

**Home and Community Based Services Committee
Maui Health Care Initiative Task Force**

Home and Community Based Care:

Priority 1. Lack of HCBS infrastructure capacity (buildings and facilities):

Infrastructure:

Maui County has a current, critical lack of non-acute beds and facilities to provide supervision and care for those unable to live independently in the community (Maui Bed Needs Study). This includes skilled / non-skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, Alternative Residential Care Homes (ARCHs), Extended Care ARCHs, Adult Foster Family homes, specialty geriatric / chronic psychiatric group homes or facility units. Maui County has the greatest number of non-acute waitlisted patients in Hawaii. Hawaii is one of the most under-bedded states for long term care in the nation.

Continuum of Care Residential increases:

- Nursing facilities
- Adult Residential Care Homes
- Foster Families
- Assisted Living Facilities
- Mental Health: Geri-Psych Unit or group homes
- Mental Health: Homeless Shelters
- Adult Day Care / Day Health
- Hospice
- Affordable Senior Housing

Recommended Initiatives:

- Adopt "Aging in Place" Building Code revisions for alternative care settings
- Fund Low Interest State Revolving Fund Retrofit Loans for alternative care providers (*RACC, ARCH, ALF) and nursing facility modernization
- Adopt Universal Design Building Code Ordinance
- Fund Home Modification Counseling: Low interest retrofit loans & grants for aging home owners, i.e., Hana Aging in Place Retrofit Project
- Adopt uniform regulations and licensing procedures for alternative long term care with authority placed under a single state department: Department of Human Services.
- Support the direction of the Hawaii Quest-Ex Managed Care for Aged, Blind, & Disabled Program
- Maui County's Community Plans should include strategies for and funding to support modernization or replacement of depreciating infrastructure.

- Allocate Department of Human Services Nurse Case management fees to assisted living facilities that have internal registered nurses.
- Support development of additional Community Facilities and Senior Housing:
 - Sunrise Program for Persons with Disabilities
 - Veterans 60 bed skilled care facility, with in-patient psychiatric unit, and assessment services
 - Critical Access Hospital with Skilled, Non-skilled, and Assisted Living Facility beds
 - Geriatric Psychiatric Unit or Specialty Group Home
 - Day Care Center(s)
 - Senior Housing Complexes
 - Central Maui “Greenhouse” pilot project (*5 acres / 60 bed facility) to support development of “greenhouses” and “greenhouse culture”
 - Develop Aging and Disability Resource Center information service and facility and other offices near Kaunoa Senior Services (1 acre) with assistance of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) planning/ design grant.

Priority 2. Lack of HCBS Service Capacity:

“Aging in Place” at home or in home-like settings is a national, consumer driven trend. Alternative care services prolong independence in the community, decrease institutionalization, and lower health care costs. There is unmet need for these services on Maui. Numerous service programs are under funded with long “wait-lists”. The Maui Long Term Care Partnership’s philosophy of “Aging with Aloha”™ champions quality of life with dignity and choice for Maui’s Kupuna and persons with disabilities community.

Recommended Initiatives.

Recommendation 1. Increase funding and provider reimbursements to expand the following highly cost-effective, community care programs in the continuum of home and community based services.

- **Nutrition: home delivered meals**
- **Assisted Transportation**
- **Personal Care / Chore**
- **Homemaker / House-keeping**
- **Dental Services**
- **Case Management Services:**
 - PACE (Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly)
 - Public Health Nursing
 - Nursing Home without Walls \
 - Mental Health / Homeless
- **Home Health Services:**
 - Skilled Services

- Non-skilled services
- **Hospice / Palliative Care/Respite**
- **Veteran Services**

Independent Living Services

- Senior Companion / Friendly Visiting / Telephone assistance
- Caregiver Support: Alzheimers'
- Elder Abuse Neglect and Prevention
- Legal Aid / Money Management / Retirement Planning

Recommendation 2: Fund a Telehealth “Pilot” for reimbursable home care services

Recommendation 3: Increase funding for the Kupuna Care Program for persons who are not covered by Medicaid.

Priority 3: Insufficient Provider Reimbursement:

Hawaii is ranked as one of the most expensive states for long term care. Hawaii health care providers who provide services to Medicaid recipients do not get reimbursed to cover actual costs. Increased reimbursement for long term care nursing facilities is critical to prevent closures and loss of needed long term care beds. Hawaii has only one assisted living facility which access Medicaid funding to serve Medicaid funded recipients. Innovative partnerships between health care providers, consumers, the private sector and governmental bodies must be created to solve our current health care crisis.

Recommended Initiatives:

- Increase reimbursement for nursing facilities and alternative care providers.
- Fund the Center of Excellence on Aging at Maui Community College to conduct research, education and training, policy development and advocacy
- Support the direction of the Hawaii Quest-Ex Managed Care for Aged, Blind, & Disabled Program
- Continue to support the State Department of Human Services “Going Home” and “Going Home – Plus” and “Money Follow the Person” residential care program that will expand home and community based services throughout the state.
- Support Congressional “Class Act” Bill (introduced by Senator Ted Kennedy) for national voluntary long term care insurance
- Raise public awareness about the increased difficulty in qualifying for Medicaid and fund the Maui Long Term Care Partnership’s “Saving for Aging” Awareness Campaign.

Priority 4: Lack of Health Care Workforce:

Hawaii is encumbered with a growing health care workforce shortage. It is estimated that an additional 7,500 nurses will be needed within the next ten years

to replace nurse retirees (presentation by Nancy Johnson). Physicians are retiring or relocating to other states due to the high cost of living, low reimbursement, and escalating malpractice insurance rates. Other ancillary care workers such as certified nursing assistants, personal care attendants, chore / home-makers, adult day care staff, dental assistants, physical / occupational therapists, and laboratory personnel are also in short supply. The health care shortage will continue to grow. Without adequate incentives of affordable housing and a “living wage”, Hawaii will not be able to compete with the rest of the nation for this shrinking workforce. Measures must be taken to address affordable housing and wage increases, commensurate with other states, to recruit and retain healthcare workforce. Aggressive recruitment for training programs with scholarships should be created for Hawaii to grow its own health care workforce. It will benefit our citizens and strengthen our health care system. It is a wise investment in Hawaii’s health.

Recommended Initiatives:

- Increased wages for direct care providers
- Establish and fund a Physician Retention Taskforce w “50 State Comparative Study on Malpractice and Tort Reform”
- Establish and fund a Medical Residency Program
- Establish and fund a Center of Excellence on Aging for research based solutions to strengthen Maui County’s care continuum and proactive aging with aloha™
- Pursue legislation for Maui Community Volunteer “CARE CORP” Tax Credit Proposal
- Fund the Maui Long Term Care Partnership to expand, providing training and technical assistance, and replicate the “CARE CORP” model with training
- Expand the Maui Community College Nursing and Dental Programs faculty and classroom expansion
- Permit nurse delegation of in nursing facilities as is currently done in home and community care settings
- Pursue legislation for a Tax credit for families caring for loved ones at home
- Expand and fund the newly established education and training curriculum at Maui Community College (initiative of the Maui Long Term Care Partnership)
 - Certified Nursing Assistant Scholarship Program
 - “English as a Second Language” for Health Care
 - Medication Technician
 - Personal Care Attendant
 - Continuing Education for Direct Care Providers:
 - *Family Caregiver Training
 - *CPR / First Aid
 - *Compassionate Care Training
 - *Psychiatric Skills
 - *Transfer Skills
 - *Effective Communication
 - *Obesity Care

- *Nutrition: Diabetes & Renal Diets
- *Nurse Delegation Skills: (*ARCH, RACC, ALF)
 - *Airway Maintenance
 - *Glucose Monitoring
 - *Tube Feeding
 - *Medication Delivery

Priority 5: Lack of Prevention Programs:

Investment in preventative programs for healthy aging is a priority to increase productivity, limit sky-rocketing health care costs and improve quality of life for rapidly aging baby-boomers. Obesity is cited as a national pandemic. Falls are the number one cause of injury and death in elders. Dental disease is linked to strokes and heart attacks. Influenza and pneumonia often result in increased hospitalizations. Prevention programs for weight control, dental care, vaccinations and fall prevention significantly reduce illnesses and related health care costs. Chronic disease management, such as chronic hypertension, diabetes, and arthritis is needed. These programs empower consumers to take control of their health and their lives, one day at a time.

Recommended Initiatives:

- Expand and fund dental services
- Expand and fund the Hana Aging in Place Retrofit Project as a falls prevention model across the county (initiative of the Maui Long Term Care Partnership)
- Increase public awareness about the Maui County Department of Health Campaigns for prevention services, such as flu shots, pneumonia, falls prevention

Priority 6: Modification to the Certificate of Need law

Recommended Initiative

Pursue legislation to require regionalized certificate of need decision making by the subarea councils to meet the unique health care needs and wishes of county citizens.

Priority 7. Modification to the Hawaii Health Performance Plan

Recommended Initiatives:

1. Integrate Task Force comprehensive health care plan in to the Hawaii Health Performance Plan, including a updated Glossary of Terms to reflect home and community based services.