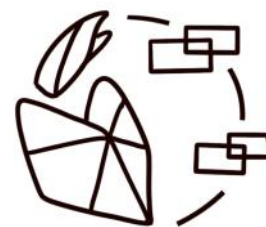


NĀ MAKAWAI

A PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY PAPA OLA LŌKAHI



JULY NEWSLETTER

HUI NO KE OLAPONO

Serving the Native Hawaiians on Maui for 25 years



For this issue of the Nā Makawai Newsletter, we are featuring three organizations – our Maui-island Native Hawaiian Health Care System Hui No Ke Ola Pono, the five-organization health care coalition AHARO, and strategy and development firm 'Auamo Consulting.

Hui No Ke Ola Pono was created under Native Hawaiian Health Care Act of 1988 and reauthorized under the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act of 1992. Under the Nā Makawai program, they have been able to expand their services, capacity and programs that have long served the Native Hawaiian community on Maui as well as students on their way to become health professionals.

The two community partner organizations featured in this newsletter have taken on aspects related to healthcare that are either new to the conversation or being transformed. 'Auamo Consulting will shed light on how broadband services and healthcare intersect for our community. AHARO seeks to revolutionize the way data represents community to paint a picture sensitive and attuned to Native Hawaiian context and culture.

Papa Ola Lōkahi is honored to share their stories and innovative initiatives.

Dr. Sheri-Ann Daniels, Executive Director of Papa Ola Lōkahi

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Hui No Ke Ola Pono

Native Hawaiian Health Care System, Maui

Hui No Ke Ola Pono, the Native Hawaiian Health Care System located on Maui at the Cameron Center, continues to build up their vision of Native Hawaiian health and wellbeing through Nā Makawai. One of the key investments they have prioritized is the expansion of dental services, which includes renovating clinical space to upgrade from two to four dental chairs, a specialized lab, a sterilization space, and a separate space for panoramic x-rays. Enhancements have been a recent theme for HNKOP – in 2019, a 6,000 square foot expansion was gained to increase space for the Ornish program, lomilomi, and additional exam rooms for pediatric care. The pediatric team units – one for medical services and the other for dental services. The dental mobile unit was strategically placed onsite to ensure continuity of care for those needing dental services at HNKOP during renovations. The mobile medical unit, which HNKOP is waiting for due to supply chain issues, will be able to serve rural Maui to provide care in communities, bridging some of the access gaps caused by maldistribution.

The enhancement of and investment in clinical spaces and resources is accompanied by a health workforce component through the Kealaho'imai program which aims to increase the Native Hawaiian health and wellness workforce in partnership with the University of Hawai'i Maui College. Despite investment in Kealaho'imai to increase course participation, HNKOP soon noticed that HNKOP placements did not rise as expected as participants looked for paid internships for their required pre-licensure clinical hours. "[It's] a huge incentive as you're trying to put yourself to school, work, and pay your own bills," said Dr. Mālia Purdy, the Executive Director of HNKOP. With Nā Makawai, HNKOP

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**Pūpūkahi i
holomua.**

Unite to progress.

was able to make a competitive paid internship opportunity to increase the likelihood of graduates remaining at the center and subsequently secured two positions in a difficult hiring market. Dr. Purdy hopes to continue building Dr. Purdy hopes to continue building collaborations with other organizations during Nā Makawai and beyond. Through a partnership with Mauiola Pharmacy, patients' care from HNKOP providers is extended through individual attention from the pharmacy staff to help people feel more comfortable and learn how their health needs are being addressed. This is one example of how the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems function in connection with Native Hawaiian health organizations so that community members can access personalized, holistic care with people who understand cultural, historical, and socioeconomic considerations of health. "My hope is that every Native Hawaiian gets that kind of level of care," Dr. Purdy adds.

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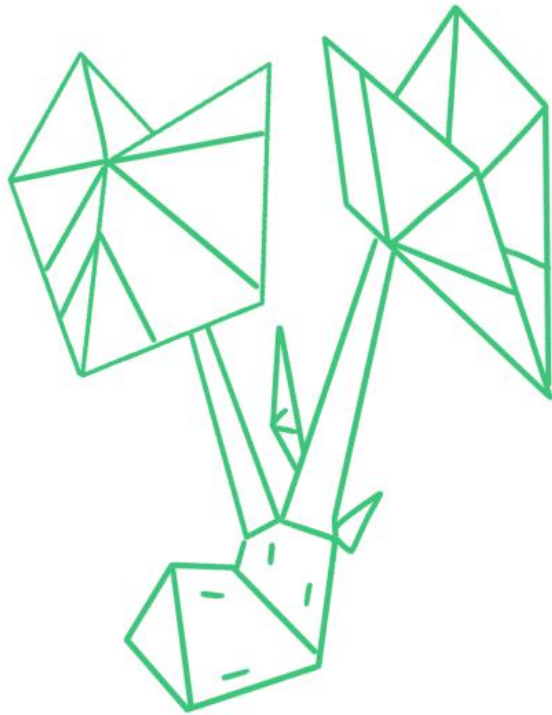
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'Auamo Consulting

Native Hawaiian Beneficiary Organization

It can be easy to take for granted what the internet has been integrated into everyday life. Prior to the pandemic, innovations in broadband had created new realms in entertainment through streaming services and digital media. COVID-19 saw broadband access become a crucial lifeline for public education, health care services, and sometimes the only means of communication with loved ones – and the importance of high-speed connectivity throughout Hawai'i became vital for equity in myriad industries.

The role and potential of broadband is never far from the thoughts of 'Auamo Collaborative Executive Director Brad Kaleo Bennett, M.Ed., whose organization offers strategy and planning services through an indigenous lens. With Nā Makawai, the 'Auamo team is executing an in-person survey to understand broadband coverage and digital access in



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“My hope is that every Native Hawaiian gets that kind of level of [personalized, holistic] care.”

–Dr. Mālia Purdy, the Executive Director of Hui

rural Hawai'i for Native Hawaiian neighborhoods. The results, said Bennett, will be open source so that everyone hoping to improve community access can have a more granular understanding of broadband access – especially on the neighbor islands. High-level data may indicate good coverage, but for many, access is an everyday struggle, demonstrating the need for more information.

As additional waves of COVID-19 have continued to pass over Hawai'i, collecting surveys has become difficult as many families understandably did not feel comfortable opening their doors. Despite this, Bennett and his team were able to reach statistical significance early on with the data they were able to retrieve about broadband reach, a promising indicator of data quality and reflection of community reality. Some of the sampling the 'Auamo team has done show that broadband quality can differ widely on the opposite sides of the same street.

Nā Makawai was able to support the work of 'Auamo Collaborative as a critical component of health infrastructure, as telehealth access depends on broadband connectivity. Bennett also sees sustainable,

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Auamo Collaborative as a critical component of health infrastructure, as telehealth access depends on broadband connectivity. Bennett also sees sustainable, long-term utility in the work – though he warns that the survey only provides a “snapshot” of connectivity at a single point in time, the data will be valuable for those seeking to increase broadband access through community projects and partnerships to understand where gaps exist to address local needs. He hopes that this project will also provide information to help with future planning for the existing Native Hawaiian community network partners on O’ahu in Waianae and Waimānalo.



AHARO

Native Hawaiian Beneficiary Organization

Rich Bettini’s kuleana to Native Hawaiian health is in no small part due to his hānai parent, Agnes “Aggie” Cope – and for decades, he has worked to improve health along the leeward coast of O’ahu and across the State of Hawai‘i. As the current chair and president of AHARO, he has continued to emphasize the importance of centering community health and well-being in health data and analytics. At its inception, AHARO (which began as the Accountable Healthcare Alliance of Rural O’ahu but has since departed from being an acronym) was an Oahu-based effort – but soon became a tri-island collaborative with a shared vision for Native Hawaiian rural health. “The idea of AHARO is not to bring four or five health centers together, it’s to bring four or five communities together,” Bettini pointed out. As a Nā Makawai partner, AHARO is driving forward novel approaches to Native Hawaiian health data that look to integrate insights beyond the reach of current industry algorithms.

AHARO’s work to change the bedrock of Native Hawaiian health data is both deeply connected to community and innovative machine learning. Bettini and AHARO leaders are both informed by their communities and aware that current health analytics do not capture the health status of Native Hawaiians accurately or fully. Their multiphase effort first expands data collection to compile information on patients’ social determinants of health, health conditions, treatment, and program participation, and more. The next steps seek to provide better models based on high quality data with partner Foresight Health Solutions. Over the next years, AHARO sees this work as vital to provide more tailored health care for patients as well as increase the evidence to demonstrate program and treatment efficacy and effectiveness. In this way, AHARO organizations become better able to identify the specific, culturally relevant realities of the patient and provide meaningful care; Bettini sees the partnership with Nā Makawai as a “collaboration with tremendous potential.”

Bettini’s views on the importance and role of Native Hawaiian health data also reflect the juncture of community and cost-saving. “We need to make the dollars that we have count – we owe it to those patients that were referenced in the E Ola Mau study: those that had the most disparate conditions, those that had 10-year-earlier onset of disease and more, those that live in poverty. We owe it to them to get a return on investment... and those that seek to serve need to be in a position to prove to that constituency that they’ve produced good value.”



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