For years, HMA/HCMS had access to the Hawaii Medical Library and its services. However with the most recent downsizing of the library facility located at the Queen’s Medical Center, the library access benefit for members has come to an end. Fortunately about 75% of our members have privileges with Queen’s and will continue to have access to the library, however that leaves 25% of our members with limited access. Because of this recent change in access, the Honolulu County Medical Society has met with several individuals to discuss possibilities for its members.

Today, The Honolulu County Medical Society is proud to announce to its members the success of its recent efforts to join the Medical Libraries Consortium of Hawaii. In working with Ginny Tanji, John A. Burns School of Medicine Health Sciences Library Director, we will be finalizing a proposal to present to the membership specifically outlining online access to medical reference materials to all members. It is our intention to be active partners in contributing to the Consortium’s success in the years to come utilizing this new partnership to the mutual benefit of all parties involved.

The HCMS “Operation Iraqi Medical Colleague” is continuing to collect valuable medical reference books to donate to the physicians of the Middle East who desperately need guidance and our help. The deadline was September 1st. We are proud to announce the collection of over 200 books towards this effort. Most likely as you read this update, the books will be on their way to their destination in Baghdad.

In late July, HCMS, with the help of Paula Arcena, HMA Executive Director and her staff, participated once again in the Annual John A. Burns School of Medicine’s New Student Orientation. As in the past, HCMS has provided a booth for information, supplied goodie bags with pharmaceutical items and drinks for the 65 or so new students JABSOM welcomes every year. With this effort, we are proud to announce 59 new student memberships to HMA/HCMS thanks to Paula and her staff!

Our final General Membership Meeting of 2005 is scheduled for October 27, 2005 at the St. Francis West Hospital Facility. The topic will be “The Drug Epidemic in Hawaii”. Speakers will include Mason Henderson, director of the Hawaii Alcoholism Foundation Sand Island Treatment Center, as well as others in the drug addiction awareness field. The timing of this meeting is perfect as HCMS also launches another initiative regarding drug abuse in Hawaii. Richard Turbin, President of the Hawaii State Bar Association and Dr. Scott McCaffrey, President of the Honolulu County Medical Society are proud to announce the formation of the Committee on Doctor-Lawyer Cooperation made up of prominent physicians and attorneys with a goal of bettering society through the cooperation and joint problem solving of these two important professional groups.

This committee will be working together this fall to reduce drug use of Hawaii’s youth by visiting middle schools promoting the “Partnership for Drug-Free Children”. These visits consisting of a physician representative and an attorney representative will portray to the students the dangers of drug abuse medically and legally. Another function of this new committee will be to reduce the number of medical malpractice lawsuits through a system of mediation and ho’oponopono (means to adjust or make right again) run by a counseling group of State Bar Association and County Medical Society members. If interested in this effort please contact the HCMS office, 536-6988.

In closing, the HCMS Executive Committee would like to congratulate the newly elected officers of HMA for the years 2005-2006.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. Scott McCaffrey, MD
HCMS President,
Julie Kinhult
HCMS Executive Director

Until there's a cure, there's the American Diabetes Association.