

REPORT TO THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
2018

PURSUANT TO
SECTION 321-1.5(6)
HAWAII REVISED STATUTES
PRIMARY CARE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

PREPARED BY:
STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION
FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION
DECEMBER 2017



HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

Hawaii State Department of Health
PRIMARY CARE OFFICE

The Hawaii Primary Care Office (PCO) is supported by a federal grant program of the Bureau of Health Professions in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and authorized under the Public Health Service Act, as amended, Title 3, Sections 330 and 333. The purpose of the funding is to support the coordination of local, state and federal resources to improve primary care service delivery and workforce availability to meet the needs of underserved populations.

The mission of the Hawaii PCO is to improve access to primary care for medically underserved populations.

The Hawaii PCO is one of fifty-three PCOs (one per State, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) receiving funding by HRSA and charged with HRSA's goal to improve access to health care.¹

All PCOs are tasked with the following three program expectations:

- **Statewide Primary Care Assessment**
- **Shortage Designation Coordination**
- **Technical Assistance and Collaboration that Seeks to Expand Access to Primary Care for Underserved Populations**

In 2017, the Hawaii PCO met **statewide primary care assessment** expectation by:

❖ Distributing the 2016 Primary Care Needs Assessment Data Book. The Data Book provides over 50 health, population, and socio-economic indicators spanning the life course presented by geographic communities in Hawaii. Chapters highlight maternal and infant health risk, adult morbidity and mortality, oral health and mental health presented in detailed

¹ U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Health Resources and Services Administration Strategic Plan, www.hrsa.gov.

tables and maps. The range of data supports Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), other community-based organizations, state offices and others by providing census-level data for use in policy development, program planning, and grant applications. The data book is available online at <https://health.hawaii.gov/fhsd/files/2015/04/DataBook2016.compressed.pdf>. There is also an interactive web application which allows the user to select a specific community and visualize the data across several diverse data sources along with county and state specific estimates and ranks, with capability to add or remove layers to enhance visualization, at <http://histategis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=481f0e9afe0f4676af4891e0fdb185fe>

In 2017, the Hawaii PCO met **shortage designation coordination** expectations by:

- ❖ Continuing with the validation of the primary care (PC), oral health (OH), and mental health (MH) care professionals practicing in the islands. The National Provider Identifier (NPI) serves as the official registry of health professionals practicing in the islands. The NPI is a HIPAA Administrative Simplification Standard providing a unique identification number for health care providers. The NPI shows there are approximately 2,083 primary care physicians (internal medicine, pediatricians, family practice/general practice, obstetrician/gynecologists), 1,087 general practice dentists, and 324 psychiatrists working in the state.
- ❖ Applying for and obtaining approval for a new PC geographic Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for Hawaii County; Submitting an application for a new geographic PC HPSA for the island of Maui. The new proposed designation is for Kula area.

HPSA designations are significant because medical facilities located within them are eligible to apply for a variety of federal programs which may allow them to become host sites to health professionals interested in fulfilling their student-to-service obligations. These federal programs include National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Nurse Corps loan and scholarship programs, the Health Center program, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Incentive Payment and Rural Health Clinic programs, Medicare Reimbursement for Telehealth Services, and Conrad-30/J-1 Visa Waiver program. This is of particular value for facilities in areas that have difficulty retaining health professionals on a long-term basis.

HPSAs are designated by HRSA as having shortages of providers in all disciplines -- PC, OH, or MH providers. There are three types of HPSA designations – geographic (a county or defined service area), population (e.g., low income or Medicaid eligible), or facility (e.g., state corrections site, Department of Health site).

The State of Hawaii has a total of 68 PC, OH, and MH HPSA designations across all the islands. These include Hawaii's FQHC's and their satellite sites, private and public practice facilities and geographic and population service areas.

In 2017, the Hawaii PCO met **technical assistance and collaboration that seeks to expand access to primary care for underserved populations** expectations by:

- ❖ Providing technical assistance related to the NHSC, data sharing, HPSA designations, and needs assessments to health care providers, community organizations, private agencies, and state and federal government offices.
- ❖ Assisting 242 practitioners interested in the NHSC in Hawaii by providing information about eligible practice sites, HPSA scores, and NHSC policies, procedures, and requirements for recruitment and retention applications. The practitioners included primary care physicians, health psychologists, and advanced practice registered nurses, and dentists.
- ❖ Working with Kaiser Permanente to support their application for Rural Health Clinic status for several of their facilities on Oahu and the neighbor islands. The newly proposed Kula Maui HPSA is part of this effort.
- ❖ Partnering with the John A Burns School of Medicine's Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and the Hilo Medical Center Foundation to have Hawaii County become established as a new PC HPSA. This successful collaboration resulted in an approved designation which increases the likelihood of applicants qualifying for federal resources in this community with a rate of 37.4% of the population below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- ❖ A total of 40 NHSC health professionals are serving at 28 sites statewide, including Hawaii's FQHC's, correctional facilities, and a site with the Native Hawaiian Health Care System. The practitioners include three physicians (internal medicine and pediatricians), one psychiatrist, ten general dentists, five nurse practitioners, seventeen clinical psychologists, one licensed clinical social worker, one registered dental hygienist, one certified nurse midwife, and one physician assistant.

NHSC health professionals serve on the following islands:

- Hawaii: one physician, one psychiatrist, five dentists, four health psychologists, one certified nurse midwife, three nurse practitioners, and one licensed clinical social worker
 - Maui: two dentists, one physician, one health psychologist, and a registered dental hygienist
 - Molokai: one dentist
 - Kauai: one physician assistant
 - Oahu: two dentists, two nurse practitioners, twelve clinical psychologists, and one pediatrician
- ❖ Nine NHSC site applications were reviewed for renewal and submitted for secondary review, including Kalihi-Palama Health Center, Bay Clinic Mobile Medical and Dental Unit, East Maui Medical Clinic LLP, Hawaii Family Health, Mental Health Kokua, Molokai General Hospital, and Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center sites at Waiola, Waianae High School, and Waianae Intermediate School.
 - ❖ Serving as the state contact and liaison for HRSA's Bureau of Health Professionals to disseminate information and updates related to the NHSC, for site and provider applications, and changes in policies and procedures.