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PRIDOC2008

Pacific Region Indigenous Doctor's Congress

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INDIGENOUS MEDICAL CONFERENCE COMING TO KAUA'I

(Waimea, Kaua'i) Nearly 200 indigenous medical physicians from throughout the Pacific will be on Kaua'i June 10-15, 2008 for the fourth biennial Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress (PRIDoC 2008) in Waimea. The conference is hosted by 'Ahahui o nā Kauka, Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians.

This gathering will provide a forum for indigenous physicians, trainees and students throughout the Pacific to share successes and best practices in research, workforce development, clinical practices and policy upon a foundation of indigenous culture.

"Coming together as indigenous doctors provides a venue for us to learn from one another," waxes PRIDoC 2008 co-chair Dr. Martina Kamaka. "Throughout the Pacific, we are inspired by one another to continue the healing of our people."

Pacific practitioners, medical students, and family members are coming from the Pacific Rim (Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan), Pacific Basin (Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands), South Pacific nations (Samoa, Fiji), Canada, Alaska and the continental United States.

PRIDoC 2008 Workshops devoted to topics of medical education and research will be featured on June 11-12. The main conference issues June 13-15 will be indigenous education in medical schools, community based participatory research, and grow-your-own educational pipeline programs.

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Keynote speakers from Hawai'i are:

- Nainoa Thompson, master navigator & Kamehameha Schools trustee
- Mililani Trask, director of Indigenous World Association & co-author of Native Hawaiian Health Care Act


PRIDoC 2008 Panels are designed around topics of public health, chronic disease, health education, cultural approaches to healing indigenous populations, and other medical interests. One evening there will be a Healers Circle, a talk story session with traditional healing practitioners.

One panel on June 14th will address Sovereignty & Health.

- Hawai'i: Kekuni Blaisdell & Noa Emmett Aluli, Kanaka Maoli physicians & activists
- Australia: Tamara Mackean, indigenous physician and professor of indigenous health
- Canada: Michael Monture, Grand River Mohawk, founder, Haudenosaunee Sovereign Health Service

'Ahahui o nā Kauka, Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA) and TeORA (Maori Medical Practitioners) comprise the primary legs of the PRIDoC stool, with participation from members of Pacific Basin Medical Association (Micronesia), Association of American Indian Physicians (US), Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada, and others.

PRIDoC 2008 is hosted by 'Ahahui o nā Kauka and sponsored by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Supporting partners include Papa Ola Lōkahi, Area Health Education Center and the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at UH John A. Burns School of Medicine, and others.



'Ahahui o nā Kauka, founded in 1998, is the professional association of Native Hawaiian allopathic and osteopathic physicians. Its mission is to champion superior health and wellness for Native Hawaiians and their families.