The RMATRIX Connection

‘Imi Hale has been partnering with the UH JABSOM’s RMATRIX program over the past year to promote and support career development in community-based participatory research (CBPR) with early scientific investigators. Six researchers are completing an aggressive program year, and five of them have ‘Imi Hale connections:

May Rose Dela Cruz, MPH, ABD is completing research on the HPV vaccine uptake in Hawai‘i. Her research is being supported by The Queen’s Medical Center and RMATRIX. She is finding variation in HPV vaccine uptake by ethnicity, and is now developing educational materials to raise awareness in Hawai‘i about the importance of this vaccine in preventing cervical and other cancers.

Nia Aitaoto, PhD is conducting research on the diabetes control in the Micronesian community, testing a tailored curriculum with Micronesian pastors. Her research home is at Kōkua Kalihi Valley Community Health Center (KKV). Her community research partners conducted a Report to RMATRIX at KKV’s Ho‘oulu ‘Āina, providing faculty with the community context relevant to their research.

Lana Sue Kaʻopua, PhD and Dr. Bruce Shiramizu were supported by RMATRIX to advance research to increase anal cancer screening, especially among LGBTI communities. They have submitted proposals to conduct a large study of their education and screening intervention and are awaiting feedback. This work builds on an 2010-12 ‘Imi Hale research supplement that supported Dr. Kaʻopua in testing an intervention to increase colorectal cancer screening among people living with HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Alik Maunakea, PhD is conducting cutting edge research on epigenetics and diabetes. We first met Dr. Maunakea when he was a high school student at Kamehameha Schools. He contributed a publication on “Polynesian ethnobotanicals: a critical role in new drug discovery (Boyd C D, Maunakea A, Mordan L J, Csiszar K) to the 1998 issue of the Pacific Health Dialog dedicated to The Health of Native Hawaiians: (http://www.pacifichealthdialog.org.fj/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=78).

Partnering with Dr. Maunakea is Dr. Claire Townsend, who is testing a support group as a supplement to a diabetes self-management intervention in people with poorly controlled diabetes. This CBPR project builds on the 10 years of health disparities research conducted by the PILI ‘Ohana Partnership. Dr. Townsend is the Project Director for PILI@Work, a randomized control trial testing a 12-month weight-loss/maintenance intervention in Native Hawaiian-serving worksites.

Dr. Aitaoto (standing) and community partners share their community research experience with UH faculty at Hoʻoulu ‘Āina (http://www.hoouluaina.com)

RMATRIX team touring Hoʻoulu ‘Āina with guide Scotty Garlough.

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GMaP Region VI (3U54CA153502-04S2)

The Geographic Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program (GMaP) is an NCI-funded initiative that includes 6 regional networks dedicated to supporting research, training and infrastructure. Hawai‘i is part of Region VI which also includes Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, California and Guam. GMaP Region VI headquarters are at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and led by Dr. Beti Thompson. The goal is to provide career development, mentoring and job placement opportunities for CRCHD-funded junior investigators, trainees and early stage investigators (ESI) through the following mechanisms: F3I/T32, K01, K08, K23, R21, R21/U01 and SCI/SC2. To learn more or to share suggestions for career development opportunities, contact Heidi Harbach, GMaP Coordinator, at hharbach@fhcrc.org.

CBPR Training at the Hutch

On Friday, July 11th, ‘Imi Hale health educators, Jermy Domingo (L in pic above) and May Rose Dela Cruz (R), along with Dr. Maile Tauli‘i attended the Region VI GMaP Community-based Participatory Research & Career Development Workshop in Seattle, Washington. Participants from all sectors of Region VI gathered to learn new strategies to engage disparate populations in health disparities research. The training began with Dr. Beti Thompson of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center providing an overview of CBPR principles. A panel presentation with Christine DeCourtney, Dr. Annette Maxwell, and Shawna Cooper shared some of their strategies in engaging their communities in research. JoAnn Tsark, ‘Imi Hale’s Project Director, and Ana Navarro of San Diego State University facilitated an interactive session to help attendees apply the CBPR principles into practice.

The afternoon sessions began with Dr. Johanna Lampe of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center who provided attendees with tips and tricks on applying for career development grants. The workshop concluded with a panel presentation on how to succeed as a cancer disparities researcher. Dr. Klonoff advised participants to surround themselves with a variety of mentors and also reminded attendees to make time to care for themselves in their career.

Mahalo nui loa to Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center for providing staff with an opportunity to network and learn more from colleagues in community-based participatory research.

2014-2015 GMaP Region VI Supplement Activities

GMaP Region VI has a busy year planned. Dr. Beti Thompson, PI and GMaP Region VI Project Coordinator, Heidi Harbach convened Region VI members in Seattle on July 10th to discuss upcoming activities, including 1) identifying interested cancer health disparities researchers at our respective institutions, 2) providing partial travel scholarships to Region VI trainees/ESIs to attend a cancer health disparities conference, 3) pairing trainees with seasoned, experienced investigators for support with proposal submissions, 4) continued dissemination of job, training and funding opportunities and resources to regional trainees/ESI, 5) maintaining communication through the Stay Connected newsletter and 6) a webinar series focused on topics that will be of interest to regional trainees, ESI, and community health educators, including how to successfully write a competitive career development grant application and innovative cancer control and prevention efforts among others. ‘Imi Hale staff and trainees have already benefitted by GMaP Region VI resources and look forward to a collaborative year.
Update on ‘Imi Hale’s Research

Dr. Kathryn Braun, co-PI and Koa Robinson, represented ‘Imi Hale at this year’s NCI-sponsored meetings in Washington DC in June, 2014 at the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Braun and her PI colleagues provided summaries of their CNPC research projects. Kathryn presented on the randomized controlled trial, PILI@Work (Dr. Keawe Kaholokulu, PI) aimed at reducing obesity disparities in Hawai’i. To do so, university and community partners developed a 12-month weight-loss and weight-loss maintenance program for Hawaiian-serving worksites, adapted from PILI ‘Ohana. To date, 134 individuals completed the 3-month weight-loss component and were randomized to an in-person or DVD-based 9-month, weight-loss-maintenance arms. Weight loss at 3-months (3.5kg) was significant. At 12-months, members of both weight-loss maintenance arms (in person and DVD) showed significant reduction in weight (6kg) and “fat in diet” score, and significant increases in physical function as measured by the 6-minute run-walk test.

Kathryn also presented on ‘Imi Hale’s three pilot research projects around biobanking. In the first study, question on donating specimens to science were added to the Hawai’i Health Survey, which found ethnic differences in willingness to donate. In the second study, focus groups were conducted with 92 Native Hawaiians working in health, social service, and civic organizations, which identified safeguards that could be put in place to increase willingness to participate in a biobank. Respondents were particularly interested in opportunities to share in biobank governance, to receive education about research, and to make sure that studies benefited Native Hawaiians, who have poor cancer outcomes compared to other ethnic groups in the state. In a third study, in-depth interviews were conducted with 30 cancer patients diagnosed at Queen’s. Findings from this study suggested that most cancer patients would donate cancer tissue to science, especially if informed that doing so could help researchers find causes of and cures for cancer. Patients varied on when in their cancer journey they would be most receptive to being asked for a donation, however two-thirds thought they would be more receptive if approached after surgery. Although most patients said they would give blanket consent for tissue use, three said they would want to be re-consented each time their tissue is requested for research. Based on these findings, the Queen’s Biorepository developed a biobank consent process that is post-operative and allows for patients to provide either blanket consent for future research or to choose to be re-consented each time their tissue is requested for a research study.

National Outreach Network (NON)

Koa Robinson participated in the annual NON program meeting for Community Health Educators (CHEs) from a variety of NCI-funded programs across the nation, including CNPCs (Community Network Program Centers), PACHEs (Comprehensive Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity), PNRP (Patient Navigation Research Programs), CCOs (Community Clinical Oncology Programs), MB-CCOs (Minority Based Community Clinical Oncology Programs), and NCI-Designated Cancer Centers. NON is a multidisciplinary program that bridges NCI-supported outreach and community education efforts with cancer health disparities research and training programs. This meeting was a great opportunity to share our work with the CRCHD staff, and a rare opportunity to share notes with other CHE colleagues across the nation working on similar efforts in their communities.

Meeting activities included: sharing methods/metrics for demonstrating and evaluating the impact of CHE education and outreach strategies, using methods/metrics for assessing CHE integration within their parent grant research and the communities they serve, and identifying strategic opportunities to disseminate best practice models and educational resources within and outside of NON. As part of the program meeting planning committee, Koa assisted in organizing a resource networking session where CHEs could discuss the development of evidence-based/informed resources and practices for health disparity populations. During this session, CHEs were given the opportunity to share the educational resources they developed for their respective communities and compare lessons learned.

Koa also reported outcome measures for ‘Imi Hale’s colorectal cancer screening education and awareness project. ‘Imi Hale has collaborated with 14 Federally Qualified Health Centers in Hawai’i to increase colorectal cancer screening rates. These efforts include a 1-hour service, culturally-tailored educational materials, and technical assistance on screening clinic policies. Koa presented on project implementation, assessment, outcomes and lessons learned. Knowledge and behavior change were measured through pre-/post-tests conducted at each in-service, and screening rates were captured through the HRSA’s Uniform Data System.

Outcomes have been positive—increased knowledge and willingness to promote colorectal cancer screening was observed in evaluations, and our 4 pilot sites (who began in 2013) have all improved screening rates from 2012 to 2013 (see above) ranging from 4% to 17%. The evaluations will be analyzed once the in-services for this year are complete, and findings will be disseminated in a publication as well as directly to our community and clinical partners.
Cancer Patient Navigation Training Update

Congratulations to the 15 Newly Trained Cancer Patient Navigators

Front (L-R): Roxanne Taylan, Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center; Kealaokalani Kubo, Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center; Mary Tang, Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children; Maya Uemoto, University of Hawai'i. Back (L-R): Kelley Ishiyama, Pali Momi Medical Center; Marissa Ing, The Queen’s Medical Center; Kristy Victorino, Hui Mālama Ola Nā ʻŌiwi; Janette Wolff, Wilcox Memorial Hospital; Ululani Alip, Hui Mālama Ola Nā ʻŌiwi; Shannon Canne, Kaiser Permanente; Shorinna Lee, Hui Mālama Ola Nā ʻŌiwi; Michael Ortiz, The Queen’s Medical Center; Megan Cacho, Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children; Billy Harrison, Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center; Amalia Maestro, Kalihi-Pālama Health Center.

1—Role playing is a big part of training. Kelley Ishiyama (Pali Momi), Shorinna Lee (Hui Mālama Ola Nā ʻŌiwi), and Janette Wolff (Wilcox Memorial Hospital) role play through a challenging navigation scenario.

2—Amalia Maestro (Kalihi-Pālama Health Center) works through mock scenarios with Mary Tang and Megan Cacho of Kapi’olani Medical Center for Women and Children.

3—Interactive sessions allow trainees time to practice looking up reliable cancer information on the web, guided by knowledgeable faculty.

4—Shannon Canne of Kaiser Permanente and Marissa Ing of The Queen’s Medical Center master role playing.

5—Trainees networking and sharing community resource information.

6—Training includes a visit to ʻImi Hale’s office and meeting with Community Health Educators, Koa Robinson (seated R) and May Rose Dela Cruz (standing R).
7—Trainees touring Kuakini Medical Center’s Radiation Therapy Department.
8—Dr. Cedric Lorenzo of the Endoscopy Institute of Hawai‘i has a candid discussion with trainees about colorectal cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment and urges trainees to help increase screening among our most vulnerable populations.
9—Dr. Andrea Hermosura of I Ola Lāhui and intern facilitate the discussion of the psychosocial concerns among cancer patients and their families.
10—Dr. Jared Acoba of The Queen’s Medical Center provides an outstanding overview of cancer treatments and related side effects.
11—Jessika Tano, recent Ho’okele i ke Ola graduate, describes cancer survivorship and the survivorship program at the Queen’s Medical Center.
12—Pamela Cunningham of Sage PLUS provides an overview of Medicare and the coverage options for cancer patients.
13—Dr. Lee Buenconsejo-Lum clarifies the role of a primary care physician in cancer care.
14—Dr. Rae Seitz of HMSA sharing her expertise in hospice care and HMSA’s Advance Care Planning videos.
15—Karen Uyeda of Straub Clinic & Hospital reinforces the navigator’s role in maintaining patient confidentiality.
16—Michael Ortiz of The Queen’s Cancer Center (also a trainee) shares behavioral health resources available statewide.
From 2004-2014, as a non-profit, ENACCT’s mission was to improve access to cancer clinical trials through education and collaboration with communities, health care providers, and researchers. After ceasing full time operations in March 2014, ENACCT is pleased to announce the integration of our key products and services into the professional development portfolio of the Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP). We are thrilled to have found a new home for our materials that focus on achieving meaningful changes in clinical trial accrual. We are very pleased that the legacy of our work—and our mission to increase clinical trial participation—will be carried forward through ACRP’s extensive network.

**A heartfelt mahalo to Margo and ENACCT**

ʻImi Hale has partnered with ENACCT for education, training, support and mentorship over the past decade. Its founder, Margo Michaels is no stranger in the ʻImi Hale office and she has been our strongest advocate for clinical trial education in Hawai‘i. On behalf of the staff of ʻImi Hale we acknowledge ENACCT’s hard work and dedication. We are pleased that ENACCT’s products will remain available through ACRP and we wish Margo and the ENACCT staff a heartfelt MAHALO (thank you) for providing a quality resource with outstanding staff and, a resounding HO’OMAU (persevere).

For more information about ACRP and its extensive and growing education programs, please visit www.acrpnet.org/pd

For more information about accessing new ENACCT/ACRP programs, please contact ACRP at office@acrpnet.org

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**Participating in the First Annual Meeting of the Mountain West CTR-IN**

The Mountain West IDeA Clinical and Translational Research—Infrastructure Network (CTR-IN) is hosted at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) and was developed as an activity of the Mountain West Research Consortium. CTR-IN represents a partnership among 13 universities across 7 states—Alaska, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Hawai‘i, and Wyoming. Its mission is to accelerate the development of capacity and the necessary institutional culture change, increase quantity, quality, and number of successful NIH grant applications in clinical and translational research, and accelerating scientific discovery to improve health in the 7 states.

The First Annual Meeting of the Mountain West CTR-IN was held at UNLV on June 23 –25, 2014. The meeting gathered 160 attendees and fostered networking, collaboration, and sharing of research. ʻImi Hale’s May Rose Dela Cruz received a travel award to present on her current HPV vaccination project titled, “Are Parents in Hawai‘i Choosing to Vaccinate their Children with the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine?” Dr. Bruce Shiramizu, CTR-IN’s Co-Director of Mentoring and University of Hawai‘i’s Professor in JABSOM’s Departments of Pediatrics and Medicine introduced the attendees to Ms. Dela Cruz’s 10 minute presentation on the preliminary outcomes of parents’ knowledge, attitudes, and factors in their decision to vaccinate their child with the HPV vaccine. Her presentation was one of many that focused on clinical and translation research in the Mountain West. Ms. Dela Cruz was in good company with fellow Hawai‘i participants including Dr. Mary Oneha of Waimānalo Health Center who was a featured speaker, Dr. Angela Sy who received CTR-IN’s Visiting Scholar Award, and Dr. Merle-Kataoka-Yahiro of UH’s School of Nursing who’s also CTR-IN’s Co-Director for Education.

Mahalo to CTR-IN for the networking opportunity and for supporting upcoming researchers. A big thank you also to RMATRIX for supporting Ms. Dela Cruz’s trip.
‘Imi Hale project director JoAnn Tsark was selected to serve as one of 19 Survivor Advocates at the 2014 7th Biennial Cancer Survivorship Research Conference held in Atlanta, GA in June and co-sponsored by ACS, US-DHHS, NIH NCI, LIVESTRONG Foundation and CDC. Advocates were selected on the basis of their research advocacy experience; the potential impact conference attendance will have on their future advocacy work, and the strength of their proposed use of tools from the conference for community education. Priority was given to applicants who had not participated in the program previously. Survivor Advocates participated in two pre-conference teleconferences, hearing from researchers in the field and from cancer survivors. The pre-conference workshop provided opportunities for Advocates to “speed network” with researchers.

**Relevance to our work at ‘Imi Hale:**

Our navigation training program has been discussing expanding our training curriculum to include more information/training on survivorship. Currently the emphasis of the curriculum is on the treatment phase of cancer care and trainees have expressed interest in survivorship.

This was a great opportunity to network with researchers from CDC, NCI, ACS on survivorship care and to learn what other advocates are doing in this area for their communities. Some examples of potential opportunities:

- Dr. Elizabeth Kvale from the University of Alabama-Birmingham School of Medicine requested information on our cancer patient navigation curriculum. She is interested in how we established competencies for navigators. Communication has already commenced between our staff and there are clearly opportunities for collaboration.

- Mr. Eric Vinson, Project Coordinator of the Northwest Tribal Comprehensive Cancer Program in Portland, OR shared a patient binder they developed for cancer patients to keep their medical information. The binder credits ‘Imi Hale’s Cancer Patient Navigation Program, in part, for the development of this resource.

- Dr. Jay S. Burton, D.O. is a cancer survivor and advocate for raising awareness among primary care physicians about the needs of cancer patients/survivors. He visits Hawai‘i regularly and is open to meeting with PCPs in Hawai‘i. We always have a PCP session at our navigation trainings to provide navigators the perspective of the patient’s PCP.

- ‘Imi Hale is always seeking quality education for our junior researchers and we learned that the conference sessions were recorded and will be available on the web in 1-2 months. We will keep everyone posted.

An added highlight in Atlanta was running into an old friend, Dr. Otis Brawley (left). Our paths cross less frequently since Dr. Brawley left NCI, but during his tenure there as the Director of the Office of Special Populations, now called the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities, he was instrumental in moving the Special Population Networks initiative forward, opening opportunities for Native Hawaiians, Asians, American Indian and other minority groups to engage and participate in cancer health disparities research through a community based participatory research approach. ‘Imi Hale was one of the 18 Special Population Networks that were launched in 2000 and is now one of 23 Community Network Program Centers. As chief medical scientific officer for the American Cancer Society, Dr. Brawley continues to tackle the tough cancer issues. See his TEDMED 2012 presentation at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctsqa7J4Ank](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctsqa7J4Ank); his 2012 presentations at Health Journalism 2012, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ho_LMBiHVg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ho_LMBiHVg), and The Commonwealth Club on Fighting Patient Mistreatment in America [http://www.youtube.com/watch?](http://www.youtube.com/watch?)
Supporting Hawai‘i’s Up-and-Coming Researchers at the Hawai‘i State Science & Engineering Fair (HSSEF)

Maveric Abella (left) of Kamehameha Schools spoke a-mile-a-minute. This eleventh-grader passionately went over the process of how she took parts of the kukui plant to see the effects on cervical cancer cells. Her science project found cytotoxic properties present in the kukui nut that inhibited growth of the cervical cancer cells. Maveric disclosed that this project peaked her interest in medicine and research. Her enthusiasm, extensive work, and innovative idea won her ‘Imi Hale’s 1st Place Sr. Division Cancer Research Award.

When asked about their science project, Karole Martin and Arvin Agacid (bottom), didn’t skip a beat in explaining how tangeretin (a natural compound) was used in their experiment to view its effects on liver cancer. This duo from Waipahu High School articulately explained how they used this compound to determine if it reduces the proliferation of liver cancer cells. Though the compound had no effect, this project and their 2nd Place Sr. Division Cancer Research Award encouraged them to continue their research.
Courtney Kikugawa (left) was so soft spoken when she was asked to describe her science project. Her voice was barely audible over the chatter of hundreds of student participants in HSSEF. However, this seventh grader’s well-made board and quick, detailed answers were loud enough to win her the 1st Place Jr. Division Cancer Research Award. In this Konawaena Middle School student’s science project, she examined which protected best from UV rays —sunscreen lotions or sunscreen sprays. Her experiment determine that sunscreen lotions worked best. In receipt of her award, she wrote a thank you letter to ‘Imi Hale stating, “It was an honor to be a recipient of your very generous award. Participating in this event was such an incredible learning experience. I can honestly say it was a big surprise for my family and I. Receiving your award lifted my confidence and assured me that anything is possible. It has encouraged me to continue my interest and efforts in the research process.” Wow—chicken skin! That’s so wonderful to hear and we are looking forward to seeing you in the research field one day, Courtney!

Our last recipient who earned a 2nd Place Jr. Division Cancer Research Award was Tabatha Knudson of Niu Valley Middle School. She was not present at the award ceremony, but we were impressed by her sunscreen protection science project also.

Congratulations to all our winners and we wish you all the best!
Oh-oh! Dr. Crabbie is Smiling!

Smiles were in tall order on April 16, 2014, when 'Imi Hale’s co-PI, Dr. Clayton Chong received the prestigious ‘O’o Award from the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, along with two other distinguished colleagues, Nainoa Thompson, Master Navigator and Noreen Mokuau, Dean of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, University of Hawai‘i. Dr. Chong was recognized for his work in oncology that spans over two decades, 14 of them with ‘Imi Hale. Dr. Chong’s family and ‘Imi Hale staff and friends were on hand to celebrate. Congratulations to Dr. Chong and all of this year’s ‘O’o Award honorees.

But wait! There’s more!

In April, The Queen’s Medical Center (QMC) honored Dr. Chong as Ke Kauka Po‘okela—Outstanding Community Based Physician of the Year. To receive this honor, physicians must not only serve the people of Hawai‘i with distinction, but also with aloha, exemplifying QMC’s C.A.R.E. Values: Compassion, Aloha, Respect and Excellence. Congratulations hana hou!

Evaluating the Impact of Colorectal Cancer Screening In-Services at Federally Qualified Community Health Centers

In Hawai‘i, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos are disproportionately affected by colorectal cancer (CRC), with the lowest screening rates in the state. Federally Qualified Community Health Centers (FQHCs) are positioned to reach a large number who may need this screening.

Since 2013, ‘Imi Hale Native Hawaiian Cancer Network has been working with FQHCs to increase CRC screening through NCI’s National Outreach Network Supplement. Through a Diversity Supplement awarded to the University of Hawai‘i, ‘Imi Hale will be able to expand the evaluation activities of this colorectal cancer education project with Hawai‘i’s FQHCs. This Diversity Supplement will focus on evaluating ‘Imi Hale’s tailored in-service and assess its impact on FQHC screening rates. This one-year supplement will support Jermy Domingo in evaluating the impact of the in-services and technical assistance, reviewing existing literature on CRC screening and screening adherence among minority and underserved populations in primary care settings, and disseminating findings to the participating FQHCs and the broader scientific community. The results will inform recommendations for best practices in increasing colorectal cancer screening promotion within Hawai‘i’s FQHCs.

(Above) Jermy Domingo
‘Imi Hale Project Director, JoAnn Tsark, ran into Dr. Otis Brawley, Chief Medical Officer, ACS, in Atlanta at the recent Survivorship Research Conference (see page 7). An old friend of Hawai’i’s, they both agreed, they haven’t changed in 20 years!

National Outreach Network
Community Health Educators
Bethesda this past June
Photo Credit: Daniel Soño

Save the Dates!
August 28 & 29, 2014
for the 7th Annual
Ho’okele i ke Ola
Cancer Patient Navigation Conference
To be held at the Pacific Beach Hotel
Honolulu, Hawai’i
To learn more: 526-1700 or hookele@papaolalokahi.org

Looking for cancer education materials?
You can download them directly from our website:
www.imihale.org

EDITORIAL STAFF
May Rose Dela Cruz, MPH
JoAnn Tsark, MPH
Kathryn Braun, DrPH

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS
Amanda Allison, MA
Jermy-Leigh Domingo, MPH
Koa Robinson, MPH

ʻImi Hale
Native Hawaiian Cancer Network
(U54CA153459-04)
A program of Papa Ola Lōkahi
894 Queen Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 526-1700
E-mail: mdelacruz@papaolalokahi.org

www.imihale.org