



JABSOM

John A. Burns School of Medicine • University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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NIH film crew interviews Dr. Mau on Molokai.

NIH RECOGNIZES DR. MAU IN NATIONAL VIDEO RESOURCE

by Tina Shelton



Dr. Marjorie Mau

Dr. Marjorie Mau, Professor and longtime former chair of The Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH), is being featured in the "Biomedical Faces of Science" program by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She is only one of nine NIH-funded scientists across the US selected for this honor.

A film crew from Washington, D.C. traveled to Hawai'i to follow her for two days last fall. They accompanied her to some of the places where she treats patients, including The Queen's Medical Center and all the way to Molokai. Dr. Mau's film will help inspire students in middle and high school to consider a career in health sciences and will be available at the NIH Welcome Center and website.

A major focus of Dr. Mau's career continues to be the prevention and control of diabetes mellitus and associated health disparities in Native Hawaiians and other ethnic populations.

She is the Principal Investigator and Director of the Center for Native and Pacific Health Disparities Research. The Center's long-term goal is to eliminate health disparities experienced by Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Peoples and to promote health equity for all. Native Hawaiians, for example, are twice as likely to have diabetes and 5.7 times more likely to die from diabetes or its complications than Caucasians in Hawai'i.

JABSOM's DNHH is the only department in a U.S.- accredited medical school dedicated to the health of a native population. The department's major contributions to the JABSOM include educating students from diverse backgrounds to become physicians who will work with medically underserved communities; conducting health disparities research studies and programs; providing community outreach of health care services; and teaching in Native Hawaiian and medically underserved communities in Hawai'i and the Pacific region.



Dr. Nanette Judd, Director of JABSOM's Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence

\$3 MILLION FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

At least nine jobs to be created

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) has received more than \$3 million to fund the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence (NHCOE) through June 2012.

The new funding creates at least six faculty and three staff positions this year to carry out initiatives aimed at recruiting and retaining Native Hawaiian students in medicine and other health professions in Hawai'i.

Dr. Nanette Judd, Director of JABSOM's Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence, said the new funding will create jobs and stimulate other projects.

Native Hawaiians under-represented

"Native Hawaiians are highly underrepresented in health professions careers, particularly in medicine," said Dr. Nanette Judd, Director for JABSOM's NHCOE and Director for JABSOM's Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program. "The vision of the Center of Excellence is to promote the physical and mental health of all Native Hawaiians by improving the recruitment and retention of health professionals of Native Hawaiian ancestry."

Judd explained NHCOE will link with partners which help prepare students to enter health professional schools. The partners included in the affiliation agreements include 'Ahahui O Na Kauka (the Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians); Kipuka, the Native Hawaiian Student Center

at UH Hilo; the Office of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity at UH Mānoa; Papa Ola Lokahi's Native Hawaiian Health Organization and Native Hawaiian Scholarship Program and the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at UH Mānoa.

Part of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health

The NHCOE, established more than 15 years ago, is part of the UH medical school's Department of Native Hawaiian Health. The new funding, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions, will support research, faculty and student development, cultural competency training, informational resources and networking. The NHCOE also allows the medical school to pursue endowment funds which may spin-off additional projects and funding.

Dr. Judd recognized the assistance of Former NHCOE Director Benjamin Young, MD, in seeking the new grant. "We couldn't have done it without him," said Judd.

National HRSA Administrator Visits JABSOM

Agency provides millions in Hawai'i for health care



Front: Mary Wakefield, HRSA Administrator. Back, left to right: JABSOM Vice Dean Satoru Izutsu; UH Manoa Dean of Nursing and Dental Hygiene Mary Boland; JABSOM Associate Dean Dr. Roy Magnusson; UH Manoa Nursing and Dental Hygiene Director of Community Partnerships Stephanie Marshall.

The Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) visited the John A. Burns School of Medicine recently. Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, met with Vice Dean Satoru Izutsu, Associate Dean Roy Magnusson, Dean of Nursing and Dental Hygiene at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Mary Boland and staff.

HRSA is the primary federal agency dedicated to improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated in rural communities or medically vulnerable.

Last year, HRSA distributed more than \$6 million to Hawaii in 27 awards. Among them, the nearly \$1 million grant to the Department of Native Hawaiian Health's Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence, along with other JABSOM programs supporting education and training through the Department of Medicine and Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Nursing programs at UH Manoa and UH Hilo receive major support as well.