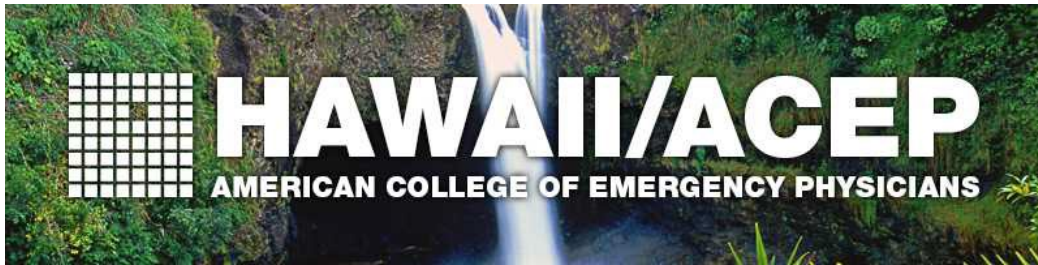


A Newsletter for the Members of the Hawaii Chapter - Summer 2023

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President's Message Gregory A. Suarez, MD

The recent tragedy on Maui was a harsh display of the ferocity of nature and the fragility of life. I'm hoping it may also be a reminder of the power of human compassion and the spirit of aloha.

In my experience with disaster relief, I've been told that direct financial contributions to local efforts in the community affected is the most powerful way to assist in relief. This money can be used to support the people in distress and meet his/her specific needs while also stimulating the local economy.

While monetary donations are ideal, I'd like to encourage our membership to consider donating our time and expertise in the form of volunteerism. Not only can we get involved with the acute needs of our neighbors, we can also be better prepared for the next disaster. Please take this opportunity to look into the various organizations that provide relief in times of need and see how your skills might be useful.

For more information about volunteering with acute efforts on Maui, [please visit this site](#).

For details regarding the medical reserve corps in Hawaii more broadly, [visit this site](#).

You may also consider joining The Hawaii Healthcare Medical Emergency Response Team, more information located [here](#).

I appreciate your consideration.

Legislative Committee Update Elizabeth England, MD

We are now a few months outside of the legislative session, which means we will soon be gearing up to prepare for the next session in January.

I would like to highlight a few significant successes we saw this past year that will impact both us and our patients:



- SB397 (now integrated into the state budget)- In my opinion, this is one of the most significant successes we have had recently. This bill, which was incorporate into the state budget, mandates an increase in Medicaid reimbursements to be equal to Medicare reimbursements. Hawaii Medicaid compensates, on average, \$0.62 to every \$1 in physician fee-for-service that Medicare does. Increasing this compensation to Medicare rates could mean noticeable overall increases in reimbursement for our Medicaid patient population. Note, this is set to END in June 2025, so the fight is not over!!
- SB674- Hawaii joined the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, creating an expedited pathway for currently licensed physicians to become licensed in multiple states.
- State budget (HB661)- Funds (\$10 million in fiscal year 2024 and \$20 million for 2025) were added to the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program for Healthcare Professionals to encourage more providers to come to Hawaii.

Notably, there were not any bills I identified that addressed the issue of transferring hemodialysis patients, an issue that was brought up to me last year. If you have any examples of cases/stories and/or can write a brief summary of your experience with this issue, I can use it to see if we can draft legislation to submit for this upcoming session. Please also let me know if there are any other concerns or ideas you have!



Sept 13th 6:30 PM

Annual Meeting

The Pig and the Lady
83 N King St. Honolulu, HI 96817

www.hawaiiacep.org

Hawaii ACEP Chapter Annual Meeting
Wednesday, September 13, 2023
6:30PM to 9:30PM HST

Join us to hear from our Special Guests!

[Governor Joshua Green, MD](#)
National ACEP President: [Dr. Christopher Kang](#)

The Pig and The Lady
83 N. King St. Honolulu, HI 96817
Private Dining Space (Upstairs)

[Register](#)

An election will be held during the meeting. Want to run? The open positions are the following:

- Director - Oahu
- Director - Hawaii
- Director - Kauai
- Director - Maui

The terms for the above positions are Two Years & Three Consecutive Terms.

- Councillor (1 Position)

The terms for the above position is Two Years & Unlimited Consecutive Terms.

Run for an open position by clicking [here](#).

If you have any question regarding the annual meeting or election you can send us an email [here](#).

FROM NATIONAL ACEP



ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP President shares highlights of ACEP victories. In the July issue of *ACEP Now*, Medical Editor in Chief Cedric Dark, MD, FACEP, checks in with ACEP President Chris Kang, MD, FACEP, for the latest on the College's work to address ED boarding, physician burnout, private equity in EM and more. [Read more.](#)

Advocacy victory: In a big win for emergency physicians, changes to the surprise billing process are now in the works. We heard your concerns and used our voice to call out extensive flaws in the law's implementation. This is your dues dollars at work. [Read more.](#)

Latest updates related to the APP closure: In the wake of American Physician Partners' closing, many members need immediate support. Even if you weren't directly impacted, the changing landscape of healthcare brings uncertainty - and ACEP has [tools](#) to help.

- Watch our recent [legal webinar about job transitions](#) to help with contract decisions.
- Access our **new** [contract toolkit](#) with extensive, members-only FAQs about insurance, contracts and legal issues during career transitions
- Email presidentkang@acep.org if you or a colleague has been affected, and share specific circumstances so ACEP can provide tailored assistance.

Your newest member benefit helps with contract review and negotiations! ACEP's new partnership with Resolve gives you free access to real-time salary data, a contract scorecard to rate any new or existing contract, and updates on the current J-1 waiver cycle. ACEP members also get 20% off additional packages from Resolve. [Read more.](#)

Millions in Funding Set for ALTO, MAT Programs. ACEP advocacy resulted in millions of dollars in grant funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The significant boost for emergency physician-led Alternative to Opioids (ALTO) and Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs will help save lives and improve care related to opioid use disorder. ACEP developed and worked to pass the law to establish ALTO and strongly supports MAT expansion, including the recent repeal of the "X-waiver." [Read more.](#)

ICYMI, ACEP releases statements on Diversity and CMGs

On July 14, ACEP issued a [Policy Statement on the Corporate Practice of Medicine](#). ACEP believes the physician-patient relationship is the moral center of medicine. The integrity of this relationship must never be compromised. On July 20, ACEP issued a Joint [Statement from EM organizations on efforts to diversify healthcare](#) professionals in the U.S. [See all policy statements.](#)

ACEP Grassroots Advocacy

ACEP's ED Visit Program

As part of ACEP's federal advocacy efforts, we aim to have as many legislators as possible visit emergency departments in their communities to see first-hand the inner workings of an ED and those patients seeking care in the ED. Members of Congress rely heavily upon input from their constituents when considering issues and making policy decisions. As the front line of our nation's health care delivery system, emergency physicians are well-positioned to educate legislators on a wide range of issues including patient access, public health concerns, rural and inner-city health issues, and quality of care.

ACEP assists in the scheduling and preparation for these visits, including talking points and tips on coordinating the visit with your hospital staff and administration. For more information about hosting an ED visit for your federal legislator, please contact [Jeanne Slade](#) or [Liz Demorest](#) in the ACEP Washington, D.C. Office.

NEMPAC Networking Opportunities at ACEP23:

The NEMPAC Board of Trustees is inviting NEMPAC VIP donors to two exclusive events at ACEP23 – don't miss the opportunity to network with ACEP leaders and colleagues who support emergency medicine advocacy!

NEMPAC VIP Donor Reception

When: Sunday, October 8, 6-8 p.m.

Where: The Liberty View at Independence Visitor Center, 599 Market Street, Philadelphia

How to Receive an Invitation: Donate \$600 (\$365 for transitioning and retired members, \$60 for residents)

NEMPAC “Give-a-Shift” Donor Lounge

When: Monday, October 9 – Wednesday, October 11, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day

Where: Philadelphia Convention Center, Level 100, Room 117

How to Receive an Invitation: Donate \$1,200 (\$365 for transitioning and retired members, \$120 for residents)

[Donate to NEMPAC](#) by October 4 or during ACEP23 to join us at the Reception and Lounge!

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

Sep. 18: Nominations due for [ACEP's Medical Humanities Writing & Visual Arts Awards](#)

Oct 9-12: [ACEP23](#) Scientific Assembly, Philadelphia, PA

Hawaii ACEP Chapter

Gregory A. Soares, MD, FACEP, FAWM - President

(800) 798-1822 Extension 3312 | [Website](#)

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