



HAWAIIAN NINTH-GRADER A SEMIFINALIST IN THE 2005 DISCOVERY CHANNEL YOUNG SCIENTIST CHALLENGE

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Congratulations to Hilo's own, Melissa Pomaika'i Akiko Luga, who was a semifinalist in the 2005 Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge, for her research identifying the phytochemical properties of the paperbark tree.

As a junior researcher in the Na Liko Noelo program Melissa became 'Imi Hale's youngest researcher in 2004 when, as a 8th grader, she was recognized for her natural products research on Allelopathic Potential of the Paperbark Tree (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*).

Melissa continued last year with Phase II of her project and received 'Imi Hale's highest award for cancer preven-

tion and control in the state-wide Academy of Science Fair, in the Junior Research Division.

In October 2005, Melissa was one of 40 finalists out of 400 national semifinalists selected to go to Washington, D.C. and compete for a share of over \$40,000 in scholarships and prizes. Their experience was showcased in a PBS television special in December. On Melissa's winning support team are her mom and dad, Kat and Roland Luga, Sandy Ritz, and of course 'Imi Hale.

Find out more on the Young Scientist Challenge at, www.discovery.com/dcysc

Melissa, now in high school, boards at the Kamehameha



Melissa Luga, in front of her research poster at the Discovery Channel's Young Scientist Challenge, in Washington, DC.

Schools Kapalama campus.

She has a promising research career ahead of her.

When Partnerships Work. Mahalo e Kauka Hui!

'Imi Hale had the pleasure of extending our Mahalo Nui Loa to members of the 'Ahaui o na Kauka – Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians, affectionately known as the Kauka Hui, at their annual meeting on February 4, 2006.

Over the past five years, the Kauka Hui has demonstrated how a true partnership works. Living up to their goal... "to engage in educational, scientific and charitable activities which promote superior health care for all Native Hawaiians," the Kauka Hui donated over 500 hours of

service to support 'Imi Hale community education and awareness programs and cancer prevention and control research. Those service hours were applied to cancer screening and education, mentoring of student interns, serving on the Native Hawaiian IRB, participating in surveys and reviewing and endorsing patient education materials.

Members of the Kauka Hui have in turn utilized the resources of 'Imi Hale -- participating in research trainings and accessing pilot funds

to conduct cancer prevention and control research.

"It feels good," said Hawaiian oncologist Dr. Clayton Chong, 'Imi Hale's Principal Investigator and a founding member of the Kauka Hui, "to know that the Kauka Hui is making a significant contribution to Hawaiian health. Our actions speak well to two of our key objectives, 1) involving our members in health and wellness activities and 2) supporting organizations whose purpose is to improve Native Hawaiian health."

'Imi Hale, a program of Papa Ola Lokahi is funded by the National Cancer Institute to reduce the incidence and mortality from cancer in Native Hawaiians. It is one of only 25 Community Program Networks funded by NCI's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities.

Papa Ola Lokahi, founded in 1988, is recognized by the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act to improve the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians.

Hawai'i Community Foundation Awards \$150,000 for Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems to Institutionalize Tobacco Cessation

Nearly 90% of all lung cancer deaths can be linked to tobacco use.

One in five Hawaiians smoke everyday, the highest percentage among the five major ethnic groups in Hawai'i.

Lung cancer is one of the most common cancers among Native Hawaiian men and women.

In December 2005, Hawai'i Community Foundation awarded Papa Ola Lokahi \$150,000 to institutionalize a comprehensive tobacco cessation protocol across the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, that include "best practices" adapted from successful national programs.

One in five Hawaiians smoke everyday, the highest percentage among the five major ethnic groups in Hawai'i.

Cigarette smoking is a risk factor for several cancers, heart disease, stroke, and lung disease and is implicated in

chronic allergy, sinus, asthma and ear infections both for smokers and those exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke.

Nearly 90% of all lung cancer deaths can be linked to tobacco use.

The cost to society of smoking-related medical care has been estimated at \$50 billion. Hawai'i incurs an annual cost of \$328 million in hospital and medical costs for smokers who have prematurely died and for treating those who suffer from tobacco-caused illnesses and their disabilities and lost productivity.

Through a collaborative effort Imi Hale and the NHHCS will establish a tobacco screening and intervention standard to help reduce the number of Hawaiians using tobacco. This includes cross-training health professionals from the five NHHCS in multiple therapies, as well as supplying the NHHCS with monitoring equipment and smoking cessation tools.

This grant award was funded through the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund, part of the State of Hawai'i's Master Settlement Agreement with the tobacco industry.

"The Quit Kit is part of a comprehensive tobacco program being standardized by the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems."



OHA Supports Native Hawaiian Tobacco Cessation Program

Imi Hale was awarded \$24,800 by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to support tobacco cessation programs serving Native Hawaiians.

These funds have been used to develop and disseminate 5,000 Quit Kits, now available through the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems statewide.

These kits include a stress reliever, local resources, educational materials, and substitutes for a cigarette, such as a lifesaver lollipop, flavored toothpick, a bottle of bubbles, cough drops, gum, and more.

The Quit Kit is part of a comprehensive tobacco program being standardized

by the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, that incorporates national recommendations and involves State cessation efforts, such as the Hawai'i Tobacco Quitline to assist smokers who want to quit.

Hawaiians have the highest smoking rate in the State, we can make a difference.

Basic Skills Training in Brief Intervention



*View from Kokee, Kauai
January 10, 2006*

In January 2006, a two-day Basic Skills training in tobacco brief intervention was held on Kauai for the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems.

At the conclusion of the two-day training, 10 new individuals were certified by the Hawai'i State Department of Health to

conduct Basic Skills Training in brief intervention to assist those ready to quit smoking.

These 10 individuals are now tasked with the responsibility of training staff within their respective organizations as part of the comprehensive tobacco program being standardized by

the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, with the technical support of Imi Hale and funding from the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund of Hawai'i Community Foundation.

Trainings are being scheduled throughout the islands.

New Hawai'i Tobacco Quitline opens local Coaching Center, provides free coaching and free NRT for Uninsured

Taken from a Press Release by StarrPR Public Relations:

An important tool in the fight against one of Hawai'i's most costly and preventable health hazards - tobacco use - has opened locally.

The Hawai'i Tobacco Quitline and its local coaching center provides Hawai'i's uninsured and Medicaid-insured tobacco users with **Call It Quits** - a free, convenient and proven program to quit smoking with on-going coaching support and free Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) like the patch,

gum, etc.

The Hawai'i Tobacco Quitline also provides free information and referrals to tobacco users who have insurance. The Quitline works to find the best support for local smokers and their loved ones - whether that is a local community class, a program offered by their health plan or its own **Call It Quits** program.

Tobacco users who want to quit can visit their website at www.CallItQuitsHawaii.org to get more information about the service, quit tips and the

opportunity to register online for a call-back from a Quit Coach.

The Quitline is run by the nationally recognized leader in delivering evidence-based, tested and validated tobacco treatment, Free & Clear, Inc. The Quitline is paid for by the Hawai'i Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund using money from a settlement with the tobacco industry. The Hawai'i Tobacco Quitline is available statewide by calling toll-free **1-800-QUIT-NOW** (784-8669) or by going online to www.callitquitshawaii.org.



Malama Kou Kino Cancer Care Program

Mahalo to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for their recent award of \$42,822 to `Imi Hale to support the *Malama Kou Kino* Cancer Care Program.

The *Malama Kou Kino* Cancer Care Program provides assistance to Hawaiian women who are diagnosed with breast, cervical, lung or colorectal cancer,

or have abnormal findings and require further follow-up.

Cancer continues to take an unfair toll on our Hawaiian women, who continue to have the highest incidence and death rates for cancers of the breast, lung, colon and rectum in our state. Hawaiian women also have the highest incidence for cervical cancer.

Malama Kou Kino provides some support and financial relief for women during this challenging time.

This program is managed through the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems located on all five major islands.

Please see sidebar for listing and contact numbers.

For more information on Malama Kou Kino Cancer Care Program call the Native Hawaiian Health Care System near you.

- O`ahu—Ke Ola Mamo 848-8000
- Kaua`i—Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i 240-0100
- Moloka`i—Na Pu`uwai 560-3653
- Hawai`i—Hui Malama Ola Na Oiwi, 969-9220
- Mauai—Hui No Ke Ola Pono 244-4647
- Lana`i—Ke Ola Hou O Lana`i 565-6608

Health Research Methods Scholarship

Veronica "Lani" Eugenio, a Master of Education candidate, was selected by the Fiji School of Medicine to receive a PHRC Scholarship to cover all costs for enrollment and participation in the Health Research Method Course offered at Curtin University.

Lani developed the Live ALOHA curriculum for grades K - 4 at Kanu O Ka `Aina, a public charter school on the island of Hawai`i.

The program objectives of Live ALOHA are:

- Increase physical activity

- Increase motor skills
- Improve physical fitness
- Decrease disruptive behaviors
- Increase teacher competency in nutrition and physical activity.

Lani has been a Liko with `Imi Hale since 2004.



‘Imi Hale

Native Hawaiian Cancer Network

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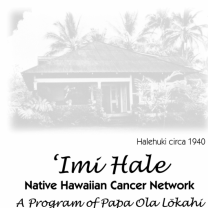
Tribute to Dr. Harold Freeman

Founding Director of the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities, National Cancer Institute

*O `oe kekahi kanaka `olu`olu,
 You are a kind man,
 O `oe kekahi kanaka ha`aba`a,
 You are a humble man,
 O `oe kekahi kanaka no`eau,
 You are a wise man,
 O `oe kekahi kanaka kaulana,
 You are a man, reknown,
 O `oe kekahi kanaka maoli,
 You are a true man,*

Visit our website at www.imihale.org

A Community's Response to Cancer Prevention and Control



Your courage and perseverance has raised awareness and resources to address the cancer burden among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. By your example, we move forward with passion and compassion for others. You have touched many lives and many hearts in Hawaii and the Pacific and we are forever grateful. *E hele aku o Kauka Freeman me makou aloha.* (Go forward Dr. Freeman with our aloha). *Malama pono*, on behalf of the your friends at ‘Imi Hale – Native Hawaiian Cancer Network and the Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands.

Announcements

- **‘Imi Hale Report to the Community**; March 24, 2006 at Washington Place; Honolulu, O`ahu.
- **10th Biennial Symposium on Minorities, the Medically Underserved & Cancer Committed to Eliminating Disparities**; April 19-23, 2006 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC. Complete program information may be obtained online at <http://iccnetwork.org/symposium> or 1-877-BIENNIAL (1-877-243-6642)
- Moffitt Cancer Center presents the **5th Biennial Conference Cancer, Culture and Literacy Solutions for Addressing Health Disparities through Community Partnerships**; May 18-20, 2006 at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort; Clearwater Beach, Florida. For additional information visit www.moffitt.usf.edu.
- **Native Researchers Cancer Control Training Program**; June 11-30, 2006 through Oregon Health & Science University. Visit www.ohsu.edu/summer-institute or contact ‘Imi Hale at 597-6558 or 1-866-600-HALE (1-866-600-4253) for information and application materials.
- **2006 Komen Mission Conference Many Faces One Voice**; June 11-13, 2006 at the Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel, Washington, DC.
- **3rd Advanced Training Institute on Health Behavior Theory**; June 18-25, 2006 at the Fluno Executive Conference Center in Madison, Wisconsin. Applications due by February 3, 2006. For more information and an application go to <http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/workshop/>.
- **UICC World Cancer Congress 2006 Briding the Gap: Transforming Knowledge into Action**; July 8-12, 2005; Washington, DC. For more information visit www.worldcancercongress.org or www.2006conferences.org.
- **13th World Conference on Tobacco OR Health Building Capacity for a Tobacco-Free World**; July 12-15, 2006; Washington, DC. For more information visit www.13thWCTOH.org or www.2006conferences.org.
- **47th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs**; October 23 - 29, 2006, Waikiki Marriott Hotel, O`ahu.