# Imi Hale

**Native Hawaiian Cancer Network** 

# "Imi Hale Native Hawaiian Cancer Network A Program of Papa Ola Lökahi Ho`oilo 2010

# Aloha Kakou and Happy Holidays!

2010 has been quite a year—lots of successes, challenges and blessings. We share some highlights of 2010 and take this time to wish all of you a prosperous Hau`oli Makahiki Hou (Happy New Year)!

## **2010** in review...



January 2010—The `Imi Hale program staff opened a satellite office on the grounds of the Queen's Medical Center (QMC) ). Kahu William Kaina

graciously blessed our new hale and Dr. Noreen Mokuau, QMC's Board Chair and part of 'Imi Hale's founding staff, welcomed us to the campus.



Ho'okele i ke Ola, our Cancer Patient Navigation Training Program held two 48-hour trainings in January and May, bringing the total of trained naviga-

tors to 105. The program also provided 16 hours of continuing education to navigators over the last year and now partners with QMC on a new program to support navigation in 3 rural island hospitals. Also, see highlights of their, "best ever" annual conference held in November (Page 4).



'Imi Hale partners with QMC's NCI Community Cancer Centers Program, one of 30 Centers in the nation. 'Imi Hale provides leadership for the Disparities Core which focuses on race/ethnicity data collection, community outreach, cancer screening, patient navigation, cultural competency, and continuity of care across the cancer continuum to patients experiencing healthcare disparities.

#### COMMUNITY NETWORK PROGRAM II

September 2010 — Imi Hale received a five-year U54 award from the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities, NCI, to continue our Community Network Program (CNPII) through 2015 under the leadership of our Co-PIs, Dr. Clayton Chong and Dr. Kathryn Braun. This award includes two exciting research projects, 1) a randomized control trial, Dr. Keawe Kaholokula PI, testing a weight loss intervention in Native Hawaiian worksites and 2) a two-year pilot study on Native Hawaiian perceptions on biobanking, Dr. Maile Taualii, PI.

**Other awards**: `Imi Hale received two ARRA awards to support the planning of a Colorectal Cancer Education Campaign, and a two-year pilot on Cancer-HIV research development, Dr. Lana Kaopua, Pl. **For summaries, see pages 2 & 3.** 



**October 2010** — `Imi Hale's Steering Committee and Community Council members first CNP II meeting.

### We bid farewell to staff this year,

**Lehua Abrigo,** our Program Assistant has joined Papa Ola Lokahi's staff.

**Jeanine Yonashiro,** with our Ho`okele i ke Ola Program, got married and relocated to California.

Lorrie Ann Santos, an `Imi Hale veteran of 10 years, received her MPA this year and is now at QMC with the NCI Community Cancer Centers Program.

Amanda Allison, with our Ho`okele i ke Ola Program, moved to QMC to be the Program Director of the their new HRSA-funded Navigation Program for Rural Communities.

**Mahealani McClellan,** leaves our Ho`okele i ke Ola Program in January to join the QMC Cancer Patient Navigation staff.

Mahalo nui loa ia `oukou!



#### **MEET OUR NEW 'IMI HALE STAFF**



Jermy-Leigh, May Rose, and Koa

Aloha and happy holidays! We would like to introduce you to three of our newest 'Imi Hale team members: Jermy-Leigh Domingo, May Rose Dela Cruz, and Koa Robinson. They already have some projects underway, and may call you soon for some assistance and/or feedback. To get to know them better, here is a short description of their backgrounds.

Jermy-Leigh Domingo is a Project Associate on the Ho'okele i ke Ola Cancer Patient Navigation Training Project at 'Imi Hale. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Health Sciences from Linfield College-Portland Campus and her MPH in Epidemiology from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Prior to working at 'Imi Hale, Jermy worked as a Nutrition Educator at Kalihi-Palama Health Center.

Jermy is currently working on standardizing and packaging the Ho'okele i ke Ola Patient Navigation Training Curriculum. She is working with other Ho'okele team members to coordinate the upcoming navigation trainings and continuing education opportunities for trained Navigators.

May Rose Dela Cruz is an 'Imi Hale Community Health Educator. She obtained a BA Psychology Degree and a Master of Public Health Degree from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She has worked for the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i for eleven and a half years before joining 'Imi Hale. May Rose will be assisting with the Queen's Medical Center NCI Community Cancer Centers Program and also with the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems regarding evaluation of materials and funding opportunities.

**Koa Robinson** is also a Community Health Educator at `Imi Hale.

After receiving his Bachelor's degree from Middlebury College in Vermont, he returned to Hawai'i and obtained a Master of Public Health Degree in Social and Behavioral Health Sciences from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. During this time, Koa also worked as an intern at Papa Ola Lōkahi as well as Ke Ola Mamo. His main project at the moment is to work with stakeholders throughout the state to develop a media campaign for colorectal cancer screening and organize and distribute the education materials developed by 'Imi Hale and Pacific Diabetes Education Program.

'Imi Hale staff is meeting with Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems' staff and other community partners to identify our priority projects for the coming year. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to call us at 526-1700.



# **COLORECTAL CANCER CAMPAIGN** by Koa Robinson

'Imi Hale has started to collaborate with stakeholders statewide to develop a colorectal cancer (CRC) screening media campaign. This campaign aims to increase CRC screening rates in Hawai'i, particularly among groups that are historically underscreened and/or have the highest CRC mortality rates, such as Native Hawaiians and Filipinos. Contributing

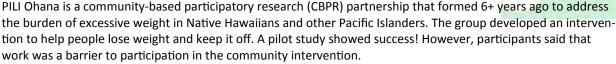
stakeholders include the Department of Health (DOH), Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i (CRCH), American Cancer Society (ACS), Queen's Medical Center, Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness Research and Training (AANCART), and 'Imi Hale. The media campaign will provide shared vision among stakeholders to improve and support CRC screening efforts throughout the state. The planning process for this media

campaign is being spearheaded by Koa Robinson, JoAnn Tsark, and evaluated by our Research Director, Dr. Kathryn Braun. The planning group began meeting in November and is excited about the campaign's potential to address the low CRC screening rates in Hawai'i.



### GETTING HEALTHY AT WORK WITH PILI@WORK by Keawe Kaholokula, PhD

More and more Americans are overweight, including 80% of Native Hawaiians. Excess body weight increases our risk for cancer, as well as heart disease, diabetes, and other conditions. How can we help people lose weight and keep it off?





PILI@Work, a five-year research project funded by the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities, NCI, is an adaptation of the community-based PILI intervention, tailored for use in Native Hawaiian-serving worksites. Worksite partners include Jackie Ng-Osorio (Kamehameha Schools), Analika Nahulu (the Office of Hawaiian Affairs), Donna Palakiko (Ke Ola Mamo), and Diane Paloma (the Native Hawaiian Health Program of the Queen's Healthcare System). Our goal is to test the effectiveness of the 12-month PI-LI@Work intervention to see if we can better help people lose weight and keep it off. Because we spend most of our daytime hours at work, a worksite intervention may "fit" our needs.

We welcome more partners for PILI@Work, especially partners from Native-Hawaiian-serving worksites willing to help us test this intervention. Working together, we can improve the health of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. For more information, contact Dr. Keawe Kaholoku@hawaii.edu.

### HOW DO NATIVE HAWAIIANS PERCEIVE TISSUE BANKING? by Maile Taualii, PhD, MPH

What is bio-banking? Why is it important to cancer research? This pilot study aims to learn how Native Hawaiians and other Hawaii residents feel about having their blood and tissue samples "saved" in a tissue bank or library and then made available for use in medical research.

In the first step of the 2-year study, questions about tissue banking will be added to the Hawai'i Health Survey (HHS). 'Imi Hale advisors and staff (including Shelly Enos, Leimomi Shearer, Dr. Clayton Chong, and Nicole Taniguchi) already have helped Dr. Tauali'i develop the questions. They will be tested before being added to the statewide HHS. Data will be collected in 2011 and available for analysis at the end of the year. After that, Dr. Tauali'i will hold focus groups with Native Hawaiians to help her interpret and contextualize the findings. This will give us a deeper understanding about how Native Hawaiians feel about bio-banking. Findings also will guide the development of protocols to make sure that banked specimens are protected and appropriate consents for research using tissue samples are obtained. For more information, contact Dr. Tauali'i at mtaualii@papaolalokahi.org.

#### CANCER SCREENING FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV by Lana S. Ka'opua, PhD, DCSW, LSW



People with HIV are living longer and longer. With this welcome longevity has come an unanticipated consequence—namely, the challenge of increased risk of cancer comorbidities, including both HIV and non-HIV related malignancies. Funded through a supplement to 'Imi Hale, this project will: (1) collect statewide data on the prevalence of HIV and cancer and (2) pilot an evidence-informed cancer screening intervention designed for men and women living with HIV, particularly Native Hawaiians and/or rural dwelling residents.

Partners in this project are Dr. Lana S. Ka'opua of the University of Hawai'i Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, Dr. Ceclia Shikuma of the John A. Burns School of Medicine Hawai'i Center for AIDS, and Talita Bowne and Kevin Patrick from the AIDS Community Care Team. The project is guided by a Consumer Advisory Committee of people living with HIV, physicians, and social services providers. For more information, please contact

hivcancerstudy@gmail.com



# Highlights from the HO'OKELE I KE OLA CANCER PATIENT NAVIGATION CONFERENCE by Jermy-Leigh Domingo

The Third Annual Cancer Patient Navigation Conference was held on November 4 & 5, 2010 at The Plaza Best Western Hotel in Honolulu, Hawai`i. This year's conference focused on prevention, screening, treatment, and survivorship of colorectal cancer. Fifty-four people attended including trained Navigators, those touched by cancer, and professionals interested in the patient navigation field.

Regina Igarashi, Native Hawaiian colorectal cancer survivor, concluded our first night with an inspirational keynote address of her experience with cancer.

This year's conference included a Resource Fair featuring 11 invited community organizations. It provided a venue for Navigators and community members to network and share resources and experiences. Friday began with a panel addressing colorectal cancer. Panelists outlined the journey of a colorectal cancer patient from screening to survivorship. One participant stated that "listening to the panel made it simple to



The Patient Navigation Case Studies Panel: Francisco Conde, PhD; Jared Acoba, MD; Mary Garvin, MSW; Debbie Ishihara-Wong, APRN, MN.

In the Patient Navigation Case Studies Panel, navigators shared stories of patients' barriers to care and resources and insights on how to overcome them. Attendees felt the Navigators' honesty and sincerity in presenting each case made this session a touching, yet practical way to showcase what navigators really do. One participant stated that the panel "...just blew me away. Knowing how each navigator deals with each patient differently-what they face and how much barriers they face".

This year's Ho`okele i ke Ola Award was presented to Moloka`i General Hospital's Kukui Ahi Project and accepted by Avette Ponce and Haunani Kamakana, MGH Community Navigators.

This award honors organizations that have made outstanding contributions to cancer patient navigation in Hawai'i, specifically those programs that help reduce disparities in the rate of screening, timely diagnosis, and treatment of cancer for racial and ethnic minorities.



2010 Ho`okele i ke Ola Award Winners: Avette Ponce & Haunani Kamakana of Moloka`l General Hospital— Kukui Ahi Project.

The conference concluded with participants sharing their appreciation for each other and the conference. One participant said, "I came with little knowledge of cancer education. I now am leaving with much more understanding and organizations to assist my clients." Leimomi Shearer, Navigator at Hui Malama Ola Na 'Oiwi, echoed other participants' sentiment when she said, "I learned that the wa'a (canoe) I'm on is big and getting bigger!"

## **HRSA Award to QMC Supports Navigation in Rural Hospitals**

#### by Amanda Allison

A new award to The Queen's Medical Center from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will extend Cancer Patient Navigation to three neighbor island hospitals, Moloka'i General Hospital, Hilo Medical Center and Maui Memorial Medical Center. Debbie Ishihara-Wong, ARPN, MN is the Project's PI and and Amanda Allison, former Program Manager of `Imi Hale's Ho`okele i ke Ola navigation training program is the new Program Coordinator.

Navigation training and support in Hawai'i was started in 2004 by 'Imi Hale

with research on ways to help Hawaiians access the cancer care they need in a timely and effective manner. The Queen's Medical Center has been a key leader, starting the first clinical navigation program in Hawai'i in 2006. Cancer patient navigation at Queen's helps hundreds of cancer patients and their families annually, to successfully surmount barriers to cancer care.

The aim of the project is to increase patients' access to on-island cancer care services whenever possible, and off-island services when not.

'Imi Hale is a working partner in this initiative. JoAnn Tsark, MPH will coordinate Navigation training and Kathryn Braun, DrPH will monitor data processes and report on quality improvement and data evaluation. The grant award also provides for continuing education for the rural-based navigators and support from Queen's on establishing clinic-based cancer navigation program.

This new endeavor builds on the 'Imi Hale/ QMC partnership to advance cancer patient navigation in Hawai'i to minimize barriers to cancer care.





January 14, 2011—"Cultural Competency: Insights When Serving Micronesian Patients in Hawai'i". Presented by Nia Aitaoto, MS, MPH at the Queen's Conference Center Auditorium, 8-9:00 a.m.

**Ho'okele i ke Ola Cancer Patient Navigation Training**. January 27-28, February 3-4, and February 10-11. Honolulu, HI.

**February 9—Ho'okele i ke Ola Continued Education: Motivational Interviewing.** Presented by Doris Young of the Queen's Medical Center at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Biomed D207, Honolulu HI. 8:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

For more details about upcoming events, contact our office at (808) 526-1700.

Right: Two new brochures were recently developed to assist Cancer Patient Navigators and their programs. Copies are available at our `Imi Hale office and will soon be available for download on our website, www.imihale.org.

## 'Imi Hale

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"Fluffy", our new mascot, is a seven-week old Manu o Ku (White Tern or Gygis alba) that was hatched on the tree outside of 'Imi Hale's front door. He is visited daily by his parents to be fed. Through high winds and torrential rain, he sits there... and inspires us all.

#### **EDITORIAL STAFF:**

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