Congratulations Kekuni!

Our longest Steering Committee member and mentor, Dr. Kekuni Blaisdell recently celebrated his 88th birthday in the company of family and members of the Kauka Hui (Native Hawaiian Physicians Association)—all former medical students of his. A memorable celebration! Kekuni was also recently honored by Hawaiʻinuiākea, School of Hawaiian Knowledge, University of Hawaiʻi for his distinguished career as a medical practitioner, teacher, researcher, and mentor. Mahalo Kekuni for your unwavering support and guidance. *Hauʻoli la hānau iala ʻoe!*

Colorectal Cancer Screening In-service

ʻImi Hale is collaborating with four Federally Qualified Community Health Centers on Oʻahu to pilot test the impact of a culturally targeted colorectal cancer education flipchart and in-service presentation on increasing knowledge and intention of staff to promote colorectal cancer screening among their eligible client population. This is supported through a supplemental grant from the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (US4CA153459-351).

We are pleased to have Dr. Keola Beale, Oncologist, conducting the in-service sessions and fielding questions on current screening protocols. We have completed four presentations and expanding to meet the request of two additional sites. Evaluations report that the sessions are well received and show an increase in knowledge and intent to promote screening.

New Study to Learn How Cancer Patients Feel about Banking Their Tissue for Future Research

The Queen’s Medical Center is developing a Biorepository to store biospecimens, like cancer tissue, blood, and bone marrow. These materials will eventually be available to researchers who want to learn more about how to prevent and cure cancer.

Dr. Kathryn Braun, Co-PI of ʻImi Hale, is working on a study in collaboration with Queen’s Medical Center Biorepository (QMCB), to look at the attitudes of cancer patients towards donating their excess tissue for future research. Cancer patients may have biopsies or surgery as part of their cancer care. In this process, tumor or normal tissue may be removed by their surgeon or doctor. After tissue is stored for clinical and quality assurance purposes (required by law) there may be excess biospecimens that can be preserved for future research.

Dr. Braun will interview 30 cancer survivors on their opinions on when and where a patient should be approached and consented about donating his or her excess cancer tissue to research. The study also will ask if the patient is willing to donate tissue for use in any future research approved by the QMCB scientific and ethics advisory panels, or if the patient would like to be re-consented each time a researcher wishes to use his/her tissue in research. ʻImi Hale is working with QMCB staff to develop education tools tailored for their patients.

This study builds on previous work by Dr. Maile Taualiʻi, a former Queen’s Fellow at the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence and project leader of the ʻImi Hale pilot study on Native Hawaiian views on biobanking. Findings from both studies will be presented to doctors, researchers, and Queen’s administrators involved with the Biorepository to ensure survivors’ wishes are heard. The findings will help QMC develop policies and procedures for the Biorepository that are balanced and respectful.

The Queen’s Medical Center is one of 30 NCI Community Cancer Centers Programs (NCCCP) in the nation. The development of a Biorepository is a priority initiative for NCCCPs. Research on tissue can lead to the development of new medications. This type of research also can increase the ability of physicians to prescribe medications that will work best for each individual, a new field known as pharmaco-genetics that will help “personalize” medicine for each patient.
‘Imi Hale Nā Liko Noelo Feature:
Tetine Lynn Sentell, PhD
University of Hawai‘i, Office of Public Health Studies

Dr. Sentell is an Assistant Professor in Health Policy and Management in the Office of Public Health Studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Her research focuses on the complex relationship between racial/ethnic health disparities and communication factors such as literacy and English language proficiency.

Dr. Sentell first became interested on these topics as an English major undergraduate when she returned from her small, liberal arts college in Vermont to her hometown in Shreveport, Louisiana to work on a research project in a hospital. The contrast between the hospital where patients struggled to read the labels on prescription medication for their children and the literature-rich environment she was exposed to in college was striking. This experience fueled her to understand these inequities, and to discover ways to change them.

While exploring this topic, she obtained a master’s degree in Experimental Psychology where her research focused on the pervasive problems of limited literacy in psychological testing. Her research focused specifically on the impact of literacy and education on comprehension of the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI), one of the most commonly used mental health measures. She found that, though literacy was a better predictor of comprehension than education, even adults who read above an eighth grade level did not understand many BDI items that was written on a 4th-5th grade level.

Her interdisciplinary PhD program in Health Services and Policy Analysis from the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley allowed her to continue to study these issues within the broader frames of different disciplines. During this time, she was able to widen her perspective by completing a second MA degree in Political Science from UC Berkeley. The in-depth study in political science increased her understanding of the larger political system in which health and mental health are administered. Of particular concern is finding effective policy solutions for the numerous Americans who are low literate and in government sponsored health care. Because these adults are less likely to vote, as Dr. Sentell demonstrated in her political science MA thesis, these individuals’ interests may often be left out of the policy making process.

After receiving her PhD, Dr. Sentell continued to work in the area of literacy and health inequities as a NIMH Mental Health Services Post-doctoral Fellow in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco. There she considered the impact of limited English proficiency (LEP) on access to mental health care. She found that individuals with LEP were less likely to receive needed mental health services compared to those who spoke English well, even when other associated factors such as race/ethnicity, poverty, insurance status, US nativity, and length of time in the US were controlled. Because individuals who do not speak English well are largely concentrated in Asian/Pacific Islander and Latino racial/ethnic groups, LEP may contribute to racial/ethnic disparities in mental health care.

Dr. Sentell came to the University of Hawai‘i in 2009 to join the Health Policy and Management faculty in the Office of Public Health Studies. Dr. Sentell was the PI for a recent ‘Imi Hale sponsored project to consider the relationship of health literacy to cancer screening and access to cancer health information among Native Hawaiian and Filipinos. She is also an ‘Imi Hale liko (trainee).

Dr. Sentell is currently the PI for an NCI R03 considering disparities in cancer screening among Asian Americans by health literacy and for an AHRQ R21 considering maternal quality information for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, especially those with limited English proficiency and low health literacy. She is also the PI for a 5-year study funded by NIMHD under the Center for Native and Pacific Health Disparities Research concerning racial/ethnic differences in preventable hospitalizations and re-hospitalizations. She also teaches Introduction to U.S. Health Care Services, Introduction to Health Policy, and Social Determinants of Health and advises graduate students.

Dr. Sentell and her husband have two fabulous children ages 6 and 9 and one giant puppy.
Hoʻomaikeaʻi!
Celebrating Achievements

Congratulations, Hawaiʻi Healthy Aging Partnership, Winning the American Society on Aging’s Award for Multicultural Aging

In winning the 2013 Multicultural Aging award from the American Society on Aging, the Hawaiʻi Healthy Aging Partnership (HHAP) receives national recognition for its critical role in improving the health of our states multiethnic elderly population. HHAP is a statewide coalition that includes representatives of the Executive Office on Aging, the Department of Health, all four Area Agencies on Aging, service providers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and the University of Hawaiʻi, health insurers, and others. Serving as evaluators for HHAP are Dr. Kathryn L. Braun, Professor of Public Health with the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and Michiyo Tomioka, doctoral student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work.

HHAP has worked hard to make sure that their two national programs (EnhanceFitness & Chronic Disease Self Management Program) attract elders from diverse ethnic groups and are culturally competent.

Since 2007, 2,267 older adults have participated, 447 in EnhanceFitness and 1,820 in CDSMP. By ethnicity, 25% were Native Hawaiian, 25% were Japanese American, 27% were Filipino American, and 27% were Caucasian. Also since 2003, the group has secured close to $1,000,000 in federal and foundation funding to support these “healthy aging” programs. Our state and county governments also have provided funding for this important effort.

Hawaiʻi has one of the longest life expectancies in the country. Thus, it is extremely important for us to keep our elders healthy and functioning for as long as possible. HHAP goes a long way in helping Hawaiʻi meet this goal.

Maikaʻi Dr. Reni Soon on your MPH!

Reni Soon, MD, Dr. Kathryn Braun’s Liko Noelo (graduate student mentee), is a recent graduate of the University of Hawaiʻi Department of Public Health Sciences Master Degree Program in Social & Behavioral Health Sciences. Dr. Soon masterfully balanced school, her OB-GYN practice at Queen’s Medical Center, and being a parent to 2 young keiki. Her research endeavors continue with new studies—one focusing on unintended pregnancies in Hawaiʻi and the other on HPV vaccine uptake in Hawaiʻi. The HPV project builds on Dr. Soon’s pilot research with ‘Imi Hale, which focused on physician knowledge, attitudes and practices in promoting and administering the HPV vaccine to their clients.

Update on Sharde Freitas, MPH

Sharde Mersberg Freitas, another former Liko Noelo and husband Elwin welcomed daughter, Kawena’ulaokalani to their family on November 9, 2012. After receiving her MPH in 2010, Sharde entered the UH William S. Richardson Law School where she is focusing on the role of legal advocacy in health care and management and conducting key informant interviews with health care administrators.
Hawai‘i Pacific Health’s Newest Technology in Mammography and Cancer Care

Hawai‘i Pacific Health provides breast tomosynthesis, a new technology in breast mammography, available at all of their locations: Kapi‘olani Women’s Center, Pali Momi Women’s Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Women’s Center.

Tomasynthesis is different from traditional digital mammography, because it shows a series of images from multiple angles and converted into a three-dimensional image. This allows our radiologists to get a more complete picture of the breast tissue, giving them improved visibility of lesions, increased ability to size and stage masses and improved visualization and detection in women with dense breasts, reducing callbacks. Breast tomosynthesis does not replace digital mammography, but is often used in combination with a screening or diagnostic mammogram.

Another latest expansion in the HPH ‘ohana is the addition of the Pali Momi Women’s Center in the new Pali Momi Medical Pavilion. Pali Momi has quadrupled the size of its facility so that it can continue to provide care in a welcoming environment. The spacious new Women’s Center offers patients comprehensive services including a patient navigator who was trained in ‘Imi Hale’s Ho’okele i ke Ola Program, a resource library to help answer questions and house support group meetings. Pali Momi’s Women’s Center remains the only facility in West O‘ahu that offers comprehensive health services to women of all ages.

‘Imi Hale has been working with several clinical partners so that personnel who work with cancer patients are trained in patient navigation. These training activities have included facilities that are part of Hawai‘i Pacific Health (HPH) statewide. Staff from Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic and Hospital, and Wilcox Memorial Hospital have all participated in activities of the Ho’okele i ke Ola Patient Navigation Training program. From our inception, HPH staff have also been instrumental in serving as faculty and leading tours throughout various Honolulu facilities. We would like to highlight some of the recent advancements they have had in cancer care.

Upcoming Activities

Journey Together: Cancer Survivorship Conference 2013
Date: June 11, 2013, Tuesday  Time: 9 am— 4:30 pm
Where: Hale Koa Hotel, Waikīkī · Call: 692-7480

6th Annual Ho‘okele i ke Ola Cancer Patient Navigation Conference
Dates: August 8 & 9, 2013
Where: Ala Moana Hotel  Contact: E-mail: hookele@papaolalokahi.org

Ho’okele i ke Ola Webinars
April 19: Ovarian cancer with Dr. Reni Soon
E-mail: hookele@papaolalokahi.org

Oncology on Canvas
Dates: April 19 (3 pm-8pm) & April 20, 2013 (9am-3pm)
Location: 10th Flr Tripler Army Medical Center  Contact E-mail: pat.nishimoto@us.army.mil
Date: April 27, 2013 (8am-1pm)
Location: Kapi‘olani Medical Center  Contact E-mail: joycwong@aol.com
Date: April 27, 2013 (9am-3pm)
Locations: Queen Emma Tower 7  Contact E-mail: dsardinha@queens.org

NDEP Webinar: Culturally-competent Health Provider Communication—Insights from Research with Chinese, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island Diabetes Patients
May 14, 2013 at 10 a.m. featuring Nia Aitaoto, MPH, PhDc and Dr. William C. Hus, MD
To register: https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=r8vu0g2ao6qx
Navigating Data Collection

Capturing data on cancer patient navigation services is necessary to understand each navigation program and show the program’s impact on a patient’s cancer care journey. Data collection has been difficult for several reasons: (1) Data entry is time consuming for navigators, (2) Cancer care records are not always complete and widely accessible, and (3) It is challenging to identify appropriate cancer patient navigation outcomes and designing a database that can accurately capture those outcomes.

To help overcome these challenges, ‘Imi Hale has explored the use of several databases. In January 2012, we organized and convened a data workgroup comprised of experienced navigators to help inform the development of a database that is appropriate and realistic for community and clinic based cancer navigators and their clients. Utilizing the lessons learned from past databases and valuable feedback from navigators, we have developed a targeted and localized data collection tool that measures the impact of patient navigation in Hawai‘i.

The Ho‘okele i ke Ola Team is excited to announce that the Patient Navigation Database has been finalized and is currently in use at Moloka‘i General Hospital. Mahalo to all the navigators who provided feedback and tested out the various iterations of this database.

The Awesome Data Collection Workgroup (L-R) Sara Tanabe, Avette Ponce, Karli Smallwood, Pua Jeremiah, Leimomi Shearer, Holly Ho-Chee-DuPont, Amanda Allison, Nalani Perreira, Cecelia Baza, Jermy Domingo, and Midgie Taira. (Not pictured: Janice Fernandez and Terry Po‘aipuni)

Upcoming Ho‘okele i ke Ola Continuing Education Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 19, 2013</td>
<td>Ovarian Cancer</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25, 2013*</td>
<td>Biospecimens 101 *a unique Saturday event</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 21, 2013</td>
<td>Financial Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 19, 2013</td>
<td>Pancreatic Cancer</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20, 2013</td>
<td>Uterine Cancer and Obesity</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 18, 2013</td>
<td>Effective Charting for Navigators</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 15, 2013</td>
<td>Stress during treatment, survivorship, recurrences</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 6, 2013</td>
<td>Coping with loss during the holidays</td>
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We are working on making our Navigation continuing education sessions available on our website, but until that happens, you are welcome to request past webinars at hookele@papaolalokahi.org. Past webinars included: Radiation Therapy 101 with Dr. Susie Chen, Smoking Cessation during Cancer Treatment with LorrieAnn Santos MPA, Coping with the Costs of Cancer also with LorrieAnn Santos MPA, Prostate Cancer with Dr. Pat Nishimoto, and The Grief Journey with Felicia Marquez Wong, LSW.
A 2012 poll shows that over 73% of O‘ahu residents support a law for tobacco-free public beaches and parks. We are making steps in that direction. On March 25, 2013, the Honolulu City Council approved a plan to ban smoking in some of O‘ahu’s beaches. Some beaches that are affected include Waikīkī Beach, Kapi‘olani Park, Ala Moana Beach Park, and Sandy Beach. Many residents submitted testimony in strong support of the bill that voiced their concerns regarding second-hand smoke, litter, damage to our ocean ecosystem, and keiki and pets ingesting cigarette butts while playing at our beaches. This law protects the health and environment of the people who live and visit O‘ahu.

Councilmember Stanley Chang introduced the bill and it was passed with a vote of 8-1. The “no” vote was issued by Councilmember Ikaika Anderson. Mayor Kirk Caldwell signed the ban into law on April 8, 2013. Violators may face fines up to $100 for a 1st offense, $200 for a 2nd violation within a year, and $500 for violations thereafter.

Hawai‘i County also has a law where smoking is prohibited in its parks, beaches, and recreational facilities. We are hopeful this is a movement to having all of Hawai‘i’s beaches smoke-free.

2013 Legislative Session Update from the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai‘i

Bills & Resolutions still in session

HB672 HD2, SD1 Prohibits the sale and purchase of any tobacco product or vapor product to a minor under 18 and requires retailers to sell all tobacco products in a face-to-face exchange between the retailer and the consumer.

HCR64/HR49 & SCR 161/SR118 Requesting the Department of Health to conduct a study on the feasibility of prohibiting smoking on Hawai‘i’s public beaches.

HCR103/HR79 Encouraging the University of Hawai‘i administration to establish and implement a tobacco-free university policy for all university campuses and facilities.

SB642 HD1, Part 1 Require cigarettes and tobacco products to be sold only through a direct, face-to-face exchange between the retailer and consumer.

SCR 154, SD 1 Requests the Auditor to assess the social and financial effects of requiring health insurance converge for tobacco use cessation services.

Mahalo to the CTFH for keeping us politically aware and involved!
Aloha e James!

James Hadley, Director of NCI’s National Outreach Network, has retired as of March 1, 2013. Mr. Hadley has had a long and successful career at the National Institute of Health, where he has focused on a variety of topics such as child health, HIV/AIDS, asthma, and cancer— to name a few. He arrived at NCI in 2003, and eventually served as the founding Director of the National Outreach Network, which ‘Imi Hale has been a part of since its inception. It has been a privilege to work with Mr. Hadley, and he has been a tremendous advocate for community-based programs and research. We would like to wish him a heartfelt mahalo for all of his support throughout the years!

CRCHD Website Updates
The Center to Reduce Cancer Health has recently updated some of its Web pages! Here are some of the updates that you may find interesting:

Special Spotlight: National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month: The CRCHD website is currently spotlighting the effects of colorectal cancer on the population, as well as use of the Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Website to learn more poignant cancer statistics. [http://crchd.cancer.gov](http://crchd.cancer.gov)

The National Cancer Program - Managing the Nation’s Research Portfolio: An annual plan and budget proposal for FY2013: The new annual report that summarizes NCI’s key contributions to advances in cancer research and their practical consequences. [http://crchd.cancer.gov/about/priorities.html](http://crchd.cancer.gov/about/priorities.html)


R2R Webinars
Here are a few interesting R2R cyber-seminars that have been archived on the site recently:


NCI Cancer Bulletin Discontinued
After 9 years of publication, the NCI Cancer Bulletin online newsletter will no longer be published. The decision was made as part of the National Cancer Institute’s ongoing efforts to examine how best to apportion its limited cancer research resources. However, you can still look to NCI for cancer research news and information by visiting cancer.gov and using NCI’s social media channels on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. Summaries highlighting recent results from cancer clinical trials that are likely to influence clinical practice and summaries of featured clinical trials supported by NCI will continue to be produced and published on cancer.gov.
Mahalo to Lisa Harjo, MSW of the Native American Cancer Research Corp (NACR) for sharing copies of their new resource, Native People’s Wellness: Breast Cancer Prevention, Detection and Care.

Dr. Keola Beale presenting to Queen Emma Clinic staff on currentl screening practices for colorectal cancer.

Kamaile Keaunui of Waimānalo Health Center promoting colorectal cancer screening.

Rt: Brenda Larson of Coalition for a Tobacco Free HI sent us this picture she took in a parking lot of the Big Island Country Club.

Send us pics of ‘Imi Hale materials being used in your community and we’ll post it in the next newsletter!

Like Us!

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