

# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Waikiki Health Receives \$20,000 Donation From UHA Foundation Fund To Establish New Medical and Dental Clinic**

(Honolulu, July 23, 2013) - The UHA Foundation Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation recently donated \$20,000 to Waikiki Health to establish the Waikiki Health Medical and Dental Clinic, a new facility to serve low-income patients, including those who are uninsured, have insurance through government programs, or are homeless.

The Waikiki Health Medical and Dental Clinic, which will feature seven dental operatories, eight medical exam rooms and space for behavioral health services when completed, is targeted to open in early 2014. Dental services will be provided to patients as young as two years old to those who are adults.

The dental clinic will be housed in the Waikiki Health Makahiki Clinic, at 935 Makahiki Way, in McCully-Moiliili, between McCully-Moiliili Library and Old Stadium Park. In January 2013, Waikiki Health signed a 15-year lease with the option for two five-year extensions for Makahiki Clinic, which will also provide expanded primary medical care and integrated behavioral health.

Waikiki Health has successfully secured nearly \$500,000 in funding, which is 30% of funds needed to complete the project, with the remainder from pending grants and planned requests.

The UHA Foundation Fund, a donor-advised fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation, was created solely through donations from UHA Health Insurance, one of Hawaii's leading proponents of health and wellness. "Taking care of people's teeth and gums are important to their overall health, so this contribution is an investment in the health and lives of those who may not have access to dental care," said Howard Lee, UHA president and chief executive officer and Waikiki Health board member. "'Waikiki Health has been successful in meeting vital health needs in our community and we're carrying on a tradition of support for this great nonprofit organization that began with UHA's founder, Dr. Max Botticelli."

"Until now, we have focused on specialized medical care for the most vulnerable and marginalized in our community, including those who do not have homes or have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS," said Sheila Beckham RD, MPH, Waikiki Health's chief executive

officer. “We’re excited to now be expanding our spectrum of health services to include dental care.”

Beckham noted that good oral health is especially critical for those with compromised immune systems and those who have limited or no access to dental services. Oral exams can detect nutritional deficiencies as well as systemic diseases, including infections, immune disorders, injuries and some forms of cancer. Research has also shown the link between chronic oral infections and heart disease, strokes and lung diseases. In pregnant women, poor oral health has been associated with premature births and low birth weight.

Waikiki Health Medical and Dental Clinic staff will include a dental director to oversee the dental practice, a dental hygienist, dental assistant and receptionist who will also support the medical care services as well as additional and shared medical staff from the six other locations where medical health care is currently provided. In 2014, the clinic plans to participate in a dental residency program to further expand dental services.

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#### **About UHA Health Insurance (University Health Alliance)**

UHA was founded by physicians in 1996 to improve the quality of healthcare for Hawaii's people. UHA provides medical, drug, and vision plans to Hawaii employer groups. By meeting strict quality standards to ensure clinically sound decision-making that respects the rights of both patients and medical providers, UHA received accreditation in Health Utilization Management through URAC. For additional information about UHA, visit [www.uhahealth.com](http://www.uhahealth.com)

#### **About Waikiki Health**

Waikiki Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) whose mission is to provide quality medical and social services that are accessible and affordable for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. The Waikiki Health's Primary Care Program offers a comprehensive, fully integrated system of services, including medical care, behavioral health, HIV and Hepatitis C services, substance abuse treatment, medical nutrition therapy, medical and behavioral health case management, chronic disease management, and traditional Hawaiian healing. In early 2014 dental services will be offered at its newest site, the Makahiki Clinic in McCully-Moiliili.

#### **About Hawai'i Community Foundation**

With 97 years of community service, the Hawai'i Community Foundation is the leading philanthropic institution in the state. The Foundation is a steward of more than 650 funds, including more than 170 scholarship funds, created by donors who desire to transform lives and improve communities. In 2012, more than \$45 million in grants and contracts were distributed statewide. The Foundation also serves as a resource on community issues and trends in the nonprofit sector.