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The Hawaii Medical Association Associate Members

At the October 2005 Annual Meeting of the Hawaii Medical Association, the House of Delegates passed a resolution to "consider inviting Associate Healthcare Professionals to professional meetings and social gatherings."

Inam Rahman, M.D., Past President of the HMA, and I introduced a resolution to open membership of the Hawaii Medical Association to allied professions.

Whereas the importance of associate healthcare professionals is playing a significant role in providing healthcare along with physicians;

Whereas these associate providers include dentists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, podiatrists, physical therapists, massage therapists, and pharmacists;

Whereas many of them face same or similar challenges and issues to provide better health care;

Whereas dentists, physical therapists, podiatrists, and physician assistants have the least conflict of interest with physicians within the categories mentioned;

The Administrative Reference Committee recommended the submitted Resolution be adopted with the following amendment by substitution for the original Resolves:

RESOLVED, that the Hawaii Medical Association consider inviting associate healthcare professionals to appropriate professional meetings and social gatherings.

According to information received from the Hawaii Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs and the following organizations of Licensed Members, some of these licensed practitioners (noted in parentheses) are actually on the mainland but keep their Hawaii licenses active.

Dentists	1,315	(300+)
Nurses, RN Registered Nurses	13,829	(3,177)
LPN Licensed Practical Nurses	2,347	(206)
APRN Advanced Practice Registered Nurse	691	(154)
APRN Advance Practice Registered Prescriptive Authority	142	(1)
Massage Therapists	5,743	(700+)
Pharmacists	1,681	(713)
Physical Therapists	982	(317)
Physician Assistants	122	(13)
Podiatrists	78	(37)

We are the Hawaii Medical Association, not the Hawaii Physicians Association. These Associates are a part of the total health care team. Their affiliation with the HMA will expand our base and improve our Association as well as the practice of medicine in Hawaii. 

