

# CSA Educational Programs Go to Hawaii

*By H. Douglas Roberts, M.D., CSA President*

**H**ave you been to a CSA educational meeting? Stop and take a look around—especially at CSA’s October and January Hawaiian Seminars. The Educational Programs Division (EPD) along with the CSA Central Office have combined to create and offer first class meetings each year. Ironically, these meetings are being somewhat overlooked by CSA membership\*—**not so** by anesthesiologists from the other 49 states and outside the USA borders!

At the recent 2003 Kauai Seminar, some 330 folks (M.D.s, D.O.s, CRNAs and AAs) attended and took advantage of this great meeting. These registrants represented forty (40) states and at least five countries (Australia, Canada, Finland, New Zealand and Slovakia). For five beautiful days in Poipu Beach, Kauai, breakfast was enjoyed outdoors under blue skies, among friends and families, before retiring to the lecture hall. The presentation of four one-hour refresher and update lectures then took place—from outpatient pediatric anesthesia to geriatric anesthesia, from LMAs to PDAs (Personal Digital Assistant, a.k.a., “palm pilot”), from perioperative hypertension to business administration for anesthesiologists. A first class syllabus aided those feeling compelled to take notes!

At noon each day, we found ourselves excused to enjoy the tropical surroundings with a myriad of activities to choose from—snorkeling, hiking, bicycling, touring by car or bus, helicopter rides into and over canyons and beaches, our own private Luau one evening, sitting by the pool, reading a book, enjoying some time with family and friends, or just plain solitude—and of course, eating! All of this and 20 units of CME credit to be claimed before either heading home or extending one’s stay in paradise.

For us Californians, the Hawaiian Islands are but a very tolerable five hours from Los Angeles or San Francisco. However, many participants from outside California (and the CSA) find these meetings such a bargain that they gladly spend 6-24 hours of travel time to avail themselves of this very pleasurable experience.

Bottom line: Consider taking advantage of what your CSA has to offer, sign up early (*next year’s October meeting precedes the ASA meeting in Las Vegas*)—before your out-of-state colleagues fill up the allotted hotel rooms. These crafty

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folks have discovered these gems—CME in paradise and part of it is tax deductible! Come enjoy the experience!

Footnote: With the aid of a laptop computer and Internet technology, I found myself able easily to remain in touch with CSA, ASA and the rest of the world during my week in Kauai. The problems of JCAHO and locked anesthesia cart issues, federal and state cuts in spending on medical care, the challenge of medical staff independence within hospitals, and the medical malpractice insurance crisis were kept before me and updated each day. I can assure you that these problems are being discussed and worked upon by the many individuals in CSA and ASA on a daily basis. Many of these complex and far reaching problems will require you, the membership of CSA/ASA and the family of medicine, to become active participants as the leadership works diligently to attempt to solve and rectify the many hurdles before us.

As the calls and pleas go out to respond with e-mails, letters, calls, visits, et cetera, to your elected officials—help us to help you by responding when able. Take time to preserve your inheritance and future—the Profession of Medicine.

\* CSA Members represented approximately one-fifth of the registrants.