

Hawai'i Board of Medical Examiners Newsletter

The Chair's Message

On behalf of the Hawai'i Board of Medical Examiners, I'd like to share with you our second annual Newsletter. Please read this carefully as there is useful information that each licensee should understand.

By way of background, the Board's purpose is to "PROTECT THE GENERAL PUBLIC" from dishonest, fraudulent, unskilled, or otherwise unqualified practitioners. The "practitioners" it regulates are M.D.s, D.O.s, podiatrists, physician assistants, and emergency medical service personnel.

The Board consists of eleven members—seven M.D.s, two D.O.s, and two public members, all of whom are appointed by the governor and serve without compensation. In all matters coming before the Board, every member serves the community interests first and foremost.

There are also three advisory committees which serve under the Board. They are the Emergency Medical Personnel (EMP) Advisory Committee, the Physician Assistant (PA) Advisory Committee, and the Podiatry Advisory Committee. The committees were established to assist the Board in its regulatory oversight of these professions.

The Board is empowered to grant or refuse to grant licenses and certificates for established cause. It also may take action against presently licensed practitioners whose infractions have led to Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO) investigations and proposed sanctions. These sanctions come in the form of either settlement agreements or contested case actions. The Board's disciplinary ranking within the nation moved from 51st to 33rd this year, reflecting the Board's diligence in ensuring superior and safe healthcare for the citizens of Hawai'i.

In order to ensure that superior and safe healthcare is provided continuously, the Board has the opportunity to attend and participate in many events and conferences. As Chairman of the Board, I was asked to act as the Board's representative at this year's Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Annual Meeting.

The FSMB is a national not-for-profit organization representing the 70 medical boards of the United States and its territories. Its mission is the continual improvement in the quality, safety, and integrity of healthcare through the development and promotion of high standards for physician licensure and practice.

At this year's meeting several national issues on the horizon for all medical boards were discussed and may be of interest to all practitioners, such as:

Physician Competency and Licensure
 There is remarkable dialogue underway about how to define, measure, and document a physician's lifelong competence as it relates to licensure. This issue is being discussed by a broad spectrum of the healthcare community. It includes linkage between board

certification and licensure. This issue is a leading FSMB challenge.

Re-entry into Practice

The information presented at the FSMB meeting seemed to align with the Board's stance that after two years or more away from active practice, competency testing or evaluation should be considered as a part of the re-licensing process.

The future decisions on all the above issues have important implications for us in the practice of medicine.

In this Newsletter you will find:

Board Actions from August 2006 – August 2007; Board Informal Opinions; and Informative Articles.

On behalf of the entire Board, we'd like to extend our gratitude to each practitioner for joining our mission of protecting the general public by providing the best and safest healthcare possible to each patient.

Mahalo,

H. Roger Netzer, M.D., Chair
 Board of Medical Examiners



Table of Contents

The Chair's Message 1

Board Informal Opinions . . . 2

Board Actions

August 2006 - August 2007 . . . 2

Hawai'i's Dicipinary Actions and Ranking Continue to Rise . . 5

Pu'ulu Lapa'au 5

Assessing the Healthcare Provider Workforce in Hawai'i 6

Hawai'i Board of Medical Examiners

H. Roger Netzer, M.D.,
 Chairperson, Kauai

Maria Brusca Patten, D.O.,
 Vice Chairperson, Oahu

Ben K. Azman, M.D.,
 Member, Maui

Brian E. Cody, Public Member, Oahu

Ronald H. Kienitz, D.O., Member, Oahu

Peter A. Matsuura, M.D., Member, Hawai'i
 (Big Island)

John T. McDonnell, M.D., Member, Oahu

M. Pierre K. W. Pang, M.D., Oahu

Fereydoun Don Parsa, M.D., Oahu

G. Markus, Polivka, Public Member, Oahu

Danny M. Takanishi, Jr., M.D., Member, Oahu

Board Informal Opinions

Physicians

September 14, 2007. *Practice of Medicine and Doctor-Patient Relationships.*

The health and well-being of patients depend upon a collaborative relationship between physicians and their patients. To establish this relationship, the treating physician, or the designated member of the physician's health care team ("designee")* in general, shall do the following:

- Personally perform a face-to-face history and physical examination of the patient, which shall be appropriate to the specialty, training, and experience of the physician or the physician's designee;
- Either make a diagnosis and formulate a therapeutic plan or personally treat a specific injury or condition;
- Discuss with the patient the diagnosis or treatment including the benefits of other treatment options; and
- Ensure the availability of appropriate follow-up care.

*The phrase "designated member of the physician's health care team" ("designee") means a person authorized by the physician who is also authorized by Hawai'i Law to prescribe, shall include, but shall not be limited to a physician assistant, advance practice registered nurse,

advance practice registered nurse with prescriptive authority, and a "covering" physician.

Podiatrists

September 8, 2006. *Scope of Practice: Podiatry.*

Podiatrists may perform complete histories and physicals on their patients. However, it is required that:

- podiatrists requesting privileges to perform histories and physicals (H&P) must do so at JCAHO approved institutions or facilities;
- the H&P examination is limited to pre-operative admission;
- podiatrists, in accordance with JCAHO standard MS 6.2.2, apply for staff privileges to perform H&Ps based on their individual training or special experience that is equivalent to other licensed independent practitioners/allied health professionals granted similar privileges by the medical staff by-laws;
- patients must be considered healthy, low risk surgical candidates; and
- podiatry H&P is subject to ongoing monitoring by the appropriate medical staff department if deemed necessary.

Board Actions August 2006 - August 2007

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Diane H. Nguyen, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2003-60-L). Disciplinary action was taken against Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of North Carolina and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. By Consent Order, the North Carolina Board found that Respondent, while working as an independent contractor for Virtual Medical Group, LLC, authorized prescriptions without a physical examination of patients and without any prior physician-patient relationship. Disciplinary action was taken by the Board of Medicine of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania based upon the disciplinary action taken against Respondent in North Carolina. RICO filed a Petition for Disciplinary Action alleging Respondent failed to report the North Carolina and Pennsylvania disciplinary actions to the Hawai'i Board. Pursuant to Final Order approved by the Board on August 11, 2006, Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Hawai'i was revoked.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Ernest Gresham, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2005-63-L). Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana was suspended indefinitely by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners. The Louisiana Board found Respondent had failed to comply with an order to obtain an evaluation. Evidence also suggested Respondent was sufficiently impaired so that a determination of his mental status was necessary to determine whether he could practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients. RICO filed a Petition for Disciplinary Action alleging Respondent failed to report the Louisiana disciplinary action to the Hawai'i Board. Pursuant to Final Order approved by the Board on September 8, 2006, Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Hawai'i was revoked.

License Verification

To request a verification of your license, please submit a written request and a \$15 check payable to Commerce and Consumer Affairs. You may mail it to: DCCA, PVL, Licensing Branch - License Verification, P.O. Box 3469, Honolulu, HI 96801.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **King-Sau Kenneth Siu, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2005-37-L). Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with RICO based on allegations Respondent failed to report disciplinary action by the Department of the Air Force Surgeon General. The Department of the Air Force Surgeon General approved disciplinary action against Respondent whereby Respondent's clinical privileges to practice were downgraded from "1" (fully competent) to "2" (supervised privileges for all patient care) for a minimum period of six months. The Settlement Agreement was approved by the Board on September 8, 2006. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Hawai'i was revoked.

In the Matter of the Emergency Medical Technician Certificate of **Brian G. Izumoto.** (Case No. MED 2003-82-L). Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with RICO based on allegations that Respondent acted improperly while handling several medical emergencies. The Settlement Agreement was approved by the Board on October 13, 2006. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Respondent agreed to a suspension for three months and reprimand of his EMT certificate.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Eddie G. Johnson, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2004-167-L). Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with RICO based on allegations Respondent failed to timely report disciplinary action taken by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners. The action by the Louisiana Board was based on allegations of episodic use and abuse of controlled substances. The Settlement Agreement was approved by the Board on October 13, 2006. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Respondent agreed to the voluntary surrender of his license to practice medicine in the State of Hawai'i. Additionally, Respondent's license was reprimanded, and Respondent was ordered to comply with the Louisiana Board's Order and with Hawai'i law relating to reporting of disciplinary actions.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Ellis W. Johnson, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2005-42-L). Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with RICO based on allegations Respondent

failed to timely report disciplinary action by the State of Washington's Department of Health Medical Quality Assurance Commission. The action by the Washington Commission was based on allegations that Respondent failed to keep records of his employee's use of injectable pain medication and failed to keep records of the distribution of meperidine in his office. The Settlement Agreement was approved by the Board on October 13, 2006. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Hawai'i was reprimanded, and Respondent was ordered to pay a \$1,000.00 fine and to comply with Hawai'i law relating to reporting of disciplinary actions.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **James M. Kohan, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2006-13-L). Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with RICO based on allegations Respondent failed to timely report disciplinary action taken against his license to practice medicine in the State of New York. The Board of Regents of the State of New York suspended Respondent's physician license indefinitely for being in default for child support and maintenance. The Settlement Agreement was approved by the Board on October 13, 2006. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Respondent's license was placed on probation for a period of three months, and Respondent was ordered to pay a \$1,000.00 fine and to comply with Hawai'i law relating to the reporting of disciplinary actions.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Richard M. Bost, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2006-242-L). Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with RICO based on allegations Respondent failed to report a Uniform Disciplinary Citation issued by the Florida Department of Health. The Citation was issued based on Respondent's failure to notify the Department of a change of address. The Settlement Agreement was approved by the Board on November 3, 2006. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Respondent's license was placed on probation for a period of three years, and Respondent was ordered to pay a \$1,000.00 fine and to comply with Hawai'i law relating to the reporting of disciplinary actions.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Syed T. Hoda, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2005-92-L). RICO filed a Petition for Disciplinary Action against Respondent, alleging Respondent failed to timely report disciplinary action taken by the North Carolina Medical Board. Respondent entered into a Consent Order with the North Carolina Medical Board. As part of that proceeding, Respondent admitted to, among other things, authorizing prescriptions without performing physical examinations of patients and rendering medical care to patients in North Carolina through a corporation that was not a professional corporation and accepting compensation for such care. Pursuant to Final Order approved by the Board on December 8, 2006, Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Hawai'i was revoked.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Barry J. Kraynack, M.D.** (MED 2006-183-L). Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with RICO based on allegations Respondent failed to timely report disciplinary action taken by the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct of the State of New York. In the Statement of Charges, Factual Findings filed against respondent by the State of New York, Respondent was found guilty, based on plea of no contest, of driving under the influence. The Settlement Agreement was approved by the Board on December 8, 2006. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Respondent voluntarily surrendered his license to practice medicine in the State of Hawai'i.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Marc H. Zimmerman, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2006-294-L). Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with RICO based on a Letter of Reprimand issued by the Arizona Medical Board. The Arizona action found Respondent performed surgery on the wrong site resulting in unnecessary surgery on an asymptomatic knee. The Settlement Agreement was approved by the Board on December 8, 2006. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Hawai'i was reprimanded.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Cornelio R. Hong, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2006-180-L). Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with RICO based on allegations Respondent failed to report disciplinary actions by the State of Connecticut's Bureau of Healthcare Systems and the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct of the State of New York. The Connecticut Order alleged Respondent allowed his wife to engage in the practice of nursing with an expired license. The New York Order was based on the Connecticut Order. The Settlement Agreement was approved by the Board on January 12, 2007. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Respondent was ordered to pay a \$2,000.00 fine and to comply with Hawai'i law relating to reporting of disciplinary actions.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Lyman K. Henson, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2004-129-L). RICO filed a Petition for Disciplinary Action which alleged Respondent was addicted to Klonopin, failed to timely report disciplinary action by the Alabama Medical Licensure Commission, and made an incorrect statement on a renewal application. Pursuant to Final Order approved by the Board on January 12, 2007, Respondent was ordered to pay a \$500.00 fine, to refrain from controlled substances, to submit quarterly reports, and to notify the Board of any change in employment.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Francis W. Price, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2006-112-L). Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with RICO based on Respondent's failure to timely report disciplinary action by the Medical Licensing Board of Indiana. The Indiana Order concluded the Respondent, upon closing a practice partially owned by Respondent, failed to provide notice to all patients upon discontinuance of practice. The Settlement Agreement was approved by the Board on February 9, 2007. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Respondent was ordered to pay a \$2,000.00 fine and to comply with Hawai'i law relating to reporting of disciplinary actions.

In the Matter of the Application for a Medical License of **Glenn D. Cunningham, M.D.** (Case No. MED-LIC-2006-2). At the Board's March 17, 2006 and April 7, 2006 meetings, the Board considered Petitioner's application and determined that the multiple malpractice cases over a five year period in the state of California, and the disciplinary actions taken against Petitioner's medical licenses in California and Iowa reflect professional misconduct, incompetence, negligence, the manifest incapacity in the practice of medicine or surgery, and conduct or practice contrary to the recognized standards of the medical profession. The Petitioner requested a hearing which was conducted on October 3, 2006. The Hearings Officer recommended in his Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommended Order that the Board affirm its denial of Petitioner's application for a medical license. Pursuant to the Final Order approved by the Board on February 9, 2007, the Board affirmed its denial of Petitioner's application for a medical license.

Board Staff

Constance I. Cabral *Executive Officer*
Ahlani K. Quiogue *Executive Officer*
Shari J. Wong *Deputy Attorney General*
Faith R. Nishimura *Secretary*

Board Information

Phone No.: (808) 586-2708
Street Address: 335 Merchant St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3469
Honolulu, HI 96801
Website: www.hawaii.gov/dca/areas/pvl/
E-mail: medical@dca.hawaii.gov

Reporting Disciplinary Action

It is the responsibility of the licensee to report, in writing, any disciplinary decision issued against the licensee or the applicant in another jurisdiction within 30 days of the disciplinary decision. Failure to do so would be cause for taking disciplinary action against your license.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Gregory E.M. Yuen, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2006-164-L). Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with RICO based on a criminal conviction relating to Respondent's alleged failure to pay overdue tax to the Internal Revenue Service. The Settlement Agreement was approved by the Board on May 11, 2007. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Respondent's license was reprimanded and Respondent was placed on probation concurrent with probationary terms imposed in the criminal judgment. Respondent was ordered to fully comply with the terms and conditions of the criminal judgment and to pay a \$2,000.00 fine.

In the Matter of the Medical License of **Helmut Ahlert, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2006-103-L). Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with RICO based on disciplinary action by the State of Illinois' Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Respondent pleaded guilty before the Circuit Court of Cook County to two counts of possession of a controlled substance (Mesterolone and Methenolone, steroids). The Settlement Agreement was approved by the Board on May 11, 2007 and filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings on May 24, 2007. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Respondent was ordered to pay a \$500.00 fine and to comply with specific terms and conditions should Respondent seek to restore his Hawai'i license or apply for a new license to practice medicine.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Phillip Briar Blanchard, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2006-72-L). RICO filed a Petition for Disciplinary Action against Respondent alleging Respondent engaged in sexual misconduct and failed to timely report disciplinary action by the Board of Medical Practice of the State of Vermont. The Vermont Board issued an Order summarily suspending Respondent's license. This action was based on allegations that Respondent admitted that he had masturbated and ejaculated onto or near a female patient. Pursuant to Final Order approved by the Board on July 13, 2007, Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Hawai'i was revoked.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Susan Cauley, M.D.** (Case Nos. MED 2004-104-L; 2004-105-L; 2004-123-L). Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with RICO based on complaints that patients were unable to timely obtain copies of their medical records. The Settlement Agreement was approved by the Board on July 13, 2007. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement,

Respondent's license was placed on probation for a period of one year, with terms and conditions relating to the compilation of records and quarterly reporting. Respondent was ordered to pay a \$1,000.00 fine.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Jane Ailene Daniel, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2007-37-L). Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with RICO based on allegations Respondent failed to timely report disciplinary action by the State of Florida Board of Medicine. The Settlement Agreement was approved by the Board on July 13, 2007. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Respondent was ordered to pay a \$3,000.00 fine, to comply with the terms of the Florida Decision, and to comply with Hawai'i law relating to reporting of disciplinary actions.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Robert Ricketson, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2006-76-L). RICO filed a Petition for Disciplinary Action against Respondent alleging Respondent violated the terms of the Settlement Agreement and Order by failing to refrain from taking mind-altering drugs or alcohol. Pursuant to Final Order approved by the Board on July 13, 2007, Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Hawai'i was revoked.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Johnathan B. Wholer, M.D., a.k.a. John Kalikiano Kuapa'a, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2004-152-L). RICO filed a Petition for Disciplinary Action against Respondent alleging Respondent was habituated to alcohol. Pursuant to Final Order approved by the Board on July 13, 2007, Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Hawai'i was revoked.

In the Matter of the License to Practice Medicine of **Harold C. Spear, III, M.D.** (Case No. MED 2003-149-L). RICO filed a Petition for Disciplinary Action against Respondent alleging Respondent engaged in a sexual relationship with his patient and was convicted of crimes substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a physician. Pursuant to a Final Order approved by the Board on August 10, 2007, Respondent's license to practice medicine was suspended for one year and was fined \$2,000.00. Respondent was also required to satisfactorily complete classes in prescribing narcotics and ethics (boundaries). Reinstatement of Respondent's license was also conditioned upon Respondent's submission to the Board of an end report and recommendation regarding Respondent's ability to resume the unconditioned practice of medicine by the Hawai'i Medical Association.

IMPORTANT DATES

M.D.s, EMT-Bs, EMT-Ps, and Podiatrists

License and certificate renewal applications are due on January 31, 2008.

Renewal applications are sent out in November 2007. If you do not receive the renewal application by the end of November, please call (808) 586-3000.

MD renewal fees are \$240.

EMT-B and EMT-P renewal fees are \$120

Podiatrist renewal fees are \$170

Physician Assistants

Please remember to submit renewal application along with NCCPA certificate and renewal fees.

Hawai'i Physician Assistant License renewal applications are due on January 31, 2008.

Renewal applications are sent out in November 2007. If you do not receive the renewal application by the end of November, please call (808) 586-3000.

Renewal fees are \$130.

D.O.s

Hawai'i Osteopathic Physician and Surgeon License renewal applications are due on June 30 2008.

Renewal applications are sent out in April 2008. If you do not receive the renewal application by the end of April, please call (808) 586-3000.

Renewal fees are \$190.

Hawai'i's Dicipinary Actions and Ranking Continue to Rise

Over the past five years, the Hawai'i Board of Medical Examiners and the state's Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO) have implemented a number of initiatives that have led to a steady and marked increase in disciplinary actions, a correlative improvement in the State's national ranking, and most importantly, enhanced protection of Hawai'i's healthcare consumers.

For many years, Hawai'i had the dubious distinction of being at or near the bottom of national rankings for the number of serious actions taken by its Board of Medical Examiners. Fortunately, this is no longer the case.

What initiatives were adopted? For RICO's part, the focus was on more training and specialization of RICO staff, and increasing the speed with which cases could be investigated, prosecuted, and brought before the Board for appropriate action. Utilizing a team approach, investigators and attorneys screen medical complaints, a strategy that has resulted in more efficient investigations. Cases that are primarily document-based, such as cases in which disciplinary action has been taken in another jurisdiction, are fast-tracked to the legal branch for early prosecution. Specialization in medical cases among investigators and attorneys has translated into more productive case analysis and prosecution. Lastly, new healthcare provider complaint and consent forms have facilitated timely receipt of consents and patient records.

In calendar year 2006, the Board disciplined 24 physicians, five more than were disciplined in 2005. In fact, the total number of disciplinary actions not only increased consistently, but actually tripled since 2002, when the Board took disciplinary action against eight physicians.

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Total Actions	24	19	16	13	8

More significantly, 21 of the 24 actions taken in 2006 involved serious discipline, such as license denial, revocation, and probation. In comparison, the Board took serious disciplinary action against 15 physicians in 2005 and against six physicians in 2004.

The Board denied ten applications for licensure in 2006; it had denied four applications for licensure in 2005. The Board reviews all applications for medical licensure and grants, denies, or conditions the application based on criteria set forth in Chapter 453, HRS. Applicants who are denied licensure may appeal the denial in an administrative hearing before the Board.

Clearly, the combined efforts of the Board and RICO have resulted in a marked increase in disciplinary actions. More importantly, however, those efforts represent the Board's and RICO's continuing commitment to ensuring that Hawai'i's consumers receive the highest quality of medical care.

Hawai'i now ranks 33rd among 51 boards, based upon the average number of serious disciplinary actions in 2004-2006. **Public Citizen's Health Research Group Ranking of the Rate of State Medical Boards' Serious Disciplinary Actions, 2004-2006** (June 6, 2007).

Pu'ulu Lapa'au

Pu'ulu Lapa'au, a not-for-profit organization, was established in October 2006 for the purpose of assisting health care facilities in complying with JCAHO requirements on patient safety, and also to advocate for physicians in crisis who are actively involved in their own recovery. Formerly operating as the Committee on Physicians Health under the Hawai'i Medical Association, Pu'ulu Lapa'au is now an independent entity that can provide greater confidentiality for physician clients based on a better understanding of Hawai'i state statutes covering peer review.

Pu'ulu Lapa'au, it's physician clients, staff directors, and health care facilities are better served by closely following state statutes for peer review. We currently have direct contracts to act as peer review agents for the majority of the hospitals in the state of Hawai'i and presently function as an associate of the HMA based on a signed Memorandum of Understanding which memorialized our joint interest in patient safety, while assisting physicians in crisis.

We provide the following services:

- Professional and confidential investigation of physicians identified as potentially having an impairment (substance abuse, alcoholism, boundary issues, sex addiction, disruptive behavior and other impairments including psychiatric, physical, and/or senility)
- Referral of physician in crisis who may be impaired or disruptive to appropriate treatment facilities

Change of Address

It is required by law that licensees file a written notice to the licensing authority of any change of address within 30 days of the change. To file a change of address, you will need to provide us with your name, license number, and new address. You may send it to us through e-mail medical@dca.hawaii.gov or mail it to: DCCA, PVL, Licensing Branch, P.O. Box 3469, Honolulu, HI 96801.

- Ongoing activities to monitor physician progress and recovery, normally for a five year period
- Collaboration with health care facility to develop a return-to-work program for the recovering physician and the specific health care facility
- Development and delivery of CME credit-eligible educational sessions fulfilling JCAHO requirements for such sessions.

Referrals into the program may originate from health care facilities, colleagues, the Board of Medical Examiners/Dental Examiners, or self-referral. The monitoring service is normally for a period of five (5) years but may vary depending on the nature of the impairment. Funding for Pu'ulu Lapa'au comes from service agreements with health care facilities and individual physicians.

The Board of Directors is made up of physician volunteers from around the state with specialties in Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine, Cardiology, Radiology, Plastic Surgery, Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, and Neuroscience. Most of the state's Fellows of the American Society of Addiction Medicine are members of Pu'ulu Lapa'au's Board of Directors. All of the Board members have worked previously on the Hawai'i Medical Associations Committee on Physicians Health, many since its inception 25 years ago.

Our main objectives are to provide protection for the patients, staff, colleagues, and the physician in crisis as well as assisting such physicians with safely re-entering into the medical workplace. Patient safety is a commitment that all health care organizations and medical professionals share. As the only third-party provider of physician monitoring services in Hawai'i, Pu'ulu Lapa'au is essential to the delivery of quality health care for our state.

For more information, please contact Ms. Sara Chase at (808) 678-1581, or in writing at: 1221 Kapiolani Blvd., Ste. 521, Honolulu, HI 96814.

Assessing the Healthcare Provider Workforce in Hawai'i

By Kelley Withy, M.D., Ph.D.

As healthcare professionals, we are acutely aware of the need to develop and maintain an appropriately sized provider network. In shortage environments, we frequently experience increased job stress and have decreased professional satisfaction. To help address the shortage problem, the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, John A. Burns School of Medicine, is initiating an effort to create a database that will house the office/work locations of all practicing providers in Hawai'i. This data will help us project the supply of physicians and other licensed healthcare professionals by specialty across the state in order to promote the development of training, recruitment, and retention programs. These activities are authorized by the State legislature through Act 219, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2007 and will not incur any costs to our healthcare providers.

We are asking for your assistance in filling out a brief online survey. The survey is accessible at: <http://www.ahec.hawaii.edu/workforce> and takes about 2 minutes to complete. Healthcare providers renewing online will be directed to the survey upon completion of the license renewal process. Note that the survey is voluntary and completely confidential. We will only share aggregate information to demonstrate the need for additional providers.

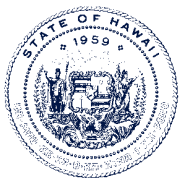
We believe this project will benefit both healthcare providers and consumers of Hawai'i. According to the State's projections, Hawai'i's population is aging faster than the rest of the country; by 2020 the

number of people age 65 and older in our State as a whole will grow by almost 70%. Between the aging phenomenon and the general increase in our State's population, we anticipate a substantial rise in the demand for healthcare services in Hawai'i. Having a full complement of healthcare providers, distributed to meet the on-going health needs of the entire State, is an essential part of our healthcare system. We wish to thank you in advance for your support and assistance of this project.

Online Renewals

It's Secure, Fast, and Simple! Renew your license online at <http://pvl.hawaii.gov/renewals> and receive 25% off your Professional and Vocational Licensing (PVL) renewal fee and 10% off your Compliance Resolution Fund fee. The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA), PVL online renewal service will be available 24 hours a day beginning Monday, November 5, 2007 10 a.m., Hawaiian Standard Time (HST). You must renew online by January 31, 2008 Midnight (HST). Renewals after this date must be submitted by mail or in person to the DCCA/PVL division.

State of Hawai'i
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Professional and Vocational Licensing Division
Hawai'i Board of Medical Examiners Newsletter
P.O. Box 3469
Honolulu, HI 96801



Prsrt Std
U.S Postage
Paid
Honolulu, Hawai'i
Permit No.521