



The Genomics Section/Genetics Program also administers and participates in many local, regional, and national projects. One important project is leading and administering the Western States Regional Genetics Network (WSRN).

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

Featured activities include:

- Telegenetics training and resources for genetics providers
- Telegenetics resources for families
- Genetic information resources for families and providers
- Supporting minority students to enter genetics professions
- Supporting minority genetics providers
- Connecting families to genetics referrals and information through our family advocacy partners

For more information, please go to:  
[www.westernstatesgenetics.org](http://www.westernstatesgenetics.org)

### Supervisor, Genomics Section

Sylvia Mann, MS, CGC  
(808) 733-9063  
sylvia@hawaiiigenetics.org

### Genetic Counselors

Lila Aiyar, MSc, CGC  
Genetic Counselor  
(808) 733-8387  
lila@hawaiiigenetics.org

Liann Jimmons, MS

Genetic Counselor  
(808) 733-9047  
austin@hawaiiigenetics.org

Michelle Takemoto MS, CGC

Genetic Counselor  
(808) 733-9039  
michelle@hawaiiigenetics.org

### Support Staff

Pauline Mui  
(808) 733-9072  
pauline@hawaiiigenetics.org

[www.hawaiiigenetics.org](http://www.hawaiiigenetics.org)



The Department of Health provides access to its activities and programs without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age, sex, religion, or disability. Write to our Affirmative Action Officer at Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801-3378, or call this program at (808) 586-4616 (voice TTY) within 180 days of a problem.

Last updated: October 2021



## Hawaii Department of Health Genetics Program



741 Sunset Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96816  
Phone: (808) 733-9055 Fax: (808) 733-9068  
[www.hawaiiigenetics.org](http://www.hawaiiigenetics.org)

# HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GENETICS PROGRAM

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

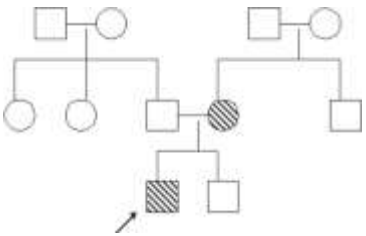
The Program aims to:

- 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.



## 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 or 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.



## 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 in your family. In fact, the family history you provide to your doctor is one of the best screening toolsthey have to determine your risks for common and rare diseases.

### Tools Available to Help Gather a Family Medical History:

#### My Family Health Portrait

<https://phgkb.cdc.gov/FHH/html/index.html>

A Web-based family history collection tool from the U.S. Surgeon General

#### National Society of Genetic Counselors

<https://www.aboutgeneticcounselors.org/Resources-to-Help-You/Resource-Results/PID/406/mcat/404/evl/0/TagID/11/TagName/Family-History>

Information on collecting family health history

