



Na Leo Ola

Newsletter of the Hawaii Medical Association

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Membership Begins with ME

Over the last two years, your HMA team of staff and volunteers have been working to rebuild our membership. We're glad to say our efforts are paying off, with our roster showing an 18% increase in the last year.

But our work is far from over, as the number of member physicians is just a small percentage of the actual number of physicians practicing in Hawaii. As we continue to push for greater healthcare impacts, it's imperative that our membership actively represents an ever-increasing number of practitioners.

We've sent a mailer to nonmember physicians, asking them to join our state medical society in our efforts to champion a healthier Hawaii. And while we expect to gain new members from this campaign, our best recruitment tool continues to be our current members - **YOU!**

Ways You Can Help

- Talk to your physician colleagues (MDs and DOs) and let them know why membership in HMA is so important.
- Consider sponsoring a young physician's first year of HMA membership!
- Invite nonmember physicians to HMA events, like Conversations at HMA, educational webinars, and Ola Pono Ike. Share our website and newsletter!

The Best Way to Help HMA is to Increase Membership

All organizations are in need of volunteer assistance, and our greatest need is membership. If each member brings in just one physician, that doubles our roster! Send colleagues to hawaiimedicalassociation.org and have them join!

President's Message

by Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD,
FSIR, FACR



Aloha HMA
members,

Surprise, relief,
fear - After the
campaigning,
debates and big

election, many folks are feeling exhausted as the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are upon us. Should we, can we, will we celebrate with family and friends, when we have unmasked such opposite and disparate views on the US economy, immigration, and healthcare?

Our answer is a resounding YES!

With the diversity of thought that we experience, Hawaii physician advocates can problem-solve more creatively and from multiple angles. Our different perspectives and thinking styles can help address complicated problems, uncover healthcare blind spots and challenge assumptions. Together we can identify alternative solutions that homogeneous groups might overlook.

This Thanksgiving I am deeply grateful for the wondrous diversity

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Executive Director's Message *by Marc Alexander*



One of the priorities of the Hawaii Medical Association (HMA) since 2021 has been re-engagement with the American Medical Association (AMA), with which HMA has enjoyed a special relationship, along with other state medical associations. AMA remains the premier national organization representing the nation's physicians. While not every physician agrees with the AMA's wide range of policies, AMA has been an incredibly positive resource and partner for HMA. HMA is affiliated with the AMA, but the AMA doesn't "control" or even try to control the HMA or any other medical association. Members of HMA do not have to belong to the AMA, nor do members of the AMA have to belong to their state or local medical associations. We both, however, strongly support and encourage physicians to join both the AMA and their state medical association, which in Hawaii is HMA.

AMA never intervenes in state-level issues, unless they are invited to do so by the state medical association. Each state medical association has available to them, an AMA field representative to serve as a resource for all things AMA and beyond. Each state is also represented in the governing body of the AMA, the House of Delegates (HOD), by a number of delegates based on the number of physicians in their state who belong to the AMA. Hawaii has two delegates, both of whom are members of HMA (Drs. Angela Pratt and Jerry Van Meter). The HOD, which meets twice a year, is the body which determines AMA policy. Since 2022 HMA has been able to send delegates and its executive director to AMA meetings – with the support of special donations, and grants from AMA. HMA's presence has been invaluable in bringing the voice of the Pacific to policy discussions, and bringing back to Hawaii insights, resources, and support for our local issues.



L-R: HMA Executive Director Marc Alexander; AMA Delegate Angela Pratt, MD; HMA President Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD; AMA Delegate Jerry Van Meter, MD at the 2024 AMA Interim Meeting

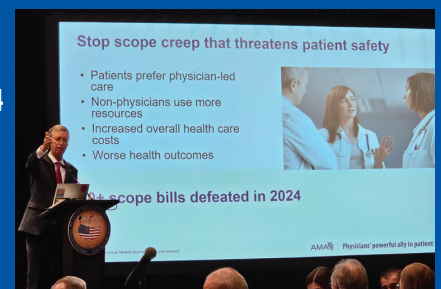
strategy development, especially during our legislative session. Several of their team have been interviewed on the HMA podcast program, *HMAConnect*.

The AMA's **Litigation Center** is another excellent resource partner for the HMA. As the name implies, they focus on litigation, always at the invitation of the state medical society. Recently, for example, the litigation center jointly supported and filed with the HMA, the amicus brief for the Nitta vs. HMSA case, which now awaits further action by the Hawaii State Supreme Court. The litigation center provided both financial and legal resources for our joint amicus brief. They are an invaluable partner.

HMA has made measurable and impactful progress on several fronts, as reported in our newsletters, in the press, and on our website (public and private sites). Our partnership with local and national healthcare organizations, especially the AMA, is the formula for continued progress as we tackle increasingly complex issues for the benefit of Hawaii's physicians, their patients, and public health.

Keep Up-To-Date on the Latest Actions Announced at the 2024 AMA Interim Meeting

The AMA Interim Meeting featured numerous presentations on topics of importance to the medical professional. To view highlights of the meeting, visit www.ama-assn.org/house-delegates/interim-meeting/highlights-2024-ama-interim-meeting



Welcome Your 2025 HMA Leadership Team

As reported at our Annual Meeting on October 19, 2024, held prior to our Ola Pono Ike gathering, a call for leadership nominations took place in August 2024, with elections held in September 2024. We're glad to announce your HMA Leadership Team for 2025:

Hawaii Medical Association Council

President: Elizabeth A. Ignacio, MD
President-Elect: Nadine Tenn Salle, MD
Immediate Past President: Angela M. Pratt, MD
Secretary: Tom Kosasa, MD
Treasurer: Jerris Hedges, MD
AMA Delegates: Angela M. Pratt, MD and Jerry Van Meter, MD
Executive Director: Marc Alexander

Honolulu County President

Bernard Robinson, MD (2024), F. Don Parsa, MD (2025)

Honolulu County Delegates

Helen K. Blaisdell-Brennan, MD and Myron Shirasu, MD

Honolulu At-Large Councilors

F. Don Parsa, MD and S. Kalani Brady, MD

Neighbor Island At-Large Councilors

Jerry Garcia, MD (Maui)
Michael B. Russo, MD (Hawaii Island)

Medical Student Section Delegates

Justin Wong and Chloe McCreery

Specialty Delegates

Cynthia Goto, MD (Obstetrics and Gynecology)
Helen K. Blaisdell-Brennan, MD (Psychiatry)
Laeton Pang, MD (Radiology)

Kenneth Chang, MD (Ophthalmology)
Will Scruggs, MD (Emergency Medicine)

Hawaii Medical Association Development Company Board

President: Robert Marvit, MD
Vice President: William Wong, Jr., MD
Secretary & Treasurer: Franklin Young, MD
Bernard Robinson, MD
Calvin Kam, MD
David Young, MD
Jonathan Cho, MD
Stephen Oishi, MD
Myron Shirasu, MD

Hawaii Medical Foundation Board

President: Jerry Van Meter, MD
Vice President: Patricia Blanchette, MD
Secretary: Gary A. Okamoto, MD
Treasurer: Thomas S. Kosasa, MD
Clarence S. K. Kekina, JD
Francis Pien, MD
Franklin S. Young, MD
Jerris Hedges, MD
Myron E. Shirasu, MD

We thank our volunteer leaders for navigating our organization, as we continue moving Hawaii towards a greater healthcare environment.

President's Message

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of culture and ideologies of our Hawaii physicians and all Hawaii healthcare professionals. Our Hawaii physicians are courageous and resilient. I know that whatever trepidation and excitement we have for Hawaii healthcare in the face of our complex national political climate, we can respect our differences, have hope, stand together and prevail.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Additional Licensing Models Draft Available

An Advisory Commission was established in December 2023 by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), Intealth, and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) in response to increased state legislative activity aimed at creating an additional pathway to licensure for foreign-trained physicians, without requiring completion of at least one year of an ACGME residency program.

The purpose of the Advisory Commission is to provide guidance to state legislators, state medical boards, and relevant stakeholders on these proposals. The Advisory Commission's current Draft Guidance Document with preliminary recommendations is available for review at bit.ly/4fGA9rw.