



HMA Live at AMA!
Special Meeting N21
Day 1
November 12, 2021

Aloha, ladies and gentlemen and fellow HMA members of every persuasion!

Well, it's November and Roger Kimura, so it must be the Interim Meeting of our American Medical Association House of Delegates (AMA HOD).

This is normally known as the Interim Meeting, the "advocacy" meeting of our AMA's House of Delegates. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting is being conducted virtually and because of the change in format and attempt to address only important issues, this is designated a special meeting held in November 2021, or Special Meeting N21. The broad goal of N21 is to address urgent business of our AMA.



For those new members (Welcome!) or those unfamiliar with these updates (Sorry, the AMA HODs have been virtual during the entire pandemic. That's four consecutive meetings and I've been remiss about getting these reports to you.), your Hawaii Medical Association wants to keep you informed about the business conducted at N21.

The HOD policy-making body of our AMA. Every State and Territory or Commonwealth of the United States recognized by the AMA granted membership in the House with delegation size apportioned to the number of AMA members they have, Specialty societies and special interest organizations (Medical students, Residents and Fellows, the Minority Affairs Section, etc.) may also be represented.

We're a member of the Pacific West Conference a geographic caucus made up of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Being a part of this group gives us more influence than the two votes Hawaii would have by being on our own.

Your Delegates are Bernard Robinson and me. Your Alternate Delegate is our current HMA President, Angela Pratt. Bernie replaced long-time Delegate Jone Flanders (Many thanks to Jone for her excellent service!). Our new HMA Executive Director, Marc Alexander, is also in attendance.

The HOD normally starts on Saturdays but the opening session of N21 is today, Friday, November 12, 2021. Although there was an effort to keep the number of reports and resolutions that are the business of the House down, it also means that the one we are considering are impactful and will require a lot of attention.

The opening session is always the pomp and circumstance session. There will be speeches, recognition, and awards.

483 of 691 credentialed Delegates of the HOD are present, or 69.9% of the House membership were present when the Speakers called the meeting to order. Definitely a quorum.



After the Speakers presented ground rules, AMA President Gerald Harmon, M.D. addressed us first.

He discussed the stress of the pandemic on physicians and healthcare providers. He spoke of the need for supporting each other to build resilience. He spoke of the AMA's role in providing access to PPE (Project N95, etc.) when organizational response was fragmented and unorganized. He spoke of the AMA's role in speaking out against misinformation.

1. Our AMA will fight against Medicare payment decrease planned for 2022.
2. Our AMA will continue to fight against Prior Authorization (Yes!!).
3. Our AMA is committed to correcting the past wrongs of our profession. Healthcare inequity have affected the health of unjustly treated groups and will continue to do so unless organized medicine fights to right the wrongs.

Dr. Harmon will be our guest and a featured speaker at Ola Pono Ike in January.



We were next addressed by AMA Executive Vice-President James Madara M.D.

Surveys during the pandemic showed waning trust in almost all institutions and organized groups, but individual physicians continue to be trusted. The AMA continues to be recognized as one of the most trusted brands. There were 26 million visits to the AMA website by unique individuals in 2021 (A 32% increase since 2020). Daily listens to the AMA's podcast have increased five-fold since last year. Dues paying membership has increased every year, by 33% over the past 10 years.

He spoke of the three arcs of the AMA's strategic framework:

1. Removing obstacles to patient care.
2. Driving the future of medicine by advances in medical education.
3. Leading the charge to prevent chronic disease.

The AMA accomplishes these by advocacy, equity, and innovation. The AMA advances health equity by addressing social determinants of health.

In summary, our AMA is a public trust. The AMA exists to benefit the public. Our AMA serves the public by serving those who care for the public.

We were privileged to hear from special guest speaker Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, a vaccine specialist and the father of a child with autism.

We actually did some real work today. The Resolutions Committee was tasked with determining whether or not resolutions submitted for N21 met criteria for urgency to be debated at this year's meeting. It reviewed reports and 137 resolutions submitted to the HOD. The Committee accepted the Reports and 39 resolutions as active business items for N21. Of the 98 resolutions that were not deemed urgent, 28 were extracted for consideration to be placed on the active calendar. Each item had to receive an up or down vote after a reason for consideration was reviewed. Interesting, but no extracted item received enough support to become active business.

Reference Committee hearings start at 5:00 AM HST on Saturday and should end around Noon! Any AMA member can attend RefCom hearings and testify.

Here are URLs to the HOD and Reference Committee hearing Zoom sites:

ZOOM Links

ZOOM Link House of Delegates: <https://lumiglobal.zoom.us/j/95914188733?pwd=RnJrWk5CWG5Wb2dDTEpHRmprL2plUT09>

Reference Committees:

Reference Committee on Amends to Constitution & Bylaws

<https://lumiglobal.zoom.us/j/92680050028?pwd=RGdJNE92dmdISUJKK3dDMkpkcE80Zz09>

Ref. Comm. A: Medical Service <https://lumiglobal.zoom.us/j/92680660416?pwd=UnhBazAzZlJ0MlhPM0hSTXICQTYrdz09>

Ref. Comm. B: Legislation <https://lumiglobal.zoom.us/j/95754532235?pwd=bEJ2QzIFR05pTmVHUST0VzBudGZ4UT09>

Ref. Comm. C: Medical Education <https://lumiglobal.zoom.us/j/99084129881?pwd=Q0ZHWDFwME9iVHN2VSttZExlVjl6QT09>

Ref. Comm. D: Public Health <https://lumiglobal.zoom.us/j/95613263189?pwd=OGE3MWtEV2hmR0FVb3l0S2pEN0ZJZz09>

Ref. Comm. E: Science and Technology

<https://lumiglobal.zoom.us/j/92884665016?pwd=STNkUWRIMkx5TnBzSHRrTThENVBkUT09>

Ref. Comm. F: Finance <https://lumiglobal.zoom.us/j/94151089177?pwd=cjkzdTFxdUdRYjFPbWhCT2RocFZLUT09>

Ref. Comm. G: Medical Practice <https://lumiglobal.zoom.us/j/94257023403?pwd=Sy92Y3phL2d4L0NOeHV2a2NjZHErdz09>

And that's it for Day 1 of your HMA at AMA Live! It was about 11 PM on the East Coast when we wrapped up.

Aloha,

Roger

Roger Kimura, MD

AMA Delegate

Your Hawaii Medical Association