



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

Papa Ola Lokahi

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ACCESS TO SPECIALTY CARE IMPROVED FOR NEIGHBOR ISLAND PATIENTS

(Kaka'ako, O'ahu) The Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems (NHHCSs) throughout the neighbor islands are now better able to serve their patients that need specialty care, thanks in large part to a grant from HMSA Foundation.

As a result of the lack of specialty care physicians throughout Hawai'i's neighbor islands, patients requiring specialized care—such as cardiology or oncology care—are compelled to travel to O'ahu for such care. This practice has put additional strain on families' financial resources and time away from home. Some patients have chosen not to take the time or bear the expense at all.

During an 18-month pilot project in 2010-11, several of the NHHCSs piloted a project where patients from Maui or Hawai'i Island sent their specialty care patients to O'ahu. Ke Ola Mamo, the O'ahu NHHCS, would pick them—and sometimes an accompanying kako'o, or family support person—up at the airport, transport them to their appointment, and ensure their basic needs were met while on O'ahu.

Medical needs included chemotherapy; neurological, ophthalmologic, and orthopedic surgery, or surgery follow-up; and cardiac assessment. Half the second-time patients indicated they would not have been able to return for services, or would have had to delay their return until resources could be secured.

"Our people have been so well cared for when we've sent them to Honolulu," swears Michelle Hiraishi, executive director of Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi on Hawai'i Island, who sent several patients to Ke Ola Mamo on O'ahu to assist with follow-up care. "'Aunty B' from Keaukaha told us she felt like family was looking out for her. It has been a positive experience for our patients, and they've gotten the treatment they needed."

more

Papa Ola Lokahi

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

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Today, thanks to a \$39,568 grant from HMSA Foundation, Ke Ola Mamo will be able to continue welcoming and serving these needs for patients from the other NHHCSs: Ho'ola Lāhui Hawai'i (Kaua'i & Ni'ihau), Hui No Ke Ola Pono (Maui), Nā Pu'uwai (Moloka'i & Lāna'i) and Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi (Hawai'i Island).

In addition, Hui No Ke Ola Pono, the Maui-based NHHCS, will be able to kōkua patients from Moloka'i and Lāna'i who need only travel to Maui for specialty care.

The most needed services will be airfare and transportation, but overnight accommodations and per diem can be provided when necessary.

For more information about this program and how to access services, contact any of the five [Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems](#) that serve seven islands:

Ho'ola Lāhui Hawai'i	Kaua'i & Ni'ihau	808-246-3511
Ke Ola Mamo	O'ahu	808-848-8000
Nā Pu'uwai	Moloka'i & Lāna'i	808-560-3653
Hui No Ke Ola Pono	Maui	808-244-4647
Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi	Hawai'i Island	808-969-9220

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, and the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program were established in 1988 by the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act to strategically improve the health status and well-being of Native Hawaiians.

*www.papaolalokahi.org
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