

## EARLY PHYSICIANS OF HAWAI‘I AND REFLECTIONS ON THE EMERGENCE OF HAWAIIAN DOCTORS

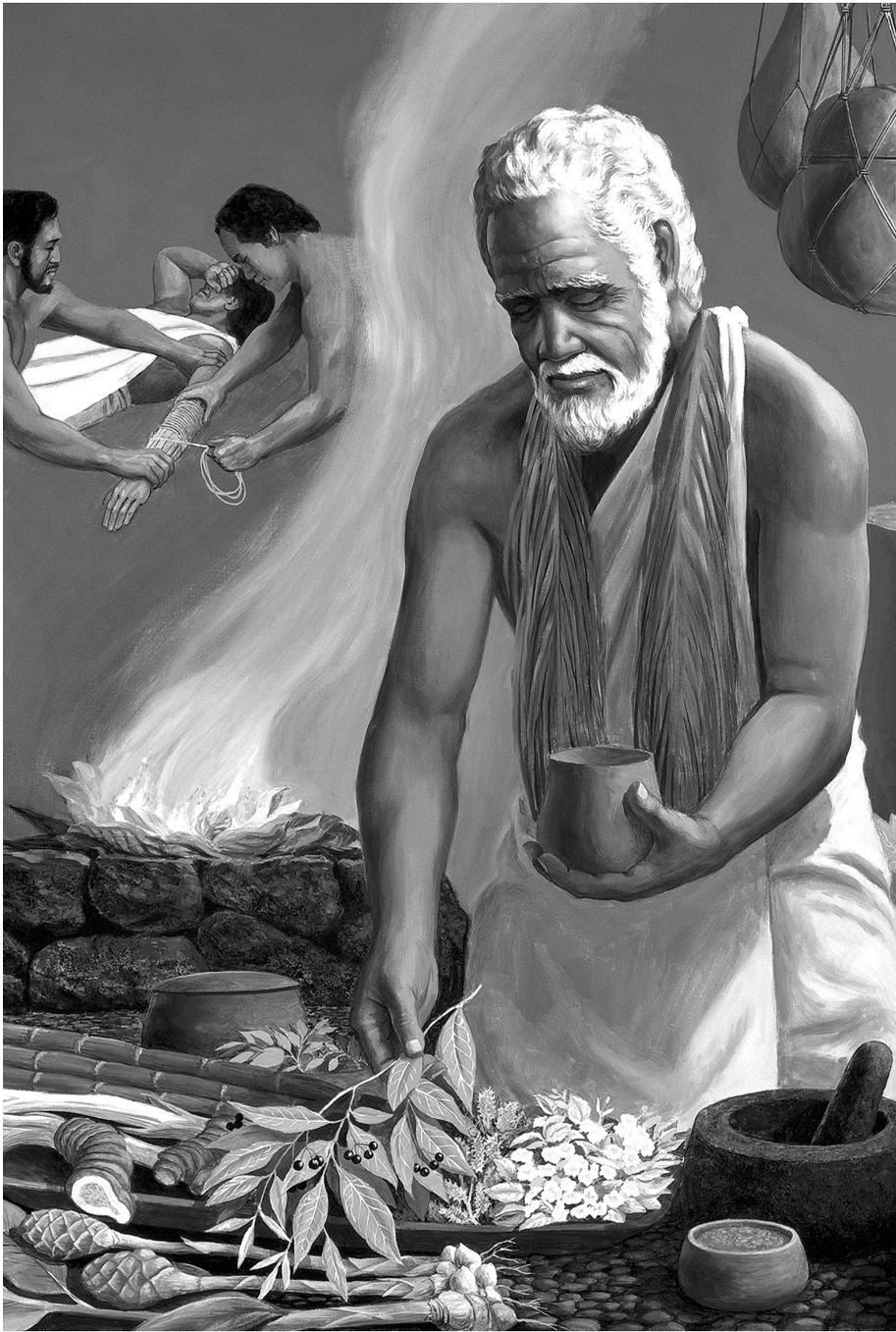
*Benjamin Young, MD*

This is a brief history of the early physicians in Hawai‘i. It also tells the stories of the earliest Hawaiians who studied for the MD degree and provides a narrative of how so many Native Hawaiian physicians today emerged following the physician shortage crisis of the 1960s and the congressional legislation that was passed after the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

CORRESPONDENCE MAY BE SENT TO:

Benjamin Young, MD, Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence  
651 Ilalo Street, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813-5534

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HERB KĀNE, *PHYSICIAN*

## BACKGROUND

In 1970 there were fewer than 10 Native Hawaiian doctors practicing with the Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree in the state of Hawai'i. Today there are over 400 Native Hawaiian physicians. This number is still far below parity, less than 3 percent of all licensed physicians in Hawai'i. The emergence of Native Hawaiian physicians is the main focus of this article. Ancient Hawaiian healers and early Western physicians in Hawai'i are also discussed. Finally, there will be a review of the earliest Native Hawaiians in medicine and a summary of Hawaiian physicians today.

As dean of students at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) from 1972 to 1986, I was charged with the challenging task of increasing the number of Hawaiians entering medical school and providing a supportive environment for these students. Several background events had significant impact on the number of Hawaiians in medicine. Physician shortages around the middle of the 20th century led to major congressional legislation expanding medical schools throughout the United States. Generous federal scholarships were aimed at increasing enrollments, and affirmative action programs dovetailed neatly with these increases in capital funding and scholarships.

## PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE OF THE 1960S AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN MEDICINE

During the presidencies of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, with emphasis on the "New Frontier" and the "Great Society," the United States became acutely aware of a critical shortage of future physicians (Harrington, 1962). Congress passed legislation addressing this crisis. The Health Professions Educational Assistance Act of 1963, followed by the Health Manpower Shortage Act of 1968, provided for increasing student enrollment and allocated funding for states to build new medical schools. The University of Hawai'i (UH) School of Medicine was one of many new institutions that emerged during that decade (Young, 1979). Such programs significantly increased the number of minority and female students in medicine. Hawai'i senators Spark M. Matsunaga and Daniel K. Inouye helped achieve major funding for this goal.

Prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, only three medical schools in the country graduated the vast majority of minority physicians: the Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC; the Meharry University College of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee; and the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania. Two programs at JABSOM were designed to bring more female and minority students into medicine: Dean's Guest and 'Imi Ho'ōla, both initially federally funded. The programs were open to persons of all ethnicities who were demonstrably disadvantaged for reasons beyond their control. Applicants willing to practice in underserved areas were also considered for admission into the programs.

From the mid-1960s to 1973, momentum for affirmative action accelerated, and numerous programs to increase minority physicians were established across the country. This momentum experienced a brief setback after the United States Supreme Court ruling in *Bakke vs. University of California*. Minority admissions to medical schools declined somewhat during the post-*Bakke* period. However, in 1973, a federally funded program called the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) was launched, and the 'Imi Ho'ōla program in Hawai'i was funded under the HCOP.

## MEDICAL HEALERS: DEFINITIONS

Although the title “doctor” or “physician” is often used to describe many other health care providers such as naturopaths, chiropractors, homeopaths, or osteopaths, this article limits the discussion to allopathic physicians who received the MD degree.

Naturopaths emphasize “nature’s own healing properties,” and there are diverse schools of thought in naturopathy about the extent and range of procedures that can bring about recovery from illnesses.

Chiropractors are those who practice a form of alternative medicine that focuses on manipulation of the musculoskeletal system with main emphasis on the spine. Chiropractors are a significant part of the health care team in the United States military and in veterans’ hospitals. They have earned a Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) degree.

The first Hawaiian Doctor of Chiropractic was Alexander Ka'ōnohi. He had a background in pharmacy and also received his training at the Standard College of Chiropractic and Naturopathic College in Chicago, Illinois. His office was located in Kapahulu. With his pharmacy discipline and having descended from a lineage of kāhuna lā'au lapa'au, he was well known for integrating traditional and Western healing practices. An award given by the community organization Papa Ola Lōkahi is designated as the Ka'ōnohi Award and is bestowed on individuals who have made significant contributions to the health, wellness, and healing of Native Hawaiians and their families.

Homeopathy had its origins with a German physician named Samuel Hahnemann. The term is defined as a system of complementary medicine in which illnesses are treated by minute doses of natural substances that in larger amounts would produce symptoms of the ailment. Homeopathy reached its height of popularity in the 19th century. A homeopathic medical school named after Samuel Hahnemann transitioned into an allopathic school, and eventually this institution merged with the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania. The two became part of the current Drexel University College of Medicine.

Allopathy identifies physicians with the MD degree. It has a history of originally being a derisive term that was used to identify those who practiced "other than" homeopathic medicine in the 19th century. MDs are usually unaware of the pejorative background of this term. Today, it refers to those who practice in mainstream medicine, who have been awarded medical degrees from schools accredited under the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), and who are members of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

The title of physician is also used to refer to those known as osteopaths who have received the DO (Doctor of Osteopathy) degree. MDs and DOs have virtually the same training background in preclinical and clinical subjects in medical school, but DOs have additional instruction, mainly in manipulation techniques. The privileges following licensure for both degrees are identical, and graduates of DO schools are often part of the post-medical school MD training programs called residencies in surgery, pediatrics, psychiatry, internal medicine, or obstetrics and gynecology. There are also limited residencies linked with DO schools. Today, there is a collegial relationship between MDs and DOs, but this was not always the case until relatively recently. There are several Native Hawaiian osteopathic physicians, but very little information is available about the history of attempts to increase

the numbers of kānaka maoli in osteopathy. Perhaps in the near future, someone with more knowledge and access to data regarding DOs will be able to add to the information base contained in this article. Four Native Hawaiian osteopaths who have been in primary care for several years are Jocelyn Chang, DO, and Melinda Au, DO, both on Maui; Aaron Kauhane, DO, on O‘ahu; and Nicole Mahealani Lum, DO, who is in residency training.

This article only discusses Native Hawaiians who received their medical diplomas from American medical schools and does not discuss those who were awarded medical degrees from abroad, from Canada, or from Central American, South American, or Caribbean schools. One exception is made because of its historical relevance, and that exception is the first Native Hawaiian to study Western medicine. His medical training at the time was the equivalent of, if not far better than, a medical education in the United States.

In America around the 1880s, there were over 150 medical schools, and most had questionable and dubious standards. Some schools did not require a high school diploma for entrance. Many were proprietary schools that were run for profit and owned by one or two doctors. The publication of a scathing report on medical training in the United States brought about the closure of most of these American medical schools. On the other hand, in Europe during this period, it was mandatory that anyone seeking entrance to institutions leading to a medical degree have a university education, not only in the sciences but often in the classics.

The earliest Native Hawaiian to study Western medicine was Matthew Puakakoilimanuia Makalua. He was one of a group of students sent by King Kalākaua to study in different countries such as the United States, Japan, Italy, and the United Kingdom. Kalākaua’s intent was to train a new generation of leaders for the Hawaiian nation. These students studied topics such as music, art, military science, law, engineering, and medicine.

Unfortunately, in 1887, there was a political upheaval in the islands, and a new constitution, often called the “Bayonet Constitution,” was forced upon the king. Funding was terminated abruptly, and the students were recalled home to Hawai‘i. An exception was made for Matthew Makalua, who was allowed to remain in London, where he was attending the King’s College School of Medicine. He was eventually granted the Bachelor of Medicine (MB) degree, which entitled him to be a general practitioner in the United Kingdom. Additional details will be provided later on the journey that helped to uncover the story of Dr. Makalua.

For additional information on the current but very complex background of medical studies and degrees conferred around the world, the reader should refer to internet sites on “Medical Schools in the US” and “Medical Schools in the United Kingdom.”

## HAWAIIAN PHYSICIANS PRIOR TO 1778

The developments described above helped set the stage for the reemergence of Hawaiian physicians, but Hawaiian healers were practicing medicine for centuries prior to the arrival of Captain James Cook in 1778 (Bushnell, 1993). Hawaiian culture had a well-established class of expert priestly physicians known as kāhuna. There were specialists among the kāhuna. Diagnosticians, kāhuna hāhā, were able to arrive at diagnoses through palpation, observation, and communication with the gods. The kāhuna lā‘au lapa‘au were knowledgeable about botanical medicines. The kāhuna pā‘ao‘ao cared for children, and the kāhuna ho‘ohānau keiki cared for expectant mothers (Bushnell, 1993).

Healing kāhuna were trained to diagnose and treat familiar illnesses and were highly skilled in helping bring about satisfactory states of recovery. However, this does not mean that the therapeutic interventions were always directly responsible for the cures. Many ailments have natural progressive cycles, and many patients improve with time. In the Hawai‘i of old, there was awareness that psychic forces played a significant part in bringing about cures, or on the other hand could even cause death.

Given the state of medicine in the 18th century, the physicians of precontact ancient Hawai‘i were just as competent as or more so than the physicians of other cultures. They were also fortunate that Hawai‘i had not yet been exposed to the epidemics that devastated many Western societies. They practiced a religious system intimately linked to the gods, to the environment, and to well-being, which provided equilibrium between the kānaka maoli and wellness. Contact between Hawai‘i and the islands to the south, such as Tahiti, ceased perhaps as early as 450 CE, and Hawai‘i was isolated for about 1,000 years. One theory hypothesizes that Spanish galleons may have had early contact with the islands. If true, the “Spanish disease” or venereal disease could have been introduced earlier than 1778. However, none of the epidemics such as cholera, smallpox, plague, or influenza, which wiped out millions in Europe, reached the islands during these centuries of isolation (Bray, 2004).

All treatments in ancient Hawai'i were dependent on a universally held belief in mana, the power, spirit, or energy that formed the basis of wellness or illness. The presence of potent mana equated with a dynamic and robust state of health, and poor or diminished mana meant sickness. The ancient culture's relationship with the gods was also linked to a strict system of prohibitions known as kapu. Since the gods were everywhere in the natural world, it was unthinkable to violate or desecrate the environment. Fastidious adherence to the kapu system had much benefit for the environment. The land was not wantonly polluted, the waterways were kept clean of contaminants, and special restrictive times were set aside for the gods to replenish and rejuvenate the life of the land and ocean. Otherwise the deities could unleash their wrath and bring illness or even death. Restitution had to be made with the ancient healers acting as intermediaries; with the gods' forgiveness, mana would be restored and well-being revitalized. "When once again he respected the gods and walked in the ways of righteousness, the gods were appeased and his mana was made whole" (Bushnell, 1993, p. 82).

After the arrival of Captain James Cook in 1778 and the introduction of new diseases, the power of the ancient healing experts began to wane. Many treatment methods that had been adequate in the past became ineffective. The kākāka maoli particularly noticed that foreigners who violated and disobeyed the kapu suffered no consequences for transgressing the rules of the ancient culture.

## THE FIRST WESTERN MEDICAL DOCTORS IN HAWAI'I

The first Western physicians to arrive in Hawai'i were ships' surgeons. Two surgeons were assigned to each of Captain James Cook's ships, the HMS *Resolution* and the HMS *Discovery*. Both ships landed in Waimea, Kaua'i, in 1778. On board the HMS *Resolution* were surgeon Dr. William Anderson and surgeon's mate Dr. David Samwell. On board the HMS *Discovery* were surgeon Dr. John Law and surgeon's mate Dr. William Ellis.

Dr. Anderson, along with the captain of the HMS *Discovery*, Lt. Charles Clerke, and some of the sailors, already had advanced tuberculosis. They were likely responsible for introducing that disease at Waimea and 10 months later at Kealahou. Anderson died on August 3, 1779, from tuberculosis after the expedition departed

from Kealakekua. He was buried at sea, and Dr. David Samwell was appointed to the position of surgeon on the HMS *Resolution*. Samwell is best remembered for his strong views that Cook was not responsible for the introduction of venereal disease in the islands. He thought that the disease was already present when they landed on Kaua‘i in 1778.

Nonetheless, modern historians believe that venereal diseases were introduced in the islands by Cook’s voyage (Snell, 1963). Cook’s quartermaster, Thomas Roberts, documented in his journal that several of the crew were already infected with “the venereal” and violated Cook’s orders forbidding anyone with observable signs of venereal disease to have sexual contact with the native women (Bushnell, 1993, p. 137). The spread of venereal disease was not solely through male-to-female contact; sexual contact between sailors and male islanders very likely also occurred. Subsequently venereal disease spread uncontrolled through the island populations. Cook’s surgeons should be remembered not only as the first Western physicians to arrive in Hawai‘i but also for helping introduce the first Western diseases into these islands.

## HAWAI‘I’S FIRST MEDICAL “POSTGRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAM”

Prior to 1795, the islands were under separate chiefdoms, each rivaling the other for control of the people and the lands. Hawai‘i, Maui, Lāna‘i, Kaho‘olawe, and Moloka‘i all came under the control of Kamehameha. In 1795 Kamehameha defeated the king of O‘ahu, Kalanikūpule. Only two islands remained to be conquered: Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau. Kamehameha’s first invasion of Kaua‘i failed. Another invasion of Kaua‘i was planned circa 1804, but a deadly contagious disease struck the population of O‘ahu, and thousands of Kamehameha’s warriors died. This epidemic was called the ma‘i ‘ōku‘u, or the squatting disease, a dysenteric condition for which some relief was obtained by squatting and defecating. Descriptions available from very limited primary sources sound much like cholera or salmonellosis. The numbers who died during this epidemic have been estimated as between 5,000 and 10,000, most of them Kamehameha’s warriors who were bivouacked in close quarters preparing to invade Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau. Kamehameha himself was infected and almost died from this disease (Schmitt, 1970).

King Kamehameha attempted to gather his most talented medical healers for instruction on combating such illnesses. He formed a school to train these kāhuna. Information is scanty, but there is some evidence that this “postgraduate training program” was located in upper Nu‘uanu (Bushnell, 1993, pp. 103–104; ‘Ī‘i, 1959). The tutors were probably Western physicians, most likely ships’ doctors. During this era, however, Western medicine was all but helpless with infectious diseases, and Hawaiian medicine, with its emphasis on keeping the environment inviolate and sacred, might have been more useful.

## THE FIRST RESIDENT WESTERN PHYSICIANS

A Spaniard, Francisco de Paula Marín, settled in the islands sometime around 1793. There is some doubt as to whether or not he was a trained doctor. Nonetheless, he did treat many medical conditions and was highly regarded for his knowledge of plants, especially plants with medicinal properties. Traditional Hawaiian herb doctors, kāhuna lā‘au lapa‘au, used a very large number of indigenous plants and animals in the treatment of assorted ailments. It is possible that Marín schooled himself in the uses of these plants. The simple remedies available from visiting ships’ stores and the native remedies of which he had learned allowed him to establish himself as a physician (Gast, 1973). Marín was a confidant of King Kamehameha the Great and is credited with introducing many botanical specimens to Hawai‘i. His home was located near downtown Honolulu, and the road leading to his garden is still known today as “Vineyard Boulevard” (Pukui, Elbert, & Mookini, 1976).

Another early physician in Hawai‘i was Juan Elliott de Castro, described as surgeon to King Kamehameha. For this role, he was given land. He may have settled in the islands as early as 1811 and had a family here. De Castro was the attending physician at the time of Kamehameha’s death in 1819 (Gast, 1973, p. 71).

Dr. Meredith Gairdner, a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, left England in 1832 in the employ of the Hudson’s Bay Company and was stationed on the Columbia River for about two years. Unfortunately, attacks of an unknown disease sapped his strength. Dr. Gairdner came to the islands hoping the climate would prove

beneficial, but his health continued to fail, and he died on March 26, 1837, in Honolulu. His grave is in the ma kai-‘Ewa corner of the missionary cemetery behind Kawaiaha‘o Church.

Almost 30 years after Marín settled in Hawai‘i, other Western physicians arrived under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM). There were 12 of these groups, or “companies,” with the first arriving in 1820. It was an opportune moment for the missionaries’ arrival, since the freshly abolished kapu system left a void for the new religion to fill. In all, nine missionary physicians came to Hawai‘i under the ABCFM. Most of these missionary physicians were superbly trained by 19th-century standards (Halford, 1954).

Dr. Thomas Holman, Hawai‘i’s first missionary doctor, and his wife Lucia arrived in Hawai‘i on April 4, 1820. In addition to serving missionary families, he also cared for many of the natives in Kailua, Kona, in Honolulu, and on various parts of the island of Kaua‘i. Their first daughter was named after King Kamehameha II’s queen, Kamāmalu. Dr. Holman’s continued clashes with other missionaries led to his excommunication from the church, and he and his wife left the islands in October 1821.

The second missionary physician to come to Hawai‘i was Dr. Abraham Blatchley in 1823. Dr. Blatchley’s services were in great demand, and urgent requests came from every island in Hawai‘i. His “usual” practice territory covered an area of 200 miles on Hawai‘i Island. Often his wife would accompany him on service calls. He was the attending physician when Kamehameha’s sacred Queen Keōpūolani passed away in Lahaina, Maui.

Within three years, he was so overworked that he submitted a request to be released from his duties as a missionary physician. This request was rejected, but due to his deteriorating health, he left Hawai‘i in November of 1826.

The third missionary physician to come to Hawai‘i, Dr. Gerritt P. Judd, was one of the most extraordinary, if not the most controversial, of all the missionary doctors. He arrived in Hawai‘i with the third company of missionaries in 1828 and served the ABCFM for 14 years until 1842, when he resigned to enter the service of King Kamehameha III.

Over the years he held several positions including minister of finance, minister of the interior, and minister of foreign affairs. In 1838 he published a Hawaiian-language textbook of human anatomy, *Anatomia* (Judd, 2003), which was used

by students at Lahainaluna. It was also used by students in 1870 when Dr. Judd was called upon to teach 10 Hawaiian students the basic rudiments of health care delivery. Though blame for the high rate of mortality in the smallpox epidemic of 1853 forced him to resign from his cabinet position, he was a crucial figure in the restoration of the Kingdom of Hawai'i after Lord George Paulet of England illegally seized the islands.

Judd helped to organize the construction of Kawaiaha'o Church and was one of the founders of Punahou School. He was one of the early trustees of Queen's Hospital. He became a citizen of the Hawaiian nation, forswearing his American citizenship. The inscription on his gravestone at O'ahu Cemetery reads, "Hawaii's Friend." His descendant, Charles S. Judd Jr., MD, was one of the most well-loved members of the JABSOM faculty during its early years.

Dwight Baldwin arrived with the fourth company of missionaries in 1831. He apparently did not have time to wait for his medical diploma. His lack of credentials led the Hawai'i Medical Society to refuse him a license even though he practiced for 27 years as capably as any of his peers. This controversy was resolved when Dartmouth Medical College awarded him an honorary degree in medicine, and he was eventually granted a license to practice in Hawai'i. Dr. Baldwin was the patriarch of several Hawai'i families.

Alonzo Chapin, MD, arrived with the fifth company of missionaries in 1832. He assisted Dr. G. P. Judd in providing medical services throughout the islands, mainly on Kaua'i and Maui. His wife suffered declining health, and they both returned to America in 1835.

Thomas Lafon, MD, arrived with the eighth company of missionaries in 1837. After due deliberation at the annual general meeting of the missionaries, Dr. Lafon was assigned to Kaua'i. He was stationed at Kōloa and became the first resident physician for that island. Dr. Lafon was the first of the sugar plantation doctors, arrangements having been made with the Kōloa Sugar Plantation to care for plantation workers. Dr. Lafon was a staunch abolitionist and opposed the church's receiving any contributions from slaveowners. He returned to America in 1842.

Seth Lathrop Andrews, MD, in the eighth company of missionaries, arrived with his wife in 1837. The Andrewses were the parents of four children, three of whom died in infancy in that era of high infant mortality. In 1852, Dr. Andrews requested release as a medical missionary and returned to America.

James William Smith, MD, was a member of the tenth missionary company, arriving in Hawai'i in 1842. He was assigned to the island of Kaua'i. In July 1854, Dr. Smith was ordained to the ministry and became pastor of three native churches while continuing to serve as a physician. He served as pastor until 1860, when the ABCFM decided to place the churches under the charge of native ministers and Dr. Smith resigned. He died at Kōloa, Kaua'i, on November 30, 1887, at the age of 77. His son, Jared Knapp Smith, was later a physician on Kaua'i who examined all suspected cases of leprosy. He was shot and killed after ordering a mother and daughter to report to Honolulu for deportation to Kalaupapa.



Frances Matilda  
Wetmore, MD.  
QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER  
"IN MEMORIAM"

Charles Hinkley Wetmore, MD, arrived with the twelfth company of missionaries in 1848. His main responsibility was to care for the families of missionaries. The relatively few deaths from the smallpox epidemic of 1853 in Hilo was due to his diligent immunization work. He opened the first drugstore in Hilo. His daughter, Frances Matilda, studied medicine at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania and was the first female physician in Hawai'i.

Sarah Eliza Pierce Emerson was another early female physician who practiced in the islands. She was born in Massachusetts in 1855, came to Hawai'i as a young child, and married the renowned missionary descendant, Civil War veteran, and physician Nathaniel Bright Emerson. She was trained as a homeopathic physician.

## HAWAI'I'S "FIRST" MEDICAL SCHOOL

The first major endeavor to train future leaders for the Kingdom of Hawai'i in the 19th century was the Chiefs' Children's School, established in 1839 by King Kamehameha III (Menton, 1992). All 16 students who attended the Chiefs' Children's School were of ali'i blood and were eligible to become future rulers. Five became reigning monarchs: Alexander became King Kamehameha IV, Lot became King Kamehameha V, William Charles became King Lunalilo, David became King Kalākaua, and Lydia Kamaka'eha became Queen Lili'uokalani. Though short-lived,

the school was remarkably successful, especially considering that the teachers, Amos Starr and Juliette Montague Cooke from the eighth company of missionaries, had no formal training in world affairs, politics, diplomacy, or government. Besides the five monarchs mentioned, two others from the Kamehameha line, Emma and Pauahi, went on to play extremely important roles in medical care and education (Menton, 1992).

David Kalākaua ascended to the throne in 1874. From the time he was a student at the Chiefs' Children's School until he became king, Kalākaua witnessed catastrophic epidemics that claimed the lives of thousands of Hawaiians. The years 1846 to 1848 were especially deadly. Dysentery, influenza, whooping cough, and measles claimed an estimated 10,000 lives. In 1848 one of the former students at the Chiefs' Children's School, Moses, brother of Alexander Liholiho and Lot, died from measles. Another former student, Peter Kaeo, cousin to Queen Emma, likely died from leprosy. Kalākaua also witnessed the 1853 smallpox epidemic, which claimed between 10,000 and 15,000 lives, nearly all the victims being Hawaiian (Greer, 1965). During this dark period of Hawaiian history, Samuel Kamakau is said to have stated:

Keokeo olinolino ke kulaiwi.

*The homeland is glistening white with bleached bones.*

(Mo'okini, personal communication)

There is powerful cultural significance in these words because of the profanity of sacred bones, or iwi, being exposed to the sun, "bleached" white and desecrated.

In 1870 an attempt was made to train young Hawaiians in Western medicine. The Hawaiian population, conservatively estimated to be around 300,000 at the time of Cook's arrival in 1778, had dwindled to less than 60,000 by 1866. There was grave concern for the possible extinction of a people, and King Kamehameha IV stated in his 1855 address to the legislature that "[o]ur first and great duty is self-preservation."

Most missionaries and Western physicians believed that the main reason the Hawaiian race was dying was the evil influence of native healers and their practices of sorcery and idolatry. Few remembered that Hawaiians were a virile, healthy, and productive race of people prior to the introduction of Western diseases. Blame for the deaths and the declining population of natives was almost always placed

on the native kāhuna, although no Western treatments at this time were effective against measles, mumps, whooping cough, diphtheria, influenza, leprosy, or cholera. Missionary families and other Westerners who had settled in the islands also suffered tragic family losses during epidemics, especially infant mortalities, but the kānaka maoli were even more susceptible since key immunity factors were missing in the genetic inheritance of Native Hawaiians.

The rapid demise of a people was so deeply disturbing that a publication appeared addressing these concerns: *Must We Wait in Despair: The 1867 Report of the Ahahui Laau Lapaau of Wailuku, Maui on Native Hawaiian Health*. In 1868, an attempt was made to fund the training of young Hawaiians in the rudiments of Western medicine. This first allocation was not used because it was “impossible” to find young men (women were not considered) with suitable English-language facility to attend medical schools in the United States or Great Britain.

In 1870, \$4,000 was appropriated to the Bureau of Public Instruction, and Dr. G. P. Judd was appointed to instruct the students. On November 9, 1870, instruction commenced with 10 Hawaiians. This school was probably comparable to many of the proprietary schools in America where many of Dr. Judd’s colleagues received their training, but no details of the curriculum are preserved. The anatomy textbook written by Dr. Judd over 30 years earlier, *Anatomia*, was likely used. The teaching facility was located adjacent to Queen’s Hospital, established in 1859. Classes were probably held in Dr. Judd’s private hospital, formerly the American Hospital for Disabled Sailors. The school closed 10 months after it was started. The chairman of the Board of Health stated, “[L]ittle had been accomplished,” perhaps an indication of the lingering antagonism that forced Dr. Judd’s resignation in 1853 from his cabinet position under King Kamehameha III. Dr. Judd requested release from his contract for reasons still unknown. He was already in his declining years, and one possibility was that his wife was quite ill and died soon afterward. He also subsequently suffered a stroke.

Dr. Judd recommended that the 10 students be licensed, but opposition was formidable. The students were not licensed by the haole Board of Health but were licensed under the Hawaiian Board of Health, which licensed kāhuna. Below are the names of the 10 students and where they were sent:

Jno. W. Kalua	Molokai	
Geo. W. Kalopapela	Waihee	Maui
Henry P. Kaili	Makawao	"
Jno. Kalama	Kohala	Hawai'i
Henry Mana	Kawaihae	"
S. Naonohi	Kona	"
Daniel P. Aumai	Kau	"
Jno. Kelia	Puna	"
S. W. Kanealii Jr.	Hanalei	Kauai
S. K. Kauai Jr.	Waimea	"

(Native Hawaiian doctors, 1872)

The stories of these young Hawaiian “foot doctors” still remain a relatively unknown part of Hawai'i's medical history (Bushnell, 1967).

## THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SCHOOL OF MEDICINE: DEAN'S GUEST AND 'IMI HO'ŌLA PROGRAMS

The UH School of Medicine was established in 1965 as a two-year, non-degree-granting institution. The first class was not admitted until 1967, and this cohort completed the curriculum in 1969. All students transferred to medical schools on the continent, where they completed the requirements to receive their MD degrees. The school's name was changed to the John A. Burns School of Medicine in honor of the second governor of Hawai'i in 1974. In 1970 federal funding was obtained for the Dean's Guest program to address underrepresented groups in medicine. The first dean of the medical school, Windsor Cutting, MD, noted that few Hawaiians were found in the applicant pool or admitted to the medical school and that many Pacific islanders, and in particular Native Hawaiians, were denied admission despite high Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) scores and good grade point averages (GPAs). Dean Cutting received approval for 10 positions to be allocated to disadvantaged individuals who would be invited as guests of the dean, hence the name Dean's Guest, to attend a decelerated three-year medical school program. Cutting believed that an additional year would be beneficial to the students, and

this turned out to be a correct assumption. Specialized tutoring was mandated for closer faculty-to-student monitoring of academic progress. Four of the first 10 students were Native Hawaiians.

In 1973, the medical school received approval to become a four-year MD-degree-granting institution. In 1975 UH's JABSOM granted MD diplomas to 62 men and women, including five men of Hawaiian ancestry who were pioneers in a major change in island society, a change that would bring disadvantaged elements of the population into their own and complete the major transformation of Hawai'i begun under Governor Burns and the Democrats in 1954.

At the time of the 1975 commencement, Hawaiians constituted from 13 percent to 17 percent of the population, but fewer than 1 percent of the state's physicians were of Hawaiian ancestry. Those six new MDs, four of whom started in the Dean's Guest program, doubled the census of physicians of Hawaiian descent, the first step in a decade of change in which the medical school helped create a Hawaiian middle class.

After two years of experience with the Dean's Guest program, I was brought on board in 1972 to add a new premed studies phase to the program. Funding was obtained by Dean Terence A. Rogers under the Health Professions Educational Assistance Act. At that time, I participated in the Culture Committee at the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center, guided by revered Hawaiian cultural expert Mary Kawena Pukui, and she provided the name for the new premed review program, 'Imi Ho'ōla, "Seek to Heal."

The first 20 students for 'Imi Ho'ōla matriculated in the fall of 1973. At that time, the students were not guaranteed admission into medical school. The natural progression was for these students to enter the Dean's Guest program. Some students, however, performed remarkably well and were admitted into the regular medical school curriculum. Guidance and counseling were also provided for those who changed their minds about a future in medicine or who became interested in pursuing alternative careers.

An important aspect of both programs, Dean's Guest and 'Imi Ho'ōla, was that neither guaranteed the students anything. Both were opportunities, not guarantees. Standards for passing courses were not lowered. To remain in medical school, Dean's Guest students had to pass their courses and the National Boards examinations. The philosophy behind these programs was twofold: first, to address social

justice and second, to infuse the medical profession with qualified members of seriously underrepresented social, economic, and ethnic groups. Two years after the establishment of 'Imi Ho'ōla, an additional objective was proposed: qualified women were sought who were already working in health care positions and only needed a review of premedical topics to qualify for medical school. Four women were accepted into 'Imi Ho'ōla from the nursing, critical care, and respiratory therapy health fields, and all four graduated with their MD degrees from JABSOM.

In 1990, 'Imi Ho'ōla and Dean's Guest merged into one program. Students under the 'Imi Ho'ōla postbaccalaureate program are now admitted directly into medical school, but faculty tutorials continue to be a requirement. Upon successful completion of this year, students advance to the first year of medical school.

The program was under the capable leadership of Dr. Nanette Judd, who transitioned funding from federal to permanent state sources.



Nanette Judd, PhD.  
NANETTE JUDD

The 'Imi Ho'ōla and Dean's Guest programs were not the only sources of physicians of Native Hawaiian ancestry. Kanaka maoli applicants were increasingly admitted and graduated from JABSOM without any ties to the 'Imi Ho'ōla or Dean's Guest programs, and many other Native Hawaiians received their MD degrees from mainland medical schools.

Three other programs for Native Hawaiian health need to be mentioned.



Winona  
Mesiona-Lee, MD.  
BEN YOUNG

### *Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence*

JABSOM was able to obtain federal Centers of Excellence funding for the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence (NHCOE), established in 1990 to increase the number of Native Hawaiians in medicine, train postgraduate physicians as fellows to do independent research, and promote cultural competency.

The NHCOE faced a crisis in 2007 when funding was cut off for all Centers of Excellence across the nation. With the assistance of the National Council for Diversity in

the Health Professions, two individuals stand out who helped to pave the way for refunding the NHCOE: Nanette Judd, PhD, and Winona Mesiona-Lee, MD. The current director is family practice physician Malia Lee, MD.

### *Myron “Pinky” Thompson Endowed Research Center*

Soon after he became dean of JABSOM, Edwin Cadman, MD, asked me to help put together a team for establishing an endowed research center with the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities funds from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Ruth Fujita, RN, was brought on board, and funding was obtained through the dean’s office and from Hardy Spoehr, director of Papa Ola Lōkahi. JABSOM was awarded \$4.6 million, from which only the investment income derived from the endowment could be used to fund research purposes. This became the Myron “Pinky” Thompson Endowed Research Center.

### *Department of Native Hawaiian Health*

Dean Edwin Cadman saw the tremendous potential of a clinical department dedicated entirely to promoting the health of Hawai‘i’s indigenous people. All programs involved with Native Hawaiian health, which heretofore operated separately, were incorporated into one department, and ‘Imi Ho‘ōla and the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence became part of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health.

Today, this department is chaired by psychologist Dr. Keawe Kaholokula. It is the only clinical department in any medical school in the United States dedicated entirely to the improvement of the health of a native people.

For several years after I began my career at the medical school, I was immersed in seeking potential premedical students at UH–Mānoa, Chaminade University, Hawai‘i Pacific University, the Church College of Hawai‘i (later renamed Brigham Young University, Hawai‘i), and colleges on the mainland. I went on a lot of speaking tours to encourage high school students and even elementary and middle school students to consider possible careers in medicine. Some of the leads to potential



Keawe  
Kaholokula, PhD.  
BEN YOUNG

‘Imi Ho‘ōla students came from the least expected places. A vacuum cleaner salesman who came to our home asked me what I did for a living. When informed, he said, “I think my daughter might be interested!” This is how the name of Chiyome Leina‘ala Fukino, MD, surfaced, and she entered the first ‘Imi Ho‘ōla class in 1973. Annie Markham, a family friend who was a telephone operator at Queen’s Hospital, contacted me and said, “My son is a fireman, and he would be very interested in becoming a doctor.” Richard Markham, MD, became another graduate of the ‘Imi Ho‘ōla program. Dr. Satya Sood, a professor at UH–Hilo, called me and said, “I have students in my organic chemistry class who might be interested in medicine.” That referral led to Clayton Chong, MD, entering the second ‘Imi Ho‘ōla class in 1974, later becoming the first Native Hawaiian oncologist. Ron Ahloy, MD, the first Native Hawaiian gastroenterologist, entered the Dean’s Guest program in 1973. Our family owned a piece of land that was being graded, and the bulldozer operator told me, “My granddaughter told me she wanted to be a doctor!” Naleen N. Andrade, MD, entered ‘Imi Ho‘ōla and eventually became the chair of the Department of Psychiatry at JABSOM.

From Aloha Airlines (Gerard Akaka, MD) to the daughter of the former mayor of Hilo (Dee-Ann Carpenter, MD) to a nurse, mother, and homemaker (Jana Silva, MD) to the athletic department at UH–Mānoa (Lulumafuie Fiatoa, MD, the first Samoan pediatrician), ‘Imi Ho‘ōla students came from many sources.

## THE FIRST HAWAIIAN TO STUDY WESTERN MEDICINE: MATTHEW PUAKAKOILIMANUIA MAKALUA

For many years, I thought that the first Native Hawaiian MD was George Hi‘ilani Mills, MD, a schoolmate of my oldest brother at the Kamehameha Schools in the early 1940s. One day I came across an article in the *Hawaiian Journal of History* by Agnes Quigg, former head librarian at Kamehameha Schools (Quigg, 1988). In 1880, King David Kalākaua undertook a major educational endeavor similar to that of King Kamehameha III in 1839 but envisioned as a Studies Abroad Program. Eighteen students were selected. The person chosen to study Western medicine was Matthew Puakakoilimanuia Makalua.



Matthew Manuia  
Makalua, as a  
student at St. Chad's  
Preparatory School.

GORDON PI'IANAIA

Makalua was born in 1866, in Lahaina, Maui, and attended 'Iolani School. Unfortunately, a fire destroyed the school's records in the early part of the 20th century, so no transcripts remain of Makalua's years at that institution.

Makalua was first sent to St. Chad's Preparatory School in Denstone, England. He then enrolled and studied at King's College and next at the King's College School of Medicine in London, where he received his medical degree in 1892. Manley Hopkins, Hawaiian Consul General in London, described Makalua's personality as "quick, mercurial, all sided; able to do something of everything; and is very taking in society: *But* I fear

without much backbone to his character. I had a letter from his Tutor two days ago complaining that he is not working as well as formerly: does not prepare his work, etc. I have written at once to him very seriously, I told him that if he does not pass his matriculation examination (it is about six weeks hence) I do not see any use in his remaining in England" (Quigg, 1988). Records at the King's College School of Medicine indicate that he won a special certificate in physiology, a certificate of honor in forensic medicine, and a prize in hygiene. As a student, he was also a surgical bandage dresser working under the famous Sir Joseph Lister (Quigg, 1988), who introduced carbolic acid and antiseptics into the surgical suite.

During King Kalākaua's reign, Hansen's disease (leprosy) was still a major epidemic afflicting primarily Hawaiians. Kalākaua wrote a letter to Matthew Makalua inquiring whether he could study leprosy, since there were no successful methods to treat patients diagnosed with the condition. Makalua conferred with one of his professors, Sir Joseph Lister, and wrote a response to King Kalākaua. Below is a copy of the letter written by King Kalākaua on September 10, 1890, to Matthew Makalua while he was a medical student (courtesy of the estate of David Dewar, Makalua's grandson; permission granted by Barbara Dewar).

Honolulu, H. Is; Sept 10 1890.

Matthew M Makalua,

Dear Sir:

It is sometime since we have corresponded together for reasons no doubt you can well understand- The country having recovered from political convulsion requires time for rest. I have therefore taken this opportunity to write and say that I have received your last letter, and could not answer the many queries concerning my Nephews and other matters you wrote upon. If there is anything I can reconcile you to Mr Armstrong I would be most happy to be the medium of reconciliation if in my power to do so.

I see Uncle Nowlein, Aunt Lucy and Maili. I am so sorry Maili did not stay to finish her education. Any-how, what she has accomplished is a good deal though she is not too old to learn more.

I have a great desire for you to join the Prince of Wales class for studying Leper Cases. Although to us here the disease is well know, but the physicians does not seem to know the modus opporandi of proceeding to operate upon each stage of the case.

Her Majesty joins with me intendering yourself and Mrs Makalua, our best wishes for your welfare.

*Makalua*

Details of Makalua's life are uncertain after he graduated from King's College. There was considerable chaos in Hawai'i after the illegal overthrow in January 1893. Shortly after that, Makalua settled near Hastings, England, in the village of St. Leonards by the Sea at 40 Warrior Square. With introductions provided by Gordon Pi'ianaia, my wife and I flew to London and met several of the descendants of Matthew Makalua.

Following several hours of learning about the lives of these descendants of Makalua, we wanted to pay respects to Makalua's iwi. Unfortunately, none of the family members knew where he was buried. Since his last known address was somewhere in Hastings, England, a town approximately two hours by train from London, the family suspected that he was buried in one of the cemeteries around Hastings.

My wife and I decided to try and locate his grave, even though there were at least six churches with graves numbering in the thousands within a three-mile radius of Hastings, and he was possibly interred in any of several secular cemeteries. On the train to Hastings, I was full of doubts yet brimming with excitement and anticipation. Over a hundred years had passed since Makalua had graduated from the King's College School of Medicine. Would we be able to locate his grave? If we did find it, would we be able to capture the essence of the mana of Hawai'i's first Western-trained physician? I had his last known address and wondered if his home would still be standing. Could I locate any records of his practice, perhaps at the local hospital?

We arrived in Hastings, and a policeman directed us to the local town hall as the best place to possibly locate his grave. A phone call to Hastings Cemetery was quickly answered with, "We charge 40 pounds British Sterling an hour to do research" (equivalent to \$80 US at the time). However, the receptionist inquired, "Do you have his date of death and last known address?" When I gave her the information, she rapidly identified the correct cemetery.

However, Hastings Cemetery is huge, with records of almost 50,000 burials. Locating Makalua's grave was not going to be easy. One of the cemetery's assistants, Lee, drove us out to the area where he believed the grave was located. After searching around unsuccessfully for about an hour, Lee, my wife, and I finally decided to split up and search in different directions. After another hour of plodding through hundreds of ancient mounds and peering at scores of barely decipherable headstones, I found a grave sunk about 18 inches into the ground and overgrown with vegetation. Through the openings in the thick English moss, I was barely able to see the inscription "Matt... M... Maka..." I knew then that we had discovered his final resting place. I called out to my wife and Lee, "I found it!" After we scraped off the years of shrubbery and the several decades of sod deposits, the engraving became very clear: "Matthew Manuia Makalua."



Ben and DeDe Young at Matthew Makalua's gravesite.

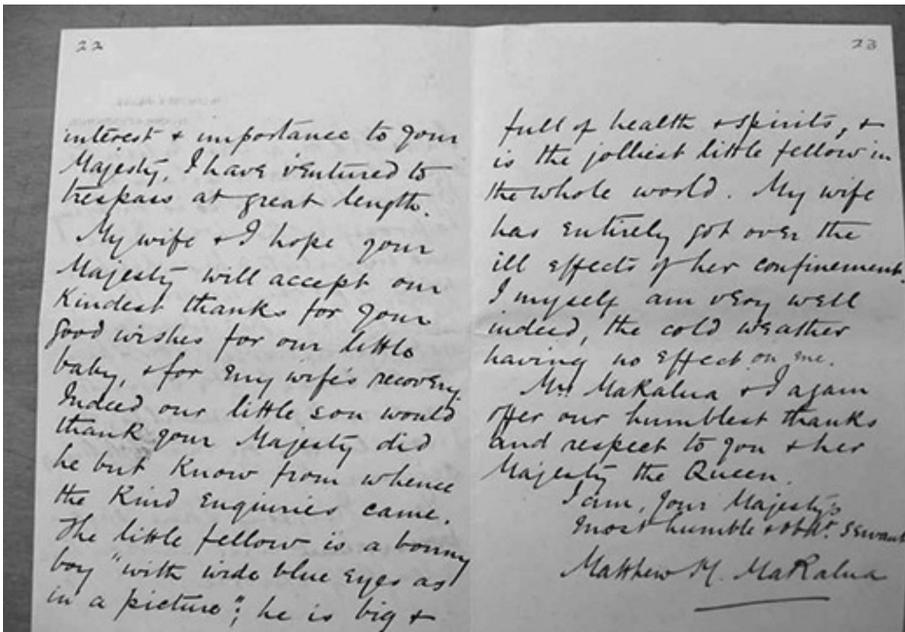
Makalua's wife, Annie, had preceded him in death, and he was buried on top of her coffin. Over the years, the wooden caskets had decayed and collapsed, and the concrete monument had sunk into the earth. Below is an excerpt from his obituary, which appeared in the *St. Leonards Observer* on January 5, 1929.

Dr. Matthew Makalua, M.R.C.S [Member of the Royal College of Surgeons], L.R.C.P. [Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians] was a popular and highly esteemed member of the medical profession. He and his wife were intensely interested in work for the poor. He died at his home at 40 Warrior Square, St. Leonards by the Sea.

Why Makalua never returned home still remains a mystery. Immediately after graduation he was probably penniless. In addition, had he returned home in the aftermath of the overthrow, he would probably have been imprisoned as a royalist cousin of Queen Kapi'olani. In England, he was a man without a country. Shortly

after World War I, he applied for and was granted British citizenship. No letters or journals have been found to explain why he decided to settle in St. Leonards by the Sea from 1893 to his death almost 40 years later.

At the Hastings Museum, there are several gifts given to the museum by King Kalākaua on his worldwide tour. One of the items on display is a priceless red and yellow feather cloak. During this period Kalākaua was suffering from kidney failure (Bright's disease), and he died in San Francisco four months after he wrote his letter to Makalua. One year after King Kalākaua's death, Matthew Manuia Makalua graduated from the King's College School of Medicine with his medical degree. In the Hawai'i State Archives can be found the original reply that Makalua sent to King Kalākaua after he conferred with Sir Joseph Lister. The letter thanks the king for his kind inquiries about the health of Makalua's wife, Annie, and also expresses joy in his newborn son (Makalua, n.d.).



*My wife and I hope your Majesty will accept our kindest thanks for your good wishes for our little baby, and for my wife's recovery. Indeed our little son would thank your Majesty did he but know from whence the kind enquiries came. The little fellow is a bonny boy with "wide blue eyes as in a picture"; he is big and full of health and spirits, and is the jolliest little fellow in the whole world. My wife has entirely got over the ill effects of her confinement. I myself am very well indeed, the cold weather having no effect on me.*

*Mrs. Makalua and I again offer our humblest thanks and respect to you and her Majesty the Queen.*

*I am, your Majesty's most humble and obedient servant,  
Matthew M. Makalua*



Matthew M. Makalua, MD, and son James, circa 1894.  
BARBARA DEWAR



Kaumu Hanchett, MD.  
QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER  
"IN MEMORIAM"

## THE EMERGENCE OF HAWAIIAN DOCTORS

Twenty-two years after Dr. David Makalua received his medical degree from King's College, Alsoberry Kaumu Hanchett became the next Hawaiian physician and the first Western-trained physician to return home to Hawai'i. He was born on Kaua'i and graduated from the Kamehameha School for Boys in 1904. One of the earliest photographs from the Kamehameha Schools' archives shows him as a student apprentice learning the trade of carpentry. At that time, vocational training was the main objective in the educational goals of the school.

Kaumu Hanchett had high aspirations, which included college and medical school at a time when higher education was not encouraged for Hawaiians. He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College and went on to Harvard Medical School, receiving his MD in 1914.

This newspaper article from *Ka Hoku o Hawaii* (Buke 8, Helu 50, Aoa 2, Mei 21, 1914) provides details about his college career along with his family ties.

**HAAREO O HAWAII I KEIA  
OIWI HAWAII**

Aia ma ke Kula o Kaula ke Kula-nui o Havada, ke ao nei kekahi keiki Hawaii nona ka inoa o A. Kaumu Hanchett, i ka oihana Kaula ma ka hoike ia ana mai nei o na haumana, o ka Papa Ao Kaula ma Bosetona, no ka hiki ke komo iloko o kekahi Halemai ma ia Kulanakauhale, a mai loko mai o na haumana o 100, ua kaa ke keiki Hawaii i ka Hele 3, a mamuli no o ka manao makemake hou no o keia Keiki OIWI Hawaii, e hoike hou i kona makaukau, ua hoike hou ia kona makaukau Kaula ma ka Halemai nui ma Providence, ma ka Mokuaina o Roda Ailana, ao ka mea i ike ia ma ia hoike ana, mai loko mai o na haumana he 50 i lawe i ka hoike, ua kaa aku la i ke Keiki Hawaii ka "Helu Ekahi" He hoehana keia keiki Hawaii no ka Hope Makainui o ka Apana o Waimea ma Kauai, a he Hoakula pu me ka S. L. Desha mau keiki ma ke Kula o Kamehameha, a me ke Kula ma Punahou, a komo pu no hoi me kekahi keiki a Kiwini ma ke Kula nui o Havada. E puka ana keia keiki Hawaii ma keia mabina ae o Iune, ae komo ana oia no etua makahiki ma kekahi o na Halemai Kaulana o Amerika, no ka hoonehu a loa ana i kona makaukau ma ka oihana kaula, ai ka pau ana o kona noho ana ma ia Halemai, alaila, o kona koho no ia i kana wahi e lawelawe ai kana oihana.

Ke manaolana nei makou e huli hoi ma ana oia i Hawaii nei, e lawelawe ai i kana oihana pokela i ao nei, ao ke Kaula Hawaii mau loa hoi e lawelawe i ka oihana Kaula lapaau ma Hawaii nei.

HAWAII IS PROUD OF THIS NATIVE HAWAIIAN

*At the Medical School of Harvard University, a Hawaiian named A. Kaumu Hanchett is learning Medicine; in an examination of the medical students in Boston, in order to enter one of the Hospitals of the City, and from amongst a 100 students, the Hawaiian boy ranked 3rd, and because this Hawaiian Boy wanted to once again test his competence, his Medical abilities were tested once again at a big Hospital in Providence in the State of Rhode Island, and what was revealed in that examination was that amongst 50 students who took the test, to the Hawai'i boy went "Number One."*

*He is a brother [hoahanau] of the Deputy Sheriff [Crowell] of the District of Waimea on Kaua'i, and he was a Classmate of the children of S. L. Desha at Kamehameha School and Punahou School, and he entered Harvard University with a son of Desha's.*

*This Hawaiian boy will graduate in this coming June, and will intern for two years at one of the Famous Hospitals of America to advance his abilities in the medical field, and at the completion of his stay at the Hospital, then he will select where he will practice his calling.*

*We hope that he will come back to Hawai'i nei to practice this greatest of occupations in which he trained, and be the first Hawaiian to practice medicine in here in Hawai'i.*

Tuberculosis claimed his life at the age of 47, and he is buried on the island of Moloka'i (personal conversation with Cathy Bell, MD).

Thomas Mossman was the second Hawaiian to study American medicine. He graduated from McKinley High School and received his medical degree from the University of Nebraska Medical School in 1928. His Hawaiian ancestry came from both of his parents.



Thomas  
Mossman, MD.  
QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER  
"IN MEMORIAM"

On September 9, 1931, the Indigent Invalid Home was opened. Some 60 patients were transferred from the Minoaka Home to three remodeled buildings that had formerly housed alcoholics, drug addicts, and mental cases. Dr. Mossman became resident physician at the home. Later the Indigent Invalid Home became the Maluhia Home and is now Maluhia Hospital under state jurisdiction. Mossman died in 1979.

Henry Bernard Yuen, the third Hawaiian to receive the MD degree, was born in Hanapēpē, Kaua'i. His mother's name was Namohala, of the Hilo branch of the Namohala family. He attended St. Louis College (high school) in Honolulu and graduated from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, where he received his medical degree in 1929. After his internship at the St. Louis University Hospital Group, he returned to Hawai'i and began his practice in Hilo in 1930. He died in 1971.



Edwin  
Chung-Hoon, MD.  
QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER  
"IN MEMORIAM"

Edwin Chung-Hoon was the fourth Hawaiian to receive the MD degree and became the first Hawaiian dermatologist. His mother, Agnes Punana Chung-Hoon, was a member of the Ka'ahumanu Society. He graduated from Punahou High School in 1925 and received his medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1932. He did his postgraduate work at the Skin and Cancer unit at the New York Post-Graduate School and the Cook County Post-Graduate School of Dermatology.

Dr. Chung-Hoon was recognized as one of the foremost authorities in the world on Hansen’s disease. He died in 1964 in an airplane crash while landing at the Kalaupapa settlement on a routine periodic medical visit.

Patrick Mormon Cockett graduated from the Kamehameha School for Boys in 1931 and was the fifth Native Hawaiian to study medicine. His mother was Mary Kawehiokalani Cockett. He attended UH and received his MD degree from Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1939. In World War II he served in the Solomon Islands campaign and was a regimental surgeon for the 103rd infantry regiment of the 43rd Division of the US Army. He was a member of the UH Board of Regents from 1968 to 1972.



Patrick Mormon Cockett, MD.  
 QUEEN’S MEDICAL CENTER  
 “IN MEMORIAM”

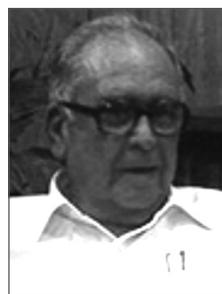


Alexander Lee, MD.  
 QUEEN’S MEDICAL CENTER  
 “IN MEMORIAM”

Alexander Lee, the sixth Native Hawaiian to receive the MD degree, was born in Honolulu and graduated from St. Louis College (high school) in Honolulu in 1931. His mother was Ivy Agnes Awa Lee. He was of Hawaiian-Chinese ancestry and born in Kohala on Hawai’i Island. He received his BA from the University of Southern California, studied medicine at Marquette University, then transferred and received his MD from the Kansas University School of Medicine in 1942. He completed his residency at St. Francis Hospital.

William Walter Goodhue was the first Native Hawaiian physician from Moloka’i and the seventh MD to return home to Hawai’i. He was born at the Kalaupapa settlement, where his father was the physician. His mother, Christina Meyer Goodhue, was a descendent of Moloka’i chiefess Kalama Waha.

He completed his premedical studies at the University of Oregon before earning his medical degree from the St. Louis University School of Medicine in 1942. He interned at St. John’s Hospital, St. Louis, in 1942–43. He moved to Kaua’i in 1947, where he became medical director at the



William Walter Goodhue, MD.  
 QUEEN’S MEDICAL CENTER  
 “IN MEMORIAM”

McBryde Sugar Company and also had a private practice. During the years that he practiced, he delivered over 4,000 babies. His son, Dr. William W. Goodhue Jr., is a pathologist with the medical examiner's office in Honolulu.



Barrister Allen  
Richardson, MD.  
QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER  
"IN MEMORIAM"

Barrister Allen Richardson was the first Hawaiian orthopedic surgeon. His father was Arnold Barrister Moliakalanikeola Richardson, the son of John Richardson, Knight Commander, Order of Kalākaua, a member of Queen Lili'uokalani's Royal Guard and Privy Council, and her personal attorney; hence the name "Barrister," which appears in succeeding generations of the family. He accompanied the queen to Washington in 1893 to plead on her behalf for the restoration of the monarchy. His mother was Esther Kaleimomi Kaoao Richardson. He graduated from Hilo High School in 1936 and UH in 1940 and received his MD degree from Yale Medical College in 1943. Richardson died in 1981.

Allen Barrister Moliakalaniikeola Richardson was the son of Barrister Allen Richardson and Florence Keali'imaemae Richardson. He graduated from Punahou and received his undergraduate degree from Yale University and his MD degree from the University of California School of Medicine in Los Angeles in 1973. He was well known in sports medicine, and his wife Pokey earned two Olympic gold medals in swimming. He also served on the Board of Trustees at Punahou High School. Like his father, he trained in orthopedics. His son Andrew received his MD degree from JABSOM and is in orthopedic training. His daughter Anne is a medical student at JABSOM. Allen Barrister Richardson died in 2003. The Richardsons can trace a linkage to one of the earliest patients sent to Kalaupapa, Kitty Richardson Napela.

John Francis Chalmers, the eighth Native Hawaiian to receive the MD degree, attended St. Louis College (high school), graduated from the University of Dayton in Ohio, and received his medical degree in 1944 from Northwestern University in Illinois. He was the first resident accepted by Queen's Hospital after the hospital received approval for its surgical training program. He served on the advisory board of Chaminade University.

Robert Kahaleniau Mo'okini Jr. attended St. Louis College (high school) and graduated from UH in 1945. He was the ninth Native Hawaiian to receive an MD. His medical degree was obtained from Tulane University in 1949. He trained in urological surgery at the Veterans Administration Center, Dayton, Ohio. He is the brother of Edwin Mo'okini, for whom the library at UH–Hilo is named.

George Hi'ilani Mills graduated from Kamehameha in 1940 and received his medical degree from Boston University in 1950. For over 30 years, he was the medical director at Hale Ola, Kamehameha Schools. He was quite prominent in many medical societies and especially in Hawaiian civic clubs. He also served as a trustee of the American Medical Association.



George Hi'ilani  
Mills, MD.  
QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER  
"IN MEMORIAM"

Abraham T. K. Cockett graduated from the Kamehameha School for Boys in 1946 and received his medical degree from the University of Utah in 1954. His parents were Noah and Mary Kekahu Cockett. Most of his career was spent at the University of Rochester in New York. He specialized in urology and had an international reputation as a renowned kidney transplant specialist. He was the uncle of Moloka'i physician Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D.

Dr. Ralph Naokalani Beddow was a graduate of St. Louis College (high school) in 1940. He received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Washington State University and his medical degree from the University of Oregon in 1950. He was the first public health veterinarian in the Territory of Hawai'i. His residency was completed in internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic, where he also received a Master of Science degree. He was a fellow in endocrinology at the University of California–San Francisco. He practiced at Straub Clinic as an endocrinologist after 1957 and passed away in 2009.

Patrick Pi'imauna Aiu was born and raised on Kaua'i. He graduated from Kapa'a High School and was a gifted and talented musician. He received his medical degree from the University of California–Los Angeles in 1964. He interned at Queen's Hospital and began his residency in obstetrics/gynecology at Kapi'olani Hospital, but this training was interrupted when he was inducted into the United States Army Medical Corps. He returned to Kapi'olani Hospital, finishing his

residency in 1971. He was the first Hawaiian obstetrics/gynecology specialist on the island of Kaua'i and also attended to patients on the island of Ni'ihau regularly. He died in 2002.

The elder statesman of all Native Hawaiian physicians today is Richard Kekuni Blaisdell, a graduate of Kamehameha Schools' class of 1942. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Redlands and received his medical degree from the University of Chicago. He trained in pathology and subspecialized in hematology. He is the first Hawaiian hematologist and is the father of psychiatrist Nalani Blaisdell-Brennan, MD. He was the first chair of the Department of Medicine at JABSOM. He was the driving force behind the Native Hawaiian health needs study "E Ola Mau" and is recognized for his extensive knowledge of Hawai'i's medical history.

In 1958, just before Hawai'i became a state, Charman Akina, MD, who graduated from Punahou, received his medical degree from the Stanford University School of Medicine. He practiced at the Honolulu Medical Group and is the former medical director at the Waimānalo Health Center.

Several other Native Hawaiian physicians also studied medicine but never returned home to practice in Hawai'i. Lennig Chang graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1956, went on to Princeton University, and received his medical degree in 1964 from the University of California–San Francisco. Lennig currently practices in Boston, Massachusetts. His brother, Hollis Chang, graduated from Punahou High School in 1958, went on to Oberlin College, and received his medical degree from the University of Southern California in 1966. He trained in orthopedic surgery and lived in San Marino, California. Hollis passed away in 2013. Hollis and Lennig Chang are brothers of Sherlyn Franklin Goo, a former principal at Kamehameha Schools.



Roberta Apau  
Ikemoto, MD.  
NORMAN IKEMOTO

The first female physician of Hawaiian ethnicity is Roberta Apau Ikemoto, who specializes in radiology. She graduated from Kamehameha in 1960 and received her medical degree in 1968 from the University of California School of Medicine in San Francisco.

Not until the physician shortage crisis in the 1960s did the number of Native Hawaiian physicians begin to increase significantly. In large part this was due to Kamehameha

Schools providing the guidance for young people to enter careers in medicine. JABSOM has also been very fertile ground for training future leaders in the field of medicine. Many Native Hawaiian JABSOM graduates soon ascended to the top leadership rungs in our health community:



**Chiyome Leina'ala Fukino, MD**  
First female Director, Department of Health, State of Hawai'i.  
BEN YOUNG



**Naleen Naupaka Andrade, MD**  
First female Chair, Department of Psychiatry, JABSOM; Chairperson of the Board, Queen's Foundation.  
NALEEN ANDRADE



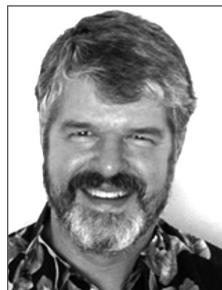
**Kenneth Luke, MD**  
Medical Director, Quality Management, HMSA; Medical Director, Behavioral Services, HMSA.  
BEN YOUNG



**Gerard Akaka, MD**  
Vice President, Queen's Medical Center.  
BEN YOUNG



**Kuhio Asam, MD**  
Executive Director, King William Charles Lunalilo Trust and Home.  
KUHIO ASAM



**Kalani Brady, MD**  
Editor, *Journal of the Hawai'i Medical Association*; Chair, Continuing Medical Education, Hawai'i Medical Association; Public Media "Ask a Doctor," KHON Television.  
KALANI BRADY



**Angela M. Pratt, MD**

First female Chair, Department of Ob/Gyn, Kapi'olani Medical Center. Dr. Pratt was also honored as one of Hawai'i's finest physicians and was featured on the cover of *Honolulu Magazine*.

HONOLULU MAGAZINE

**Jeffrey Akaka, MD**

Medical Director, Diamond Head Mental Health Center.

**Lawrence Burgess, MD**

Former Chief of Surgery, Tripler Army Medical Center; Special Consultant to the Surgeon General, US Army.

**Thomas Au, MD**

Former Medical Director, Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific.

**Robert Young, MD**

Medical Director, Wai'anāe Coast Comprehensive Health Center.

**Curtis Takemoto-Gentile, MD**

Former Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine, JABSOM.

Native Hawaiians who have graduated from other medical schools have also risen to high positions of leadership:



**Elizabeth Tam, MD** (University of California–San Francisco)  
Chair, Department of Medicine, JABSOM.

ELIZABETH TAM



**David Na'ai, MD** (Georgetown University)  
Former Chief of Staff, Castle Medical Center.

DAVID NA'AI

## IMPACT OF KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

Kamehameha Schools played the most important role of any institution, public or private, in guiding young people to leadership careers in medicine. But this role was not without controversy. Kamehameha has come under attack from those disappointed that their own offspring were not accepted into the school, while from the other side of the affirmative action pendulum there have been legal actions against Kamehameha's admissions process.

In 2005, I submitted this letter, which was published in the *Honolulu Advertiser*.

*I have read with interest the many letters both attacking and supporting Kamehameha Schools. Perhaps I might add an interesting medical education dimension.*

*From the time of contact with Captain Cook in 1778 until 1892, no Native Hawaiians were sent abroad to receive a medical education, none whatsoever, until Dr. Matthew Makalua (sent to England by King Kalakaua in 1882) received his degree from King's College, London, in 1892. Twenty-two years later, Kaumu Hanchett (Kamehameha, 1904) received his M.D. from Harvard Medical College. Although there were a few other Native Hawaiians in the subsequent decades who received medical degrees, the next physicians who graduated from Kamehameha were Patrick Cockett, M.D. (KHS '31), George Mills, M.D. (KHS '40), then Kekuni Blaisdell (KHS '42).*

*For the past 30 years, I have researched Hawaiians who studied medicine. With affirmative action programs beginning in the 1970s, the numbers began to accelerate. Today, we have such individuals as: Roberta Apau Ikemoto, M.D., radiology (KHS '60); Gary Gutcher, M.D., neonatology (KHS '62); Chiyome Fukino, M.D., state Department of Health director (KHS '68); Kuhio Asam, M.D., psychiatry (KHS '70); Clayton Chong, M.D., oncology (KHS '72); Angela Pratt, M.D., obstetrics and gynecology (KHS '80); Donna Kalauokalani, M.D., anesthesiology (KHS '82); Winnie Mesiona Lee, M.D., pediatrics (KHS '87).*

*These are specialists, but even in the day-to-day delivery of primary care, Kamehameha is well represented: Bernard Chun (KHS '62); William Ahuna, M.D. (KHS '64); Noe Apau, M.D. (KHS '70); Gerard Akaka, M.D. (KHS '72); Martina Kamaka, M.D. (KHS '78); Kelli Ann Voloch, M.D. (KHS '85); Ming Tim Sing, M.D. (KHS '83); William Thomas, M.D. (KHS '77). The current medical director of the health clinic (Hale Ola) at Kamehameha is Phillip Reyes, M.D. (KHS '74).*

*Contrary to the accusations of so many letter writers, most of these Kamehameha physicians did not come from privileged backgrounds. They came from working-class families who were not able to afford the other private school tuitions but who still struggled to provide their children with a good education at Kamehameha.*

*Attorney Eric Grant, in a moment of triumphant oratorical grandiloquence, quoted Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech about "content of character" but somehow failed to mention whether King would have condemned the HBCU (otherwise known as Historically Black Colleges and Universities), whose preferential admission policies still help to correct inequities, disparities and under-representations of African-Americans within the medical profession.*

*In the early 1970s, there were only 10 Hawaiians licensed and practicing medicine in the state of Hawai'i. Today, there are more than 200, and most of these physicians are graduates of Kamehameha. Yet this number represents less than 3 percent of all licensed physicians in Hawai'i.*

*It is with no small amount of pride that whenever I glance toward Kapālama Heights, I see the faces of Kamehameha's graduates who are now making an indelible mark in improving the lot of an indigenous people who, sadly, still top the list of morbidity and mortality tables.*

*Benjamin B. C. Young, M.D.  
Executive Director, Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence, UH  
John A. Burns School of Medicine*

Following the publication of this letter, I received a number of phone calls from irate parents who sternly reprimanded me for not including their children in the list of physician graduates from Kamehameha! Indeed, these were some of the most fulfilling and rewarding criticisms I have ever received! Kamehameha Schools can be very proud of its record of educating so many young people from everyday maka‘āinana families and helping them navigate the difficult courses of studies from elementary grades through high school, to college, and through medical school.

## HAWAIIAN PHYSICIANS WITH LINKS TO HAWAI‘I’S PAST

Individuals well known in the annals of Hawai‘i’s history would be especially proud to see their descendants today:

Elizabeth Keka‘aniau Pratt, whose beautiful portrait can be found in the back of Kawaiaha‘o Church, was one of the students at the Chiefs’ Children’s School in 1839, since her lineage made her eligible to be one of the future leaders of Hawai‘i. She was the great-granddaughter of Kalokuokamaile, the older brother of King Kamehameha I. Her husband was Franklin S. Pratt, and although they had no children, it was through the branches of this Pratt line that Angela M. Pratt, MD (Ob/Gyn) is descended.

Samuel Mānaiakalani Kamakau is one of Hawai‘i’s greatest historians. He is the author of “Ka Moololo o Kamehameha I” and “Ka Moololo o na Kamehameha,” which were heavily edited and translated to form *Ruling Chiefs of Hawai‘i*, a work considered to be the preeminent written source on the history of the ali‘i. His great-great-great-grandson, Damien Chong-Hanssen, MD, is in family practice in Waimea, Kaua‘i, and cares for many residents from Ni‘ihau.

Abraham Fornander was a renowned scholar and judge. He was the author of *An Account of the Polynesian Race: Its Origin and Migrations and the Ancient History of the*



Damien Chong-Hanssen, MD.

DAMIEN CHONG-HANSSEN

*Hawaiian People to the Times of Kamehameha I.* He married a Hawaiian chiefess from Moloka'i named Pinao Alanakapu. Their great-great-grandson was the first Native Hawaiian endocrinologist, Ralph Beddow, DVM, MD, MS.

Kaumu Hanchett, MD, deserves a special place of recognition in Hawai'i's medical history, having been the first to study medicine in America and the first to return home to the islands to practice medicine.



Cathy Bell, MD.  
CATHY BELL

His great-granddaughter is Cathy Bell, MD, who is the first triple-boarded psychiatrist in Hawai'i. She is trained in three specialties: pediatrics, adult psychiatry, and child and adolescent psychiatry.

Rev. Abraham Kahikina Akaka was one of the most revered kahu from historic Kawaiaha'o Church. His son is psychiatrist Jeff Akaka, MD, the medical director at Diamond Head Mental Health Center.

Edwin H. Mo'okini, PhD, was a mathematician at UH–Mānoa and former chancellor of UH–Hilo. The library at UH–Hilo is named after him. His widow is renowned Hawaiian translator Esther “Kiki” Mo'okini, and their daughter is Ruth Kōnane Mo'okini, MD, JD. Kōnane trained in radiology and law.

## NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND MEDICAL SPECIALTIES

It has been extraordinarily difficult to compile a complete list of Native Hawaiian physicians, and the author recognizes there are likely many other names that could have been included. A deluge in 2004 forced the premature relocation of JABSOM from the Biomedical Sciences Building at UH–Mānoa to its current location in Kaka'ako. The flood also destroyed many of the records at the Office of Student Affairs. Inability to find records of the names and whereabouts of JABSOM graduates was another obstacle faced. Names of those who graduated from mainland medical schools were not easily accessible. There may be other physicians of Native Hawaiian descent who have inadvertently been omitted from

this essay, and for this, I apologize. I hope someone in the future will undertake the task of updating the information in this article. To those who did respond, especially with photographs, I extend my deepest appreciation and thanks.

The following Native Hawaiian physicians have made significant inroads into the medical specialties.

- Anesthesiology: Glenn Akiona, Donna Kalauokalani, Louis Pau, Rudy Puana, James Thompson
- Dermatology: Greg Sakamoto
- Emergency Medicine: Malia Haleakala, Paradis Uyehara Reed
- Endocrinology: Marjorie Mau
- Gastroenterology: Ron Ahloy is a gastroenterologist and is also boarded in internal medicine and infectious disease.
- Hematology: Richard Kekuni Blaisdell
- Hospitalist: Timothy Ahu, Shayne Castanera, Joseph Vierra
- Internal Medicine: Gary Ahn, Charman Akina, Elizabeth Akaka, Gerard Akaka, Rick Apau, Thomas Au, Lance Blaisdell, Kalani Brady, Dee-Ann Carpenter, Merryl Chandler, Melvin Chang, Douglas Duvauchelle, Maude Gibbs, Joycelyn Jurek, Haku Kahoano, Elliot Kalauawa, Joseph Kamaka, William Kea, Laverne Kia, Keola Kleinschmidt, Blase Lee Loy, Henry Lee Loy, Lambert Lee Loy, John Moore, Phillip Reyes, Elizabeth Tam, Coralie Texeira, Susan Wynn, Terence Young. Patrice Ming Tim Sing deserves



Leilani Ka'anehe, MD.  
LEILANI KA'ANEHE



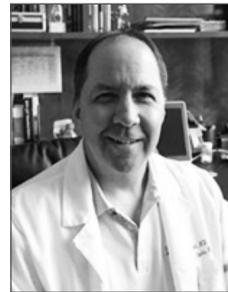
Kanoe-Lehua de Silva, MD.  
KANOE-LEHUA DE SILVA

special recognition since she is double-boarded, having completed residencies in both internal medicine and pediatrics.

- Medicine and Law: Ruth Kōnane Mo'okini (radiology), MD, JD, and Glenn Akiona (anesthesiology), MD, JD.
- Neonatology: Gary Gutcher
- Nephrology: Leilani Ka'anehe, David Na'ai
- Obstetrics/Gynecology: Kanoë-Lehua de Silva, Robert Lui, Abby Morton, Gordon Ontai, Angela M. Pratt, Rene Soon, Ronnie Texeira, Hamilton Winston, Ryan Young
- Oncology: Clayton Chong
- Ophthalmology: Kandon Kamae
- Orthopedics: Andrew Richardson, Sydney Smith
- Otorhinolaryngology (Ear, Nose, Throat): Lawrence Burgess
- Pain Medicine and Sports Medicine: Kaipo Pau, Rudy Puana, Damien Tavares
- Pathology: Rosalyn Keani Enos, William Goodhue Jr.



Clayton Chong, MD.  
BEN YOUNG



Sydney Smith, MD.  
BEN YOUNG



Rosalyn Keani  
Enos, MD.  
ROSALYN KEANI ENOS

- Pediatrics: Noelani Apau, Lisa Wang Dowsett, Kathleen Durante, Maile Apau Jachowski, Lisa Kahikina, Rhonda Kamoku, Bridgit Lee Kover, Winona Mesiona-Lee, Carol Titcomb, Kelli-Ann Voloch, Carl Yu



Jana Silva, MD.  
JANA SILVA

- Perinatology: Jana Silva (Jana is an ‘Imi Ho’ōla graduate and the only Native Hawaiian in the nation who has specialized in this area of high-risk pregnancies. She initially trained as a RN, and after receiving her MD degree, she entered an ob/gyn residency program and subspecialized in perinatology. Such medical professionals are also known as maternal fetal medicine specialists.)



Cedric Akau, MD.  
BEN YOUNG

- Physiatry (Physical/Rehab Medicine): Cedric Akau, Thomas Au, Deno Barroga, Kaipō Pau
- Psychiatry: Naleen Naupaka Andrade, Kuhio Asam, Cathy Bell, Nalani Blaisdell-Brennan, Shaylin Ku‘upuhahele Chock, Ian Chun, Kenneth Luke, George Makini, Linda Nāhulu, Henry Yang, Ben Young, Robert Young, Noelle Yuen
- Radiology: Desi Barroga, Roberta Apau Ikemoto, David Mattson Jr., Ruth Kōnane Mo‘okini
- Sports Medicine: Blaine Chong
- Surgery: Emmett McGuire

Of paramount importance are those in family practice, who care for the entire 'ohana. This is a field that demands a broad base of knowledge in medicine. Among those in this specialty are William Ahuna, Keith Carmack, Miriam Chang, Damien Kaponō Chong-Hanssen, Bernard Kuokoa Chun, Lehua Concepcion, Alean Cook-Palmer, Peter Donnelly, Chiyome Leina'ala Fukino, Wayne Fukino, Bradley Hope, Momi Ka'anoi, Nohea Kaawaloa, Paul Kaiwi, Martina Kamaka, Christina



Bernard Chun, MD.  
BEN YOUNG



Kapua Medeiros, MD.  
KAPUA MEDEIROS

Kleinschmidt, Natalie Kehau Kong, Bradley Lee, Bridgit Lee, Melanie Lee, Richard Lee-Ching, Richard Markham, Kapua Medeiros, Sol Naluai, Kalamaoka'āina Niheu, Sidney Ontai, Michelle Shimizu (FPOB), William Thomas, and Nathan Wong.

One family practitioner should be singled out for his tremendous contribution in a different health arena. The island of Kaho'olawe was taken over by the United States military during World War II and was desecrated by relentless bombing. It was damaged almost to the point of annihilation, and its mana was virtually completely depleted. The physician who stepped up to help begin a long, difficult, and politically complicated healing process was Noa Emmett Aluli, MD.



Noa Emmett Aluli, MD.  
BEN YOUNG

He was one of the first students in the Dean's Guest program, graduating with the first JABSOM MD class in 1975. His intervention as a spiritual healer brought about the beginnings of a healthy restoration of the island of Kaho'olawe. Many have heard of the exploits of Dr. Aluli, who daringly landed on this island in 1976 with a small group of other Native Hawaiians, just one year after he received his medical degree from JABSOM. Most people do not realize that this act resulted in his being arrested and charged with a felony for "trespassing" on US federal property, on land which by right belonged to the Hawaiian nation. Had he been convicted of that felony, he would have lost his medical license. He was one of the very few at this period of the dawning of the Hawaiian Renaissance who had the vision to realize that the health of a people is reflected in the health of the land.

In researching and trying to recall the personal backgrounds of Native Hawaiian physicians for this article, many, many stories emerged, including touching tales of hardships and privations. The following are only two examples of extraordinary stories about our Hawaiian doctors.

A young girl was raised on the leeward coast of O‘ahu, an area that has some of the most disturbing statistics on Native Hawaiians who are on welfare rolls, homeless, and dependent on drugs. Laverne Kia was born and raised in the community of Nānākuli on Hawaiian homestead land. She was the youngest of 15 siblings. She attended Nānāikapono School and then had the opportunity to attend Sacred Hearts Academy in Kaimukī. However, the family was unable to afford the \$200 yearly tuition. Her parents were disabled, so the nuns at Sacred Hearts Academy found a job for Laverne cleaning classrooms and bathrooms after school. This janitorial work helped to pay for her tuition at Sacred Hearts. She then entered and graduated from UH, enrolled in ‘Imi Ho‘ōla, and received her medical degree from JABSOM in 1985. She completed her residency in internal medicine and today, Laverne Kia, MD, is practicing in ‘Ewa.

Another remarkable story is that of a young man who grew up in poverty, was raised by a single mother, and was one of many youngsters in the crowded tenement public welfare units known as Pālolo Housing. Several people became aware of his athletic skills, so he came under the watchful eyes of numerous high school coaches. He was offered an athletic scholarship at ‘Iolani High School. However, before accepting the invitation to attend ‘Iolani, he and his mother decided to visit the school and were stunned to learn that lunch prices were *a la carte*. Since the cost of lunches, approximately \$20 a month, would have been an enormous burden for this mother and son, they were ready to turn down this opportunity to attend ‘Iolani, an institution that was established by King Kamehameha IV. The Queen Lili‘uokalani Children’s Center became aware of the plight of this youngster, and under the guidelines established by the queen’s will, a modest monthly check was sent to the mother to cover the cost of lunches.



Elliott Kalauawa, MD.  
BEN YOUNG

This young man graduated from ‘Iolani, went on to Whitman College, and then received his medical degree from JABSOM. He completed the internal medicine residency program at UH and was selected for the

prestigious position of chief resident in his final year of training. Today, Elliott Kalauawa, MD, is the medical director at Waikiki Health, a facility that serves mainly the impoverished, the uninsured, those unable to pay for medical care, the drug addicted, the homeless, the forgotten elderly, the sexually exploited, and those who are lost in the concrete jungles of Waikiki.

Even though there is another dire national physician shortage now (Hawai'i alone faces a need for 900 physicians in the next decade), it is questionable whether or not federally funded affirmative action programs in health education and research will continue. Much will depend on the efforts of activists to persuade and convince Congress to act for underrepresented peoples. Medical schools also need to continue programs aimed at social justice until the day affirmative action is no longer needed.

In 1990, Nadine Alexander Kahanamoku, wife of the great Olympian Duke Kahanamoku, established a scholarship fund in honor of her husband and his aspirations for the future. The Nadine Alexander and Duke Kahanamoku Scholarship assists Native Hawaiian students pursuing a medical degree at JABSOM. Following Nadine's death in 1997, her entire estate was donated to JABSOM to be used for these scholarships. Below is a list of the Kahanamoku Scholarship recipients who graduated from JABSOM with their medical degree.

**Class of 2000**

Dr. Ann Terai Escamillo  
Dr. Lori-Anne Tungpalan-Grondolsky

**Class of 2001**

Dr. Kealanalani R. Richards

**Class of 2002**

Dr. Vanessa H. Eaglin  
Dr. Tiffany C. K. Forman  
Dr. Paul A. Kaiwi Jr.  
Dr. Joseph H. Kamai

**Class of 2003**

Dr. Kristin K. Fernandez  
Dr. Steven J. K. Lum

**Class of 2004**

Dr. Rosalyn K. Enos  
Dr. A. Malia Haleakala  
Dr. Jerem Nohea Ka'awaloa  
Dr. Jeanelle Kam-Castro  
Dr. Roxanne M. Kawelo  
Dr. Celeste M. Lajala  
Dr. Alin V. Pono Ledford  
Dr. Liana L. Peiler

**Class of 2005**

Dr. Christina Keola Adams  
 Dr. Trissy M. Chun  
 Dr. Monica K. Mau  
 Dr. Kaipo T. Pau  
 Dr. Greg K. Sakamoto

**Class of 2006**

Dr. Ian Nui Chun  
 Dr. Haku K. Kahoano  
 Dr. Kandon K. Kamae  
 Dr. Shyla M. Penaroza  
 Dr. Paradis Uyehara Reed  
 Dr. Damien K. Tavares Jr.  
 Dr. Ryan A. K. Young

**Class of 2007**

Dr. Shaylin P. Chock  
 Dr. Leon P. Matsuo

**Class of 2008**

Dr. Kristine M. Saiki Cornejo  
 Dr. Chelestes L. K. Grace  
 Dr. Ashley M. Ono  
 Dr. Ronnie B. Texeira

**Class of 2009**

Dr. Healani Charon Calhoun  
 McConnell

**Class of 2010**

Dr. Nalani E. Gauen  
 Dr. Kimberly B. Gerard  
 Dr. Marcus Kawika Iwane

Dr. Christian K. K. Kikuchi  
 Dr. Natalie Kehau A. Kong  
 Dr. Jordan K. Y. F. Lee  
 Dr. Kapua K. Medeiros  
 Dr. Heather R. Miner  
 Dr. Andrew B. Richardson  
 Dr. Joshua I. Santos

**Class of 2011**

Dr. Spring K. Golden  
 Dr. Erin A. K. Kalua  
 Dr. Kawika A. Mortensen  
 Dr. Kaumakaokalani M. Shimatsu

**Class of 2012**

Dr. Natalie Young Albanese  
 Dr. Taylor J. K. Choy  
 Dr. Bianca K. Y. Chun  
 Dr. Kanoë-Lehua E. C. de Silva  
 Dr. Leah K. Wang Dowsett  
 Dr. Melanie Moanike'ala Payanal

**Class of 2014**

Dr. Akolea K. Ioane  
 Dr. Sara Ku'uleialoha Christensen  
 Dr. Kenneth Kaleoloha Ortiz

**Class of 2015**

Dr. Kaimana B. Chow  
 Dr. Christy Ann Gilman  
 Dr. Steven W. A. Gonsalves  
 Dr. Sally K. Markee  
 Dr. Austin S. Nakatsuka  
 Dr. Anne Richardson Wright

A panoramic view of Native Hawaiian physicians today will find them caring for residents from Nā‘ālehu to Ni‘ihau, from Hilo to Hanapēpē, from Wailuku to Wai‘anae, from Kealakekua to Kalihi, and from the summit of Kapālama Heights (Nathan Wong, MD, *Hale Ola*) to Kamuela. As one contemplates Hawai‘i’s medical history, one can find two Hawaiian physicians today, Kalani Brady, MD, and Peter Donnelly, MD, regularly caring for the last remaining elderly victims of Hansen’s disease at the settlement of Kalaupapa.

There is an ‘ōlelo that metaphorically describes a lifespan, but it also depicts the breadth and expanse of this unique land of ours:

Mai ka hikina a ka lā i Kumukahi a ka welona a ka lā i Lehua  
*From the sunrise at Kumukahi to the fading sunlight at Lehua*  
(Pukui, 1983, # 2058)

The education of Native Hawaiian physicians has been a deep and passionate interest of mine for over 40 years, and the goal was simple: ho‘oulu nā kauka, to increase the doctors. Over the last four decades, the landscape of health has changed dramatically, and Hawaiian physicians can now be found on every island caring for patients in every community, for both Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians, from where the sun rises at Kumukahi to where the sun sets at the islet of Lehua.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ua hala nā kāhuna lapa‘au kahiko;  
Akā...kēia manawa, ua pala nā hua ho‘okanu.  
*The ancient healers are gone;*  
*But...the seeds planted are now blooming.*

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Benjamin B. C. Young, MD, is the grandson of Louise Alapa'i. He is married to DeDe Young. He attended Roosevelt High School and graduated from the Howard University School of Medicine, Washington, DC. He is the first Native Hawaiian to train in psychiatry and completed his residency at UH. He was dean of students at JABSOM and established the 'Imi Ho'ōla program. He also served as vice president of Student Affairs at UH–Mānoa. He was chief of staff at Castle Medical Center and is the former director of the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence. He was the physician on the maiden voyage of *Hōkūle'a* in 1976 from Tahiti to Hawai'i. He was named a Living Treasure of Hawai'i by the Honpa Hongwanji and is the recipient of numerous awards, including the David Malo Award from the West Honolulu Rotary Club, the 'Ō'ō Award from the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, and the I Ulu I Ke Kumu Award from UH's Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge. He is a member of the Kalaupapa Historical Commission and was designated a Distinguished Historian by the Hawaiian Historical Society. His undergraduate alma mater, Milligan College in Tennessee, also recognized him as a Distinguished Alumnus.