The Genomics Section/Genetics Program also administers and participates in many local, regional, and national projects. One of our biggest projects is leading and administering the Western States Genetic Services Collaborative (WSGSC).

The WSGSC is one of seven Health Resources and Services Administration funded Regional Genetic Collaboratives across the country. The project seeks to coordinate and increase access to genetic and newborn screening services and education. Our region includes: Alaska, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Featured activities include:

- Affordable Care Act information
- Newborn screening parent fact sheets
- Genetic and newborn screening resources for families and providers
- Contact information for various programs
- Outreach and telegenetics activities.

For more information, please visit our website at www.westernstatesgenetics.org

Rev. 1/20 (Language: English)

HAWAII GENETICS PROGRAM

Hawaii Genetics Program
Genomics Section
Children with Special Health Needs Branch
Family Health Services Division
741 Sunset Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96816
Tel: 808-733-9072 | Fax: 808-733-9068
health.hawaii.gov/genetics/programs/genetics/

The Genetics Program is under the Genomics Section within the Children with Special Health Needs Branch.

The Program aims to:

- Assess the needs of the community for genetic services and activities.
- Develop public policy related to genetics.
- Provide information and education about topics in genetics.
- Obtain and administer funding related to genetics.
- Coordinate and support genetics-related programs and activities.
- Support clinical genetic services.
- Develop and implement research related to public health and clinical genetics.
- Provide technical assistance to other programs.
- Maintain and implement activities in the State Genetics Plan.

KNOW AND SHARE YOUR FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY

Gathering and sharing an accurate family medical history is important for your health and the health of your ‘ohana. Family history is important for your health because families have many factors in common such as genes, environment, and lifestyle. These factors help give clues to diseases that might run in your family. When you share your family history with your doctors, they can help figure out how your family can stay healthy and reduce your risks for certain diseases running in your family. In fact, the family history you provide to your doctor is one of the best screening tools they have to determine your risks for common and rare diseases/disorders.

Information about Gathering a Family Medical History

Family Health History
https://www.cdc.gov/genomics/famhistory/index.htm
Knowing and acting on your family health history is an important way to protect your health

My Family Health Portrait
https://www.genome.gov/Health/Family-Health-History/Patients-Families
Tool from the U.S. Surgeon General to help you create your own family health history

COMMON REASONS TO SEEK GENETIC SERVICES

- Medical problems of the developing baby detected by prenatal screening or testing.
- Harmful exposures during pregnancy such as alcohol, prescription, or recreational drugs.
- Birth defects such as heart problems, structural brain abnormalities, and physical differences like cleft lip and palate.
- Intellectual disability or developmental delays - the person does not reach developmental milestones on time or does not function developmentally, intellectually, socially or behaviorally as expected for their age.
- Changes in body chemistry such as extremely high or low protein, fat or sugar levels in the blood.
- Sensory impairments like vision or hearing problems.
- Family history of an inherited disease or cancer.