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Waikiki Health awarded Chamber of Commerce grant
toward the purchase of equipment for start-up Dental Clinic

(Honolulu, August 2, 2013) – **Waikiki Health** is establishing its first Dental Practice (opening in February 2014) in McCully-Moiliili, with support from **The Public Health Fund of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii** and others.

The Public Health Fund grant of \$24,373 will go toward Waikiki Health's purchase of X-ray units for the new clinic's seven dental operatories.

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

The new Dental Program will be housed at The Makahiki Medical and Dental Clinic at 935 Makahiki Way, off South King Street. In establishing the new service site, 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 good health and quality of life.

While over 40 dentists practice within a 5-mile radius of Waikiki Health's Ohua Clinic, a recent survey indicated that 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.

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