

## Administrator's Message

September 2025

Aloha to all. The State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) is pleased to present this Healthcare Utilization Report for the Year 2024. The report presents current data on healthcare utilization and availability from both public and private healthcare providers, including but not limited to acute care, long-term care, and behavioral health facilities in Hawai'i.

This fulfills one of SHPDA's legislatively mandated responsibilities to collect up-to-date and accurate data on access to and usage of healthcare services statewide. This is necessary for assuring appropriate future availability of and planning for high-quality and adequate healthcare services and infrastructure for Hawai'i. There is a lot of anticipated changes coming to healthcare here. The Department of Human Services (DHS) Med-QUEST Division and SHPDA jointly applied for and were selected in 2024 as one of six states to receive the CMS "AHEAD" grant (The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Innovation Center "Advancing ALL-Payer Health Efficiency Approaches and Development"), which will be in "Pre-Implementation" planning until January 2028, and then in full implementation from 2028 through 2035. We have two new federally funded staff coming board by September 2025 to support the AHEAD grant activities. Hawaii's aging population, workforce shortages, barriers in access to care, and rising costs for healthcare will require an evolving healthcare delivery system which considers geographic population and service needs changes, technological innovation, affordability, and an adequate workforce. The workforce shortages are adversely affecting our entire healthcare environment, and particularly acute and long-term care, physician/clinician access and rural areas of the state. This legislatively mandated SHPDA inventory of facilities and services is more important than ever.

We greatly appreciate all those many facilities that submitted data as required for this annual status assessment; we had nearly 100% reporting this past year, for which we are grateful, but we are also happy to assist agencies that are having difficulty in meeting our reporting requirements.

The purpose of this report is to assist decision makers in the healthcare sector, in government, and in the Legislature to effectively plan for and provide needed high-quality and essential healthcare and residential and social support services for Hawaii residents. SHPDA, in partnership with Med-QUEST and the University of Hawai'i, is also preparing to launch the All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) in mid-2026, and we need to make sure we are receiving mandated data from all sources for monitoring of population health, access to care, and affordability as well. SHPDA now also receives mandatory prior authorization reporting from all insurers starting in 2025.

Finally, we welcome comments or questions about the report; and we appreciate suggestions for ways it can be improved upon in the future.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John C. Lewin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John C. (Jack) Lewin MD  
Administrator