

.....Federal Designations.....

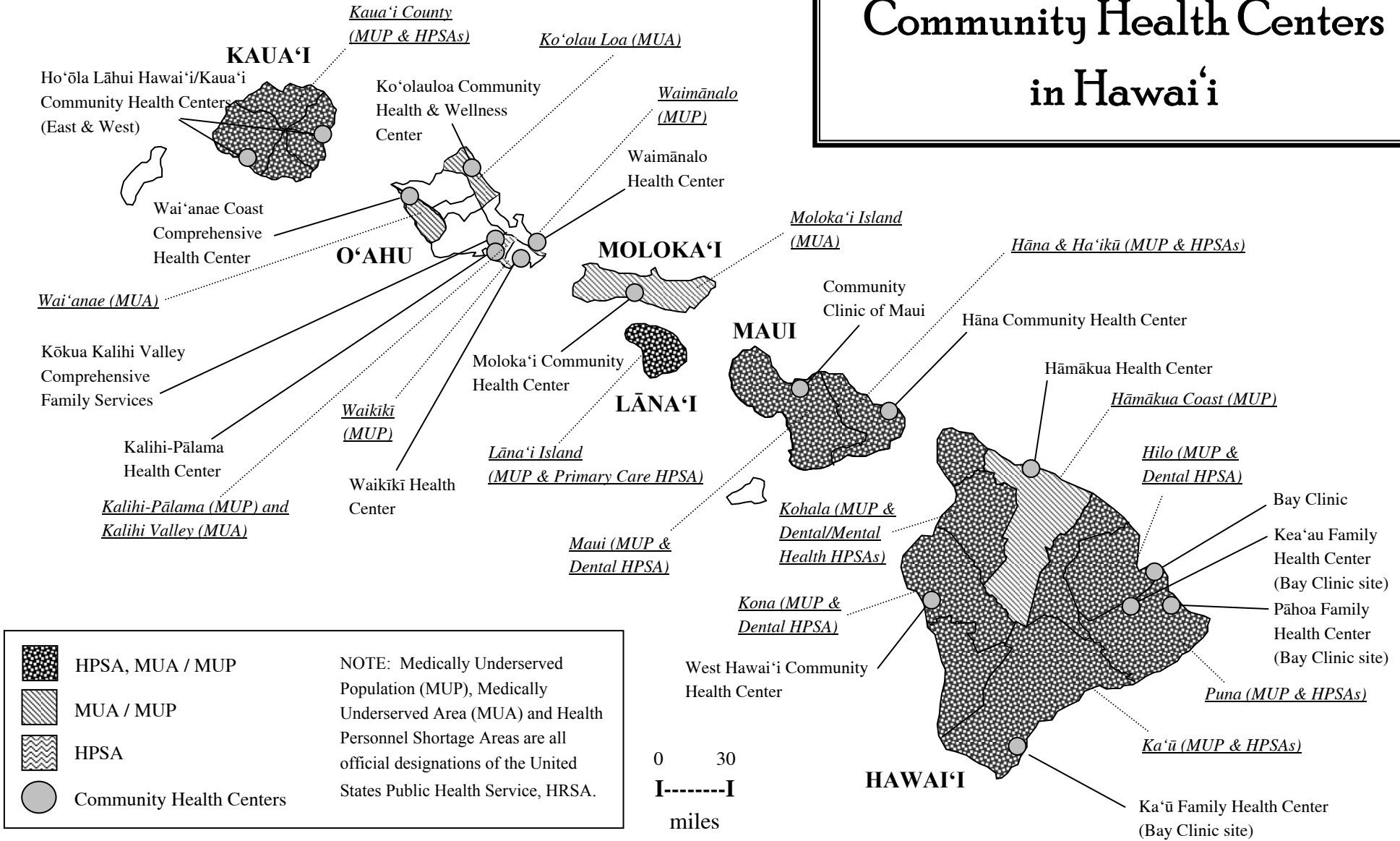
“Federal designations” are terms used by federal agencies to identify areas, populations, and providers. The federal Bureau of Primary Health Care—a bureau within the much larger Department of Health and Human Services—officially recognizes areas and populations that have certain health care needs. The need may be identified based upon geography, such as Wai‘anae or Ka‘ū, in which case it is called a Medically-Underserved Area (MUA). Or the need may be identified based upon population, such as Native Hawaiians or those with no health insurance, in which case it is called a Medically-Underserved Population (MUP). The need may also be based upon resources—the number of available and accessible medical, dental or behavioral health providers in an area—in which case it is called a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). A HPSA can be further broken down into a Primary Care HPSA, a Dental HPSA, or a Mental Health HPSA, depending upon the kind of providers needed. Usually, the Primary Care Office of the state Department of Health applies for federal designations for a particular community or population, but any community or organization can initiate an application.

These designations qualify an area or population for special federal benefits focused on increasing access to primary health care. For example, in order for an organization to receive federal funds as a federally-qualified Community Health Center, the organization must serve a Medically Underserved Area or Medically Underserved Population. In order for an area to serve as a placement site for providers with loan repayment obligations to the National Health Service Corps, it must be designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).

The federal government also has special terms for Community Health Centers that serve MUAs and MUPs.

- A **Rural Health Center** (RHC) serves a rural area that has a HPSA designation. An RHC can be either a private practice or a non-profit provider. RHCs are eligible for higher rates of Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement for their services. Applications for Hawai‘i RHCs must be approved by the Regional Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Office in San Francisco.
- A **Federally Qualified Health Center** (FQHC) is a Community Health Center that receives federal Section 330 grants or one that does *not* receive federal Section 330 grants but otherwise meets all qualifications of a grantee (the later is commonly called an FQHC “Look-Alike”). FQHCs and FQHC “Look-Alikes” must apply for recognition of their status to the Grants Management Officer of the HRSA Field Office in San Francisco.

Underserved Areas & Community Health Centers in Hawai'i



STATUS OF FEDERAL DESIGNATIONS AND ASSISTANCE

As of January 2006

District/Area (census tract)	MUA or MUP	Primary Care HPSA	Dental HPSA	Mental Health HPSA	Date of HPSA Designation		
					Primary Care	Dental	Mental Health
Maui County							
Hāna/Ha'ikū (301 – 302)	MUP	✓	✓	✓✓ (301)	4/01	6/00	9/01
Maui (303 – 315)	MUP		✓✓			6/02	
Lāna'i Island (316)	MUP	✓✓			9/03		
Moloka'i Island (317 – 319)	MUA		✓✓ (317-318)	✓		4/03	8/00
Hawai'i County							
Hilo (201 – 209)	MUP		✓✓			3/01	
Puna (210 – 211)	MUP	✓ (211)	✓✓	✓	3/01	3/01	3/02
Ka'ū (212)	MUP	✓	✓✓	✓	3/01	3/01	12/01
Hāmākua (219 – 221)	MUP		✓✓	✓✓		3/01	1/02
Kona (213 – 216)	MUP		✓✓			3/01	
Kohala (217 – 218)	MUP		✓✓	✓✓		3/01	1/02
City & County of Honolulu							
Kalihi-Pālana (51 – 56)	MUP		✓✓	✓		9/00	4/01
Kalihi Valley (61 – 66)	MUA		✓✓	✓		9/00	4/01
Ko'olau Loa (101 – 102)	MUA						
Waikiki (18 – 20.02)	MUP						
Waimānalo (113)	MUP						
Wai'anae (96 – 98)	MUA						
Kaua'i County							
Kaua'i County	MUP	✓✓	✓✓	✓ (408-409)	12/02	2/02	3/02

MUA or MUP – Medically-Underserved Area or Population
HPSA – Health Professional Shortage Area

✓ – Approved as an Area designation
✓✓ – Approved as a Low-Income
Population designation

Note— The Health Care Safety Net Amendments of 2002 provided for automatic facility HPSA status for all Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and those Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) that meet the requirements of providing access to care regardless of ability to pay.

*Source: Hawai'i Department of Health and U. S. Department of Health and Human Services,
Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA)*