INTRODUCTION

- Health disparities persist in the United States, with racial or ethnic minority groups at disproportionate risk of experiencing worse health outcomes.
- Contributing to health disparities are clinical barriers that occur between patients and health care providers when sociocultural differences are not fully accepted or understood.
- This has resulted in poor health outcomes due to misunderstanding, value conflicts, and disparate concepts of health and illness.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

- Nurses in the United States will be caring for an increasingly culturally diverse population.
- There is an urgent need for nursing faculty to develop innovative methods of teaching strategies that foster cultural sensitivity and curiosity among nursing students.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa developed a required (3 credit) course named Cultural Aspects of Health Management in Populations Indigenous to Hawaii, the Pacific, and Asia.
- One goal of the course was the development of culturally sensitive strategies to promote and improve health management.

METHODS

The course was offered over a 15 week semester. It included didactic and cultural activities:
- Assignments were designed to encourage students to self-reflect on their own culture, and engage in inquiry into the culture of other populations.
- Self-reflective assignments included written reflections, photo-elicitation, cultural heritage assessments, and interview with matriarchal family figures perspectives on traditions and health beliefs.
- Students were assigned a specific cultural group to study, and shared their findings using Photovoice, Power Point, or video presentations.
- Presentations focused on a health indicator of major concern for their assigned population, and current evidence-based practice (EBP) addressing the health indicator.

IMPLICATIONS

- Nurse educators can develop engaging teaching strategies to encourage students to discover their own personal culture, and explore cultures different from than their own.
- This approach can guide student nurses to design culturally appropriate interventions for individuals, families and communities.

REFERENCES