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**Waikiki Health Awarded March of Dimes Grant
to help Pregnant and Parenting Women Stop Smoking**

Honolulu, HI, Feb. 9, 2015 – The March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter has awarded a \$12,000 grant to Waikiki Health to support smoking cessation and relapse prevention activities targeting women served by PATH Clinic, the agency's obstetrics/gynecology clinic in Kaimuki. PATH Clinic targets pregnant and parenting women struggling with addiction issues, including tobacco use. Smoking is known to contribute to premature birth and low birth-weight.

Sheila Beckham, RD, MPH, Waikiki Health's Chief Executive Officer, said, "We will utilize the March of Dimes grant to meet our objective of improving the health of mothers and babies. Our smoking cessation and relapse prevention activities will focus on motivating and encouraging women to stop using tobacco and remain tobacco-free before, during and after birth. We are grateful to the many volunteers who participate in the March of Dimes' March for Babies and those who donate in other ways, who helped make this grant possible."

Waikiki Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) dedicated to helping Medically-Underserved Populations (MUP). The non-profit agency's mission is to provide quality medical and social services that are accessible and affordable for everyone, regardless of ability to pay. For further information, visit Waikiki Health's website at www.waikikihealth.org

The March of Dimes is a national voluntary health agency whose mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. Founded in 1938, the March of Dimes funds programs of research, community services, education, and advocacy to save babies and in 2003 launched a campaign to address the increasing rate of premature birth. For more information, visit the March of Dimes web site at marchofdimes.com or its Spanish language web site at nacersano.org.

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