

Council Highlights

Friday, June 6, 1997
Roger Kimura MD, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Dr Spanger, President at 5:32 p.m.

Those present were Drs L. Howard, President-elect; C. Lehman, Immediate Past President; R. Kimura, Secretary, C. Kelley, Treasurer; AMA Delegates: C. Kam, A. Kunimoto; Speaker: H.K.W. Chinn; County Presidents: L. Sonoda-Fogel - Hawaii, W. Dang Jr. - Honolulu, G. McKenna - Kauai, A. Bairos - W. Hawaii; Councilors: T. Au, M. Shirasu, B. LeeLoy; Past Presidents: W. Chang, W. Dang, G. Goto, J. Lumeng, J. McDonnell; Young Physician Delegate: G. Caputy.

HMA Staff: J. Won, B. Kendro, N. Jones, P. Kawamoto, J. Asato, A. Rogness - recording secretary.

- Distinguished Medical Reporting Awards (DMRA): Dr Roger Kimura, Chair of the Public Relations Committee noted that the DMRA started 33 years ago. He presented certificates of recognition and prizes for the following categories: Not-for-profit Newsletter, Magazine or Newspaper Reporting - Michael Tsai (Article - "They Don't Inhale," HMSA's Island Scene Magazine); Radio Reporting - Dr Mark Schlacter (Women's Health Issues on the show Country Doctor, KGU radio); Commercial Newspaper or Magazine Reporting - Beverly Creamer (Article - "Stroke Therapy Works Miracles - Quick Action Crucial Doctors Say," Honolulu Advertiser); Television Reporting - Sandra Sagisi (Women on Ice) KGMB.

- Dr Spangler reported: 1) that the HMA is still working on the rabies issue and has met with Calvin Lum and veterinarians. HMA does not agree with the statistics on the risk assessment and will be obtaining more information for reconsideration; 2) Drs. Howard and Spangler will meet with the Chiropractors to go over their final order petition and give medical input; 3) The AMA meeting in Chicago will be from June 22-26; 4) The next Council meeting will be on July 11 instead of July 4. The agenda will be to review the Governance Section of the Restructuring Task Force. A summary of the May 3 Special House of Delegates will be distributed at the meeting.

- Alliance President, Cherlita Gutteling submitted a written report of the Alliance activities.

Mrs. Yuen on behalf of the Alliance to the HCMS and Eli Lilly and Co. made a presentation of their gift to the Hawaii Delegation to the AMA of white coats with an HMA emblem in celebration of 150 years of medicine. There was concern raised by an HMA officer that there is a problem with two conflicting groups within the HMAA of which neither possess the necessary legal documents to represent the Hawaii Medical Association at the AMA meeting in Chicago. There was concern that there may be two delegations from the Alliance attending the AMA meeting claiming to be the HMAA. It was noted that HMA can only endorse or not endorse an Alliance to represent the HMA. Due to turmoil within the Alliance, HMA offered to hire an attorney at HMA's expense to mediate concerns between the parties, however the Alliance declined.

For Action

- A motion was passed by Council that HMA withdraw approval of any organization representing HMA as the Alliance at this time and that the HMA request that the AMAA be informed of this action and that anyone claiming to be an HMA Alliance representative at the meeting in Chicago be given guest credentials. A registered letter would be sent from the HMA President with a copy to the AMAA.

- Council approved the nomination of Dr Scott Hundahl as the University of Hawaii's representative to the HMA Cancer Commission.

- A motion was passed by Council that any physicians who want to join HMA because of the PGMA lawsuit must be in good standing and will be assessed the prevailing dues rate at the time they join.

- A motion was passed by Council to send out letters from HMA requesting historical data on the 1996 worker's compensation rates.

Component Society Reports

Honolulu.—Dr Dang, Jr. reported that there will be an HCMS membership meeting on June 18 on the topic of "Safety in the Office," particularly on preventing and treating needle sticks.

Maui.—No report

Kauai.—Dr McKenna reported that their county has not met. He recently represented Kauai from the Physicians' Health Committee at an international conference on physicians health in Norway. There was a lot of concern about changes in ethical standards within medicine and whether medicine would be able to withstand the changes. He did a paper on The Impact of Managed Care on Physician's Health. It was noted that Europeans are unionized and therefore have a union representative negotiate with insurance carriers, etc. The physicians in Europe have the same problems with stress, overworking, substance abuse and disruptive physicians.

West Hawaii and Hawaii.—Both counties have not met but will have a meeting in June.

For Information

Fruit Irradiation Facility, Hilo.—Dr Fogel noted that money has been allocated by the Hawaii County Council for the facility. Waimea and Kohala seem to be the favored areas because of little seismic activity and little threat of volcanic flow. The problem is the potential health hazard to the community due to radiation leakage if an earthquake should occur. HMA sent letter to all the Hawaii County Council members expressing this concern and is presenting a resolution to the AMA.

Hawaii Health Information Corporation.—Dr W. Dang, Jr. who sits on the HHIC board as a representative for the HMA reported that HHIC does not release information on individual physicians, (such as in the case of economic credentialing), unless the individual physician is requesting the information or gives permission to release the information.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.