The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa has been awarded an eight year accreditation by the national accrediting organization, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME).

Eight years is the maximum term the LCME allows. Their evaluation this past January included inspections, extensive reviews of records and interviews of faculty, staff and students at JABSOM and two of its community training hospitals, The Queen’s Medical Center and Kapi‘olani Medical Center for Women and Children.

“Accreditation affirms the high quality of the physician training program at JABSOM and validates that it meets established standards,” said UH Mānoa Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw.

“The effort of the entire JABSOM team and community partners made this possible,” said Dean Jerris Hedges.

“We are proud that the accreditation committee recognized the excellent work performed daily by the students, faculty and staff of the school of medicine,” Hinshaw added.

JABSOM Dean Jerris Hedges noted that the process of accreditation took months of work, both on and off campus.

“We are extremely pleased with not only the outcome but the effort of the entire John A. Burns School of Medicine team and community partners that made this possible,” said Dr. Hedges.

Accreditation by the LCME is required for schools to receive federal grants for medical education and to participate in federal loan programs. Eligibility of U.S. students to take the United States Medical Licensing Examination requires LCME accreditation of their school.

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Imi Hoʻola grads committed to serve needy

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Alton Wong, Kaimuki High School; Chuong Tran, Moanalua High School; Aaron Saunders, Kea‘au High School; Sasha Raymond, Kaimuki High School; Nickol Moikeha, Sandpoint High School; Luella Manlucu, Academy of Our Lady of Guam; Delores Lee, Notre Dame High School; Mandy Chan, McKinley High School. BELOW: Aaron Saunders with Dr. Dee-Ann Carpenter.

They’ve finished college and in some cases, graduate studies. Most have local high school ties. And now they will enter medical school, promising to serve needy areas when they become physicians. These are our latest Imi Hoʻola graduates!

Imi Hoʻola is an intensive, year-long program for promising college graduates who come from historically disadvantaged backgrounds.

In classes at the medical school’s Kakaʻako campus, the students sharpen their skills in the sciences and humanities.

Each spring, they apply their knowledge helping patients at the former Hansen’s disease colony at Kālaupapa on Moloka‘i (see Mission to Moloka‘i, on page 2).

Since 1972, Imi Hoʻola has helped 204 students become physicians.

Forty percent of those 204 physicians are Native Hawaiians.
Dr. Marjorie Mau helped create and then led the Native Hawaiian Health Department for eight years. She was physician aboard the Hokule‘a.

But when she was a college graduate applying to the John A. Burns School of Medicine, she wasn’t accepted. (She attended Creighton University SOM instead, plus Harvard for an MS in Public Health.)

Mau recalled that fact at a party the school held in her honor last month.

“It will be a hard act to follow in terms of identifying the next chair of the department,” said Dean Jerris Hedges. “Hard to find someone who will lead with the amount of passion and energy that Marjorie has put into this,” he said.

Some of Dr. Mau’s mentors and supporters came to salute her at the gathering, including Art Ushijima of The Queen’s Medical Center, Diane Paloma, Director of Queen’s Native Hawaiian Health Program, Dr. Dean Cadman, former JABSOM Dean, and Dr. Ric Custodio, Medical Director at Wai’anae Comprehensive Health Center, among others.

“If it were not for The Queen’s Medical Center and The Queen’s Health System giving us the opportunity to jump-start our department,” Mau said, “we could never have gotten as far.”

She also recognized Dr. Ted Mala (from Anchorage, Alaska) as a key supporter.

A search committee of notable Hawai’i residents will interview candidates to succeed Dr Mau as Chair, while she toils away in that research laboratory—the community—she loves.

Dr. Kalani Brady is interim chair.

The Department of Native Hawaiian Health is the only department within a US medical school focusing on the health needs of indigenous people.

Dr. Nanette Judd and Dr. Dee-Ann Carpenter adjust a kihei for Dr. Mau