

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**DEPT. COMM. NO. 236**

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:

January 9, 2017

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Joseph Souki, Speaker  
and Members of the House of  
Representatives  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Souki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the

Report on Recommended Primary Care Incentives and Strategies as required by Section 321-1.5 (6) Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at <http://health.hawaii.gov/opppd/departement-of-health-reports-to-2017-legislature/>.

Sincerely,

VIRGINIA PRESSLER

Director of Health

Enc.

c: Legislative Reference Bureau

REPORT TO THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
2017

PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 321-1.5(6)  
HAWAII REVISED STATUTES  
PRIMARY CARE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

PREPARED BY:  
STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DECEMBER 2016



HAWAII STATE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH

Hawaii State Department of Health  
**PRIMARY CARE OFFICE**

The Hawaii Primary Care Office (PCO) is a federal grant program funded by the Bureau of Health Professions in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and authorized under the Public Health Service Act, as amended, Title 3, Sections 330 and 333. The purpose of the funding is to support the coordination of local, state and federal resources to improve primary care service delivery and workforce availability to meet the needs of underserved populations.

The mission of the Hawaii PCO is to improve access to primary care for medically underserved populations.

The Hawaii PCO is one of fifty-three PCOs (one per State, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) receiving funding by HRSA and charged with HRSA's goal to improve access to health care.<sup>1</sup>

All PCOs are tasked with the following three program expectations:

- **Statewide Primary Care Assessment**
- **Shortage Designation Coordination**
- **Technical Assistance and Collaboration that Seeks to Expand Access to Primary Care for Underserved Populations**

In 2016, the Hawaii PCO met **statewide primary care assessment** expectation by:

- ❖ Publishing and distributing the 2016 Primary Care Needs Assessment Data Book. The Data Book provides over 50 health, population, and socio-economic indicators spanning the life course presented by geographic communities in Hawaii. Chapters highlight maternal and infant health risk, adult morbidity and mortality, oral health and mental health presented in

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Health Resources and Services Administration Strategic Plan, [www.hrsa.gov](http://www.hrsa.gov).

detailed tables and maps. The range of data supports Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), other community-based organizations, state offices and others by providing census-level data for use in policy development, program planning, and grant applications.

In 2016, the Hawaii PCO met **shortage designation coordination** expectations by:

- ❖ Continuing with the validation of the primary care, dental care, and mental health care professionals practicing in the islands. The National Provider Identifier (NPI) serves as the official registry of health professionals practicing in the islands. The NPI is a HIPAA Administrative Simplification Standard providing a unique identification number for health care providers. The NPI shows there are approximately 2,000 primary care physicians (internal medicine, pediatricians, family practice/general practice, obstetrician/gynecologists), 1,000 general practice dentists, and 300 psychiatrists working in the state.
- ❖ Applying for and having approved a new PC geographic HPSA on Oahu for the Kahuku/Laie area, and submitted two new geographic PC Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) for the island of Maui. The new proposed designations are for the Lahaina and Kihei areas.

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) are designated by HRSA as having shortages of primary care (PC), dental care (D), or mental health (MH) providers. There are three types of HPSA designations – geographic (a county or defined service area), population (e.g., low income or Medicaid eligible), or facility (e.g., state corrections site, Department of Health site).

The State of Hawaii has a total of 71 PC, D, and MH HPSA designations across all the islands. These include Hawaii's 14 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and their satellite sites, private and public practice facilities and geographic and population service areas. HPSA designations are important to states as they are tied to other federal programs such as the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) loan and scholarship programs, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Incentive Payment and Rural Health Clinic programs, Medicare Reimbursement for Telehealth Services, and Conrad-30/J-1 Visa Waiver program.

In 2016, the Hawaii PCO met **technical assistance and collaboration that seeks to expand access to primary care for underserved populations** expectations by:

- ❖ Providing technical assistance related to the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), data sharing, HPSA designations, and needs assessments to health care providers, community organizations, private agencies, and state and federal government offices.
- ❖ Assisting numerous practitioners interested in the NHSC in Hawaii by providing information about eligible practice sites, HPSA scores, and NHSC policies, procedures, and requirements for recruitment and retention applications. The practitioners included primary care physicians, health psychologists, and advanced practice registered nurses, and dentists.

- ❖ Working with Kaiser Permanente to support their application for Rural Health Clinic status for several of their facilities on Oahu and the neighbor islands. The new Lahaina and Kihei service areas are part of this effort.
- ❖ Partnering with the Hilo Medical Center Foundation to have areas of east Hawaii be established as a new PC HPSA. Unfortunately, the proposed service area did not meet the designation criteria. The PCO will continue to explore options that may support a new designation.
- ❖ A total of 36 NHSC providers are serving at 11 of Hawaii's 14 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) as well as a correctional facility, and a site with the Native Hawaiian Health Care System. The practitioners include two physicians (internal medicine and pediatrician), one psychiatrist, six general dentists, eight nurse practitioners, 14 clinical psychologists, two licensed clinical social workers, two registered dental hygienists, and one certified nurse midwife.

NHSC health professionals serve on the following islands:

- Hawaii: one physician, one psychiatrist, three dentists, three health psychologists, one certified nurse midwife, two nurse practitioners, and one licensed clinical social worker
  - Maui: one dentist, one physician, one health psychologist, and a licensed social worker
  - Molokai: two nurse practitioners, a registered dental hygienist, and a health psychologist
  - Oahu: two dentists, four nurse practitioners, one registered dental hygienist, and nine clinical psychologists
- ❖ Three NHSC site applications including the Department of Education Behavioral Health Ka`u complex, and two private providers were reviewed for renewal and submitted for secondary review and final approval.
  - ❖ The PCO submitted requests in behalf of the Lanai Community Health Center and Ho`ola Lahui (Kauai Community Health Center) to have their auto-HPSA scores rescored. Ho'Ola Lahui's rescoring outcome placed the Center in Tier 1 HPSA for the NHSC.
  - ❖ Serving as the state contact and liaison for HRSA's Bureau of Health Professionals to disseminate information and updates related to the NHSC, for site and provider applications, and changes in policies and procedures.