

NĀ MAKAWAI

A PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY PAPA OLA LŌKAHI



This issue of the Nā Makawai Newsletter features Nā Pu'uwai, John A. Burns School of Medicine, and Project Vision Hawai'i. Mahalo nui loa to these organizations whose good work touches a broad spectrum of kānaka maoli across the pae 'āina. Papa Ola Lōkahi is honored to share your stories.

Dr. Sheri-Ann Daniels, Executive Director of Papa Ola Lōkahi



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma



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Nā Pu'uwai

Native Hawaiian Health Care System,
Moloka'i and Lāna'i

Since 1986, Nā Pu'uwai has served the health and well-being of people of Lāna'i, Moloka'i, including the Kalaupapa peninsula as Native Hawaiian Health Care System. With the investment provided through the Nā Makawai program, Nā Pu'uwai was able to improve its infrastructure, improve its fitness center, expand clinical services and programs, and foster new partnerships.

Acquiring an additional 4,000 sq ft on the campus of at Kūlana Ōiwi, Nā Pu'uwai converted the space for clinical



Nā Pu'uwai's newly converted Kūlana 'Ōiwi clinical space

services to be able to provide integrative primary health services in alignment with both the NHHCIA core responsibilities and the 2nd and 3rd waves of the COVID-19 pandemic that resulted in the exacerbation of chronic health conditions, delayed access to care, and mental health challenges.

The pandemic forced Nā Pu'uwai to close their Integrative Fitness Center (IFC). With Nā Makawai funds, they were able to rebrand and reformat their program align with their health center model to focus more on



One of the healthy meals patients learn how to cook through the PILI+ Program at Nā Pu'uwai

prevention and health utilizing new state of the art fitness equipment.

Nā Pu'uwai expanded their Kāwili clinic and "Farmacy" services provide primary care as well as specialty care and natural medicine at affordable rates to Moloka'i and Lāna'i residents whose insurance plans do not cover. They were also able to launch their Iomilomi services. Other programs that have been expanded by Nā Makawai resources were the PILI+ Program and the Kōpa'a Pono Program to focus on weight and diabetes management. Workshops conducted by local chefs teach community members recipes and cooking strategies to improve their nutrition by providing tools to make healthier decisions in the kitchen for themselves and their families.

The critical workforce shortage has been bolstered, as well, enabling Nā Pu'uwai to use their ARPA funds to recruit providers that are appropriate and acceptable to the local community. Hawaiians serving Hawaiians, lāhui serving the lāhui.



John A. Burns School of Medicine

Community Partner Organization,
Islandwide

The Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) in the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawai'i is committed to medical education, research and evaluation, clinical services and community engagement. It provides a valuable academic spoke in the wheel of Hawaiian health and well-being.

As a result of the pandemic, DNHH has been able to

invest in community efforts to support COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts. Through the Nā Makawai program, JABSOM has been able to support the activities of 12 Hawaiian serving, community-based organizations. Programs have included cardiometabolic education and services for Native Hawaiians, and health education trainings for community healthy workers serving Native Hawaiians. Some of the community-based efforts include:

Ho'omōhala O Moloka'i Foundation

A 501(c)(3) charitable organization with a mission to guide Moloka'i's development through culture, education, events and experiences.

Hui o Hau'ula

Located in Hau'ula on O'ahu, Hui o Hau'ula's mission is to strive to support the health, safety, educational, cultural, environmental, social, and economic resilience of Ko'olauloa communities through supporting civic and social engagement, volunteerism, fiscal support, and partnerships with local, city, state, and national agencies and organizations.

Ka Lei o Ka Lanakila

An organization dedicated to helping others be successful on a journey to Maui Ola (optimal health and well being).

Ka'ū Rural Health Community Association

KRHCAI is a community-based membership organization which evolved as a direct result of a community "grassroots" coalition to preserve access to quality healthcare in rural communities.

Lāhui Foundation

Located in Ko'olauloa on O'ahu, this organization strives to become a dependable resource for underrepresented and underserved communities in Hawai'i. The Lāhui Foundation mission is to serve communities in Hawai'i. Their priority is the safety and well being of the people of Hawai'i as well as the protection and preservation of culture and 'āina.

Mauka to Makai Mākaha Foundation, Inc.

This Waiʻanae based organizations educates the community on Hawaiian history, cultural practices, ocean safety education, sustainable-traditional gathering practices, ancient and modern ocean sports, and overall health.

Mauli ʻOla Nutrition Consultants

A Hawaiʻi based organization dedicated to providing services of registered nutrition professionals to community organizations to promote preventive medicine, especially sustainable nutrition and physical movement initiatives, that are community lead, and provide Pacific island research in the field of diabetes and obesity prevention.

Molokaʻi Community Action Team

The Molokaʻi Community Action Team is a nonprofit organization made up of a team of Molokaʻi community members dedicated to providing ʻohana well being activities.

Nurture Cultivate, Inc.

A non-profit organization with a mission to build and develop stronger youth leaders and communities by forging new paths and enriching culturally, economically, healthy, and intellectual people, especially in underserved communities.

Oʻahu Intertribal Council

Shares, promotes, and educates the community about North American Indians and Alaska Native traditions, cultures, and heritage through cultural exchanges, community outreach, events, and educational presentations.

Pals Molokaʻi

Pals Molokaʻi is a community organization that is dedicated to community well-being and safe, fun family activities.

Waimānalo Health Center

Rooted in Native Hawaiian values, they are devoted to improving the health and wellness of all people, regardless of ability to pay, by providing comprehensive primary and preventive health care services of the highest quality.

Westside Striking

A boxing and kickboxing club focused on improving fitness and health of the community.



PROJECT VISION HAWAII
 dba Hawaiian Eye Foundation

Project Vision Hawai'i

Community Partner Organization, Islandwide

Project Vision Hawai'i has focused on vision care since 2007, expanding over time to develop and deliver services driven by the needs of the community. HiEHIE is Project Vision's successful mobile hot shower program for houseless communities. Starting out with one, Project Vision Hawai'i now has 8 mobile screening units on Hawai'i, Maui, O'ahu, and Kaua'i.

Executive Director Darrah Kauhane is enthusiastic about the benefits of taking a holistic, collaborative approach to care and leveraging partnerships to be able to provide childcare, benefits assistance, case management services or other wrap-around services. "It's been very helpful to be able to add in other services that might be more of a draw for certain communities," Kauhane explains. "[The NHPI 3R team] has become this family of providers that does events in all these different locations. Together we're able to serve communities in a different way."

During the pandemic, Project Vision saw the urgent need to provide testing, vaccination, and educational outreach among some of Hawai'i's most vulnerable populations including low-income communities, homeless, incarcerated, and homebound kūpuna.

Kauhane highlights the various ways having members of a community engage with that community was beneficial. Having people who look and talk like the community only opened doors to foster relationships, conversations, and, for some, actions towards healthier lifestyle behaviors. "Those bonds of trust allowed us to expand to offer more services. Where there might have been competition before COVID, now there's definitely more cohesion."

Kauhane knows firsthand the effectiveness of Project Vision's services by the success stories found on its staff. Scott Miguel's initial interactions with Project Vision were on the receiving end as a houseless patient. Now Miguel works as one of its community health workers. Working in houseless communities across O'ahu, Miguel's lived experience provides unique insight into specific needs and the ability to genuinely connect and inspire.

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Kauhane describes the "invisible services" that are often overlooked - building relationships. How does one measure the impact of—or even the process undertaken by—a Hawaiian family that gets vaccinated after months of regular visits, ongoing conversations, building rapport and trust? "I think that's important to not push our own agendas, but to really find a way to support. It might not align with what we hope, but at least we can connect, and through our actions to keep families and individuals safe, we build relationships that might eventually result in additional actions."