

# WAIKIKI HEALTH PEOPLE CARE



Volume XXXII • 2025

## Pacific Business News Power Leader Honoree



Waikiki Health's CEO, Alexis Charpentier, MPH (above), was recently named one of Hawaii's Power Leaders by *Pacific Business News* (PBN). She was honored, along with other leaders, at PBN's Book of Lists reception, held in January at the Kahala Hotel. According to PBN, "Power Leaders are recognized for notable achievements in their careers, industries, and communities—for what they have accomplished already and for what they intend to accomplish in the future. These are the leaders who will power Hawaii through 2025 and beyond."

Alexis was honored for her extensive experience in health, government, and nonprofit management, as well as her leadership in overseeing more than 200 Waikiki Health employees across six sites on Oahu. Her recognition also highlighted her impactful volunteer leadership roles, including serving as President of the Hawaii Public Health Association Board, Vice President of the Hawaii Primary Care Association Board, and a Board Member for AlohaCare. Additionally, Alexis dedicated five years to Waikiki Health's Board of Directors, most recently serving as Vice President.

Alexis said, "I was deeply honored and grateful to have been recognized as a 2025 Pacific Business News Power Leader. The award reception was truly an incredible evening, made even more special by being surrounded by such an inspiring group of leaders and colleagues who attended and supported me! A special acknowledgment went out to my mother, my greatest cheerleader, and unwavering source of strength since day one. I would not be the woman I am today without her love, guidance, and encouragement!"

## Providing Medical Outreach to Waikiki's Homeless

Waikiki Health, in collaboration with the Waikiki Business Improvement District (WBID) and Institute for Human Services (IHS), implemented an outreach program in January 2025 to provide direct, street-offered medical and social services to homeless persons in Waikiki. WBID and IHS have been



Waikiki Health's MISO team assisted a homeless person. The team included Dr. Louie Gangcuangco (left), Ana Simpao (center), and Maireng Vicari (far right).

conducting outreach together for some time, locating those experiencing homelessness and providing social support. Waikiki Health provided the missing component: street-offered medical care, branding its part as Medical Intervention Street Outreach (MISO).

WBID contracted Waikiki Health to send a medical provider to join WBID and IHS every Wednesday for eight hours. Dr. Louie Gangcuangco from Waikiki Health's Ohua Clinic serves as the main provider on this outreach team. A Community Health Worker (CHW) and other staff also are part of Waikiki Health's MISO team, providing medical assessments, medical care, and insurance navigation, including assistance applying for Medicaid and other benefits.

Jeanelle Ahuna, Waikiki Health's Associate Chief Medical Officer, joined MISO's first outreach team to lend support. She said, "The overall purpose is to collaboratively provide street-based medical assistance and expanded outreach for vulnerable populations in Waikiki." The first outreach team met with 15 homeless persons. One was sent to the emergency room, and three were referred to Ohua Clinic, where they found their medical home.

In the third week of Waikiki Health's MISO program, the team included Dr. Louie Gangcuangco, CHW Ana Simpao, and Program Assistant Maireng Vicari. Maireng has already proclaimed MISO "a success." She said, "I feel doing outreach helps and comforts homeless people with a face-to-face contact to educate them about the services they may need and how we can help." The partners' goals are to ensure that more homeless individuals receive care at Waikiki Health or through street-based medical services in the District.

## Dr. K Honored with Lifetime Achievement and Palolo Pride Awards

Dr. Elliot Kalauawa (“Dr. K”), Waikiki Health’s Chief Medical Officer, has recently received two prestigious honors, celebrating his extraordinary dedication to healthcare and his community.



Dr. Elliot Kalauawa

Dr. K, who has served Waikiki Health’s patients since 1986, was awarded the Hawaii Primary Care Association’s (HPCA) Kulia Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes him for being a “beacon of compassionate care, a tireless advocate for medically underserved communities, and a pioneer in HIV/AIDS treatment.” Although he couldn’t attend the ceremony, Waikiki Health CEO Alexis Charpentier accepted the award on his behalf at the HPCA’s Kulia Awards Ceremony.

In addition, Dr. K was honored by the Jarrett Middle School Foundation as an “Extra Ordinary Palolo Pride” alumnus for his 38 years of dedicated service to Waikiki Health. Dr. K, who grew up in Palolo public housing, was inspired by his own experiences with limited access to healthcare and long waits at Queen Emma Clinic. These challenges motivated him to pursue a career in medicine, becoming one of the few early Native Hawaiian physicians in the state. In front of more than 100 guests, including many Jarrett students, Dr. K’s lifelong commitment to addressing both the medical and social needs of his patients was celebrated.

Waikiki Health CEO Alexis Charpentier shared, “This recognition is unique because Dr. K came from this community—Jarrett Middle School—and accomplished his goal of becoming a doctor who addresses not just the medical, but the social needs of his patients. Congratulations, Dr. K! We are so proud of you!”

## Homeless Youth Helped by YO! & PATH

Jane began her journey to improve her life at Waikiki Health’s Youth Outreach (YO!) Drop-In Center and Youth Clinic nearly four years ago, seeking help with an unplanned pregnancy. She was referred to our PATH Clinic in Kaimuki



Youth Outreach Clinic in Waikiki

to establish care with an OB/GYN. Throughout her pregnancy, Jane received enabling services, such as transportation to her OB/GYN appointments and gift cards for food and clothing. She also received dental and vision care at our Makahiki Clinic in McCully/Mō‘ili‘ili and behavioral health services to help with medication management after her baby was born.

Jane delivered a healthy baby girl and found employment as a Certified Nursing Assistant, supporting herself and her family. Her baby was just over a year old when Jane became busier at work and had less time to stop in at YO!. Recently, Jane reached out to the YO! Clinic Coordinator because she was struggling to make her finances stretch. She needed help providing additional food and clothing for her family, which YO! gladly provided. Her baby girl is now 2 years old, and Jane couldn’t stop expressing her gratitude for all the help she received at YO! over the past 2+ years and how her life has improved because of the support YO! continues to provide.

Waikiki Health’s YO! Drop-In Center and Youth Clinic offers a safe and nonjudgmental environment for trauma-impacted youth experiencing homelessness. Many runaways, abandoned, and other at-risk youth visit YO! and find the support and services they need to stabilize their lives and make plans for their future. To support Waikiki Health’s Youth Outreach, please call (808) 537-8438 or visit our website at [www.waikikihealth.org](http://www.waikikihealth.org).

### MISSION AND VISION

The mission of Waikiki Health is to provide quality medical and social services that are accessible and affordable for everyone, regardless of ability to pay. Waikiki Health provides compassionate healing and expert care that result in improved health and quality of life for all in our island community.

*People Care* is published annually for our donors. If you would like to contact us, please call us at (808) 537-8400 or send an email to [mlohan@waikikihealth.org](mailto:mlohan@waikikihealth.org) or send regular mail to: Waikiki Health, c/o Development Office, 935 Makahiki Way, Honolulu, HI 96826

Waikiki Health EIN (Tax ID): 99-0159253

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## PATH introduces a Childbirth Education Class

Waikiki Health's PATH Clinic broadened its scope of services by introducing a pilot program, "Childbirth Education Class." The three-session classes, which began in December 2024, are offered monthly at our PATH Clinic and are taught by a contracted Certified Doula, Kalei Vellados, a highly regarded specialist in Childbirth Education and CEO of Ilihia Maternity Care.

The pilot program aims to improve health outcomes for both mother and child who are patients or clients at our Kaimuki clinic. It promotes capable parenting, helps reduce stress and anxiety, increases participants' knowledge, builds confidence, and helps create a sense of control as a parent. The program focuses on education, newborn care, lactation and breastfeeding, and assists patients of Waikiki Health, as well as other women referred by community partners such as the Salvation Army Family Treatment Services (SAFTS).

The mission of PATH Clinic is to provide clinical and social services to pregnant and parenting women with past or present substance use issues. While not a substance use treatment program, it provides continuity of care in a homelike, non-judgmental setting, supporting each woman's unique path from pregnancy to capable parenting. PATH, also known as Perinatal Addiction Treatment of Hawaii, has been part of Waikiki Health since 2011. To learn more about our PATH Clinic, please call (808) 791-9390.



### MONTHLY CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION CLASSES

February 21, 2025  
February 28, 2025  
March 7, 2025  
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM  
at the PATH Clinic

Childbirth education classes are aimed at helping reduce stress and anxiety, and increase your knowledge, confidence, and sense of control.

**CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION:**

- What to expect during pregnancy
- Stages of labor
- How to cope with contractions
- Pain management techniques
- Postpartum recovery and more

**NEWBORN CARE:**

- Basic newborn care necessities
- Adjusting to life with newborn
- Caring for your newborn

**LACTATION/BREASTFEEDING:**

- Breastfeeding fundamentals
- Tips for success

Presented By:  
Kalei Vellados  
Certified Doula  
and Childbirth  
Educator  
Ilihia Maternity  
Care

For more information, contact  
PATH Clinic at (808) 791-9390.

**PATH CLINIC**  
a member of WAIKIKI HEALTH

845 22nd Avenue, Honolulu  
www.waikikihealth.org



## Zilber Family Foundation's Support Strengthens Homeless Services at Waikiki Health

Waikiki Health is deeply grateful for the continued support we receive from the Zilber Family Foundation. Since 2002, they have provided grant funding to support our homeless initiatives, including the Next Step Shelter (formerly operating in Kaka'ako), the Keauhou Shelter, in McCully-Mō'ili'ili, and our homeless youth program, Youth Outreach (YO!), in Waikiki.

This past December, we had the privilege of welcoming Zilber Family Foundation board and staff members, most of whom were visiting Hawaii from the U.S. mainland. Waikiki Health organized an extensive tour of our Keauhou Shelter, guided by our Director of Homeless Services, Richard Kaai, along with Waikiki Health's CEO, Alexis Charpentier, MPH.

Zilber's generous financial assistance over the past 20 years has helped stabilize and enhance the well-being of individuals in our community by addressing basic needs, ensuring safety, and increasing access to social and economic opportunities. The Zilber Family Foundation is a private, independent grant making institution founded by the late Joseph J. Zilber in 1961.



Zilber Family Foundation board and staff members visited Keauhou Shelter.

For information about supporting our Keauhou Shelter, please call (808) 537-8400 or visit our website at [www.waikikihealth.org](http://www.waikikihealth.org).

## Annual Makana Hā'awi

The 5th Annual Makana Hā'awi, The Gift of Giving, was launched in 2020 to give back to our clients and patients during the holiday season. This year, Waikiki Health employees and community partners came together once again to support our homeless and vulnerable clientele.

The program benefited residents at our Keauhou Shelter, at-risk homeless youth visiting our Youth Outreach (YO!) drop-in center, patients served at our PATH Clinic, and participants in our Ryan White HIV program. Waikiki Health's Development & Wellness Coordinator, Julia Davies, expressed gratitude to the "elves" at the Admin Office who helped assemble the bags and to Patient Transporter Stephen Cid for delivering them. Mahalo to everyone who made this program a success.



Waikiki Health 'elves' stuffed the Gift of Giving bags.

## Thriving Beyond HIV with Support of Waikiki Health



Kealii

Kealii, an HIV patient at Waikiki Health since 2019 says, “I’ve been on my journey with Waikiki Health for about 5 years now. Since then, I have been Hep C free and most amazingly, I remain undetectable for HIV/AIDS. This feat is something I am proud of, and I just want to encourage people to not give up. I am a living example, thanks to Waikiki Health.”

Kealii is just one of many Waikiki Health patients who have been greatly helped by our skilled HIV providers. Kealii said, “Having an excellent healthcare team at Waikiki Health was

crucial for achieving and maintaining my health today. I once struggled with drug use, but everything changed when I learned I was HIV/AIDS positive. It was a wake-up call that pushed me to choose sobriety and take control of my life.

“When I started treatment with Jeanelle Ahuna, Associate Chief Medical Officer, I was scared and skeptical, but she proved me wrong, showing me the support and care I needed to move forward. Jeanelle is approachable and that helped me feel comfortable sharing my story with her. Brandie Perreira, Lead Medical Assistant, also deserves a shout-out. She draws my blood, and we talk story, making the visit less stressful. Jeanelle and Brandie are invaluable assets to Waikiki Health.”

Waikiki Health is at the forefront of HIV prevention and treatment, providing comprehensive care through the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act since its inception in 1992 as Hawaii’s only Part C provider. For more information about our HIV services, please visit our website at [www.waikikihealth.org](http://www.waikikihealth.org).

## Keiki and Parents Celebrate ‘Give Kids A Smile Hawaii’ Event at Waikiki Health’s Dental Clinic

More than 100 keiki and their parents attended “Give Kids A Smile Hawaii” (GKAS Hawaii) on February 22 at Waikiki Health’s Makahiki Medical and Dental Clinic to celebrate Children’s Oral Health Awareness Month.

Each keiki received a dental screening, tooth polishing, and a goodie bag with toothpaste, a toothbrush and stickers. Parents and keiki learned about healthy food choices, such as drinking water instead of sugary drinks. Fun activities included games, arts and crafts, and a shave ice station in the “Molar Mania” area.

Waikiki Health hosted GKAS Hawaii in collaboration with the Hawaii Dental Association. Volunteers for the event included Hawaii Dental Association Foundation member dentists, Waikiki Health’s Dental Clinic staff, and community members. Dr. Kenji Sakai, Waikiki Health’s Dental Director, said, “This is a wonderful event for the community where the sole purpose is to educate children and their families about the



Keiki receiving screening at the Makahiki Dental Clinic.

importance of oral health. So much of the battle against childhood tooth decay is dependent upon prevention measures. This starts at home with healthy food choices, brushing and flossing. GKAS Hawaii gives children a positive experience in a dental service atmosphere and helps families learn about dental decay prevention.”

## Brenda Celebrates Tobacco Treatment Milestones



Brenda

“Wow, how do I get one of those certificates you have hanging on your wall?” Brenda asked our Waikiki Health Tobacco Treatment Specialists (TTS). She was sitting in a session with her TTS when she noticed the framed certificate above the desk. She was referring to the “Certificate of Achievement” that we give to patients for reaching tobacco treatment milestones.

Brenda said, “I want one of those to show my kids so I can pin it on my wall. They’d be so proud of me because they didn’t think I could ever quit smoking.”

That day, the TTS provider presented Brenda with her own Waikiki Health Certificate of Achievement. Although Brenda was awarded for a 30-day smoke-free achievement, she had already been smoke-free for 58 days and substance-free for 8 months. What a certified achievement!

For more information about Tobacco Treatment, call us at (808) 922-4787 to make an appointment with one of our Tobacco Treatment Specialists.



## Waikiki Health Leaders at State Legislature Opening

On January 15, at the opening session of the Hawaii State Legislature, Waikiki Health's CEO, Alexis Charpentier, our Board Vice President, Jimmy Nelson, and Marketing & Development Director, Mary Beth Lohman, spent the day at the capitol with thousands of other people interested in advocacy and government initiatives. According to Alexis, "It was an honor and a privilege to be present at the opening day of the session. It was also humbling to see various communities and organizations gather together to advocate for their respective causes."



Alexis Charpentier (left) and Jimmy Nelson (right) met with Sen. Joy San Buenaventura at the Legislature Opening.

A special thanks to our "legislative ambassador," Jimmy, who previously worked at the Capitol for 20 legislative sessions before retiring in 2024. With his help, we identified seven key members of the House and Senate to visit. Waikiki Health's facilities span at least seven different House and Senate districts. Over the course of the day, we visited all seven district representatives who could influence change and address concerns important to Waikiki Health—issues such as health and human services, Medicaid budget support, homelessness, and the lack of affordable housing.

Waikiki Health met personally with the following legislators: Rep. Adrian Tam, Rep. Gregg Takayama (Chair, House Committee on Health), Sen. Sharon Moriawaki, Sen. Joy San Buenaventura (Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services), Rep. Tina Grandinetti, Rep. Andrew Garrett.

## Waikiki Health's National Accreditations in 2024

As a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Waikiki Health has again earned the following 2024 accreditations: Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity, GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency, Charity Navigator Accredited, Aloha United Way (AUW) Accredited Partner Agency, NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH), HRSA Federal Tort Claims Act Deemed Facility, and HRSA Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

Visit the websites of these reputable agencies to learn more about Waikiki Health's achievements, or call our fundraising office at (808) 537-8400.



## Community Partners Spread Holiday Cheer to PATH & YO!

Waikiki Health extends heartfelt thanks to the amazing agencies and individuals who helped brighten the holidays for our clients. Through generous "Care" packages, the PATH Clinic received donations from member organization EWI Honolulu (Executive Women International), Shanay Adams at GCU (Grand Canyon University), long-time supporter Anna Stone, and Erica Huggins at Robert Half. Gift bags filled with GCU swag—such as pens, drawstring bags, and sunglasses—along with hygiene kits, beauty items, and additional products from Anna and Erica, were distributed to our PATH Clinic patients during the holiday season.



PATH's Else Rout (left) and Arlynn Manny organize holiday care packages.

In addition, a special mahalo to the Assistance League of Hawaii (ALH) for their kindness in making the holidays brighter for Waikiki Health's Youth Outreach (YO!) clients. ALH donated canned goods, blankets, socks, hygiene items, snacks, and healthy drinks. They also contributed 60 baby layettes to our PATH Clinic for new mothers. With the continued support of long-time partners like ALH and Hale Kipa, we can help vulnerable populations in our state enjoy a more joyous holiday season. Mahalo nui to all!



Assistance League of Hawaii donated numerous items to YO!

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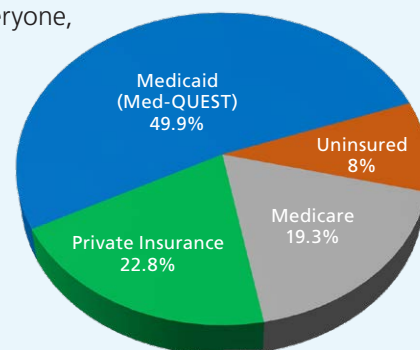
## Caring for Our Community: How Waikiki Health is Helping Our Patients

In 2024, **Waikiki Health provided 58,037 patient visits**. The total includes 2,096 virtual (telehealth) visits.

Among the patients served in 2024, **37% were living at or below poverty level, 58% were covered by Medicaid (Med-QUEST) or uninsured, and 13% were experiencing homelessness (either in shelter, on the street or transitional).**

Your continued support has enabled us to fulfill our mission, which is to provide quality medical and social services that are accessible and affordable for everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

Service Types	# of Visits	Service Types	# of Visits
Medical Visits	31,212	Substance Abuse Visits	1,421
Dental Visits	6,141	Native Hawaiian Healing & Dietitian	1,599
Behavioral Health Visits	8,681	Enabling	7,557
Vision Service Visits	1,426	Total Patient Visits	58,037



Patients by Insurance Type

## Legacy Giving: A Gift Today to Help Strengthen Our Tomorrow...

You do not need great wealth to make a meaningful contribution to a cause you truly support; anyone can leave a personal legacy, regardless of the size of the gift. If Waikiki Health is one of the causes you are passionate about, please consider leaving us a gift in your will. Donations can also be given in honor of, or in memory of a loved one, ensuring the sustainability of our mission.

*Our non-profit agency is recognized as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Federal Tax ID #: 99-0159253*

