



# 'IMI HO'ŌLA POST-BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM



2022 Newsletter

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## Welcome 'Imi Class of 2023

Our 'Imi class of 2023 has been completely in-person with our first in-person Open House since 2019. For more information about this class, click [here](#) to read an article by our JABSOM Communications team.



Please help us welcome our 'Imi Ho'ōla Class of 2022-2023:

Left to Right Top Row: Megan Andrada (Oahu), Mitch Cadiz (Oahu), Ariel Chong (Oahu), & Kirsten Chun (Oahu). Middle Row: Aileen Ferrer (Maui), Janette Keola (Oahu), Erin Kim (Oahu), & Lauren Kim (Oahu). Bottom Row: Juliana Muña (Saipan), Alyssa Jade Nuñez (Saipan), C. Kahulu Nunokawa (Maui), & Madavrolyn Tausa (Oahu)

# Congratulations 'Imi Class of 2022!

Congratulations to the 'Imi Ho'ōla Class of 2022! Please click on the link below for more information about this class: <https://jabsom.hawaii.edu/imihoola2022/> and the JABSOM class of 2026 white coat ceremony at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ON8Ny-EDZbk>



From Left to Right: Dr. Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, Dr. Benjamin Young, Anita Cheung, Juyoung Ji Chong, Jasmine Padamada, Morgan Quinley, D-Dré Wright, Dr. Jill Hoggard Green, and Dr. Jerris Hedges

Mahalo nui loa to the Queen's Health Systems for their support of the 2022 'Imi Ho'ōla Scholarship recipients. Through generous donations from the Queen's Health Systems, our students will receive full in-state tuition for all 4 years of medical school.



From Left to Right: Jasmine Padamada, D-Dré Wright, Dr. Jill Hoggard Green, Anita Cheung, Juyoung Ji Chong, & Morgan Quinley

## Mahalo nui to the late Ms. Concetta DiLeo

Mahalo to Ms. Concetta DiLeo who for many years has supported 'Imi alumni while in medical school. Through her Empowerment Fund, she provided a scholarship to support costs associated with attendance (e.g., tuition, books, fees, etc).

Concetta was an advocate for women in higher education. She was given the opportunity to pursue her graduate degree through generous donations and scholarships and created this scholarship to support other women from similar backgrounds to pursue their educational dreams.

Concetta passed in 2021 and through the help of her executor, the UH Foundation, and 'Imi Ho'ōla funds, new tables and chairs were purchased for the 'Imi classroom. The furniture has helped students maintain social distancing while in class. Concetta has touched many students over the years and her legacy and generosity will be felt by generations to come.





## 'Imi Alumni Make their Mark in Hawai'i

Congratulations to the 'Imi Ho'ola class of 2015 as they share their current journey in residency and beyond. Our alumni continue to demonstrate leadership and altruism in all that they do. Here are some of the updates they shared with our 'Imi 'Ohana.

**Kat:** Completed Family Medicine Residency this past June at Riverside Community Hospital in Southern California. She served as the **Ambulatory and Inpatient Chief Resident** during her year of residency. Completed the American Board of Family Medicine board exam in April and is now a fully board certified family medicine physician!

"I will be serving as part-time residency faculty with my program and seeing patients at a Federally Qualified Health Center in Riverside. 'Imi set a foundation for me to become a leader in medicine. The program also gave me a support system that has followed me throughout these past seven years. Residency allowed me to further develop my confidence and use the tools and foundation 'Imi helped me develop to become a compassionate and knowledgeable physician. I hope to return to Hawai'i to practice within the next few years."

**Flo:** Completed her Internal Medicine residency at the University of Hawai'i Internal Medicine Residency Program and will be **Co-Chief resident** this year!

**Ailea:** Has completed PGY3 year at the University of Hawai'i Psychiatry Residency Program and will be starting PGY4 year as **Co-Chief Resident!**

"'Imi has been the most intense and demanding period of my life thus far, but it was also disguised as a privilege. Through trials and tribulations, I developed the necessary tools and mental toughness to handle anything. Now, whenever I'm struggling I always recall my time in 'Imi, which helps to boost motivation and confidence that "everything will be ok"... After residency, I will be practicing Psychiatry in Hawai'i, but the capacity has yet to be determined."

**Ashley:** Just completed the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i Internal Medicine Residency Program and will be **Ambulatory Co-Chief Resident** next year!

"Despite the challenges of Residency, I am

*con't p.8*

# Congratulations JABSOM Class of 2022

Congratulations to the 9 'Imi Alumni from the JABSOM Class of 2022 that matched. We look forward to what your future holds. Mahalo Nui Loa for letting us be a part of your amazing journey to medicine!



Left to Right: Jester Galiza (Medicine-Pediatrics), Andy Hwang (Internal Medicine), Maggie Kwock (Internal Medicine), Kevin Martinez (Emergency Medicine), Arlene Kiyohara (Pediatrics), Dillon Tacdol (Internal Medicine), Kristine Vo (Internal Medicine), and Andrew Ken Stridiron (Pediatrics).  
Missing: Leilani Manglicmot (Child Neurology)



**DR. DILLON TACDOL**

University of Hawai'i  
Internal Medicine  
Honolulu, HI

"I entered 'Imi as one in a cohort. We became and remain today a family. It was this family's support and bond that helped me achieve my dream of becoming a physician."

**DR. JESTER GALIZA**

UCLA Medical Center  
Medicine-Pediatrics  
Los Angeles, CA



My experience in the 'Imi Ho'ōla program was one of the best experiences of my life. While it was rigorous and challenging, it was truly rewarding, humbling, transformative, and quite frankly - fun. I became part of an 'ohana with my classmates as well as the faculty and staff, met and learned from inspiring alumni who are doing amazing work in their communities, refined my vision for my role as a physician leader in my community, and co-created some of my most memorable memories that never cease to make me smile and laugh. I will forever carry my 'Imi Ho'ola "badge" with so much pride and joy, and I look forward to giving back to the program as much as it has given me."

Click the links to view the JABSOM Class of 2022 Match Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G22oziZhacl> & Senior Reflections [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wS-5IQ\\_alk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wS-5IQ_alk)

# Alumni Highlights: Dr. Aldrich Alden Ricalde

## DR. ALDRICH ALDEN RICALDE

'Imi Class of 2011

JABSOM Class of 2015

Speciality: Internal Medicine

Aldrich was raised in Ewa Beach, O'ahu and is a graduate of Damien Memorial School and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. After graduating from JABSOM he attended residency at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, CA. He returned to Hawai'i in 2018 and is a Primary Care Physician at Straub Medical Center - Pearlridge Clinic. Aldrich sees patients aged 18 years or older for follow-up of any long-term medical conditions, acute/urgent care issues, and preventative medicine/healthcare screenings.

He is an Assistant Clinical Professor with the Department of Medicine at JABSOM and precepts 3rd-year medical students as part of their Longitudinal Clerkship in Internal Medicine. He is also a part-time attending for the HOME Project with the Department of Family Medicine at JABSOM. Lastly, in his spare time, he enjoys traveling, attending sporting events, and taking his daughter to outdoor activities such as the beach or zoo.

Thank you Dr. Ricalde for continuing to fulfill the mission of 'Imi through your service to your community and our 'Imi students!



## Student Alumni Updates

Our 'Imi alumni continue to demonstrate they are leaders within the community and at JABSOM. We would like to share highlights of our 'Imi alumni as they continue to strive for excellence and inspire future generations of healthcare providers.



### AAPI Heritage Month Spotlight: Piueti Maka, MS2

Piueti Maka shares her pathway to medicine and her desire to inspire future Pacific Islanders in medicine. Click on the link below to learn more about the work she is doing.

<https://jabsom.hawaii.edu/inspiring-a-new-generation-of-pacific-islanders-in-medicine/>

### 2022 GHHS Essay Contest Winner: Melia Takakusagi, MS2

Melia Takakusagi received 1st place with her essay "With Regrets."

JABSOM students were among the top 3 contest winners. Click here to see her winning essay!

<https://hawaiiighhs.wixsite.com/ghhs/single-post/1st-place-2022-ghhs-essay-winner-with-regrets>



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# MAHALO & MĀLAMA PONO 'IMI 'OHANA

## MĀLAMA PONO DR. PURDY

Dr. Mālia Purdy began her time in the Department of Native Hawaiian Health as a Graduate Assistant with the 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate program and the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence. Upon completion of her Doctorate of Public Health (PhD) at University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Mālia joined the NHCOE and 'Imi Ho'ōla as an Assistant Professor, co-teaching the Humanities in Medicine course, supporting student research projects, and providing evaluation and research support to NHCOE and 'Imi faculty. Mālia returned to her home on Maui and is now serving as the Executive Director of Hui No Ke Ola Pono Community Health Center. Mālia is now fulfilling her dreams of a place where Native Hawaiians will have "access to traditional medicine as well as Western medicine...A place where people can go to heal...A place that offers the cultural and spiritual aspect of healing."  
E Ho'omaika'i, Mālia!



## MAHALO DR. CHOCK



Please join us in sending well wishes to Dr. Sharleen Chock who has served as the 'Imi Ho'ōla and JABSOM Learning Specialist since 2016. Dr. Chock provided critical academic and professional support services to our 'Imi Ho'ōla and JABSOM medical students and will be leaving her position within the Department of Native Hawaiian Health to pursue a new opportunity to continue to promote the success of students along their educational pathway. Mahalo nui loa and mālama pono, Sharleen!

## Physician Suicide Awareness

Dr. Caleb Jeon, an 'Imi Ho'ōla Class of 2013 and JABSOM Class of 2018 graduate and a current 4th year Resident in Dermatology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center directed, filmed, and produced the following video addressing the important issue of burnout and the growing issue of physician suicide. Please note that the film deals with sensitive topics and could be triggering for some individuals.

Mahalo to Dr. Jeon for sharing his filmmaking talents and passion for supporting colleagues with all of us.

Click here to watch the [Physician Suicide Awareness PSA](#)



Dr. Caleb Jeon, 'Imi Class of 2013

# (Con't) Student Alumni Updates

## Summer Experience Shapes Future Providers

By Eduardo Biala, Jr, MS2

For my MD5 experience, I was fortunate to be one of four students from the John A. Burns School of Medicine selected to participate in the Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) program at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology in Baltimore, Maryland. MSTAR is an 8 week research program sponsored by the National Institute on Aging with several training sites across the nation. At Johns Hopkins, I worked with my mentor Dr. Susan Gearhart, a colorectal surgeon focusing on using a modified version of the Edmonton Frail Scale (EFS) to assess frailty in the surgical population ages 65 and older. In addition to working on my research project, there were several didactic sessions that were arranged for us that focused on caring for the aging population and even opportunities to shadow in the OR as well as in the outpatient geriatric clinic. My time in Baltimore and the East coast was an amazing and eye-opening experience.

In addition to conducting research, I also had the opportunity to meet with several other medical students from across the nation at the 2022 RISE: Developing Future Leaders in Academic Medicine & Science Conference sponsored by the AAMC. The conference allowed me the opportunity to develop my skills to become more self-aware,

improve interpersonal and team communication, develop strategies to be part of a successful team, and strengthened my skills to motivate others. Overall, it is my goal to use the newfound skills and knowledge that I gained from this experience to become a better student leader at JABSOM.

I would like to thank all those who made my MD5 a truly memorable experience: Dr. Kamal Masaki for helping me throughout the application process of MSTAR, Drs. Colleen Christmas and Sevil Yasar for allowing me the opportunity to do research at Johns Hopkins, Lindia Holmes for assisting with all the

logistics to get to Baltimore, and my research mentor Dr. Susan Gearhart, for taking me under her wing this past summer. Mahalo to Dr. Larry Burgess for selecting me as one of two representatives for JABSOM at the RISE Conference. Through this summer MD5 experience, I have seen just how vast and applicable leadership and aging intersect with numerous fields in medicine."



Eduardo Biala, Jr. at Johns Hopkins Hospital

## A HUI HOU DR. BILL THOMAS

It is with heavy hearts that we bid a fond aloha to Dr. Bill Thomas, a compassionate physician, colleague, and dear friend. He served the island of Moloka'i as Chief Medical Officer and Chief of Staff at Moloka'i General Hospital within the Queen's Health Systems. Dr. Thomas was also a longtime preceptor for the 'Imi Ho'ōla program.



WILLIAM L. THOMAS JR MD



Jester Galiza and Ken Stridiron with Dr. Thomas at Moloka'i General in 2018

## **(Con't) 'Imi Alumni Make their Mark in Hawai'i**

### **Ashley (Con't)**

most proud of becoming a mom to 2 little humans who have changed my life forever; it is absolutely possible to be both a mother and doctor! After completion of my chief residency year, I will be practicing primary care in a community serving a high population of Native Hawaiians."



*'Imi Ho'ōla Class of 2014-2015*

**Erika:** Completed her Pediatric Residency at the University of Hawai'i Pediatric Residency Program and will be an attending at Kaua'i at Medical Clinic next year. She will also work with the Office of Medical Education at JABSOM, particularly with the new program for medical students.

"'Imi truly was the most challenging aspect of my medical training, both including medical school and residency but am so grateful for the opportunity as I still use the concepts we learned in 'Imi in my medical practice daily. More than anything, 'Imi has taught me the skills to work out a problem or question that doesn't have an immediate solution knowing that I have the tools necessary to become successful. Please contact me if you're visiting Kaua'i! Once an 'Imi, always an 'Imi!"

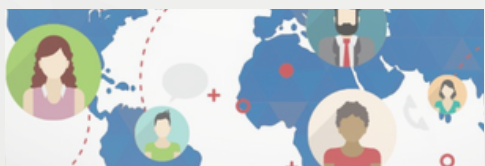
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## Let's Celebrate

### 'Imi Ho'ōla will celebrate 50 years!

A celebration will be held in 2023!

More information will be sent out as details are finalized.



## **Where are you now?**

Please complete the 'Imi Ho'ōla Alumni Contact Google Form at <https://goo.gl/forms/xSNHG2uF81zMxMYpl>

This is a way to share 'Imi updates and future events.

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