



Na Leo Ola

Newsletter of the Hawaii Medical Association

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2022

Ola Pono Ike Postponed

We are closely monitoring the daily changes and trends in Hawaii's COVID-19 situation. Due to recent data and analysis, our leadership team decided on Christmas Eve to postpone the January 15th Ola Pono Ike to a yet-to-be determined date.

HMA's commitment to community health – mental and physical – remains priority one, and we believe postponing Ola Pono Ike is the best decision for our members and our community.

Many of our members expressed excitement at the possibility of gathering our medical community to celebrate the contributions and achievements made during these challenging times. We will reschedule Ola Pono Ike to the earliest possible date, keeping all safety protocols in mind. And we'll continue to search for and create new avenues of engagement to satisfy our need to stay connected.

CME@HMA Postponed

We have also decided to postpone the January CME@HMA event. We will continue our CME series as soon as safety allows; in the meantime, we'll explore further options for virtual CME offerings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact HMA executive director Marc Alexander at m.alexander@hawaiimedicalassociation.org or at 808.536.7703.

President's Message



Can you believe it's already 2022? As challenging as the last two years have been for our state, time's steady march reminds us that the future is always just around the corner.

And with the new year comes a feeling of optimism and the hopes for a brighter tomorrow. Let's greet 2022 with a sense of belonging and a renewed commitment to our community's health. Encourage your colleagues to join HMA; working together, we can create positive change for our medical professionals.

~ Angela M. Pratt, MD, FACOG

Healing the Healer *by William Haning, MD, DFASAM, DLFAPA*

Pu'u Lapa'au – the Hawai'i Program for Healthcare Professionals – is the current evolution of a collegial program initiated in 1983 by HMA, with the intent of preserving healthcare professionals' careers and family lives in the face of impairment. This is accomplished by offering confidential support and advocacy to physicians, physician assistants, nurses, dentists, psychologists, veterinarians, medical residents, medical students and other healthcare professionals.

Examples of such impairment include but are not limited to:

- *Stress management, including burnout*
- *Substance abuse disorders*
- *Psychological and physical conditions, including cognitive disorders*
- *Behavioral issues, including compulsive disorders resembling substance use disorders; and disorders leading to disruption in the workplace*
- *Sexual misconduct and other boundary violations*



Pu'u Lapa'au
THE HAWAII PROGRAM FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Unless the condition is addressed effectively, healthcare professionals commonly face serious consequences, such as loss of employment and

... continued on page 2

Executive Director's Message *by Marc Alexander*



Although the practice of New Year resolutions dates back to the ancient Babylonians – perhaps as far back as 4,000 years ago – it remains a popular tradition. So I'm going to take a chance and propose just one HMA resolution for 2022:

Every member of HMA will invite three physicians who are not currently HMA members, to join. There is no better way to recruit new members than for physicians to ask physicians to join.

The main reason to join HMA is to become part of a growing community of physicians – from those in solo practices to those in large group and hospital practices – who are committed to excellence in medicine and supporting their colleagues. A recent study, published in the Mayo Clinic Proceedings reported that one out of three physicians intend to reduce work hours, and one out of five physicians intend to leave their practice completely. Physician burnout, fear of infection, depression, and anxiety are all very real, and impact physicians and their patients directly. But there are other factors which may be more surprising: physicians feeling devalued by their organization, and a loss of purpose and meaning in their work. HMA has no illusion that it can fill the gap and address these many issues with any amount of programming. But we can provide the proverbial safe place, where physicians of all stripes can find colleagues who both understand and support them. As one physician put it, HMA can be “a home” to physicians, where they can relax, network, mentor, learn, and share with one another. Our newly renovated offices are intended to be just such a safe and welcoming venue.

A full and growing list of benefits, as well as the online membership portal, are available on our website at hawaiimedicalassociation.org.

Practical Considerations from AMA

The AMA's prerecorded webinar, “Developing Clinically Integrated Networks and other Innovative Contracting Models,” highlights the strategic, financial, risk, legal, and regulatory considerations for physicians starting or joining a clinically integrated network or entering alternative value-based contracting models. Topics include tactics to achieve operational readiness before entering value-based arrangements, types of arrangements, and structural differences in each. To accompany this presentation, the AMA has published a new, related resource, a checklist designed to help physicians evaluate their preparedness for clinical integration. You can access the checklist at www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/private-practices/ama-private-practice-sustainability-getting-started. To view the webinar, visit AMA.com.

 Insurance by physicians, for physicians.

Healing the Healer

... continued from page 2

practice licensure. The community may lose a valuable, highly-trained professional. Predicated on the AMA's Physician Health Program Model, Pu'ulu Lapa'au's approach reliably works. Multiple evidence-based studies clearly demonstrate that physicians have been able to restore their careers with adherence to program requirements.

To ensure both confidentiality and client confidence in the process, individuals considering participation are initially seen without expectation of fee or disclosure to others.

Any healthcare provider may self-refer, refer a colleague, request information, seek screening, or request assistance in obtaining an evaluation or treatment recommendation. Healthcare organizations that are contracted with Pu'ulu Lapa'au may refer a healthcare provider. Family members may call for information and guidance.

For information and assistance, contact Pu'ulu Lapa'au at 808.593.7444, or by email at maryann.lentz@hawaiiphp.org.

From the
DOH



HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

The Department of Health, Family Health Services Division, Maternal and Child Health Branch is pleased to announce a “Death Certificate Proficiency Training - pertinent death certificate considerations for community physicians” on Thursday, January 20, 2022, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

For more information and to sign up, please contact Thomas Pizula at thomas.pizula@doh.hawaii.gov or at 808.733.8377.