

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kelly Joseph

Phone: 791-9331

Email: kjoseph@waikikihealth.org

Waikiki Health grant from Atherton Family Foundation
supports dental care for uninsured, low-income and homeless patients

(Honolulu, August 5, 2013) – **Waikiki Health** is starting-up its first Dental Clinic (opening in February 2014) in McCully-Moiliili with support from the **Atherton Family Foundation** and others.

Waikiki Health's new dental clinic will offer quality, affordable oral health services, placing special emphasis on reaching underserved populations, including those who are uninsured, have low incomes or are homeless.

The Atherton Family Foundation grant of \$10,000 will go toward salary support for the clinic's Dental Director/Provider, who will oversee the Dental Program and provide direct services to clients.

The new Dental Practice will be housed at The Makahiki Medical and Dental Clinic at 935 Makahiki Way, off South King Street. In establishing the clinic, Waikiki Health is responding to the community's need for increased access to primary and preventive medical care, integrated behavioral health and dental care – essential components of overall health and quality of life.

While over 40 dentists practice within a 5-mile radius of Waikiki Health's Ohua Clinic, most are not taking new patients; and no dentists in the area currently take Medicaid/Quest or provide dental services to the uninsured. This lack of access to affordable dental care affects the majority of Waikiki Health's patients. 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.

Waikiki Health (previously Waikiki Health Center) is re-branding to increase awareness of the agency's mission, 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.

#