



AMERICAN
OSTEOPATHIC
ASSOCIATION

AOA Update


Hawaii Association of Osteopathic
Physicians & Surgeons

Honolulu, Hawaii
June 1, 2024




AOA Update

Ira P. Monka, DO, MHA, FACFP (*Dist.*)
AOA President




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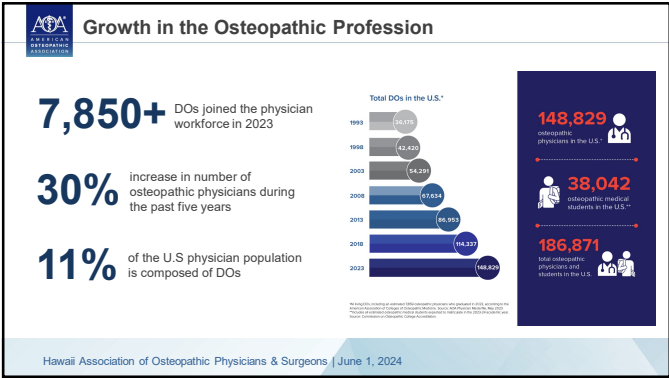
150 Years Strong

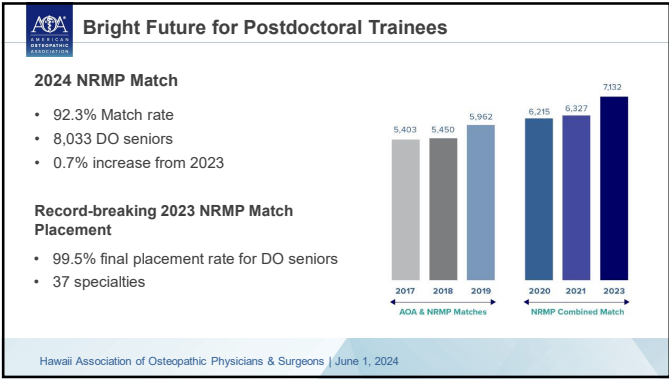
150 Years of
Osteopathic Medicine

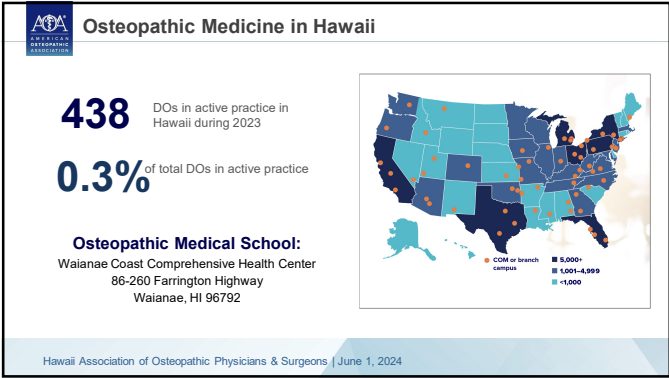
We have much to
celebrate!




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AOA Presidential Goals

FY24

- Enhance the value of AOA membership
- Refine and promote the unique value of AOA board certification
- Create strategic budgeting process to align AOA's resources
- Establish strong working relationships with key strategic partners



Ira P. Monka, DO, AOA President

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Innovating Osteopathic Board Certification

The unique value of AOA board certification

- Premier certification pathway for all DOs
- Early entry pathways
- Longitudinal assessments for continuous certification
- Remote exams
- OMT designation



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AOA Strategic Partnerships

Build relationships to better serve our communities

Federal agencies:

- Department of Health and Human Services
- CDC Community Preventive Services Task Force

National organizations:

- COVID-19 and influenza prevention and vaccinations, sepsis prevention, public policy and behavioral health initiatives



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AOA Strategic Partnerships (cont'd)

Corporations:


- HPV cancer prevention
- Pneumococcal immunization
- COVID-19 prevention and treatment
- Health disparities
- Heart failure, diabetes education, public policy activities and more



AOA's Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Advisory Group

- Working with various stakeholders


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Equity in Rotations and Residencies

Medical Student Parity


- Planned next steps:
- Joint statement recognizing equivalence
- ACGME action on equitable residency selection
- Program Director meetings
- ERAS and VSLO filter and participation policies



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Residency Support



NBOME.org

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COMs Leadership Engagement Initiative


AOA Leaders Visit COMs

Teaching students about the osteopathic profession and the AOA

- State, Federal, Grassroots Advocacy
- COMLEX-USA
- Licensure vs. Board Certification
- Equity in Rotations and Residencies
- Student Involvement




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Student Engagement

Opportunities

- AOA Advocacy
- *The DO* Editorial Board
- AOA Leadership Academy
- OMED student track
- AOF student scholarships
- SOMA column in AOA Affiliate weekly newsletter
- Bureau of Emerging Leaders (BEL)
- SOMA affiliation



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Influencing Healthcare Policy


Established working relationships with key strategic partners

- Advance osteopathic medicine on national level
- Position DOs as innovative leading medical experts
- Special engagements and invitations






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**Change Healthcare Disruption**

HHS Roundtable

AOA invited to discuss implications of cybersecurity incident on:

- Medicare/Medicaid claims
- E-prescribing
- Claims submission and processing




U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Enhancing the health and well-being of all Americans

UnitedHealth Group

CMO called to discuss:

- Support for physician offices



UnitedHealth Group™

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**State, Federal and Grassroots Advocacy**

State & International Affairs

- Scope of practice, osteopathic distinctiveness & recognition, international practice rights

Regulatory Affairs

- Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, Medicare cuts, physician payment, HIT

Congressional Affairs

- Prior authorization reform in Medicare Advantage, surprise billing, Medicare physician payment update, debt relief


Grassroots

- Access to care, Medicare physician payment, regulatory reform, scope of practice, physician workforce




AOA D.C. headquarters

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**State, Federal and Grassroots Advocacy (cont'd)**

Recent highlights:

- Residency program funding
 - \$1.44 billion six-year reauthorization of the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program
 - 200 additional Medicare-funded GME positions
- Medicare telehealth services extension
- Prevention of 8.5% Medicare payment rate cuts
- Prevention of 15% payment cut to Medicare laboratory services to take effect in 2024







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**Protecting the Osteopathic Profession**

Senate Bill 714

- Sent numerous letters opposing bill
- Grassroots alerts
- WV governor vetoes bill 3.27.24



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**DO Day 2024 recap**

By the numbers


- 341 participants
- 278 meetings
- 42 states represented

Advocacy Issues

- Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act
- Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act
- Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act




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**Osteopathic Advocacy Network (OAN)**

Building relationships with lawmakers

- Engage in federal and state advocacy
- Build influence in DC
- Support AOA strategy
- Help get legislation passed
- Shape the future of osteopathic medicine



[Osteopathic.org/grassroots](https://osteopathic.org/grassroots)
1st Wednesday every month

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AOA International Affairs

- **International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA)**
 - DO-MD equivalency resolution – approved November 2023
 - DO elected to IAMRA board – November 2023
- **Osteopathic International Alliance**
 - World Health Organization renewed OIA's "Official Relations" for 2024-2026
 - Adding osteopathic medicine to WHO Benchmarks; creating universal glossary
- **Canada**
 - DOs recognized in all provinces
 - British Columbia voted to recognize AOBFP board certification – Aug. 2023
- **India** granted a medical license to first (AOBOG certified) DO – Sept. 2023

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AOA US DO International Licensure

USDO Licensure (01/2024)

- USDOs have been licensed more than once
- One USDO has been licensed in recent years
- Unlicensed but may license USDOs
- Do not license USDOs
- Information unavailable

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AOA Wellness Resources

Caring for YOU is our top concern.

Tools you can use:

- On-demand wellness webinars
- AOA member discounts on wellness apps
- COVID-19 wellness resources
- Substance abuse and mental health services

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**Physician Wellness**

Build & maintain wellness throughout your career

Learn about healthy improvements in:

- Emotional
- Financial
- Social
- Spiritual
- Occupational
- Physical
- Intellectual
- Environmental

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**Work-Life Integration**

Accept that work-life integration will evolve over the years

Be consistent in:

- Time management techniques
- Stress management techniques
- Setting realistic expectations
- Self-care
- Exercise & balanced diet
- Consistent sleep
- Managing weight, cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure

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**Professional Development**

Seek professional development and continuous learning opportunities

Assists with:

- Maintaining engagement and preventing burnout
- Staying updated on medical advancements
- Staying relevant in the field of medicine
- Advancing the osteopathic profession


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**Recognizing Burnout**


Burnout often begins in medical school

Recognize signs early on:

- Feelings of energy depletion or exhaustion
- Increased mental distance from one's job or feelings of negativism or cynicism related to job
- Reduced professional efficacy

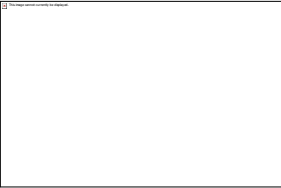


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**Depression and Suicide**

First step to prevention and recovery is identifying the problem

- Recognize signs of depression
- Recognize Signs of suicidal ideation
- Seek professional help

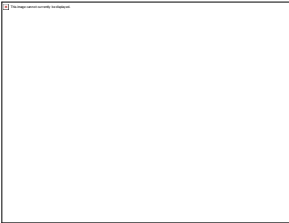


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**Physician Services Team**

AOA assists physicians with issues, concerns and questions

- Day-to-day medical practice operations
- Coding and billing issues with insurers
- HR issues
- Starting or closing a practice
- Telemedicine
- Regular meetings with top 5 commercial insurance carriers
- Non-clinical CME education



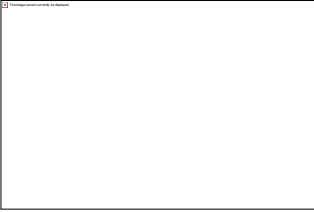
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Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

DE&I objectives:

- Inclusive workplace environment
- Leadership processes and programs
- Dedicated DE&I officer
- OMED programming
- COCA standards vs. state legislation

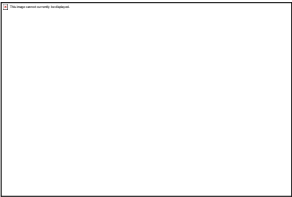


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OMED

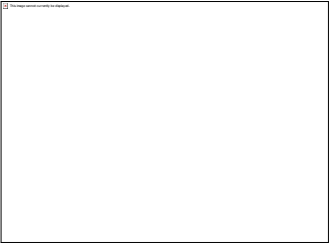
- OMED24
 - San Antonio, TX
 - Sept 19-22, 2024
- Up to 50 hours of CME
- Opportunities for professional interactions

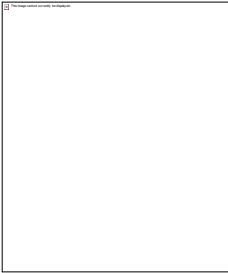


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Let's Stay Connected!





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Thank you!

Let us know how we
can assist you!

imonkado@osteopathic.org

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