



'IMI HO'ŌLA

POST-BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM



2023 Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

1. 'Imi class of 2023-2024
2. JABSOM class of 2023
Final words from our graduates
4. The pacific experience
5. Congratulations 'Imi class of 2023
6. Celebrating 50 Years of 'Imi Ho'ōla
7. 'Imi alumni making an impact: Coast to coast
8. 'Imi In the news
Student research
Congratulations, Dr. Lee!
Where are you now?

'Imi class of 2023-2024



Left to Right - Back Row: Alnor "Aljay" Carnate Jr. (Honolulu), Leo Wu (Honolulu), Nicholas Loi ('Aiea), Christian Llantero (Waipahu), Kiara Moffitt (Honolulu). Front Row: Kai Hirayama (Honolulu), Lindney Acosta (Honolulu), Braden Kunihiro (Kapolei), Brenna Dela Rosa (Waipahu), Kylee-Ray Tactacan (Wai'anae), Richelle Hannah Alfonso (Pohnpei, FSM), and Jeannie Ho (Honolulu).

Join us as we welcome the 'Imi Ho'ōla class of 2023-2024! This year 'Imi celebrated 50 years with 306 graduates who have completed their medical school training at JABSOM. 'Imi alumni continue to serve underrepresented and underserved communities worldwide.

Mahalo nui loa for all you continue to do for 'Imi as a student, alumni, community member, staff, faculty, and mentor. 'Imi would not be here without your support. We look forward to seeing what the future holds for our students and the communities they serve.

JABSOM CLASS OF 2023

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW 'IMI GRADUATES



From Left to Right: Drs. Christina Tse, Bree Kaneakua, Jenna Maligro, Krystal Hiroyama, Samuel Kamuela Andrade, Brittany Sato, Tana Ramos, Weiming Du, and James DeJesus IV.

FINAL WORDS FROM OUR 'IMI GRADUATES



Dr. Brittany Sato Pathology, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

My time in 'Imi helped me refine the skills I needed to be successful in medical school and beyond. I am forever grateful to be a part of the 'Imi community and have developed life-long friendships. Thank you for the endless support and I hope to continue to make you all proud.

Dr. Tana Ramos Internal Medicine, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Santa Clara, CA

'Imi was the strongest foundation I believe I could have received prior to entering medical school. This program developed the way that I learn and process information in a way that has equipped me to be a lifelong learner. The payoff for all the hard work is tremendous both academically and clinically. I am forever grateful for my time in 'Imi and the lifelong friends that it has given me.





Dr. Samuel Kamuela Andrade

Family Medicine, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

'Imi gave me the chance to realize the type of doctor I could become through mentoring and experiences not often given to people with backgrounds like mine. It prepared me for medical school and beyond, in more ways than I could initially understand. Imi will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Dr. Christina Tse

Internal Medicine, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA

Huge mahalo to the 'Imi Ho'ōla program for providing me with the opportunities to achieve my dreams of becoming a physician. The endless confidence, support, and encouragement from the faculty and staff since day one of the program has been invaluable to me. I am so proud to be part of the 'Imi Ohana.



Dr. Krystal Hirayama

Internal Medicine, Scripps Mercy Hospital, San Diego, CA

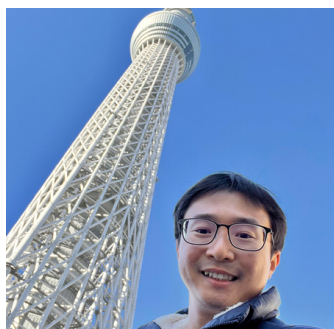
Thank you so much to my husband, family, friends, mentors, 'Imi Ho'ōla, and JABSOM for accompanying and supporting me throughout my arduous and overwhelmingly rewarding journey to becoming a physician. I will do my best to make everyone proud while training in San Diego as an internal medicine resident. I look forward to the day that I can come home to serve my community and pay it forward to those who are where I once sat when I decided to pursue the impossible.



Dr. Bree Kaneakua

Medicine-Pediatrics, University of Arizona COM, Phoenix, AZ

There will never be enough words to mahalo everyone who has gotten me to this point, especially my 'ohana, friends, mentors, the 'Imi Ho'ola Program, and the Queen's Health System. I am simply a product of you all!



Dr. Weiming Du

Medicine-Primary, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

'Imi was rigorous but rewarding, it provided me with knowledge and stamina for medical school.

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

Jasmine Padamada, MSII

Aloha and Hafa Adai! My name is Jasmine Padamada. I was born and raised in Kea'au on the Big Island of Hawai'i. I completed the 'Imi Ho'ola Program in June 2022, so I am a current second-year medical student at JABSOM. This past summer, I participated in the "Pacific Experience" elective as my MD5 experience, where my classmate and I got to live in Guam for four weeks. As someone who grew up in a rural community, I am passionate about rural health. So when I heard that JABSOM and AHEC were sponsoring medical students to travel to the Pacific Basin, I knew that I couldn't pass up the opportunity!

During my first week, we shadowed Dr. Dolores Lee, a family medicine physician, in the clinic and at an outreach event. I then came to find out that she was also a 'Imi Ho'ola alumna! While shadowing Dr. Lee, I could immediately tell how 'Imi Ho'ola has influenced her teaching style and thought process. She showed us what it means to practice with the utmost level of compassion and further motivated me to pursue my passion of taking care of the community I grew up in. During the second week, we shadowed Dr. Constantine (IM/admissions), Dr. Tse (ED), and Dr. Palusinski (Cardio) at the Guam Regional Medical City Hospital. I haven't shadowed in a hospital setting before, so it was my first time seeing acute and serious conditions. During this rotation, we were able to sharpen my clinical skills as we were encouraged to think broadly while acting fastidiously. In the third week, we were at the TB and Hansen's Disease Clinic, where we learned about the intersection between public health and medicine. It was a humbling experience to see how barriers were creatively overcome in order to complete Direct Observed Therapy in the more isolated areas in Guam. During my last week, we shadowed



*Jasmine Padamada
(MSI) on a Carabao*



*Left to Right: Keith Yamamoto
(MS2), Dr. Thomas Shieh, &
Jasmine Padamada (MSI)*

Dr. Shieh, an Ob/GYN physician, in his clinic. While learning about the sector of private practice, we got to practice hands-on skills (such as ultrasounds and pap smears) and observed a delivery! This rotation taught me the importance of being proactive and advocating for your patients.

In addition to re-experiencing the close-knit community that comes from living in a rural area, I also got to witness the physicians' creativity when there is a lack of resources and their compassion when their patients are in non-ideal circumstances. I hope that one day, I will be a physician that emulates the same excellence and level of care that I have observed from the physicians in Guam. This experience has further motivated me to go back to the Big Island after completing residency, so that I can provide the same care to my community.

Congratulations to the 'Imi Class of 2023

Congratulations to the 'Imi Ho'ōla class of 2022-2023 as they begin their medical school journey as part of the JABSOM class of 2027.

Graduates include Mitch Cadiz (O'ahu), Kirsten Chun (O'ahu), Aileen Ferrer (Maui), Janette Bow-Keola (O'ahu), Erin Kim (O'ahu), and Lauren Kim (O'ahu).

'Imi class of 2023 in the News!

Thank you to our JABSOM Media and Communications Team for their support of the 'Imi program. Below are some of the articles about the newest 'Imi alumni. Click on this link to watch the class of 2023 ['Imi insights](#)

Maui mom shares the joy of graduating from boot camp for aspiring doctors



Aileen Ferrer, MSI

Click on the link below to learn more about Aileen Ferrer's journey to medicine. [Hawaii News Now](#)



Photo credit: JABSOM Communications. Front to Back Left to Right - Erin Kim, Kirsten Chun, Aileen Ferrer, Janette Bow-Keola, Lauren Kim, and Mitch Cadiz

Twin med school students start their JABSOM journey together



Lauren Kim, MSI

Erin Kim, MSI

Click on the link below for more information about our first set of 'Imi twins, Lauren and Erin Kim!

[University of Hawaii News](#)



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF 'IMI HO'ŌLA

Winona Lee, MD

'Imi Ho'ōla alumni, program staff, JABSOM leaders, and community supporters came together to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of 'Imi Ho'ōla on Saturday October 28, 2023, at Ko'olau Ballrooms. 'Imi Ho'ōla is one of only six programs across the nation that serves students from disadvantaged backgrounds, giving them an opportunity to earn a seat at JABSOM upon completion. More than 300 'Imi Ho'ōla alumni have graduated from the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine since its inception. The evening was filled with emotion, as former students reunited with their classmates and teachers while reflecting on the 'Imi Ho'ōla experiences that were crucial to their journey to becoming physicians. Behind every successful student were individuals whose dedication and hard work have played pivotal roles.



From left to right: Drs. Angela Pratt, Momi Ka'anoi, Kelli-Ann Voloch, Agnes Malate, Dee-Ann Carpenter, and Vanessa Wong

The 50th anniversary celebration provided a unique opportunity to honor and express gratitude to our Founder, Dr. Benjamin Young and our immediate Past Director Dr. Nanette Judd. The room was filled with excitement as the premiere of the short film "50 Years of 'Imi Ho'ōla" was unveiled followed by inspiring keynote presentations by Dr. Benjamin Young and Dr. Neal Palafox. This 50th-anniversary celebration was more than just meeting a milestone; it served as a momentous occasion to honor the past, celebrate the present, and chart the course for the future. As we celebrate the success of the past 50 years, we look to the future as we continue to build on the legacy of 'Imi Ho'ōla.



From left to right. Dr. Winona Lee, Mrs. DeDe Young, Dr. Benjamin Young, and Dr. Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula.

Photo credit: JABSOM Media & Communications Team.

The JABSOM Media and Communications team put together a great webpage with information and a slideshow celebrating 50 years of 'Imi. [Click here](#)

Banner Photo From Left to Right: Drs. Winona Lee, Benjamin Young, Nanette Judd, Jerris Hedges, Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, Neal Palafox, Diane Paloma, Kalani Brady, and Angela Pratt.

'IMI ALUMNI MAKING AN IMPACT: COAST TO COAST

EAST COAST

Leimomi Kanagusuku, MD

'Imi Alumnus and Wai'anae native, Dr. Leimomi Kanagusuku, studied Human Biology with a concentration in health in underserved communities as an undergraduate at Stanford University to understand the intricate and complex nature of health in society. This seed of advocacy was fostered throughout her medical career in various experiences ranging from class council to pursuing a certificate of distinction in Native Hawaiian health to serving as a co-chief resident, all of which encouraged her aspiration of Family Medicine.

Dr. Kanagusuku attended the American Academy of Family Physicians Congress of Delegates in her role as the Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians (HAFP) acting president in October 2023. She also serves on the legislative committee to help improve the health of Hawai'i through advocacy and policy. This past year, the HAFP submitted resolutions to promote MD/DO licensing parity and to adopt an after-hours care model. The academy has also been hard at work determining procedures for submitting testimony to the state legislature and has become more active with other memberships to advocate for patients and physicians alike.



Family Medicine Practitioners representing Hawai'i at American Academy of Family Physicians in Chicago, IL



From left to right. Drs. Marti Taba, Komal Soin, Christina Marzo, Nicole Mahealani Lum, and Leimomi Kanagusuku

"I am beyond grateful for the opportunities that 'Imi and so many others have given me," states Leimomi, who recently started her new role as Inpatient Director and Associate Program Director at the University of Hawai'i Family Medicine Residency Program. She hopes to continue to give back to the people of Hawai'i through patient care, teaching, and advocacy efforts.

WEST COAST

Dee-Ann Carpenter, MD

It was wonderful to reconnect with fellow 'Imi alumni at the JABSOM Alumni Symposium from Oct. 6-8, 2023. We convened at Treasure Island in Las Vegas, Nevada.

'Imi alumni are serving underrepresented communities nationwide in various specialties. This event served as a great way to reconnect with friends and colleagues as well as build new connections with JABSOM alumni living outside of Hawai'i. Not only were we reunited with 'Imi from different generations, but also with fellow members of

Con't on page 8

MAKING AN IMPACT

Con't from page 7



'Imi Alumni at JABSOM Reunion 2023

From left to right: Drs. Kristi Lopez, Kenneth Ortiz, Jason Pirga, Oscar Sablan, Dee-Ann Carpenter, and Rakki Rham

the initial classes of JABSOM, including one from the Dean's Guest Program, which preceded 'Imi Ho'ola. Here we are in this picture; however, Dr. Kelli-Ann Voloch, who teaches in the 'Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program, is missing from the picture.

For more photos of this event go to the [JABSOM Flickr page](#)

'IMI IN THE NEWS

Click [here](#) to listen to an episode of JABSOM Pulse highlighting 50 years of 'Imi Ho'ola with Drs. Nanette Judd and Winona Lee.



Left to Right: Deborah Dimaya, Dr. Winona Lee, Dr. Nanette Judd, and Vina Cristobol

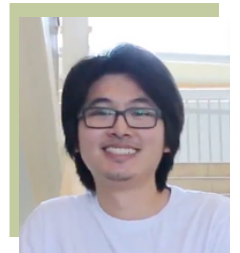


Baoxin Hailey Liang, MSIII

Click [here](#) to read about 'Imi Ho'ola and alumni Hailey Liang in the current issue of HMSA [Island Scene](#).

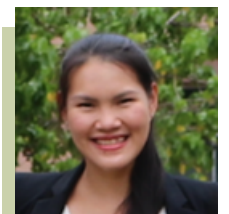
STUDENT RESEARCH

Click [here](#) to read a study on hybrid anatomy teaching innovations in Anatomical Sciences Education, co-authored by two 'Imi Ho'ola alumni Collin Liang, MSIV and Melia Takakusagi, MSIV.



Collin Liang, MSIV

'Imi alumna Anita Cheung presented at the International Conference on Controversies in Neuropathic Pain in Brussels, Belgium. Click [here](#) for more information.



Anita Cheung, MSII

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. LEE



Dr. Winona Lee

Congratulations to Dr. Winona Lee for obtaining a promotion to Full Professor and for receiving the 2023 Dr. Amefil "Amy" Agbayani Faculty/Staff Diversity Enhancement Award. Dr. Lee has served as the Principal Investigator for NHC OE and

Director of the 'Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program at the Department of Native Hawaiian Health since 2011. Mahalo nui loa for all that you do to serve our students and community! More information about her award can be found [here](#).



Where are you now?

Please complete the 'Imi Ho'ola Alumni Contact [Google Form](#). This is one of the ways we can learn more about all the things our 'Imi alumni have accomplished and share 'Imi updates and future events.

Writer/Layout: Kimberly Barnes Yamauchi, MPA. Editors: Diana Thompson, MEd, 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.