In the photo above: Erin Pinto and 2021 Hawaii Healthcare Hero, Luisa Ogawa, MSN, APRN-Rx, NP-C, RN-BC, Continuing Care Nurse Practitioner at Kaiser Permanente
President’s Message

We could look back at FY22 and think of it as the year we made it through some of the toughest challenges of the pandemic: three COVID-19 surges, ongoing mass vaccination of the population, averting a critical shortage of liquefied oxygen, ongoing healthcare staffing shortages, and ever-changing regulatory requirements.

But I’d like for us to look ahead and see FY23 as the time we emerge successfully on the other side. The pandemic is not over and COVID-19 will be with us for many years to come, but we are well on our way to addressing our future challenges, as you will see in the pages of this year’s Member Value document.

We’ve already carefully started to resume some in-person meetings here at HAH. And this month (July) we expect to participate with our HAH members in our first Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) in four years. Also this month, we look forward to seeing you at our first in-person HAH Annual Meeting since 2019.

Next month will be our first in-person Advocacy Day in three years, and then in October we plan to cap off the year with our HAH Awards and Scholarship Gala. In the fall, we will also be releasing our first Healthcare Workforce Report since the inaugural report in 2019.

There are multiple other initiatives: a Perinatal Collaborative that is making progress in improving maternal health, expanded data options through our Laulima Data Alliance, and multiple workforce initiatives and partnerships designed to strengthen our healthcare workforce pipeline.

This is an ambitious agenda, set against the backdrop of a pandemic that is still in progress and highly unpredictable. New variants keep emerging and people are tired of dealing with all the twists and turns of this pandemic. The health and safety of our HAH members and staff is of utmost importance, and we will continue to adjust and adapt as necessary.

HAH exists to serve you, our members, and the talented and dedicated HAH team will continue to support you however we can. Is a waiver needed so that traveler healthcare staff can be brought in? Do we need clarification of federal or state rules on infection control? What is the latest masking guidance? We will find the answers.

Together we will face this new fiscal year and continue to serve the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for your collaboration, your perseverance, your dedication to your patients and residents, and for your membership with HAH. We are very appreciative.

Hilton R. Raethel, MPH, MHA
President and CEO
The political and economic landscape in the state changed drastically in the interim between the 2021 and 2022 legislative session. Going into the 2021 session, there was discussion of deep cuts to programs, including the Medicaid program, that required HAH to advocate on behalf of its members in terms of the need for adequate reimbursements to continue the COVID-19 response. In 2022, an accelerated recovery and tax revenues meant there was opportunity to seek some state support, especially funding, for our members.

The biggest priority for HAH this year in terms of legislation was securing $18 million in funding for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), community care homes, and Expanded Adult Residential Care Homes (E-ARCHs) to help ensure access for Medicaid enrollees. With the federal match, this will total around $40 million of Medicaid funding that will be infused into the long-term care community at this critical time. Federal resources, especially Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding for staffing, were generally not available to SNFs and they were forced to stretch every dollar to ensure adequate personal protective equipment (PPE), testing, and staffing during the Delta and Omicron surges. This money is a one-time benefit and will not solve the underlying issues, especially with staffing, that are facing our member providers—however, it is a meaningful and deeply appreciated infusion to a critical industry.

HAH also supported other measures that will benefit HAH members. This includes a bill to provide almost $7 million to fund loan repayment programs for various healthcare professionals, and to expand Graduate Medical Education (GME) slots on the neighbor islands. We also supported coverage expansion for Medicaid enrollees who qualify for the program under the pregnancy benefit from 2 months postpartum to 12 months postpartum, which also helps to address our priority of ensuring health equity and addressing maternal health. We were also able to push back on bills that would have negatively affected our members, including prohibitions on mandatory overtime and nurse staffing ratios.

On the federal level, HAH advocated strongly on behalf of provider relief funds for members, and for continuing needed flexibilities provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). HAH will continue to push strongly for increased reimbursement for members, workforce initiatives, and other federal priorities as needed.
As the COVID-19 pandemic raged on through the year, many hospitals, nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, type II adult residential care homes, home health agencies and hospices continued to experience financial hardship. To address the fiscal burden, Congress authorized $8.5 billion in additional funds for providers who service rural Medicaid patients, and an additional $17 billion in Provider Relief Funds (PRF) through the CARES and American Rescue Plan Acts for healthcare providers. The aid covers additional expenses and losses incurred due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), which continues to affect us all today.

HAH has continued to assist its members in monitoring federal reporting and other requirements for appropriate use of the relief funds, while also advocating for better and clearer reporting and auditing requirements and standards.

Throughout FY22, HAH additionally:

- Tracked PRF tranches and targeted distributions to ensure that HAH members received maximum aid available.
- Identified and communicated emerging and evolving reporting and auditing requirements for the PRF and other government-sponsored funding opportunities.
- Developed & received Med-QUEST & the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval for a new Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) calculation, maximizing the equity between facilities in the final distribution of funds.
- Partnered with Med-QUEST & Milliman to remodel and communicate Provider Tax Program changes such as:
  1) the Med-QUEST proposed transition to Inpatient DRG Reimbursements.
  2) the Med-QUEST proposed, and CMS required, transition from supplemental access payments to prospective, utilization-based payments.
  3) ongoing application of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) enhancements.
- Renegotiated Med-QUEST Hospital Pay-for-Performance (P4P) terms for CY21 & CY22 to minimize impact to the program in light of the increased state Medicaid population and decreased state budget.
HAH’s Healthcare Workforce Initiative started in 2018 and focused on identifying the healthcare workforce supply and demand and building relationships. In 2020, a two-person HAH workforce team was hired to lead collaborative workforce solutions with state-wide stakeholders. In 2021, workforce challenges continued to be a high priority need for members, which led to the recent hiring of Colleen Leopoldino, Manager of Workforce Development. Colleen L. will be working with Hawaii high schools to expand certificate programs and support healthcare profession “glidepaths”, which are efficient and cost-effective earn and learn progression pathways for working individuals. A glidepath enables employees to advance health education credentials while remaining employed and serves as a tool that employers can use to attract and retain their workforce.

Here are some additional ways that HAH strengthened Hawaii’s healthcare workforce this year:

- In support of the COVID-19 surge staffing, HAH partnered with the Hawaii State Department of Health and Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA), to secure Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding for out-of-state clinicians totaling $147 million including a FEMA benefit of over $90 million. HAH and SH Consulting pioneered a first-in-nation financial methodology that enabled Hawaii to utilize FEMA funding for out-of-state clinicians. HAH managed both Delta and Omicron surge staffing projects to deploy over 1,600 ProLink supplementary clinicians for HAH members and additionally supported extensive FEMA billing and audit requirements.
- In March, with the end of the Governor’s COVID-19 emergency proclamation, HAH partnered closely with members and Hawaii State entities to minimize staffing disruptions resulting from the out-of-state nurse licensure waiver expiration.
- In 2021, HAH partnered with the UH Community College system to launch nine entry-level health certificate programs which included transition-to-employment support for Certified Nurse Aid (CNA), Phlebotomist, and Patient Service Representative cohorts totaling 130 students.
- HAH also partnered with UH Maui College, Hale Makua/Ohana Pacific Health, Hawaii State Center for Nursing, Kapi‘olani Community College, UH Community College system, and other stakeholders to create a new License Practical Nurse (LPN) program for working CNAs. This practical nursing program will increase the LPN workforce and attract new CNAs to the workforce. The program will open admissions this fall at UH Maui College for a January 2023 launch as the first glidepath program model.
- In support of high school programs, HAH secured both private and public funding sources to educate over 100 high school students in entry-level certificate programs with transition-to-employment support. These programs will launch in early 2023 and will also focus on addressing healthcare workforce equity for communities that are underserved and underrepresented.

HAH continued to build and strengthen partnerships with community and education partners such as Hawaii high schools, the UH Community College System, Kamehameha Schools, Area Health Education Center, Hawaii State Center for Nursing, Department of Education Career and Technical Education, Chamber of Commerce, UH Mānoa, Chaminade, funders, educators, and community organizations. We are extremely grateful to work with such outstanding collaborative partners.
Quality

Med-QUEST Pay for Performance (P4P)

Each year, HAH is instrumental in assisting the hospitals in negotiating certain terms of the Med-QUEST Pay-for-Performance (P4P) program, as well as assist Med-QUEST with the administration of the program and calculation of the quality scoring for the program. This past year, HAH was again instrumental in re-negotiating the Med-QUEST Hospital P4P terms to minimize the impact of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) and subsequent increased Medicaid population.

After an 18-month delay, HAH also helped the skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) finally kick off their inaugural Med-QUEST P4P program, which began January 1, 2021. Despite the delay, HAH continued negotiations on the program structure in the face of an unsteady Medicaid population and economic climate, successfully ensuring the thresholds and baselines were not adversely affected by the pandemic. As is done with the Hospital P4P program, HAH assisted Med-QUEST with the administration of the SNF P4P program, as well as the calculation of the quality scoring for the SNFs.

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) & Perinatal Quality Collaboratives

As part of the Hospital P4P efforts, HAH helped to organize and facilitate two quality collaboratives – one with all hospitals, and the other with all birthing facilities in the state.

The Social Determinants of Health Collaborative consists of representatives from all member hospitals across the state of Hawaii. Through the collaborative efforts, led by the HAH team, all facilities were able to successfully implement three standardized housing and food insecurity screening questions into their practice workflows, along with a standardized coding workflow to ensure that there is consistency across facilities in the identification of these Social Risk Factors within the state’s population. HAH focused on guiding member hospitals through the implementation of the Social Risk Factor (SRF) & Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) screening and coding workflows to ensure all the hospitals’ efforts are reflected in the data.

The Perinatal Quality Collaborative has representatives from all hospitals that provide birthing services. The previous year, HAH partnered with American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) to bring together hospitals and community organizations to successfully submit and receive approval for the National Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) collaborative membership in the Spring 2021 cohort.

The group quickly got to work to implement the ACOG recognized and approved Severe Hypertension and Obstetric Hemorrhage Patient Safety Bundles. HAH further partnered with representatives from ACOG & other community organizations to provide education, guidelines and implementation support and resources to the hospitals as they worked to complete the Patient Safety Bundle implementation.
Maunalani Nursing and Rehabilitation Center was recognized in June as a 2022 recipient of the Silver – Commitment to Quality Award for its dedication to improving the lives of residents through quality care. Maunalani was previously awarded a Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award in 2018.

The award is conferred through the National Quality Award Program run by an HAH national affiliate, the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL), the nation's leading association for long-term and assisted living organizations. The program honors providers across the nation that have demonstrated commitment to improving quality of care for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Earlier in the year, HAH Senior Director, Reimbursement and Quality, Cathi Ben-Yossef attended The American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) Quality Summit that was held from May 16 - 18, 2022 at The Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center in Kissimmee, Florida. Cathi served as a panelist on the Value Based Purchasing breakout session where she presented the Hawaii State Medicaid SNF Pay for Performance (P4P) program development process and design. The Summit also provided key-note speakers and a variety of break-out sessions that covered subjects such as building a strong workforce, quality care and improvement, strategies to prepare for surveys, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, self-care, quality awards, emergency preparedness and life safety, goals in supporting care and services for residents, trauma informed care during the pandemic, effective leadership, and building trust with residents and their families.

Hawaii continues to rank highly in the percentage of residents and staff who have been fully vaccinated and who have received a booster. As of April 2022, out of the 50 states, Hawaii’s nursing homes were ranked fifth for the percentage of fully vaccinated residents, sixth for percentage of boosted residents, fourth for percentage of fully vaccinated staff, and fifth for percentage of boosted staff.
As the pandemic entered its second year, HAH has continued to provide robust support to the Association’s post-acute care members. This included applying for and obtaining additional funding from a variety of local, state, federal, and community sources to support the needs of post-acute care members. During the peaks of the Delta and Omicron surges, we reconvened more frequent meetings of our post-acute care members to share the most current information about COVID-19, address changing public health guidance, and discuss emergent challenges.

HAH also continued to provide regular updates to help post-acute care members understand and comply with regulatory requirements from the state and federal government. This included summaries of the federal government’s new vaccine requirements for healthcare providers as well as compliance resources available from government entities and national affiliates. Home health members also received detailed overviews of the federal government’s upcoming value-based purchasing program scheduled to begin in 2023. We have also embarked on a deep dive of reimbursement issues for hospice members and are engaging payers to address value-based purchasing implementation challenges.

HAH also supported its post-acute care members in the following ways.

- Conducted a pay rate survey for long-term care, assisted living, and adult residential care home members to capture pandemic-related wage effects and enable strategic planning efforts for participating facilities.
- Secured a renewal of the state waiver from the Office of Healthcare Assurance (OHCA) to allow non-physician practitioners to certify orders for home health beyond the end of the state emergency proclamation.
- Coordinated with the Hawaii State Department of Health and vaccine providers to ensure adequate member access to – and uptake of – booster doses for residents and staff.
- Continued sending weekly updates on county-level COVID-19 transmission rates to long-term care members to ensure that they are following the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements for regular testing of staff who are not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Connected members with BinaxNOW test kits from Hawaii Healthcare Emergency Management during the Delta and Omicron surges.
- In response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) contingency staffing guidance, HAH conducted weekly surveys of long-term care members to monitor the proportion of facilities experiencing staffing difficulties during the Omicron surge.
- Worked with national affiliates to provide resources, support, and guidance to members during the pandemic.
As vaccinations continued to be administered throughout the year, HAH worked with its members and government and community partners to vaccinate those who were most difficult to reach. These included people who don’t speak English as a first language, who could not get to a vaccination site, or who need a different type of cultural approach.

For those who have difficulty in reaching a vaccination site, HAH worked with the Hawaii Public Health Institute, the state’s Executive Office on Aging and Department of Health, other nonprofit or pharmacy partners to spread the word that in-home vaccinations were available.

HAH created the first ad for this program and arranged the media buys, while the Hawaii Public Health Institute got the grant money from Kaiser Permanente to pay for the campaign. Staff from the Hawaii State Department of Health gave valuable feedback on the ads, and the ad buys, and the campaign ran for nine months. Flyers were also created, and eventually, the information was translated into other languages.

Overall, more than 2,000 at home COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered on three islands through this program (Kauai had its own program). The recipients were kūpuna who have mobility issues, children and adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities, and people with challenges such as agoraphobia (type of anxiety disorder), or trypanophobia (extreme fear of needles).
HHEM commemorated its 20-year anniversary in 2022. It started out as HAH Emergency Services and the Director was Toby Clairmont. Under Toby's leadership, HAH Emergency Services established acute care modules/tents, 40-foot hospital area cache containers, and contingency communications network throughout the state. The HHEM coalition is an all hazards, comprehensive emergency management, federally-funded program that is subsidized with new coalition member annual sustainability fees. It is also the only state in the nation to include the entire healthcare spectrum.

During the pandemic, HHEM played a key role in making sure healthcare organizations and coalition members provided quality care for patients and residents.

- Provided weekly information and situational updates to its members, Hawaii State Department of Health, and other agencies in the form of a situational update (SitRep).
- Provided logistical support by moving about 1.9 million items to members statewide in the form of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other support to help maintain healthcare.
- Utilized emergency operations center (EOC) to coordinate response to requests that come in for needs.
- Updated HHEM infrastructure that include warehouse operations and IT systems.
- Deployed coalition tent systems to help handle Delta and Omicron surges.
- Improved contingency communications and monthly tests.
- Planned for statewide coalition Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise that takes place in July 2022.
- Updated Hospital Area Cache (HAC) containers that are strategically placed throughout the state with new supplies.
During 2021, Laulima Data Alliance (Laulima) continued to support hospital leadership, state and county officials and community leaders by producing the following COVID-19 reports and charts:

- Daily hospital census report tracking total bed capacity, staffed intensive care unit (ICU) bed capacity and ventilator usage statewide and by county.

Since their introduction in March 2019, Laulima’s Tableau Data Dashboards have been well received. The ability to easily and quickly view and navigate data has helped hospital and community members with their healthcare operations, research, and projects.

Laulima has begun to branch out beyond standard inpatient and outpatient utilization data. Laulima, in partnership with the Iowa Hospital Association, developed and published during 2021 new dashboards on Telemedicine, Average Daily Census, Chronic Conditions, and Predictive Analytics.

In addition, Laulima hospital data was used to support a Med-QUEST Hospital Pay-for-Performance program measure, and several Hawaii Department of Health research projects.

Laulima continuously seeks feedback from hospital and community members to find out their data needs, which has led to current work on developing tools and dashboards on Social Determinants of Health.

In February 2017, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii established Laulima Data Alliance, a nonprofit wholly owned 501(c)(3) subsidiary. Laulima’s participating hospitals and community partners have access to a web-based Data Reporting Program and receive readmission reports, Medicare payment policies, and other reports to support their decision-making and efforts to continuously improve the quality and cost-efficiency of healthcare services provided to the people of Hawaii.
COVID-19 Education

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) brings value to its members by providing supplemental educational opportunities, many of which offer continuing education credit. Educational topics are determined in response to healthcare-related regulatory trends and updates, quality initiatives, and member input.

In fiscal year 2021-2022, HAH collaborated with local and national partners including the Hawaii State Department of Health (HDOH), the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (UH JABSOM) Department of Geriatric Medicine, Mountain Pacific Quality Health, Pu‘ulu Lapa‘au, Hawai‘i Pacific Health, University of Massachusetts Medical School, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) to provide virtual education and resources for the benefit of its members.

FY22 educational activities included:

- Cultivating Long-Term Care Leaders: Topics in Regulatory, Legal and Compliance Management (12-Month Series)
- Project ECHO AHRQ (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality) National Nursing Home COVID-19 Program Continuation Phase (Weekly Series – Limited Duration)
- Meet the Challenges of Your Infection Prevention & Control Program post COVID-19 (Three-Part Series)
- Standards of Care: Master the Core Elements of Long-Term Care Clinical Excellence (12-Month Series)
- OSHA's COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS)
- Q&A with the Hawaii State Department of Health (Monthly in 2021; Quarterly in 2022)
- The Critical Role of Monoclonal Antibodies as the COVID-19 Pandemic Continues
- Monoclonal Antibodies – What You Need to Know
- Ransomware Preparedness & Response
- Skin Health (Two-Part Series)
- Joint Commission Resources Education Program (Two-Day Conference)
- Survey Success! Avoiding Top Citations (12-Month Series)
- Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) Long-Term Care Learning Action Network (Monthly Series)
- Winning the Fall Prevention Battle (Eight-Week Series)
- AHCA (American Health Care Association) Virtual Workshop (Four-Day Conference)
- A Deeper Look at Healthcare Acquired Infections (Six-Part Series)
- The Science of Compassion (Three-Part Series)
HAH decided not to hold its in-person Awards & Scholarship Gala due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, HAH staff time and resources were devoted to supporting Hawaii’s hospitals, post-acute care facilities, home health agencies and hospices to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

HAH invested in Hawaii’s healthcare workforce with the Hawaii Hospital Education and Research Foundation (HHERF) healthcare scholarships. Employees of HAH member organizations and their immediate family members were eligible to apply for healthcare scholarships of $500 to $2,000 to cover professional certification and healthcare-related degrees.

Five students received scholarships, and HAH’s first ever direct scholarship fund drive netted more than $6,000 from donors, as well as $8,000 from Kaiser Permanente. These funds are supporting scholarship recipients in 2022, since there was no Silent Auction or Gala in 2021.
HAH works year-around to elevate the positive image of Hawaii’s healthcare systems.

This past fiscal year, HAH supported the pandemic efforts by encouraging vaccination, distributing accurate COVID-19 information, and portraying the hard work of HAH member organizations. Some members were caring for more patients while trying to vaccinate their communities, and others worked hard at vaccinating their residents and staff to prevent outbreaks in their facilities.

HAH President and CEO Hilton Raethel continued to deliver accurate information through news media outlets so that timely and dependable information could reach the public.

HAH Update (weekly e-newsletter)
- 965 subscribers
- Open rate 31%
HAH supported Hawaii through its second, third and fourth surges of the pandemic over the past year, encompassing the waves of disease caused by the Delta and Omicron COVID-19 variants.

The Delta wave in August and September of 2021 was arguably the deadliest of the four COVID-19 surges Hawaii has experienced. The Omicron wave in late 2021 through early 2022 had the most cases and steepest surge in infections.

Because of these surges, and ongoing pandemic work, HAH switched to an online Annual Meeting in July 2021. Having cancelled the 2020 Annual Meeting entirely, HAH in 2021 featured live speakers from our national affiliates.

In August, HAH had its second online Advocacy Day, allowing HAH members to decide on their priorities for the coming year without risking infection from an in-person event.

Although the 2021 Awards and Scholarship Gala was cancelled, HAH returned to honoring Hawaii Healthcare Heroes and industry personnel who made a difference in the midst of the pandemic.

HAH also worked with its members, state officials, and the news media to provide accurate and timely information to the public, so people could make informed decisions and understand the coronavirus’ impact on the healthcare system.

On the vaccination front, HAH worked with community partners and providers to promote at home vaccinations. A media campaign was achieved using grant money received by the Hawaii Public Health Institute.

The ads and media buys were coordinated by HAH. The resulting collective efforts of the community partners meant that more than 2,000 vaccine doses were administered to people who could not go to a vaccine site. These included kūpuna, people with mobility difficulties, developmental disabilities, and certain mental illnesses.
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AHCA
NCAL
Council of State Home Care Associations
NHP CO
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Leading Person-Centered Care
HOME CARE & HOSPICE
National Association for Home Care & Hospice