

Hawaii Orthopaedic Association Board of Councilors

Craig M. Ono, MD, FAAOS

On-Boarding year

- Thanks to Jerry Van Meter for his past six years of service to the Academy and to the State
- 2021 Activities for the Board of Councilors started from May 24 to 28 2021 with a virtual Advocacy Week with issues address related to prior authorization (Remove Regulatory Barriers to Timely Access to Care), Telemedicine (Ensure flexibilities for valuable telemedicine services), and Physician Mental Health (Reduce and Prevent Mental Health Issues for Health Care Professionals)

AAOS meeting: San Diego, CA, 31 August to September 3—Board of Councilors Committee Meetings

- Advocacy Resource Committee
 - AAOS Congressional Ambassador Program
 - AAOS fellows willing to be a part of the orthopaedic community's efforts to educate government officials and their staff about legislative and regulatory health policy issues
 - AAOS patient advocacy program
 - New program designed to capture patient stories
 - Goal to bring those stories to the attention of elected officials
- Committee on State Legislative and Regulatory Issues
 - Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act: helps reduce and prevent mental and behavioral health conditions for health care professionals
 - Telehealth Modernization Act
 - State Orthopaedic Society Health Policy Action Fund: assists state orthopaedic societies in responding to various legal, legislative and regulatory issues affecting the practice of orthopaedics and patient care on the state level: scope of care issues, ASC overnight rules
 - \$90K awarded
 - Applications due: March 2022

2021 Combined NOLC/Fall Meeting: Sept 26-29, Washington, DC

- Symposium topics
 - Prior Authorization
 - Physician Wellness
 - The future of healthcare, Perspectives from our Thought Leaders
 - Big Medicine (business, impact of venture capitalists, consumerism)
- State Orthopaedic Societies Committee
 - State Society Grants
 - Public relationships: NY State Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons—“Orthopaedic procedure are necessary and safe at this time”
 - Education: Washington State Orthopaedic Association Education Outreach program webinar series
 - Education: West Virginia Orthopaedic Society Online Video Library
 - Grant Requests should be aligned with AAOS Strategic Plan
 - Next funding cycle: grant applications due 18 Feb 2022 before next AAOS meeting

Advocacy: the virtual Capitol Hill Visits

- Zoom meetings with Health Care Policy representatives for Senator Mazie Hirono and Senator Brian Schatz
- Zoom meeting with Representative Ed Case
- Gail Yano participated as executive director for HOA

Advocacy

- Medicare cuts effective January 1, 2022
 - Medicare sequestration cuts (2%)
 - PAYGO cuts (4%)
 - Conversion factor update (3.75%)
 - Ask: Urge Congress to pass legislation that will delay expiration of the 3.75% conversion factor increase through 2023
 - Letter to House leadership urging attention to these Medicare payment cuts
 - 245 House members have signed onto this letter to include Representative Ed Case

Advocacy

- Prior Authorization
 - HR 3173 would reform the burdensome prior authorization process for Medicare Advantage
 - Electronic PA process, requires a new process for “real-time decisions”, increases transparency within Medicare Advantage, encourages evidence-based PA programs
 - Ask: urge passage of the Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act

Advocacy

- Rise Act (HR 869/S 289)
- Authorizes \$25 billion to support to US researchers who have been impacted by the pandemic
 - \$10 billion to NIH
 - \$5 billion to Department of Energy
 - \$3 billion to the National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, NASA
- Permits the funds to be used to extend research awards, replace equipment, create new research

BOC 2022

- AAOS meeting, BOC Committee meetings: March 2022, Chicago, IL
- 2022 NOLC meeting, Aug/September 2022, Washington, DC
- Grant applications: State Orthopaedic Societies Committee and Committee on State Legislative and Regulatory Issues
- HOA Executive Director participation
- Resident Assembly Committee participation: HOA sponsorship
 - AAOS Social Media Guidelines for Residents and Fellows
 - Appropriation of funding for Resident Assembly Sponsored expansion of the JAAOS Unplugged Podcast and the AAOS “The Career Bone Beat”
 - Development of a formal medical student “Orthopaedic Surgery Interest Group” toolkit