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Waikiki Health celebrates National Health Center Week with State Elected Representatives

(Honolulu, August 9, 2013) –National Health Center Week, August 11-17, will be marked by celebrations in Hawaii at Waikiki Health. A number of local and national politicians will join Dr. Elliot Kalauawa, Chief Medical Officer & Sheila Beckham, Chief Executive Officer, to tour Waikiki Health's Ohua Clinic and associated programs. National Health Center Week celebrates America's health centers' hard work improving health care in our local communities.

Waikiki Health's family of clinics and outreach programs targets the most marginalized and disadvantaged island residents, offering affordable, quality medical care and social services in a nonjudgmental, welcoming setting. Special emphasis is placed on serving homeless families, individuals and youth; seniors living on fixed incomes; those with the fewest financial resources; and others who experience barriers to accessing care.

In 2012, the agency provided 37,136 Primary Care visits to 9,315 unduplicated patients, of whom 72% had low incomes or were living at or below 200% of federal poverty level; and 41% were homeless.

To improve health outcomes while ensuring the most appropriate use of services, Waikiki Health established a Preventive Health and Utilization Department, which focuses on patients with uncontrolled, chronic conditions. This advance is moving the agency toward a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model of care, tied to quality improvements and streamlined methods of service delivery.

For more information visit www.waikikihealth.org/nhcw

Waikiki Health (previously Waikiki Health Center) is re-branding to increase awareness of the agency's mission, expanded and enhanced programs, and new service sites. The agency's mission is to provide quality medical and social services that are accessible and affordable for everyone, regardless of ability to pay. Waikiki Health's primary care clinics and outreach programs include: Ohua Clinic in Waikiki; Makahiki Medical and Dental Clinic in McCully-Moiliili (opening in early 2014); PATH Clinic in Kaimuki; Next Step Shelter, an emergency/transitional homeless shelter in Kaka'ako; Care-A-Van in Kaimuki and Youth Outreach (YO) in Waikiki, which operate drop-in centers and clinics serving the homeless; Care-A-Van's medically-equipped vehicles, serving the homeless across Oahu; and Friendly Neighbors, offering assistance to older seniors. For further information visit www.waikikihealth.org.

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