



Pacific Newsbytes

Pacific Partners News Briefs

Telecom News from the Pacific Islands

American Telemedicine Association - Hawaii Chapter

By Jana Chang , Shriner's Hospital for Children



Hello to all of you who are involved or interested in TeleHealth issues/initiatives!

A few months ago, Jo Ann Bob (Hawaii Health Systems Corporation), Jana Hall University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine Telemedicine Project), Stephanie Miyasaki (St Francis Healthcare Systems), and myself got together to start a group to try to bring together people involved with TeleHealth. This would increase the efficiency in our various organizations and push TeleHealth in the State of Hawaii. By collaborating, we could share ideas, learn from each others experiences, and discuss ways to interface with each other utilizing the various existing networks available to enhance healthcare. Currently there are over a dozen ATA (American Telemedicine Association) members within the State of Hawaii. Therefore, we thought it would be very beneficial to develop a Chapter under a national organization.

Information on ATA can be found at www.atmeda.org.



A letter that outlines the following goals and mission of this alliance was sent to Rashid Bashshur, PhD, president of ATA and members of the ATA Board of Directors in Washington D.C. in June 2000.

We have received approval from the ATA to start up the Hawaii Chapter and it was suggested that the Chapter hold an inaugural meeting/conference to kick off it's opening. We are planning an inaugural meeting in January 2001 and we would like to start pulling this all together.

So far we have received a tremendous amount of support for this Chapter.

- GTE/Verizon has offered to sponsor the Chapters directory which will list all telecommunication sites, contact names, and equipment. (This was recommended and is being encouraged by the Weinberg Foundation).
- GTE/Verizon has also offered to present a seminar on the utilization of the equipment.
- PacificNews.Net magazine has offered media sponsorship.
- Jon Linkous, CEO of ATA will be listing the Hawaii Chapter in the upcoming National ATA Directory.
- Other corporate entities have offered to sponsor and/or participate with the Chapter activities and the kick-off.

If you would like to be involved with the formation of the ATA Hawaii Chapter, please let me know and indicate what would be the most convenient meeting day/time for you. The meeting place will be at Shriners Hospital in Honolulu and for those on the neighbor islands we can work on connecting your site up and meet via video-teleconferencing.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

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American Telemedicine Association—Hawaii Chapter

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This letter is to express the interest and desire in the formation of a Hawaii Chapter under the American Telemedicine Association (ATA). This start-up group consists of:

Jana L. Chang, RNC Telemedicine Coordinator Shriners Hospitals for Children, Honolulu

Jana Hall, PhD Manager University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine Telemedicine Project

Jo Ann Bob, RNC Telemedicine Coordinator Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

Stephanie Miyasaki, RN, BSN Project Specialist St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii

Goals: *1) To promote the use of telemedicine in the State of Hawaii. 2) To actively participate in and support the legislative processes that would impact positively the growth, development and the future of telemedicine. 3) To serve as educators and facilitators in the education of the public and our medical colleagues on the subject of telemedicine. 4) To support the mission and goals of ATA at the state level. 5) To represent and be an advocate for State of Hawaii at the ATA meetings. 6) To identify and bring together "human components" of the telemedicine network. To be the "Hub" of telemedicine collaboration and interfacing in the State Hawaii.*

Mission: *To be informed, competent, caring promoters, educators, facilitators and advocates of Telemedicine.*

We have identified the importance value of bringing together the variety of professionals involved with telemedicine. This alliance will provide its members a comprehensive view of telemedicine from its various facets, and will promote and enhance collaboration and interfacing of the different organizations involved.

We plan to expand the alliance of group, and would like to do it as a representative of the ATA. The desire is to be a point of contact, resource group, and advocate the State of Hawaii in telemedicine and telehealth issues, and to investigate and report state issues and events to the ATA's Corporate members.