

# *AHEAD Primary Care Working Group*

February 18, 2026



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# Agenda

- Welcome
- Primary Care AHEAD Update
  - Goal: To seek feedback from the Working Group on key issues
  - Milliman presenting and the AHEAD team is facilitating discussion
- Rural Health Transformation Program
  - Jack Lewin, MD
- General Updates
  - Joy Soares
- Timeline and Milestones
  - Joy Soares



# General Updates

- Still waiting on guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) and the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) for key areas including Choice and Competition Requirements, hospital global budgets, and other areas.
  - CMMI estimates the guidance will be available in Q3 2026.
- CMMI stated we may begin negotiating the terms of the AHEAD Cooperative Agreement in Q3 2026 and finish in Q4 2026.
- CMMI likely to come for a site visit in Q3 2026.
- AHEAD budget for 2026 approved by CMMI.
- New staff: Jason Espero and Jonas Yee



# Timeline

Activity	2024-2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031-2035
<b>AHEAD Model Period</b>	Pre-Implementation		Performance Period			
<b>Hospital Global Budgets</b>			<b>Medicare FFS HGBs Starts 1/1/28</b>			
			Implementation Period	<b>Medicaid HGB Starts No Later Than 1/1/29</b>		
				<b>Commercial HGB (at least one payer) Starts 1/1/29</b>		
<b>Primary Care AHEAD</b>			<b>Medicaid Advance Primary Care Program Starts 1/1/28</b>			
			<b>Medicare and Commercial Primary Care AHEAD Starts 1/1/28</b>			

We are here



# Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP): Supporting AHEAD in Rural Communities

## What is RHTP?

- A CMS program designed to support rural communities transform the healthcare delivery ecosystem.

## Why it Matters for AHEAD

- Rural providers often lack the scale, infrastructure, and financial flexibility needed to participate successfully in value-based payment arrangements such as AHEAD without additional support.

## What Hawai'i Requested

- AHEAD “readiness” fund – This competitive fund will enable rural providers to adopt care models and succeed under the AHEAD model by financing local value-based innovations. This may include support for quality reporting, advanced analytics, practice transformation coaching, etc.

## Status

- Hawai'i was awarded RHT funding, and the Hawai'i AHEAD team is awaiting confirmation on which specific requested activities will be approved.

A photograph of a lush field of large, heart-shaped green leaves, possibly taro (Canna lily). The leaves are vibrant green and have prominent veins. The plants are growing densely together. The word "Mahalo!" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image. The background shows more of the same plants and some dark soil or mulch.

**Mahalo!**