1 December 14th dinner-dance gala at the Halekulani Hotel on the beach in Waikiki marked the Honolulu County Medical Society (HCMS)’s 78th Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers for 2004, honoring incoming HCMS President Ronald H. Kienitz DO. Nearly 150 HCMS members and their spouses filled tables in a spacious terrace ballroom after enjoying cocktails and pupus to the music of pianist Jim Howard and viewing exhibit booths on the ballroom lanai.

S. Kalani Brady MD, MPH chanted the invocation and blessing as he led the Presidential Procession into the ballroom and onto the stage once attendees were seated. Inam Rahman MD, outgoing HCMS President, administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Kienitz, and welcomed incoming Secretary John Rausch MD who will succeed 2003 incumbent Linda Rasmussen MD. Dr. Rahman also congratulated incoming Treasurer Roger Kimura MD who succeeds incumbent Russell Wong MD. Scott McCaffrey MD was vested as HCMS President-Elect. Master of Ceremonies Edmond Chung ably introduced speakers. The sultry, jazzy sound of vocalist Azure McCall and her accompaniment provided entertainment during cocktails and the delicious sit-down, served dinner.

President Kienitz’s engaging inaugural address emphasized teamwork between HCMS and the Hawaii Medical Association (HMA), in both of which he has been a longtime member, towards achieving the complementary goals of each organization in cost-effective ways. These goals include promoting collegial interaction among physicians, fostering and promoting interests of organization members and their patients, promoting the betterment of public health, maintaining high standards of medical practice through peer review, increasing membership, and establishing one voice for efficiently addressing the important issues facing physicians. His remarks, punctuated with well-placed witticisms and opened with his wearing a protective helmet attesting to a recent bicycling accident, received a standing ovation!

Prominent politician Mufi Hanmemann, most recently City Council Member and Mayoral candidate, was the evening’s Keynote Speaker, and addressed What Physicians Need to Know about the Crystal Methamphetamine Crisis in Hawaii, and What They Can Do to Help. He quoted statistics documenting Hawaii having the nation’s highest rate of “ice” users and focused his comments on proposing solutions to our “ice” epidemic. These include not only law enforcement, but also prevention and education. He emphasized that physicians can serve as critical links in efforts to curb burgeoning addictive disorders among our people through early detection and intervention. He continued that the unique position of respect and trust held by Hawaii’s physicians provides an invaluable opportunity for them to provide direction for services for our drug exposed youth and adults. He distributed a brochure summarizing these and other comments about recognition of signs of “ice” use, location of treatment centers, identification of some physicians experienced in treating substance related disorders, and helpful websites. He also distributed a Drug Contact Sheet for Parents questionnaire suitable for physicians in assisting parents to identify signs that family members may be experimenting with drugs. His remarks received the second standing ovation of the evening!

Franklin Young MD and his lovely wife Madeline were happy winners of the drawing for a free One Night Stay at the Halekula-ni.

Dancing to music of Rubber Soul, Hawaii’s very own Beatles rendition band headed by HMA/HCMS member Fred Goldblatt DO, rounded out the evening.

Thanks to the many who made this year’s HCMS annual meeting one of the most successful ever, including but not limited to Sponsor Hawaii Prescription Care, Table Sponsors Clinical Laboratories of Hawaii, LLP and Pan Pacific Pathologists, Inc, exhibitors Pharmacia and All-Star Sports & Therapy Center, and HCMS Executive Director Julie Kinhult.

Honolulu County Medical Society
Maureen Andrade (center), Pat Kawamoto (left) and Tanya Paixon welcome attendees.

A no-host bar and pupus preceded dinner.

Staffers at the Pharmacia (above) and adjacent exhibit booths share product information.

Pianist Jim Howard plays easy-listening music for the cocktail hour.

Congenial conversation characterized the evening.

President Kienitz, with son Bryce and his beautiful wife Kathy.
President Kienitz and Muji Hannemann discuss strategy.

Master of Ceremonies Edmond Chung keeps things running smoothly.

S. Kalani Brady, MD, MPH chants the invocation and blessing.

Master of Ceremonies Chung says longtime HCMS and HMA member Ron Kienitz, DO needs no introduction.

2003 President Rahman administers the Oath of Office to incoming President Kienitz.

President Kienitz says the protective gear reflects his recent bicycling accident, and is not needed for the slings of office!
Photos courtesy of Brent Shigeoka