

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Kalihi-Palama Health Center Receives \$250,000 HDS Foundation Grant
to Expand Dental Services for Kalihi Residents**

Kalihi-Palama Health Center will soon be able to serve as many as 600 more dental patients each year, thanks to a \$250,000 grant from the HDS Foundation. The health center currently sees 7,000 dental patients on an annual basis.

The HDS Foundation grant will enable Kalihi-Palama Health Center to equip and furnish seven new dental suites that will be a part of the community health center's \$5.5 million capital improvement project. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall at 710 N. King Street in the heart of Kalihi.

The new dental suites will be located in a new three-story building that encompasses 14,000 square feet of clinical space. When completed, the dental care area on the first floor will be dedicated as the Hawaii Dental Service Wing.

"We know that good oral health includes regular visits to the dentist, and with the expansion of the health center, more Kalihi-Palama residents will be able to receive dental services in their own community," said **Mark Yamakawa**, HDS president and CEO.

"We are deeply appreciative of HDS Foundation's generous support because it allows us to further expand our dental services for patients of all ages in a caring, culturally appropriate and respectful environment. With a stronger focus on preventive and primary care, we can improve the overall well-being of our patients," said **Emmanuel Kintu**, Kalihi-Palama Health Center's CEO and executive director.

Kintu said the dental suites are part of phase two of a capital project of the new center for Comprehensive Women and Children's Health Programs. Phase one of the center includes a children's dental clinic, fully equipped medical examination rooms, the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, an onsite pharmacy, and kitchen space for healthy cooking demonstrations.

About Kalihi-Palama Health Center

Kalihi-Palama Health Center (KPHC) is an independent, 501 (c) (3) non-profit, organization that plays a crucial role in the Kalihi-Palama community as a provider of health and social services to patients who typically face significant barriers when accessing health care. KPHC is located in the heart of Kalihi-Palama; an urban, innercity community that is home to approximately 63,820 residents. KPHC serves more than 20,000 patients annually.

For more information, please visit www.kphc.org.

About the HDS Foundation

The HDS Foundation was established in 1986 by Hawaii Dental Service to improve oral health in Hawaii through oral health education, prevention of oral disease, and increasing access to dental care by underserved populations. The HDS Foundation has invested in communities statewide with more than \$5 million in grants during the past decade.

For more information, please visit www.HDSFoundation.gives.



From left, front row: Shere Saneishi-Kim, Cheryl Takitani-Smith. Second row: Darrin Sato, Marissa Dela Cruz, Minna Lehti, Emmanuel Kintu, Tracie Mukai, Mark Yamakawa, Cara Numasaki, and Clifford Chang. Third row: Gwyn Hirasa, Peter Hanashiro, Liane Sugimoto, Dr. Keith Larson, Tom Delaney, and Mike Orozco.