

The background of the page is a close-up photograph of several large, vibrant green leaves. The leaves are layered, with some in the foreground and others behind, creating a sense of depth. The lighting is bright, highlighting the veins and the texture of the leaf surfaces. The overall color palette is various shades of green, from light lime to a deeper forest green.

Community  
Health  
Centers in  
Hawai‘i

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# The Role of Community Health Centers

Community Health Centers (CHCs) are the foundation of the primary health care system and the social safety net. They exist in federally-recognized areas where residents are most likely to have barriers to getting health care. Also critically important is the fact that they are nonprofit organizations governed by the people who use their services.

## What Community Health Centers Do

The people in the areas served by CHCs have a variety of health needs, including medical, dental, and mental health. Frequently, patients who have no private insurance or have language or cultural barriers to care neglect to seek care for some time. As a result, clinical visits in CHCs are more intense and need to address a variety of ailments.

Often, they also need assistance with a host of other issues that would interfere with good health including housing, financial assistance, referral to other programs, health education, culturally appropriate language assistance, and transportation. Outreach and follow-up are necessary to ensure that people get the care they need and understand clinicians' instructions for follow-up.

Community health centers typically address all these needs and serve as the health care home for their clients and community.

Community health centers serve people who have disproportionately high rates of diabetes, asthma, hypertension, and behavioral health problems.

In response, CHCs are in the forefront for offering excellent chronic disease care and management. They also are the primary health care provider for Hawai'i's homeless populations, and several centers serve significant numbers of people with HIV/AIDS. Comprehensive services include:

- Medical and mental health clinical care (many patients have neglected needed health care so that clinical visits are often more intense than routine visits and need to address a variety of ailments). Eleven of fourteen CHCs are or will soon be providing dental care.
- Prescription drugs.
- Diagnostic services.
- Case management (most patients have socioeconomic needs that also need to be addressed and require more assistance with follow-up care).
- Language assistance and culturally competent care (13% of all patients need interpreter services and 27% are Native Hawaiian).
- Assistance with Med-QUEST, housing, and cash assistance applications.
- Health education for disease management and prevention.

### Community health centers are a different kind of provider

- They are non-profit corporations and the majority of their board members use their services.
- They exist only in federally-recognized underserved areas.
- They serve all patients without regard to ability to pay.
- They specialize in helping people overcome barriers to health care.
- They are the health care home in their communities, providing a wide array of necessary health services.

### Community health centers provide comprehensive, high quality, cost-effective health care

- Community health centers save the health care system in Hawai'i \$1,093 per year for every person they care for, amounting to \$128 million in annual savings. They save the Medicaid program \$53 million, commercial insurers \$31 million, and health care system expenditures for the uninsured \$36 million.<sup>†</sup>
- Medicaid patients served by community health centers are 22% less likely to be hospitalized for avoidable conditions.\*
- Uninsured adults who go to community health centers are more likely to get counseling on diet, exercise, smoking, substance abuse, and STDs.\*
- Women who go to community health centers are significantly more likely to get mammograms, clinical breast exams, and Pap smears.\*

<sup>†</sup> Per a study by the Robert Graham Center, Policy Studies in Family Practice and Primary Care, using Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) data for 2006.

\* "Inequality in America: The Contribution of Health Centers in Reducing and Eliminating Health Disparities in Access to Care." Medical Care Research and Review, June 2001.

# Community Health Centers in Hawai'i

Community health centers across the state are a critically important part of our health care system. Hawai'i's fourteen community health centers cared for 117, 211 people on six islands last year.

## Hawai'i Island

Bay Clinic, Hamakua Health Center, and West Hawai'i Community Health Center serve Hilo, Kea'au, Puna, Ka'u, Honoka'a, North Kohala, and Kailua- Kona.

## Lana'i

Lana'i Community Health Center serves all of Lana'i.

## Maui

Malama I Ke Ola Health Center and Hana Health serve Kahului, Wailuku, Lahaina, and Hana.

## O'ahu

Kalihi-Palama Health Center, Kookaa Kalihi Valley, Ko'olauloa Community Health & Wellness Center, Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, Waikiki Health Center, Waimanalo Health Center serve Waimanalo, urban Honolulu, Waipahu, Kapolei, the Wai'anae coast, and the North Shore.

## Moloka'i

Moloka'i 'Ohana Health Care serves the island of Moloka'i.

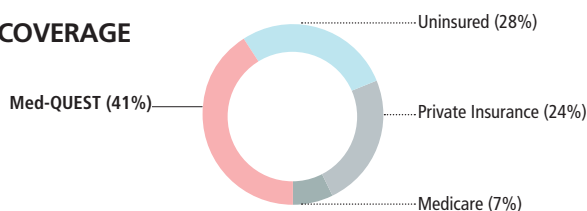
## Kaua'i

Ho'ola Lahui Hawai'i (Kaua'i Community Health Center) serves all of Kaua'i.

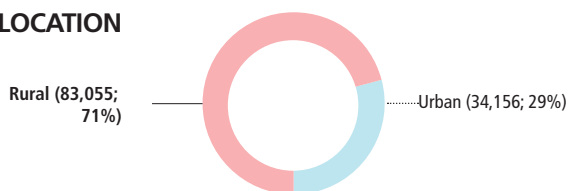
## HAWAI'I COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER PATIENT PROFILE

2008

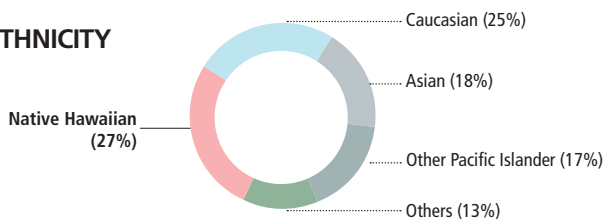
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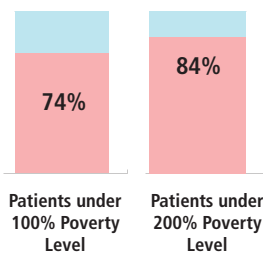
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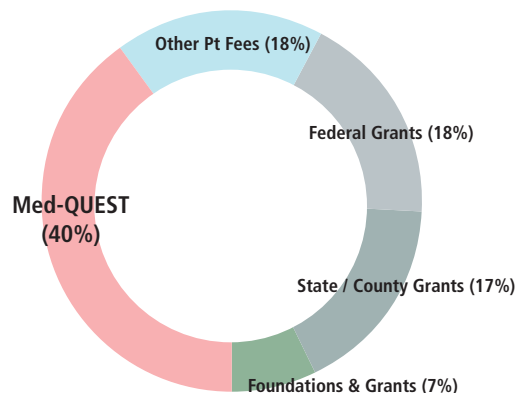
### ETHNICITY



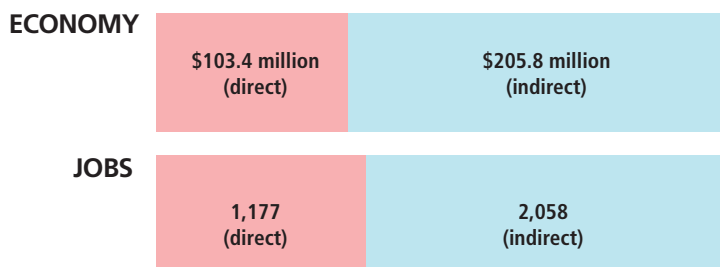
### POVERTY



## HEALTH CENTER REVENUE BY SOURCE



## VALUE OF HEALTH CENTERS TO COMMUNITIES 2008



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