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FIRST HAWAIIAN MEDICAL STUDENT TO RECEIVE MINORITY SCHOLARS AWARD

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(Kaka'ako, Hawai'i) 'Ahahui o nā Kauka congratulates medical student **Marcus Kawika Iwane** for receiving the Minority Scholars Award from the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation later this month.

The Minority Scholars Award recognizes scholastic achievement and promise for the future among first or second-year medical students in groups defined as "historically underrepresented" in the medical profession. Less than seven percent of U.S. physicians fall within these groups, which include African American/Black, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native and Hispanic/Latino.

Iwane is the first Native Hawaiian to receive this award. "Being the first to receive this award is hard to grasp. The resources are out there. If I can do it, anyone can."

A graduate of Mililani Waena Elementary and The Kamehameha Schools, he is finishing his second year at the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawai'i. He is active with the Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club and Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana. He also participates in health screenings at community events such as Papakōlea Health Fair and the celebration at Pu'u Koholā.

"Uncle Emmett (Aluli) is one of my mentors," says **Iwane** when asked about a role model. "He introduced me to community medicine, showing me that he can follow his na'au (gut), practice his culture, and still care for his patients."

Iwane heads to Chicago later this week to receive his \$10,000 award on Friday, June 13th. "It's going right to my tuition," he exclaims.

Just over 5% of licensed physicians in Hawai'i are Native Hawaiian. There are more than 260 physicians of Native Hawaiian ancestry worldwide and approximately 40 in medical school in Hawai'i and around the country. A roster of members and their specialties can be found at www.kauka.org.

'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.

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