



PRESS RELEASE
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Molokai Community Health Center Launches Mana Mobile Medical Clinic

Mobile telehealth unit will increase access to care for underserved Molokai residents

KAUNAKAKAI, Hawaii — Molokai Community Health Center, the only federally qualified health center on the island of Molokai, has launched Mana Mobile Medical Clinic, a mobile telehealth unit. The mobile clinic aims to increase access to and delivery of telehealth services for the island's 7,400 residents, especially those residing in rural areas and older adults with mobility issues.

The Mana Mobile Medical Clinic is outfitted with one exam room, a restroom, vaccine refrigeration, a blood draw station and live electronic medical record integration. The clinic also has the technology and equipment to connect patients virtually through video appointments to off-island specialists. It will be staffed by a mobile health team comprised of a physician and registered nurse and one community health care worker. Onboard services will include preventative health screenings, all primary care services including acute care and chronic disease management, vaccine administration and health education.

“At Molokai Community Health Center, we deliver high-quality, affordable care to thousands of residents island wide,” said Helen Kekalia, CEO of Molokai Community Health Center. “We’re excited to expand access to that care beyond the walls of our health center through the Mana Mobile Medical Clinic. We will continue to innovate to advance health equity and meet the unique needs of our community.”

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of in-person primary care and preventative visits to healthcare facilities decreased dramatically. Additionally, the island of Molokai lost one of its two airline carriers during the pandemic, making an already burdened system of access to specialty care, that much harder on patients who need it the most. Delayed care has led to an increase in health complications. To bridge this gap, healthcare providers continue to expand their telehealth capabilities to make care more accessible. However, many Molokai residents lack the resources and skills required to access and navigate telehealth software.

Molokai’s community faces significant infrastructure and broadband connectivity challenges, particularly in its remote and rural areas. The Mana Mobile Medical Clinic will provide

broadband access to residents and families with no internet service, allowing access to specialists through telehealth for the first time.

The mobile medical clinic is part of the Community Health Worker program and will enable Molokai Community Health Center to serve residents who may not otherwise have access to medical care due to a lack of transportation, stable housing, mobility and/or internet and technology access.

The Mana Mobile Medical Clinic is open on Mondays from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and located at Maunaloa Community Center. Appointments are not recommended, but encouraged and walk-in's are welcome.

About Molokai Community Health Center

Molokai Community Health Center is the only federally qualified health center on the island of Molokai, Hawaii. Our mission is to provide and promote accessible comprehensive individual and community health care to the people of Molokai with respect and aloha, to fulfill our vision of optimal physical, mental and spiritual health for all people. We operate in a profitable, cost-efficient manner that expands quality and comprehensive medical, dental, behavioral health care, and social services to the people of Molokai regardless of their ability to pay. For more information, visit www.molokaichc.org.

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