Ke Au Hou. It’s a new era for Hawaiian Health. Papa Ola Lōkahi (POL) is reaching out to our members, health partners and beyond to explore broad, cross-sector partnerships to develop a master plan for improving the health status of Native Hawaiians across the lifespan, from keiki to kupuna.

Ke Ala Mālamalama I Mauli Ola, the Native Hawaiian Master Plan, is an effort to develop initiatives that may result in systems change and greater alignment among participating organizations. POL will serve as the backbone organization for the work of the groups.

The plan will develop a collective agenda that recognizes and addresses social determinants of health—such as access to education, safe environments, employment, culturally relevant practices and more—as areas where reinforced activities can improve Hawaiian health and well-being.

Four workgroups have formed and selected co-chairs:

♦ Research and Data. Analika Nāhulu, Ke Ola Mama; and Dr. Jacqueline Ng-Osorio, Kamehameha Schools.

♦ Systems Integration. Dr. Shawn Kana‘iaupuni, Kamehameha Schools; and Dr. Kūhiō Asam, Lunalilo Home.

♦ Education and Training. Dr. Gerard K. Akaka, Queen’s Health Systems; Mahina Paishon-Duarte, Kanu o ka Āina; and Dawn Kaw‘i Sang, Department of Education.

♦ Communications and Community Engagement. Soulee Stroud, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs; and Dr. Ha‘aheo Guanson, Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center.

These four hui began brainstorming ideas and strategies at the groups’ first meeting. Now they are meeting with additional members. Through February 2015, the four workgroups will identify... (continued page 2)
Aloha mai,

On behalf of Papa Ola Lōkahi, we wish you and your ‘ohana a Mele Kaikimaka. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to serve you this past year to promote the health and well-being of our Hawaiian people. Year 2014 has been a time of transitions, renewal and refocus.

Mahalo for the contributions of those who have transitioned from POL this year: Hardy Spoehr, Laurelle Lee, Jim Sagucio, Na’u Kamali’i, Pīlīnani Smith, Lehua Abridgo, Clay Park, and later this month, Tom Foye and Mei Ling Isaacs. We build upon their collective knowledge and aloha for our people that is the POL foundation.

Remaining staff members — Kim Ku’ulei Birnie, Gayle Bonham, Momi Fernandez, Babette Galang, Hannah Lima, Donna Oshiro and Marisa Wilson; Keaulana Holt and NHHS staff Moana Abiva, Jessica Canalin, Nani Espinda & Aaron Yoshino; and at ‘Imi Hale JoAnn Tsark, Kathryn Braun, May Rose DelaCruz, Jermy Domingo and Koa Robinson — have all renewed their efforts and dedication to carry out POL’s mandates. We have welcomed three capable staff, Kau Kawaumura, Melissa Data, and Thomas Yokota, to round out our current team.

Great strides were made as we strengthened our relationships with our federal, national, and local partners. Members of our staff have made presentations abroad in Maryland, Washington DC, New Orleans (APHA), California (EPIC, APPEAL), and more. Locally, our staff participated in the annual convention of the Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Annual Native Hawaiian Convention (CNHA), Onipa’a, and in meetings related to health workforce, cancer prevention, local food systems, fetal alcohol syndrome, kānaka pa’ahao, community based participatory research, indigenous evaluation, obesity, education, and in others’ consortiums.

As we continue addressing our mandate “…to raise the health of Native Hawaiians to the highest level possible…” we are telling our story, asking for mana’o (wisdom) and pa’ahana (diligence) to collectively impact the health and wellness of our people.

The effort to create Ke Ala Mālamalama I Mauli Ola, a Hawaiian Health Master Plan, can be likened to a hukilau, where community comes together to ho’olaulima, to cast the net wide and with many hands working together, bring in the abundance for the good of all.

Hau’oli Makahiki Hou! As we embark on a new year, we wish you good health and look forward to the journey ahead.

Sharlene Chun-Lum, Executive Director

E kuahui like i ka hana. Let everybody pitch in and work together.

Ke Ala Mālamalama Master Planning continued...
existing resources, plans, and policies that may impact our efforts, reaching out to new partners, and prioritizing key action items.

By March 2015, the groups’ priorities and objectives will go out for review. In town hall settings, we’ll invite kūpuna mana’o and seek feedback from communities across Hawai’i.

By the fall of 2015, the initial planning phases of Ke Ala Mālamalama I Mauli Ola will be completed. As the work advances, POL will post related reports, documents, and the groups’ working drafts to our website at www.papaolalokahi.org.

You are invited to communicate with us about the master planning process via e-mail at masterplan@papaolalokahi.org.

The master plan is a dynamic process that will align our efforts to travel the pathway of health and well-being for our people. Hui pū, join together, in building upon the efforts of our ancestors and kūpuna to restore lōkahi to Hawaiians everywhere.

E ola mau nā kānaka maoli!
Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program

2014-2015 Scholars

Alyssa Ann Kaʻihilani CHUN
2nd Year Medical Student, University of Hawai‘i John A. Burns School of Medicine. BS Biology, Santa Clara University ‘10. Hometown: Kāneʻohe, Oʻahu.

Allison HIGA-HOWERTON
1st Year Masters Level Physicin's Assistant Student, Duke University School of Medicine. BS in Exercise Science, Creighton University, ‘11. Hometown: Mālili, Oʻahu.

Jon Keali‘i INCIONG
2nd Year Masters in Social Work Student, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. BA Liberal Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. Hometown: Wailuku, Maui.

Michelle Frances Nāpuamomilani IZZI

Sharolyn Mele KAUI
4th Year Bachelors in Nursing Student, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. AS in Nursing, Kapiʻolani Community College, ‘03. Hometown: Kālia, Kauaʻi.

Abraileen Lehuanani KELIʻINUI

Cory Keahiokauwela LEHANO
4th Year Doctorate in Pharmacy, Regis University. BS in Biology, Brigham Young University – Hawai‘i, ’10. Hometown: Wailuku, Maui.

Dara Lynn Fumiko Kamomiono‘eau PAGADUAN
1st Year Masters in Nursing Student, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. BA in Hawaiian Language and Psychology, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, ‘12. Hometown: Honolulu, Oʻahu.

Rayna Leimomi PIA
4th Year Bachelors in Nursing Student, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. AS in Nursing, Kaua‘i Community College, ’01. Hometown: Līhuʻe, Kaua‘i.

Sandi Kuʻuleinani RABACA

Melorie Piʻikea YUEN

E hoʻomaikaʻi iā lākou!
We’re so pleased to congratulate 13 exceptional Hawaiian scholars studying 6 different health professions.

All total, 245 awards have been made through the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program since 1991. This year, 11 graduates from earlier cohorts have entered the workforce in underserved areas on Maui, O‘ahu and Hawai‘i Islands. Training Hawaiians to serve Hawaiians on all islands. Lanakila!

The NHHSP online application process is open now through March 1, 2015 at www.nhhsp.org.
In 2006, 'Imi Hale launched Ho'okele i ke Ola, our Cancer Patient Navigation Training program, in response to requests from Community Outreach Staff of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems seeking skills to help their clients who were experiencing cancer.

Developed with data gathered from Hawaiian patients and their family members, outreach workers and cancer care providers, Ho'okele i ke Ola remains the only evidence-based Cancer Patient Navigation training in Hawai'i.

Today, 'Imi Hale has conducted 14 6-day trainings, graduated 189 individuals from across the islands, produced 7 Annual Cancer Navigation conferences, and more than 30 continuing education sessions for navigators. There are 17 hospital-based Navigator positions, and numerous others in health service positions who report using their navigation skills on the job.

Our training program started with a grant from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs that was subsequently supported with funds from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and HRSA. Support for our annual conferences and continuing education sessions have come from various sources including the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Hawai'i Affiliate; the Department of Health; and the Safeway Foundation.

More incredible are the faculty that provide the cancer expertise. It takes about 30 faculty to complete one 48-hour training that covers 14 competencies. Since 2006 we have had 242 different experts provide from 1 to 17 sessions for our training program. They include oncologists, radiologists, primary care physicians, nurses, social workers, cancer survivors, staff from enabling service agencies and other navigators.

An annual highlight is our Ho'okele i ke Ola Conference, which convenes graduates and other interested service providers.

Enjoy the pictures from this year’s conference, held on August 28 & 29 at the Pacific Beach Hotel.

More details about the conference will be included in 'Imi Hale’s upcoming Winter Newsletter. For more information about the Ho’okele i ke Ola program contact Amanda Allison, 808-526-1700. To see highlights of our past trainings and conferences, visit our page on the 'Imi Hale website. To learn more about 'Imi Hale’s activities, to see our latest newsletter, or to download any of our health education materials, visit our website at www.imihale.org.

A panel of cancer patient navigators shared their experiences and challenges in navigating patients from across the state of Hawai'i.

Screening of the film “The Story of Eb” at the Annual Ho’okele i ke Ola, Cancer Patient Navigator Summit, in August brought attention to social and health concerns of Marshallese in Hawai'i. Writer and star Jonathin Jackson and director Andrew Williamson stand with POL staff (L-R) Jeremy-Leigh Domingo, Amanda Allison, JoAnn Tsark, and Nia Aitaoto. All photos courtesy 'Imi Hale.
POL welcomes new members to the staff

I ku ka makemake hele mai, hele no me ka malo’elo’e.

Melissa Luana Data
Special Projects/Policy Specialist

Melissa Luana Data is a graduate of The Kamehameha Schools and the University of Washington, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, followed by a Master of Social Work concentrating in Multi-Ethnic Practice. She enjoys working with children, youth and families, and has deep roots in Kalihi, O’ahu.

Melissa is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and has been in practice as a therapist. Most recently, Melissa was the Director of Behavioral Health and Social Services at Kalihi-Palama Health Center, where she provided direct services and supervised community health educators and eligibility workers, and behavioral health clinicians.

She was a member of Ho’owaiwai Nā Kamali’i’s Honolulu Advisory Council, and is a former board member of a Seattle-based chapter of a national civil rights organization. She has paddled for several canoe clubs in Honolulu and Seattle, and has crossed the Kaiwi channel twice.

Melissa is originally from Kahalu’u, O’ahu, where she lives with her family. Her ancestral home is on Maui.

Georgina Kawamura
Controller

Georgina Kawamura was the Director of the State of Hawai’i’s Department of Budget and Finance. She was responsible for the State’s operating and capital improvements budget. She was also responsible for overall policies regarding investments and financing programs for the State.

Before being appointed to the cabinet position by Governor Linda Lingle in 2002, Georgina was with Castle & Cooke Resorts on Lāna’ī — where she was born and raised — as a Staff Planner and previously worked for 24 years with the County of Maui.

In the past, Georgina has served on the Lihikai School PTA; Maui Community College Provost Advisory Council; Kaho’olawe Island Reserve Commission; Friends of Moku’ula; and the Board of the Ka Hale Ake Ola Homeless Resource Center. During her tenure with the State, she was on the Board of Trustees of the State of Hawai’i Employees’ Retirement System, State Deferred Compensation Plan, and the Hawai’i Housing and Finance Development Corporation. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.

Thomas Yokota
Health Data & Resource Specialist

Thomas Yokota is a recent graduate of the University of Hawai’i’s Master of Public Health program. He has a Bachelor’s Degree in English, a Master’s Degree in Educational Foundations, and Post-Baccalaureate in K-12 Special Education.

He is interested in data literacy and reproducible research. He has been a research assistant at Ke Ola Mamo and the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, where he fostered an affinity for transparent research and data reporting for the purposes of improving health outcomes.

Since completing his studies, Thomas has used his knowledge in both epidemiology and statistics for early childhood advocacy and health promotion. He is passionate about data that informs program development, policy making and advocacy, and accessing resources for the Hawaiian community.

More recently, he has been spending Saturday mornings with his son chasing garbage trucks.

Aloha iā lakou

We bid farewell and best wishes to our colleagues: Mei-Ling Isaacs, who helped to found, and more recently managed the NHHCs’ Institutional Review Board (IRB); and Tom Foye, long-time director of planning and resource development, who came to POL from the Kamehameha Schools with the transition of the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program. Both are retiring at the end of the year. As summer ended, so did our time with W. Clay Park of the Native Hawaiian Veterans Education Project. Each worked with passion and commitment for the well-being of those we serve.
More than 200 attendees participated in ten training workshops in Honolulu, Līhuʻe, Hilo, Waimea, and Kailua-Kona, sponsored by POL’s Census Information Center (CIC). Trainers were Jerry Wong, Information Specialist with the L.A. Regional Census Office; Earlene Dowell, Lead Technical Marketing and Training Consultant from Census Bureau headquarters, and the CIC Director.

- **Census Data for Grant Writers.** Eight workshops held in August on 3 islands, 180 participants.

- **Honolulu Fire Department data training.** HFD headquarters seeking data for planning management areas and grant proposals, September, 20 City & County employees attended.

- **American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year data, the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) updated data tool, Census Mapper, the Easy Stats tool and the re-designed Census Bureau website.** October workshop, Honolulu, 25 participants.

The ACS also released some interesting and useful data sets this fall.

- **ACS-3 year data that provides disaggregated data on Native Hawaiians,** released in October.

- **ACS-5 year data that aggregates the Native Hawaiian &Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI) race category,** released in December.

ACS data relevant to Hawaiʻi can be found at the [DBEDT website](http://www.hawaii.gov/dbedt/). Mahalo to our CIC Data Partners who provided workshop training facilities. Data resources can be found on our website at www.papaolalokahi.org. For information about Census data, or to schedule a training, please contact Momi Fernandez at 808-597-6550.

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**Kupuna Councils meet on Maui and Kauaʻi**

Hui Kūpuna, Nāwiliwili, Kauaʻi, November 2014: (Standing L-R) Dane Kaohē Silva, Pamela Matsuda, Analika Nāhulu, Sunny Greer, Babette Galang, Bobby Alcain, Sharlene Chun-Lum, Lyons Kapiʻiohookalani Nāone, Ginger Saiki, Gerald Lam, Irwin Eli, Ikaika Dombrigues; (Sitting L-R) Loretta Hussey, Aunty Betty Jenkins, Kailihiwa Kipapa and our host Sean Chun.

Practice, preservation and perpetuation—these are the matters of importance around Hawaiian healing traditions. Understanding that each island, each community, will differ somewhat over the needs and delivery of traditional healing, the Kupuna Councils have been able to share many common themes. With OHA’s support, POL has convened members of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems’ Kupuna Councils—on Maui in August, and Kauaʻi in November—to build relationships. Additional meetings are scheduled in 2015.

In January 2015, kūpuna council members will brief the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, chaired by Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, and the House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs, chaired by Rep. Kaniela Ing, on Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes 453-2, and other issues that may impact the practice and perpetuation of Hawaiian healing traditions.

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**Ke Ola Mamo welcomes Tulsi**

Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard dedicated the month of August to health and wellness, visiting providers and agencies throughout the Islands, learning about the challenges, programs, services and workforce, and welcoming stories of success and well-being.

“Without Native Hawaiian culture, Hawaiʻi would not be what it is,” Gabbard addressed Ke Ola Mamo’s rural outreach workers. “Hawaiian values, the Aloha Spirit, the way you overcome obstacles to serve your communities, is directly tied to servant leadership.”

She talked about the political climate in Washington and the challenges in advancing indigenous issues, but assured the group that the entire Hawaiʻi delegation remains diligent.

“Your strength in advocacy is in your storytelling. Keep telling your stories,” Gabbard rallied. “Tell us your stories, so we can work for you.”

The Congressmember from District 2 visited Ke Ola Mamo on August 13th and Hōʻola Lāhui on the 29th. A visit to Hui Mālama in Hilo was postponed due to Hurricane Iselle.
How will Census 2020 count Hawaiians?

The Census Information Center (CIC) has been on the forefront of activism for how the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI) race group will be printed on the Census 2020 survey panels. In Census 2000 and 2010, Native Hawaiians (NH) could self-identify with their check box.

The diverse NHOPI population, which increased 40% from Census 2000 to 2010, has 22 distinct ethnicities and nationalities. Yet, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Directive 15 revised 1997, delineates 16 detailed races (including Native Hawaiian) that make up the Pacific Islander race group identifier. Now, the Census Bureau proposes to combine the NHOPI race identifier check box and add a write-in line for completion to self-identify (such as illustrated above), again risking the undercount of detailed Pacific Islanders.

At the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs’ (AHCC) annual convention this year, it passed Resolution 14-21, co-authored by POL’s CIC, resolving to “…SUPPORT NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER DETAILED RACES PRINTED ON CENSUS 2020 SURVEY PANELS.”

“Having a Census that details who we and other Pacific Islanders are will provide accurate, detailed data that will inform our communities’ work to improve the health, the education and the welfare of our people,” says Soulee Stroud, president of AHCC 2010-2014.

Public comment is invited through December 30, 2014. POL’s CIC will remain vigilant by continuing to participate in the discussions of race and Census 2020.

Executive Hui

Our executive director and the EDs of the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems meet every month to discuss common issues, areas of collaboration, and opportunities to share resources.

NIU MAKAA Makali‘i 2014


Masthead courtesy Bill Harby. All other images by Kim Ku‘ulei Birnie, unless otherwise credited.

Loretta O. deFries Hussey was awarded the 2014 Hawaiian Health Award at CNHA’s 13th Annual Native Hawaiian Convention for her contributions to improving the health of Native Hawaiians and their families.

Aunty Loretta served the State as a public health nurse for more than 26 years, beginning in 1968. She was recruited to help assess the health status of Native Hawaiians for the 1983 Native Hawaiians Study Commission, a Report on the Culture, Needs and Concerns of Native Hawaiians—the catalyst to bringing together Hawaiians working in medical and allied health areas to look more robustly at our health and well-being—and E Ola Mau, the Native Hawaiian Health Needs Study in 1985.

She helped organize the hui of practitioners, Kūpuna La‘au Lapa‘au o Hawai‘i, and kept it running even after the passing of its po‘okela, Papa Henry Auwae. “Perpetuating the cultural integrity of our healing practices upholds the teachings and traditions of our kūpuna,” stresses Aunty Loretta.

Today, she represents E Ola Mau on Papa Ola Lōkahi’s board and serves as its secretary and treasurer. She is also a lay kahu at her hale pule, Ka Makua Mau Loa, in Kalihi.

Papa Ola Lōkahi honors Aunty Loretta’s early involvement in the development of a field called Hawaiian health, and that she continues to promote the excellence of our ancestors. Her course on the Papa Ola Lōkahi canoe has been steady and true. She has helped navigate us toward a healthy Hawai‘i.
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