

Kāwili Lā‘au

(To mix ingredients, drugs or medicine; pharmacist)



UNIVERSITY
OF HAWAII
HILO

Special Edition Spring 2009

UHH COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ECONOMIC IMPACT

HOW THE COLLEGE
IS MAKING ITS MARK
IN THE COMMUNITY
AND IN THE STATE

A SPECIAL REPORT



A Message from The Dean

Our excitement about the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy continues to build as the students in our first class reach the halfway point in



JOHN M. PEZZUTO
Ph.D., Professor and Dean

their pursuit of doctorates in pharmacy. We sincerely appreciate the aloha that our community and our state has shown us as we work

toward our mission of improving health care in Hawai'i and throughout the Pacific region.

Now we have even more exciting news to share about the College of Pharmacy's effects on our community. A new economic impact study shows how our presence is providing a tremendous boost to the Big Island as well as the entire state of Hawai'i. Those numbers will increase as our college reaches its full strength of approximately 350 students and our faculty and staff numbers grow.

It's heartening to see the positive influence we are having on the finances of the greater Hilo area, Hawai'i County and the state during these tenuous economic times. Please join me in celebrating the accomplishments of our college and our students with this special edition of our newsletter.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS

UH Hilo study calculates the College of Pharmacy's growing effects on the state

By the time its inaugural class graduates in 2011, the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy will stimulate more than **\$50.2 million per year** in economic activity in the state. The College will support an additional **\$15 million in earnings** by that time, according to a study by a UH Hilo economist.

"If growth continues as planned, our data show the College of Pharmacy will more than double its current output, making it a significant growth pole within the university as well as within the state," said Dr. David Hammes, UH Hilo professor of economics.

Hammes conducted an analysis of the current and projected economic impact of the College of Pharmacy. The data was based on the period from 2008 through 2012.

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far-seeing university administration, specifically Chancellor Rose Tseng, as well as the Board of Regents for their support of this effort to build a professional College of Pharmacy in our state."

U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawai'i



“Building a college that educates pharmacists in Hawai‘i owes a great deal to the leadership of Chancellor Rose Tseng and Dr. Jerry Johnson. Their vision and its execution represent yet another channel via which the University is a positive force in the economy of our state.”

Dr. David McClain, University of Hawai‘i System president

Economic impact study

FROM PAGE 2

seeing university administration, specifically Chancellor Rose Tseng, as well as the Board of Regents for their support of this effort to build a professional College of Pharmacy in our state,” said U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawai‘i.

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Hammes

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The College of Pharmacy is bringing in \$4.2 million revenue from tuition for the 2008-09 academic year, Hammes found in his study. These are tuition dollars that would not come to Hawai‘i without this program because UH Hilo is the only school in the Pacific Basin that offers a doctorate in pharmacy, or Pharm.D., Hammes said.

The college attracts students and family from out of state and

is a draw for Hawai‘i residents, Hammes said.

“CoP keeps students in-state who would leave to attend Pharm.D. programs elsewhere. It’s also interesting and important to note that wage and salary costs associated with the 27 new faculty and staff jobs currently state-funded within the college are significantly more than funded by the new tuition revenues alone,” Hammes said.

Beyond tuition revenues, students, faculty and staff are responsible for injecting \$7.7 million into the local economy this year through increased spending by visitors, attracting grant and research funds, and for living expenses. Hammes found that direct expenditures of \$12 million result in a total increase of \$22.8 million in demand for final goods and services within the state and supports 274 new jobs statewide. These effects will grow as the college expands, Hammes said.

Those figures are getting noticed.

“The economic benefits of the College of Pharmacy will continue to increase as enrollment, research and collaborative efforts grow and develop further,” said U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawai‘i.

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When the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy completes its growth arc and reaches its steady-state number of about 350 students in 2011-12, Dr. David Hammes, UH Hilo economics professor, projects:



Tuition revenues will more than double from \$4.2 million in the 2008-09 academic year to

\$9.6 million



Statewide earnings induced over this four-year trajectory will rise from \$6.9 million to

\$15.3 million



Demand for final goods and services within the state will increase from \$22.8 million to

\$50.2 million



New job creation across all industries statewide, including housing, food, utilities, transportation and personal services, will rise from 274 to

610



The College of Pharmacy seated its inaugural class in fall 2007. Alice Shin is a member of the Class of 2011.

Economic impact study

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Hammes said most of this increased economic activity can be expected to be in Hawai'i County, though the CoP has a presence statewide. Some of the expenditures would be in other counties by way of visitor and research spending, as well as conference activity.

"I am a big fan of Dean Pezzuto and the College of Pharmacy," said Hawai'i Mayor Billy Kenoi. "I truly believe it will have a significant, positive long-term educational and economic impact on our community."

Every dollar generated by the program is new and not at the expense of other university or state program, Hammes said. In addition, each dollar used by the state in salary and wages for CoP attracts a new \$3.38 from outside sources, including tuition revenue, student and visitor spending. If the college grows as planned, this figure will be \$4.04 by 2012 and will level out at \$3.58, Hammes said.

The college seated its inaugural class in fall 2007. Plans call for the addition of 90 students per year for a total of four classes. The college has grown from a staff of about 15 to 32. Over the next few years, plans call for reaching a total staff of about 70.

Chancellor Tseng said the school fulfills a need in the Pacific, and that an exceptional faculty has attracted top students from around the globe.

"We are justifiably proud of the success of our College of Pharmacy, and we thank both Senator Daniel Inouye and the State Legislature for their continued support," she said. "The need for pharmacists is ongoing, which makes the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy an excellent investment both in and for Hawai'i."

Hammes has taught at UH Hilo for 21 years and has conducted economic research in a number of areas, including a historical analysis on the formation of the U.S. Federal Reserve. In 2003, he was awarded the Regents' Medal for Excellence in Teaching.



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**Billy Kenoi,
Hawai'i mayor**

Pharmacy scholarship awards surpass \$25,000

Pharmacy students at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo are receiving financial support from nine scholarships totaling more than \$25,000. Several were announced May 2 at a luau attended by more than 200 College of Pharmacy students, employees and supporters.

Criteria for the scholarships, which are awarded from individuals and corporations, are based on merit and financial need.

"Our students are some of the finest scholars I've ever seen, so the competition is tough for these awards," said Dr. John Pezzuto, dean, College of Pharmacy. "We're grateful to the community for this generous show of faith in supporting pharmacy students as we strive to improve healthcare in Hawai'i."

Scholarship award recipients for 2009-10 are:

- Second-year students **Amber Duncan** of Phoenix, Ariz.; **Adrienne Au** of Honolulu; **Curtis Start** of Kalamazoo, Mich.; **Rochelle Oledzki** of Valparaiso, Ind.; and first-year student **Daniel Hu** of Kurtistown, Hawai'i, were awarded the Target Scholarship, given to students interested in retail pharmacy who have evidence of community service and leadership potential.

- **Marisa Kellett** of Kaneohe, Hawai'i, a first-year student, won the Walgreens Diversity Scholarship, which is awarded to students who have made efforts toward raising awareness or educating others about diversity in the pharmacy profession.

- Second-year students **Amber Duncan**, **Lisa Hagiwara** of Mililani, Hawai'i, and **Veneta Tsonev** of Schiller Park, Ill. won the Wal-Mart Scholarship. The award is given to students with the ability to lead and the desire to enter



Dr. John M. Pezzuto, College of Pharmacy dean, listens as UH Hilo Chancellor Rose Tseng addresses pharmacy students, staff and supporters prior to the announcement of scholarship winners May 2 at a College of Pharmacy luau.

community practice.

- First-year student **Megan Venegas** of Hilo and second-year student **Cari Niimi** of Mountain View, Hawai'i, won the Haga Family Endowed Scholarship, which is intended to help Big Island high school graduates.

- **Rovigel Gelviro**, a second-year student from Alexandria, Va., received the Good Neighbor Pharmacy Scholarship, which helps students who intend to practice in independent community pharmacies with a desire to own a store.

- **Natalie Codianne** of Hilo, **Jessica Toyama** of Aiea, Hawai'i, **Carol Lynn Goo** of Honolulu and **Richelle Hirata** of Honolulu were awarded UH Hilo Achievement Scholarships.

Previous winners of pharmacy scholarships are:

- **Natalie Codianne** and **Ryan Mashiyama** of Hilo, won the UH

Hilo Achievement Scholarships in 2008-09.

- **Ellen Loney** of Kula, Hawai'i, won the 2008-09 Tradition of Caring scholarship from Longs Drugs, which was awarded to a student interested in retail setting practice.

- **Rochelle Oledzki**, **Jessica Toyama** and **Quinn Taira** of Honolulu won the Wal-Mart Scholarship for 2007-08. All were first-year students at the time of the award.

Scholarships yet to be awarded are the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation Pharmacy Partners Scholarship, which is awarded to students with an interest in pursuing a career in community pharmacy, and the J.M. Long Foundation Pharmacy Scholarship, which helps students who plan to practice in a retail community setting.



Dr. John M. Pezzuto, left, UH Hilo College of Pharmacy dean, accepts a \$10,000 donation from Dana Psomas, regional manager for Walgreens' Hawai'i District, and Clark Fujihara, pharmacy manager for Walgreens' Hawai'i District,

Walgreens offers more support

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy received a \$10,000 check from retail pharmacy Walgreens to fund a diversity initiative at the University. Walgreens also presented a check for \$20,000, the second donation toward a \$50,000 pledge, to support the building fund for the newly established pharmacy college.

"This timely gift helps us to join the rest of the nation in recognizing the need for diversity programs," said Dr. John M. Pezzuto, the College of Pharmacy dean. "We're very appreciative of the generous contribution from Walgreens and their commitment to support local students. We have made great strides in a relatively short time because everyone has shared the same vision to make this a center of excellence."

"We're glad to be partnering with UH Hilo to develop this first home-grown, world-class College of Pharmacy for students here in Hawai'i and throughout the Pacific."

Clark Fujihara,
Walgreens district pharmacy
supervisor for Hawai'i

The funds include a \$2,000 scholarship fund to aid in programming for underrepresented students. The gift is part of a Walgreens commitment to donate \$1 million annually toward diversity initiatives at all of the more than 100 pharmacy schools in the United States.

With this new initiative, Walgreens said it hopes more students will be encouraged to consider the contributions they could make as front-line health professionals in neighborhood drugstores.

"We're glad to be partnering with UH Hilo to develop this first home-grown, world-class College of Pharmacy for students here in Hawai'i and throughout the Pacific," said Clark Fujihara, Walgreens district pharmacy supervisor for Hawai'i.

The donation to the building fund will help the college meet accreditation requirements. Plans call for as many as four modular buildings on a four-acre parcel near the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center that will be the home of classrooms, offices, research and teaching laboratories.



Not even rain ponchos could keep second-year pharmacy students Veneta Tsonev, left, and Jen Thoma dry. After just an hour of walking, Thoma's shoes and clothes are covered in mud.

DONATIONS FLOOD IN

Students brave a deluge to fund cancer research



First-year student Holly Svec, second-year students Steve Evans and Sarah Kaufman, and Dr. Robert Borris, associate dean for research and associate professor, try to stay dry. Evans stayed the entire 12 hours of the Relay For Life event.

A drizzle turned into a downpour March 6 just about the time the College of Pharmacy Relay For Life team took to the UH Hilo baseball field. Twelve hours and more than 3 inches of rain later, the American Cancer Society was \$3,101 richer thanks to a group of wet and muddy students and faculty.

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature activity, with team members camping out and taking turns walking or running around a track after collecting pledges of support. On this night, the rain proved to be relentless, drenching the participants.

"My camera was wet, my phone was wet, my sweatshirt was wet, my jeans were wet, and there was mud all the way from my feet to my armpits," said Jen Thoma, a second-year College of Pharmacy student. "Even after three cycles in the washing machine, those shoes and jeans are still tinted muddy brown as a constant

reminder. I think we all kept hoping the rain would let up, but deep down we knew it wouldn't."

Thoma's umbrella and rain poncho didn't help much, but she still managed to stay at the relay for more than nine hours.

For CoP Class of 2011 President and Relay For Life Team Captain Jessica Toyama, events such as this have special significance.

"Being the inaugural class of the first college of pharmacy in the Pacific Rim, we have received tremendous support from the community for the establishment and ongoing development of our college, and we embrace the importance of giving back to the community," she said.

Students and faculty didn't hesitate to become part of the event. The "official" team had 15 members, but more showed up to walk for the cause.

"As health-care professionals, we know it's important to raise money to support the fight against cancer. Especially with Dean Pezzuto's impressive



College of Pharmacy Relay For Life walkers included second-year students Ceslee Fukuhara, left, Jen Thoma, Cherie Chu, Sarah Kaufman, Amber Duncan, Adrienne Au, Curtis Start and Jill Gelviro.

research on cancer, supporting this cause was particularly important to us," Toyama said.

The team's goal was to raise \$1,000 in donations. The final total was more than triple that, enough to earn the team an overall second-place finish. The accomplishments were recognized April 2 at a Mahalo Party during which the American Cancer Society noted the achievements of College of Pharmacy students Amber Duncan, Adrienne Au, Cherie Chu and Associate Dean for Research and Associate Professor Dr. Robert Borris, who each raised at least \$250.

A stream of well-wishers stopped by throughout the night, walking for a while or bringing food and moral support. All participants left with a valuable lesson, Thoma said.

"I think with the conditions being so bad, it really drove the point of the event home," she said. "When every 30 seconds you think to yourself, 'I want to give up. I want to stop trying,' you start to have a clue what someone fighting cancer is going through. And it's about the challenge. I wanted to keep walking all night to prove to myself that I could, that I'm a strong person. I walked until I couldn't walk anymore."





UH Hilo College of Pharmacy students Jim Wassel, front left, Jessica Toyama and Keegan Sugimoto are recognized by Ron Taniguchi, back left, College of Pharmacy community partnerships director; Dr. John M. Pezzuto, College of Pharmacy dean and professor; Dr. John T. Berthiaume, HMSA vice president and medical director; and UH Hilo Chancellor Rose Tseng for their work in helping to secure a \$75,506 grant from the HMSA Foundation for the purchase of devices to help students' studies.

Grant ensures that students have the tools to succeed

College of Pharmacy students will gain experience using clinical software tools thanks to a \$75,506 grant from the HMSA Foundation.

The grant was acknowledged March 13 before a lecture on disease management to second-year pharmacy students from Dr. John Berthiaume, HMSA medical director and vice president.

"This generous grant helps ensure that our students are well versed in state-of-the-art technology that will help them compete in the global marketplace, and we are grateful for the foresight HMSA has shown in awarding us the opportunity," said Dr. John M. Pezzuto, dean of the College of Pharmacy. "Keeping pace with technological advancements is especially important as we continue our quest to become one of the top pharmacy schools in the country."

The grant will provide students in the inaugural three classes with handheld personal computer devices that will enable them to load software tools that can assist with diagnostic and therapeutic

decision-making.

"We're very pleased to support the College of Pharmacy at UH Hilo," said Cliff K. Cisco, HMSA senior vice president. "These PDAs will put valuable information at the fingertips of pharmacy students, and will help advance the quality of health care in the community. The HMSA Foundation is proud to be supporting this effort."

The HMSA Foundation was established in 1986 by the Hawaii Medical Service Association to stimulate research of issues that confront Hawai'i's health-care industry. The foundation awards between \$1 million and \$1.4 million in grants each year.

"HMSA's decision to fund this technology is another example of the support the entire community has shown the College of Pharmacy, and we are extremely proud to be associated with them," said Ron Taniguchi, director of community partnerships in the College of Pharmacy and principal investigator on the grant. "This gift not only benefits pharmacy students, but the public we serve."

Advisory council weighs in

The Pharmacists Advisory Council for Development recently met with UH Hilo College of Pharmacy faculty and staff to help guide the college through the steps to graduating its inaugural class in 2011. Faculty hosts included Dr. Ron Taniguchi, the college's director of community partnerships, and Dr. Carolyn Ma, clinical education coordinator and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice.

The group is composed of pharmacy professionals in Hawai'i. Members are Joy Matsuyama, past president, Hawai'i Pharmacists Association and pharmacy director, Straub Clinic and Hospital; Kathy Hirano, Eli Lilly & Company; Roy Yamauchi, consultant pharmacist, SynergyRx; Mel Kumasaka, retired pharmacist, Longs Drugs; Ron Okamura, retired pharmacist, Kaiser Permanente; Byron Yoshino, president and CEO, Pharmicare LLC; Todd Inafuku, government affairs, CVS/Caremark; and Brian Fukunaga, director, Health Systems & Alternative Care, AmerisourceBergen.

Ortho-McNeil Janssen Pharmaceutical Services provided funding for the meeting.

Kāwili Lā'au (To mix ingredients, drugs or medicine; pharmacist) is published four times a year by the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy. It is distributed to staff, donors and other friends of the College. Comments should be addressed to: **Kāwili Lā'au**, UH Hilo College of Pharmacy, 200 W. Kawili St., Hilo, HI 96720.
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