

`Imi Hale -Native Hawaiian Cancer Network

About our name. The kaona or poetic meaning of `Imi Hale is, “to seek and establish an inheritance for one’s children. To form a friendship so close, that one feels welcome in the house of another.”

Established in 2000, `Imi Hale is currently one of 25 Community Network Programs funded by the National Cancer Institute Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (U01CA114630). Housed at Papa Ola Lōkahi, a non-profit community-based agency dedicated to improving Native Hawaiian health and wellbeing, `Imi Hale’s mission is to reduce cancer health disparities experienced by Native Hawaiians in Hawai`i by: (1) providing cancer education; (2) linking Hawaiians to beneficial cancer interventions; and (3) training and mentoring Native Hawaiians to conduct cancer-related research.

`Imi Hale’s work is guided by principles of Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) aimed at strengthening individual competence and community capacity to identify and address community concerns. `Imi Hale collaborates with key partners at the local, national, and international levels. Examples of clinical partners are the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems (NHHCS, providing access and prevention services to Native Hawaiians statewide), Queen’s Medical Center, and the Department of Health Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program. Examples of program partners include Cancer Information Services and the American Cancer Society. Examples of educational and research partners include the University of Hawai`i, Oregon Health and Sciences University, and the NHHCS Institutional Review Board. `Imi Hale is a member of the state’s cancer and tobacco coalitions, and participates in regional (e.g., the Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands) and national coalitions (e.g., Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL) and Intercultural Cancer Council (ICC).

`Imi Hale is organized around three cores critical to CBPR – community, training, and research. Activities in our Community Core include the development and testing of health education materials that “speak” to Native Hawaiians. Since 2000, more than 50 culturally tailored cancer education materials for Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities have been developed that include brochnures, curricula, toolkits, PSAs (Da Braddahs No Shmoke), websites, such as [Native H.A.B.I.T.](#) the acronym for Native Hawaiians Against Big Industry Tobacco and videos.

Through our Training Core, we’ve provided training to enhance client-oriented skills (e.g. cancer patient navigation, clinical trials and tobacco cessation), program skills (e.g. grant writing, evaluation and needs assessment in tobacco, HPV, modes of communication, etc.), and research skills (design, data analysis, and writing for publication). In May, `Imi Hale hosted one of eight regional meetings for EDICT (Eliminating Disparities in Clinical Trials), convening over 100 participants. September 24-25, `Imi Hale sponsored the 2nd Annual Ho`okele i ke Ola Cancer Patient Navigation Conference that premiered the new educational video *A Journey of Hope When A Young Woman Gets Breast Cancer*.

Under our Research Core, we’ve assisted more than 100 Na Liko Noelo (budding researchers) to develop and test interventions to improve cancer screening rates and to promote worksite wellness, physical activity, smoking cessation, and other healthy behaviors. Some of their published work appears in the Winter 2008 issue of *Progress in Community Health Partnerships* (the Johns Hopkins University Press), guest edited by `Imi Hale, Dr. Kathryn Braun and JoAnn Tsark.

For more information on `Imi Hale, visit their website at www.imihale.org.