



'IMI HO'ŌLA

POST-BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM



2021 NEWSLETTER



Congratulations 'Imi Ho'ōla Class of 2020-2021

The 'Imi Ho'ōla class of 2020-2021 not only endured the rigorous 'Imi curriculum but also the constant changes and challenges that were raised last year due to COVID-19. The resiliency, grit, and determination demonstrated by these students were what made their journey through 'Imi so much more rewarding.

Not only did the students have to adapt to new classroom configurations and changing teaching platforms, but they also did so with positivity and grace. This ability to adapt to new situations will be vital as they continue their new educational chapter as members of JABSOM's class of 2025!

More information about the 'Imi Class of 2021 Completion Ceremony can be found at <https://jabsom.hawaii.edu/imihoola2021/>



Congratulations to our new 'Imi Alumni!

Left to Right - Front Row: Katelyn Shirai, Shantel Pascual, and Tiffany Kurozawa. Back Row: Baoxin "Hailey" Liang, Benjamin Lee, Eduardo Biala Jr., and Vanessa Freitas,

'Imi Ho'ōla JABSOM Class of 2021

The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) honored 68 graduates of the class of 2021 with two separate hybrid ceremonies located on the University of Hawai'i Kaka'ako campus. Both outdoor ceremonies had limited attendance to include the graduates, two guests, and faculty. The events were available via Livestream and a recording can be viewed through the JABSOM YouTube Channel at youtube.com/uhmedjabsom

Among the JABSOM graduates, three alumni from the 'Imi class of 2016-2017 will be entering the healthcare workforce as medical residents. Congratulations to Drs. Kalei Gomes, Chase Hwang, and Elisabeth Seamon as they begin their residency programs this Fall.



DR. EDY KALEI GOMES

University of Hawai'i
Family Medicine
Aiea, HI

"'Imi Ho'ōla was an awesome experience that allowed a Native Hawaiian first-generation college student like myself to succeed in medical school. As a soon-to-be family medicine resident at the UH Family Residency Program, I look forward to continuing to serve my community and fulfilling the missions of both 'Imi and JABSOM."



DR. CHASE HWANG

University of Hawai'i
Pathology
Honolulu, HI

"'Imi has made me a critical thinker, which is essential in medical school and the specialty of pathology. I am very grateful for 'Imi that it has prepared me so well for medical school and residency."



DR. ELISABETH SEAMON

SUNY Upstate Medical
University
Obstetrics-Gynecology
Syracuse, NY

"'Imi Ho'ōla prepared me to start strong in medical school. I was able to use my extra time and effort to get involved in the school and community. This has made me a better medical student and will carry on into my career."

Welcome 'Imi Ho'ōla Class of 2021-2022



Left to Right - Top Row: Michelle Tong (Wai'anae, O'ahu), Anita Cheung (Honolulu, O'ahu), D-Dré Wright (Honolulu, O'ahu), Ellis Akana (Honolulu, O'ahu), Morgan Quinley (Sinajana, Guam), Thien Phuc Nguyen (Honolulu, O'ahu) & Juyoung Ji Chong (Busan, Korea).
Bottom Row: Sydney Unciano ('Aiea, O'ahu), Shayna Hu (Kāne'ohe, O'ahu), Kim Yen Nguyen (Honolulu, O'ahu), Jasmine Padamada (Kea'au, Hawai'i) & Shelly Oshiro (Honolulu, O'ahu).

Here is a link to the UH Med Now article welcoming this all-wahine class

<https://jabsom.hawaii.edu/imiopenhouse2021/>

Team Building at Camp Mokulē'ia

Due to the travel restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Service Learning Project to Kalaupapa on the island of Moloka'i was put on hold for the last two years. Our 'Imi students continued to support the residents of Kalaupapa by sending over meals purchased from Young's Fish Market. Hawaiian plate lunches were also delivered to the residents and staff at Hale Mohalu on O'ahu.

A retreat was held at Camp Mokulē'ia in Waialua on O'ahu to strenghten team building and collaboration as they are vital components for the long-term success and support of our students. The current 'Imi students attended the first day with an overnight event, group activities, and an incredible student-lead talent show. During day two of the retreat, the MSI 'Imi students participated in team building activities and lead another entertaining talent show for the 'Imi faculty, staff, and camp leaders. This was a great bonding experience for our students, faculty, & staff.

Camp Mokulē'ia team building activities



'Imi Ho'ōla Class of 2020-2021



'Imi Ho'ōla Class of 2019-2020

Alumni Spotlight

CHIA GRANDA, MD

Dr. Chia Granda was raised on the island of Kaua'i and graduated from Kapa'a High School. She moved to O'ahu and received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2000.

While on her journey to becoming a physician, Dr. Granda met Dr. Nanette Judd who encouraged her to apply to medical school and 'Imi Ho'ōla. She was admitted to the 'Imi Ho'ōla class of 2000-2001 and graduated from the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) in 2005. She completed her residency training at Brown University specializing in Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Child Psychiatry. Dr. Granda returned to Kaua'i in 2010 and currently

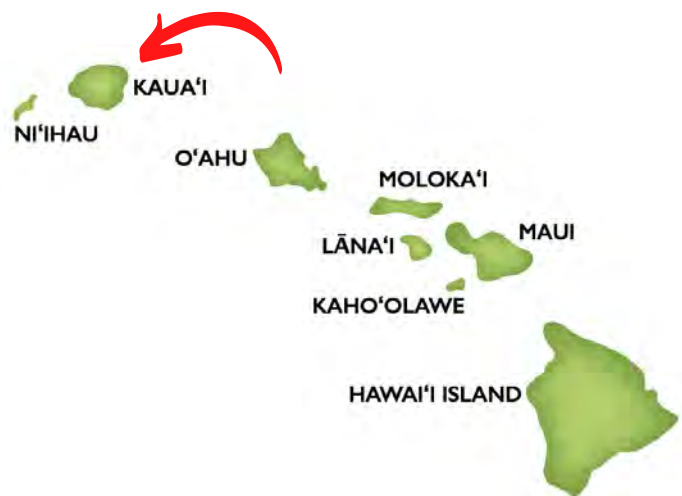


works with the Department of Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division and with Kapa'a Pediatrics as a Child Psychiatrist. She works with a wide range of patients including children in foster care with a history of abuse, neglect, trauma, kids in the judiciary system with problems with the law and substance abuse, primarily underserved and high-risk population via the Department of Health, kids ages 3-early 20s, and family-focused treatments.

Mahalo nui loa Dr. Granda for all that you continue to do for your community, and for future healthcare professionals.



"I love being back in my home town taking care of kids and their families via a strength based team approach that also focuses on prevention. It is a privilege to work in my home town and invest in the future of our keiki."



Mahalo to the Queen's Health Systems



From Left to Right: Dr. Jill Hoggard Green, Sarah Albrecht, Dr. Winona Lee, Katelyn Shirai, Tiffany Kurozawa, James DeJesus IV, Eduardo Biala Jr., Piueti Maka, Melia Takakusagi, Benjamin Lee, Dr. Gerard Akaka, Dean Jerris Hedges, Vanessa Freitas, Dr. Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, and Rowena Buffett Timms,

Mahalo nui loa to the Queen's Health Systems (QHS) for their continued support to the Department of Native Hawaiian Health and 'Imi Ho'ōla Program by providing monthly stipends for students so that they may focus on their studies and not work while in the program. QHS has provided full in-state tuition scholarships for 'Imi alumni at JABSOM for the last three years and has recently awarded an additional 5 scholarships to the 'Imi alumni that joined the JABSOM class of 2025!

The current recipients of this generous award are Eduardo Biala, Jr., Vanessa Freitas, Benjamin Lee, Tiffany Kurozawa, and Katelyn Shirai. Mahalo nui loa to the Queen's Systems, Dr. Jill Hoggard Green, Dr. Gerard Akaka, Ms. Rowena Buffett Timms for your continuous support.

Past 'Imi recipients of the Queen's Scholarship are:

MS3s - Kamuela Andrade, Bree Kaneakua, and James De Jesus IV

MS2s - Sarah Albrecht, Piueti Maka, and Melia Takakusagi

For more information about this generous donation go to

<https://jabsom.hawaii.edu/the-queens-health-systems-expands-its-support-of-the-uh-jabsom-imi-ho%ca%bbola-post-baccalaureate-program/> or
<https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2021/07/16/queens-imihoola-scholarships/>

Faculty Spotlight

CHessa HARRIS, MBA

Aloha! My name is Chessa Coral DeCambra Harris, MBA. I grew up in the small community of Kailua-Kona on beautiful Hawai'i Island. On my mother's side, I descend from the Smith and Parks families of Chester and Goshen, New York. On my father's side, I descend from the Ka'ahanui family of Kualoa, O'ahu and the Maka'io family of Hamakua, Hawai'i Island.

I graduated from the Kamehameha Schools Kapālama as a boarding student, and continued my education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, earning a BA in Communications and a Masters of Business Administration degree.

I began my work with the Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) in 2006 as a Junior Specialist with the 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program. While in this position, I held the dual roles of Program Assistant and Instructor. In 2014, I transitioned into the role of Director of Business and Administrative Operations for the DNHH and recently became the Associate Chair of Finance and Operations for the DNHH in 2021.

Since the start of my career, I have been passionate about creating and perpetuating opportunities for growth and advancement for Native Hawaiians. I am the first in my immediate family to attend and graduate from college, and I believe that this accomplishment was possible because of the various Native



Hawaiian mentors, programs, and scholarship opportunities I had available to me. In turn, I want to do my part to ensure that new and existing educational opportunities in medicine are available to the next generation of healers. I was originally drawn to the DNHH because of its mission to hana kūpono (work towards fairness) and address social justice for Native Hawaiians by improving health and wellness. However, I didn't fully realize how much my work with 'Imi Ho'ōla would inspire me to strive for my highest potential and want to cement that same desire within our scholars. As the 'Imi Ho'ōla 'ohana grew every year with a new class of students, I found myself blessed and humbled to a small part of their journey, realizing that through my support and encouragement of their efforts, I was helping to give back to our community and contribute to a better healthcare future for Hawai'i.

I'm so proud of our graduates, and of the enduring work of the 'Imi Ho'ōla faculty and staff. Although my path forward with the DNHH has evolved away from day-to-day work with 'Imi Ho'ōla, I remain immeasurably tied and dedicated to the Program. I mua 'Imi Ho'ōla!

'Imi Ho'ōla in the News

Kamuela's Story

Kamuela Andrade, 'Imi class of 2018-2019, and a current third-year medical student was highlighted on April 21, 2021, UH Med Now website titled, "Kamu's Story: A gift of scholarship." Kamuela's inspirational story and dedication to his family and community are demonstrated in all that he does.



Andrade 'Ohana

Click here to read about Kamu and see his video <https://jabsom.hawaii.edu/kamustory/>

Excellence in Public Health Awarded

Please join us as we congratulate Jester Galiza, 'Imi Ho'ōla class of 2017-2018, for receiving the 2021 Excellence in Public Health Award from the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). He is the fourth JABSOM student in the school's history to receive

its top award for medical students.

For more

information about this award, please read the UH Med Now article, "UH



student's dedication, commitment to achieve health equity has earned him national recognition" at

<https://jabsom.hawaii.edu/uH-medical-students-dedication-commitment-to-achieve-health-equity-has-earned-him-national-recognition/>.

For more information about Jester's journey to medicine, please go to

<https://jabsom.hawaii.edu/getting-a-student-into-jabsom-it-takes-a-village/>.



One Micronesia Podcast Features 'Imi Alumnus

'Imi alumnus Dr. Jalkennen Joseph was a guest on One Micronesia Podcast hosted by Victorius Falan. Dr. Joseph completed his Emergency Medicine residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio in 2021 and is currently working in Laredo, Texas.

Thank you Dr. Joseph for advocating for Micronesian health and for taking the time to speak about and alleviate concerns regarding COVID-19 and vaccinations. Here is the link to the One Micronesia Podcast featuring Dr. Joseph <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-o9bGZ3xrU>

'Imi Ho'ōla in the News

Carpenter 'Ohana Highlighted

Dr. Dee-Ann Carpenter, 'Imi alumna, and her 'Ohana were featured in the August/September 2021 Generations Magazine. Mahalo to the Carpenter 'Ohana for all you do for our communities and to Dr. Carpenter for her dedication and support to 'Imi, JABSOM, and international students, in the clinic, and through your community outreach.

Click here for the full article

<https://generations808.com/living-with-diabetes-its-a-family-affair/>



Dr. Dee-Ann and Dante Carpenter

Mahalo to our donors!

As we near the end of 2021, we would like to take this time to express our heartfelt gratitude to our generous 'Imi Ho'ōla donors, the University of Hawai'i Foundation, and the Hawai'i Community Foundation. Your gifts have been used to assist students with their tuition and fees, school supplies, basic living expenses, and emergency funds while in the program. Additional funds are used to support student supplies needed as they matriculate to medical school or offer scholarships to 'Imi alumni while in medical school.

Mahalo nui loa to our donors and their families:

- The Queen's Health Systems
- The Late Dr. Ram Bhagavan & Family
- The Honorable Benjamin Cayetano
- The Late Ms. Concetta di Leo
- Anonymous Donor in Honor of Dr. Erida Reichert Klemmer
- Dr. and Mrs. Toan Lam
- Dr. Domingo and Madelaine Leonida
- Dr. Emmett McGuire & Family
- Dr. & Mrs. Rakhi Ram
- Dr. Sherry Teefey
- Mrs. Hazel Tominaga Tsutsui Theodore
- Mrs. Vonnie Turner



Where are you now?

Please complete the 'Imi Ho'ōla Alumni Contact Google Form at

<https://goo.gl/forms/xSNHG2uF81zMxMYp1>.

This is one of the ways we are able to learn more about all the things our 'Imi alumni have accomplished and a way to share 'Imi updates and future events.

Writer/Layout: Kimberly Barnes Yamauchi, MPA, Editors: Sharleen Chock, PhD, MEd, MS, and Kelli-Ann Voloch, MD, and Éminence Gris: Winona Lee, MD. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of JABSOM or the University of Hawai'i. Suggestions and submissions are welcome. Please submit to ihalumni@hawaii.edu.