It's Here! The Special Issue on Pain

It has taken more than two and a half years in preparation, but we finally have produced the Special Issue on Pain. The genesis of this issue began when Governor Cayetano appointed a Blue-Ribbon Panel on Living and Dying with Dignity.¹ As a member of that Panel and appointee to head a focus group on pain management with Dr. Max Botticelli, Emeritus Chief of the Department of Medicine at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, we conducted monthly meetings with our focus group members:

Lynn Dahl MD  Shawn Gafford PharmD
Reginald Ho MD  Patricia Kalua RN
Kathleen Kang-  Amy Kruger RN
Kaulupali PharmD  Keith Kamida, Chief, NEA
Linda Landau RN  Hob Osterlund, RN
Gary Okamoto MD  Don Purcell MD
Joseph Pepping PharmD  Barbara Shirland RN
Gary Rinzler MD  Jon Streltzer MD
John Stiller MD  Jeff Wang MD

We set goals and objectives to develop the following:
• Measurable standards for pain management in the dying patient
• Mechanisms for monitoring compliance
• Recommendations for State executive action
• Recommendations for legislative action

The summary of our report to the Governor appears on page 91.

The Hawaii Pain Society

The Hawaii Pain Society is an organization of professionals interested in pain management and palliation. It is open to everyone, but according to founder and president, Don Purcell MD, membership is subject to approval.

The Society is also forming a patient support/educational program. Dues are set at $12 per year to help defray the cost of mailing a newsletter, "The Forum", and additional announcements.

Donations to further this educational program are also welcome.

Interested readers can write to the Society for membership and further information.

Hawaii Pain Society
800 South Beretania Street, Suite 240,
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

A Special Cover

Our cover for this Special Pain Issue, created by Big Island artist Dietrich Varez, is "Pele, Hi'iaka and Lohiau". According to Hawaiian mythology, this block print illustrates the highest level of mental and physical pain; the rejection and burning of Lohiau by Pele. Hi’iaka, sister of Pele, a kahuna skilled in the art of healing, later restored Lohiau to health.

Mahalo nui loa to Varez for dedicating his professional life to visually translating Hawaiian lore for future generations to appreciate.

The No-Pain Logo

Hob Osterlund, RN., M.S., C.H.T.P. contributed an initial article, Pain Relief as a Basic Human Right, which appeared in the August 1997 issue of the Journal.² (See her current articles on pages 94 and 101.)

Thanks to Osterlund, the clinical coordinator of The Queen’s Pain Management Services, and to the Intravenous Therapy Specialist-Hawaii Inc. for producing the buttons, permission to publish their logo, and for relief of pain options available for today’s physicians to prescribe when needed.

References
1. Goldstein N. Panel will study the right to Doctor-Assisted Aid in Dying, editorial HMJ 1997 January 56:5.