In August, the 42nd annual ho'okūkahi (gathering) of community members and cultural practitioners was held to honor Ke Kulana No’eau o Ka Wa Kahiok, the Hawaiian traditions of the past, and to commemorate the importance of the historical site of Hawai’i’s King Kamehameha the Great.

This year, Chaminade University’s School of Nursing Dean, twelve nursing students, three medical intern, a medical resident, a dentist and a pharmacist, accompanied Drs. Brady and Carpenter and Mona Cardejon to the event. The health care students and providers worked with two of the Drs. Brady and Carpenter and Mona Cardejon to the event. This year, Chaminade University’s School of Nursing Dean, twelve nursing students, three medical intern, a medical resident, a dentist and a pharmacist, accompanied Drs. Brady and Carpenter and Mona Cardejon to the event. The health care students and providers worked with two of the

At the closing awa ceremony, the doctors were wholehearted acknowledged starting with the Kahuna Nui, Kapono’a (Kumu Lake’s son). Dr. Brady spoke the story of when Kumu Lake first invited ‘Ahau i na Kaua to Ho’okuikahi at Pu’u Kohola and Dr. Carpenter spoke of her present commitments to Native Hawaiian communities and health, and of the need of continued sharing between Native Hawaiian culture and healing practitioners. Dr. Ka’ohimanu Akiona (Dang), now in her last year at the Hilo Residency, spoke of the future, as the Big Island Kaua who will sit on the Council of chiefs for the Ho’okuikahi. With her connections, ‘Ahau will stand alongside her in the years to come.

On the last day, we drove to Pololu Valley to see where the pohaku (stones) originated, 20 miles from the heiau site. Dr. Peter Donnelly hosted our breakfast and shared his work adventures on many islands, including Kalapupu, Molokai.

Experiencing the event at Pu’u Kohola renews and perpetuates an understanding of protocol, ancestry and perseverance of Native Hawaiian culture. It gives us great pride to share such an experience with others and foster the need for cultural awareness, healing and wellness, and an understanding among our future health care providers and Native Hawaiian practitioners.

Pridoc 2016 Continued

JABSOM students at PRIDOC presented topics including “Using LASSI for student learning development of disadvantaged students pursuing careers in medicine: The ‘Imi Ho’ola Postbaccalaureate Program” by Yuhu Ono and Amanda Mesa; “Native Hawaiian Cultural Competency Training at JABSOM: Senior Students Reflections” and “Cultural Competence as a Social Determinant of Health in Medical Education: A Single Class Session Can Change Privilege Perspective” by Nash Witten, and “Meeting the health workforce needs of the underserved by training physicians at community health centers” by Nicole Mahenani Lam.

Students returned from the conference inspired and proud to have been witness to honors bestowed on Native Hawaiian physicians prominent in Hawai’i’s medical community; Dr. Emmett Aluli received the Kiiaki award, and a posthumous award was paid to Yuhu Ono, Nash Witten, Courtney Gaddis, and Amanda Mesa, and UF Family Medicine Resident Mahe Lum as they prepare for the tribute to Dr. Kekuni Blaisdell on the first day of the PRIDOC conference.

From left to right: Third year medical student Nina Beckwith, along with fourth year medical students Yuhu Ono, Nash Witten, Courtney Gaddis, and Amanda Mesa, and UF Family Medicine Resident Mahe Lum as they prepare for the tribute to Dr. Kekuni Blaisdell on the first day of the PRIDOC conference.

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Nui ‘Oli o NHCOE is a newsletter of NHCOE at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of JABSOM or of the University of Hawai‘i. Suggestions and submissions are welcome. Please submit to nhcoej@hawaii.edu - Mahalo!

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Planning a summer research project? Talk to us about any plans for summer research activities and rural research opportunities on neighbor islands. NHCOE can also kokua with USMLE preparation. Please contact NHCOE Student Development Coordinator, Sachi Kaulukukui for details: sachi@hawaii.edu

NHCOE Helps Lāna‘i High and Elementary School to Grow Their Own Healers

As the smallest inhabited island of the Hawaiian island chain, Lāna‘i faces challenges due to its rural location and limited resources, however, the strength of its students interested in health professions emerged during a recent NHCOE recruitment visit this past November. Dr. Sasha Fernandez, Kim Yamauchi, and Rodrigo Pascua flew to Lāna‘i on November 1, 2016 to participate in the Lāna‘i Elementary School STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Fair and Pre-K through 8th grade. While there, the team spoke with students and their families about health careers, taught students how to listen to their heart and lung sounds, and engaged in a game of Health Career Family Feud. As the evening progressed, the group spent time learning of the island’s medical community with family doctor, Dr. Jankowski, the only full-time physician who lives on the island. In the evening, the clean Lāna‘i air cooled us from the heat of the day and the distant smell of food from the community hosted potluck wafted through the air.

A Career Fair was held the following day at the Lāna‘i High and Elementary School gym. Students from 6th through 12th grade visited 40 tables to learn about various careers and higher education opportunities available in Hawai‘i. 180 students visited with our team to learn about medical and other health career options available in our state. "A Career Fair was held the following day at the Lāna‘i High and Elementary School gym. Students from 6th through 12th grade visited 40 tables to learn about various careers and higher education opportunities available in Hawai‘i. 180 students visited with our team to learn about medical and other health career options available in our state."}

For Our Native Hawaiian Students

NHCOE was founded in 1999 by Dr. Lisa Kahikina and Kimberly Yamauchi, MPA. Our charter was to energize with the purpose and passion to provide for our Native Hawaiian students. We are proud of the growth and development of Native Hawaiian Center for Excellence (DNHH) and NHCOE’s partnership with Lāna‘i, Aspiring Doctors of Hilo for physician shadowing at a September workshop. Our partnership has expanded to include JABSOM Students, DNHH and NHCOE faculty presentations included "Utilizing Cultural Practice for Hypertension" by Mele Look, “Patient Provider Collaboration and Glycemic Control in a Multi-Ethnic, Diabetes Population” and “The Power of Indigenous Art to Re-imagine, and Better Understand Cultural Trauma in a Medical Curriculum” by Martina Kamaka.

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Hawai‘i is “Talking about Transformations” at PRIDoC 2016

The biannual Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors’ Congress (PRIDoC) was started in Hawai‘i in 2002. It has since been hosted by indigenous physician associations across the Pacific including Australia, Taiwan, New Zealand, and Canada. PRIDoC is an international conference that brings together physicians, students and health professionals interested in improving health outcomes for indigenous people, and encourages discussions on educational and research efforts aimed at forwarding this cause. JABSOM Students, DNHH and NHCOE faculty, and the Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians of O‘ahu, Kau‘a‘i, accepted the invitation to speak at the 2016 PRIDoC conference in Auckland New Zealand "Talking about Transformations.”