2017 Annual Report

hmsa foundation
building a strong foundation – one community at a time
Many of us in Hawai‘i know what it takes for the people and place to be healthy and well. To be well means we’re connected to each other, to the land, sea, and spirit of our place. Yet how we experience health and well-being may be different in Hilo than it is in Hanalei.

At the HMSA Foundation, we believe each community has the resources and the knowledge to seek the connection to each other for the betterment of all. This belief that communities best define their version of health stems from the roots of HMSA. Seeking a way to take care of each other with the looming end of the plantation era health system, social workers created HMSA. Today, we’re rediscovering those ways of taking care in our modern context.
e komo mai

The HMSA Foundation hopes to lift up those practices in community that improve the resilience of our place and people. We’re interested in the ideas and practices of our communities, organizations, and leaders who are building a more peaceful, safe, connected, and healthy place. We’re looking for ways we can learn from one another, support each other, and build a relationship. We invite you to connect with us to see how we can work together for a healthy Hawai‘i.
Here are just a few of the grants we awarded in 2017.

**University of Hawai‘i and MA‘O Organic Farms**

**Project:** Community-Health Impacts of ʻĀina-Based Programs  
**Grant:** $100,045

This two-year study will examine the relationship between ʻāina (land) and ola (healthy living) in Wai‘anae, which has the highest proportion of health disparities in the state and a large Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population. The survey will look at the health of students who work on MA‘O Farms as well as the extension of health impacts to friends, family, and community members to reach 350 individuals.

**The Kohala Center**

**Project:** ʻAina Pono, Hawai‘i State Farm to School Initiative  
**Grant:** $100,000

The Kohala Center and Hawaii State Department of Education expanded this pilot program to improve student health, support local agriculture, reduce food waste, and develop new school menus that emphasize fresh, local food. The program will train cafeteria staff on nutrition, data tracking, food waste management, and operational efficiency. With almost 4,000 students participating, the goal is for every public school in Hawai‘i to serve healthier, locally sourced food to more than 180,000 students.
Ma Ka Hana Ka ʻIke
Project: Mālama Hāloa
Grant: $109,540
This new project under the Ma Ka Hana Ka ʻIke program at Hana School aims to reclaim the relationship between kanaka (Hawaiians) and kalo (taro) to improve the health of youth, families, and overall communities. It will measure the impact kalo has on health and encourage sustainable lifestyle practices by uniting schools, agricultural systems, and cultural nonprofits to promote access to healthy foods. This program will serve 150 students from preschool through high school and 10 family or community members.

Molokai Child Abuse Prevention Pathways
Project: Childhood Sexual Violence Prevention
Grant: $43,050
This childhood sexual violence project provides culturally relevant, evidence-based sexual violence prevention education to 480 students plus teachers and administrators at eight schools on Molokaʻi. The program addresses the problem of rising child abuse on this rural, remote island so children and families can report it and live in a safe environment that’s free from sexual violence.

University of the Pacific
Project: Virtual Dental Home Demonstration
Grant: $125,000
Hui No Ke Ola Pono, University of the Pacific, and Hawaii Department of Health have partnered to create a Virtual Dental Home system on Maui. This system will use telehealth to connect dental teams and provide oral care to children and adults. Hygienists will provide dental care at Early Head Start and Head Start programs, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) sites, transitional housing facilities, and post-acute care and nursing facilities. This program will reach over 1,700 children and 366 adults in 2018 to help them develop good dental habits and health and avoid emergency dental care.
Boys & Girls Club of Maui, Inc.
Expands nutrition and fitness programs at Maui Clubhouses to include garden activities, support from local chefs, and more personal training and group fitness options.

Family Support Services of West Hawaii
Provides Native Hawaiian families in Kona and Ka’u with culturally tailored nutrition guidance during pregnancy and early childhood.

Family Violence and Sexual Assault Institute (FVSAI)
Provides Ho’omaluhia, the Hawaii-Pacific branch of FVSAI, with start-up funding for an integrated trauma treatment system, which includes training, technical assistance, expanded collaborations, and education to state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and foundations.

Friends of Kauai Fire Department
Funds CPR training kits and mannequins for CPR classes in Kaua’i schools.

After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Organizes educational excursions on the Big Island and O’ahu to broaden students’ experiences and increase their connections to their school and community.

Aloha Medical Mission
Provides free dental services to those who don’t have easy access to dental care.

American Diabetes Association Hawaii
Organizes a symposium that provides health care professionals with the latest information on diabetes prevention and treatment.

American Red Cross, Hawaii State Chapter
Adds a new emergency response vehicle to respond quicker to people in need.

Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii
Helps Kaua’i teens make healthy decisions through social, emotional, and wellness campaigns such as Why Try, Smart Moves, Positive Action, and building a University of Hawai’i School of Social Work practicum site at the Līhu’e clubhouse.
Kipuka o ke Ola
Supports a healthy lifestyle program for Native Hawaiians in Waimea on Hawai‘i Island.

Hale Hau‘oli Hawai‘i
Expands caregiver workshop opportunities in central O‘ahu to increase accessibility and provide respite with on-site adult day care for participants’ family members during the workshop.

Hale Makua Health Services
Offers free on-site certified nurse aide training and certification preparation to support employment for graduates.

Hawai‘i Institute of Pacific Agriculture
Provides interactive place-based learning opportunities for Kohala and Waimea students from kindergarten to 12th grade. These opportunities include school presentations, field trips, overnight campouts, and other activities that explore the land, food, and the impact our choices and actions have on the community, environment, and people.

Hawai‘i Public Health Institute
Supports the growth in the organizational capacity of the Hawaii Farm to School Hui and conducts a statewide school garden safety outreach campaign.

Hawai‘i State Rural Health Association
Provides primary care providers in rural areas with weekly online or tele-learning modules that help them address their patients’ mental health needs.

Helping Hands Hawaii
Supports mobile and community-based behavioral health and case management services for low-income, homeless, and underserved adults with severe and persistent mental illness and/or substance use disorders on O‘ahu.

Hoa ‘Aina O Makaha
Provides two years of support for a Healthy Experiences Coordinator to work with farm visitors, students, and families to ensure their safety, inspire them to continue to garden, and encourage them to eat healthy foods at home.

Imua Family Services
Supports the development and maintenance of a secure online database management system that helps to connect the families of autistic patients with Imua’s services and community care providers.

Ka‘ala Farm, Inc.
Provides families who live on Hawaiian homesteads with opportunities to cultivate and prepare wet-and dry-land kalo (taro) that builds cultural knowledge, economic self-sufficiency, and connection to the land.
Kapiolani Health Foundation
Supports case management and complex care coordination for medically fragile patients and children with chronic conditions who require medical care from two or more specialists.

The Kohala Center, Inc.
Expands the Hawaii Department of Education’s pilot project to improve student health and support local agriculture through the development of school menus and recipes that emphasize fresh and nutritious local food, as well as cafeteria staff training, data tracking, waste management, nutrition education, and operational improvements.

Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services
Subsidizes health care copayments to ensure low-income Pacific Islander community members have access to health care services, medications, and continuous health plan benefits.

Ma Ka Hana Ka ‘Ike Building Program
Supports a school- and community-based farming, fishing, and hunting project called Malama Haloa that will study and foster the relationship between Hawaiians and kalo as a foundation for youth, family, and community health.

Mālama Kaua’i
Supports the Village Harvest Project, a collaborative partnership that harvests, packs, and delivers fresh produce to schools, after-school programs, and food banks across Kaua’i.

Mālama Nā Makua A Keiki
Provides caring and holistic substance abuse treatment to women so their children and families can live safe and healthy lives.

Maui AIDS Foundation
Supports a pilot program with Maui Community Correctional Center that will provide medical testing and care referrals to reduce the individual and community impact of liver cancer, AIDS, and hepatitis C among the incarcerated population on Maui.

Malama Pono Health Services
Helps an underserved population to overcome barriers such as transportation and socioeconomic conditions to navigate and access the health care system.

Molokai Child Abuse Prevention Pathways
Provides culturally relevant, evidence-based sexual violence prevention education to students, teachers, and school administrators to encourage reporting and build a culture of support on Moloka’i.

Na Pu‘uwai
Supports a family-based and culturally contextualized project to strengthen and promote healthy lifestyles and diabetes prevention, self-management, and treatment.

Pacific Survivor Center
Provides trauma-informed care resources and training for health care professionals to identify, treat, and coordinate care for survivors of abuse and exploitation.
University of Hawai‘i – Department of Economics
Supports a study with the University of Hawai‘i and MA‘O Organic Farms that will collect survey and medical data from the Wai‘anae community to capture the relationship between ‘āina (land and environment) and ola (health and life) and to understand its impact on social networks.

University of Hawai‘i – Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Supports a community-based participatory research project to expand access to reproductive health services for adolescents and young adults who are primarily Native Hawaiian and live in rural communities.

University of Hawai‘i – Maui College
Provides new exercise machines and strength training equipment at the school’s campus fitness center. In addition, a health coach will pilot an educational nutrition and exercise program designed to increase facility usage and membership.

University of Hawai‘i – School of Social Work
Provides interprofessional workshops that build cultural competency for UH students in the social work, public health, law, and medical schools.

University of the Pacific
Expands the virtual dental home pilot project to Maui to reach children in Early Head Start, Head Start, WIC sites, and transitional housing facilities, and adults in post-acute care settings such as care homes. This initiative brings education and essential and preventive dental care to convenient locations for families and adults who lack mobility or transportation.

Waimanalo Health Center
Opens a new outpatient care facility that will bring the patient-centered medical home to the Waimānalo community.
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