



# Na Leo Ola

Newsletter of the Hawaii Medical Association

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## Register for Ola Pono Ike 2025 Today!



For 26 years, 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

### Ola Pono Ike Gives Back to Medical Nonprofits

Part of the proceeds from Ola Pono Ike go back into our community in the form of grants to medical nonprofits. This year, we recognize four nonprofits who are making a difference with their work:

JABSOM HOME Project  
NAMI Hawaii  
PMAH's Ohana Medical Mission  
Hawaii Medical Foundation

### HMA Members have One More Month to Get Pohaku Ku'i Ai Tables for the Member Price!

As a benefit for belonging to HMA, current members are being given the opportunity to purchase their Pohaku Ku'i Ai tables at the **discounted rate of just \$1,800! That's a savings of \$700 from the original price of \$2,500 - which is more than our annual membership dues!** To receive this special price, just visit [hawaiimedicalassociation.org](http://hawaiimedicalassociation.org) and register before **July 30, 2025**. This member benefit is a way to thank members for their support - HMA only exists because of your membership!

Registration is now open! Visit [hawaiimedicalassociation.org](http://hawaiimedicalassociation.org) and register today!

### Healthcare News Added to HMA Website

While our local and member news dominates our content, we realize that members need to know about news items that affect healthcare on a wider scale.

**Healthcare News** is a new column in our website's Newsroom. Here, you'll find curated articles that deal with healthcare issues locally, nationally, and around the world.

If you have news you'd like to share, please send current items and topics to [info@hawaiimedicalassociation.org](mailto:info@hawaiimedicalassociation.org)



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## Executive Director's Message *by Marc Alexander*



Physicians become physicians to treat and care for their patients and to be their patients' strongest ally in their quest for health and well-being. Physicians want to spend more time with their patients, providing the compassionate and empathetic care that is at the heart of why they became physicians. Yet the contemporary healthcare system makes this ever more difficult with increasing administrative burden.

Patients want to see more of their physicians – nationally 89% of voters agree that the doctor-patient relationship is at the center of healthcare.

Physicians feel the conflict and frustration between wanting to be with their patients more, and filling out the paperwork of contemporary healthcare – leading too often to burnout and disillusionment. “Your Care is at Our Core” was created with physicians and patients in mind, emphasizing the personal relationship between physicians and their patients. The campaign is designed to highlight what really drives and matters to physicians: trust, empathy, compassion, and time, caring, and fighting for their patients.

**YOUR CARE IS  
AT OUR CORE**  
Hawai'i's Physicians

HMA is joining the AMA, along with almost 20 other states (and more to come), in sharing this message of CARE with our community. This campaign intends to communicate the heart of physicians, amplify the patient-physician relationship, and advocate for legislative changes which support physicians delivering the highest quality healthcare to their patients. Using digital media, events, and traditional media, this campaign will spread this message of CARE to our community.

Learn more about this campaign as it unfolds by visiting the HMA website.

## MIEC Celebrates 50 Years of Partnership

On June 6, 2025, MIEC celebrated its 50th year of providing medical professional liability insurance to physicians in Alaska, Hawaii, California, and Idaho. As a physician-owned company, MIEC protects its owners by offering low and stable rates, and returns excess profits to its members, not shareholders.



*HMA member and MIEC board member, Dr. Rick Bruno (2nd from left), and executive director Marc Alexander (center) with the MIEC Hawaii team*

We're grateful for the service and protection MIEC has provided to Hawaii physicians, and wish them continued success in the future.

## HMA Members Go National

Besides caring for their patients at home, our HMA members are also involved in the medical field on a national level. Knowing colleagues across the country, and keeping up with the latest advancements in medicine and advocacy will benefit our local medical community.

We're grateful to our local physician leaders for making the time to be involved nationally. Their commitment to medicine improves the healthcare environment for our country, and for our island home.



*L-R: HMA Jerry Van Meter, MD - Delegate to the AMA; Michael Suk, MD - Immediate Past Chair, AMA Board of Trustees; Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD - HMA President, attending the AMA House of Delegates meeting*



*HMA member Jerry Van Meter, MD - Delegate to the AMA - poses next to his window display photo at the AMA Annual Meeting.*