to vote for new HMA officers and leadership! You can vote electronically, by fax (808.528.2376), direct email, or snail mail. **All ballots must arrive in the HMA office no later than September 14, 2026 @ 5:00 P.M.**

For candidate biographies, and to obtain a pdf version of the ballot, please visit the HMA website at hawaiimedicalassociation.org. Vote only once; multiple ballots will be disregarded. If you have questions, contact **Marc Alexander** at m.alexander@hawaiimedicalassociation.org or 808.536.7703.

Voting is for current members only. Make sure your HMA membership dues are up-to-date before voting.