November 11, 2016

TO: The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Board of Directors

FROM: The Public Health Fund Committee

SUBJECT: Public Health Fund Committee Recommendations

The Public Health Fund Committee recommends and requests approval by the Board of Directors of the following grants:

1. Socioeconomic and Behavior Determinants of Life Expectancy and Health Disparities in Hawaii, a Multi-Ethnic Study, University of Hawaii at Manoa $17,500
   The University of Hawaii Department of Public Health proposes to analyze publicly available data sets from 2005-2014 to understand the impact of socioeconomic status, stress and behavioral determinants of health disparities on major ethnic groups in Hawaii. Through its analysis UHM-DPH hopes to identify the mechanisms of social determinants of health and use that information to collaborate with the Department of Health and other stakeholders on appropriate public health interventions. Specifically, this study aims to:
   1. Identify age-specific and cause-specific mortality rates for major ethnic groups in Hawaii;
   2. Examine prevalence and trends of health disparity indicators by age, gender, and socioeconomic status for all ethnic groups and communities; and
   3. Assess direct and indirect socioeconomic effects on health disparities.
   Upon completion of the analysis, UHM-DPH will submit one paper on life expectancy to the Hawaii Journal of Medicine, and two papers on health disparities to the American Journal of Public Health and Asian-Pacific Journal of Public Health. This grant will be used to help pay for two graduate assistants for nine months.
   Original request: $25,000

2. Certification License for Infant Mental Health $12,500
   Hawaii Association for Infant Mental Health/Child and Family Service
   The Hawaii Association for Infant Mental Health, which is composed of individuals from Child and Family Services, Catholic Charities, Institute for Human Services, Salvation Army, and University of Hawaii, among other organizations, is requesting funding to purchase a license to certify professionals in infant mental health. This grant would be used to purchase a
license that would allow the organization to use an evidence-based training model, "Reflective Supervision," from the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health to provide training for certification and the associated competency guidelines and computerized application system for the certification. A recent study on Adverse Childhood Experiences showed strong correlations between the environment in which children are raised, especially in early childhood, and later mental health problems. By procuring a license the HATMH will be able to:

Train and certify higher level trainers, who will in turn train and certify the family service providers, "home visitors." The family service providers, the knowledge and comfort level in working with parents to better support their infant children. Additionally, this certification will assist in increasing morale amongst the family service providers, strengthen the view of the State on the importance of infant mental health programs and ultimately, keep children in regular pre-school and out of special education program.

Original request: $12,500.

3. **Passport to Healthy Aging**

**Project Vision Hawaii**

$11,000

The mission of Project Vision (PV) includes providing services to help improve vision, prevent blindness, and advance medical knowledge through community based research. They provide free vision, retina and glaucoma screenings in their state-of-the-art RV that travels to various locations, facilitating a wide range of medical screening services.

They are seeking funding for a pilot project designed to reduce fall injuries for Hawaii's low-income seniors. The State Department of Health (DOH) cites eye exams as one of the top four ways to reduce fall injuries. Project Vision estimates that 90% of the seniors they serve are very low income, and often do not have information about or access to fall prevention services, even when critically needed. This pilot project will last for one year and they will collect and document their results that will be shared with the DOH and local health insurance companies. PV has assurances from DOH and private sector funders that if they can demonstrate both efficacy and cost effectiveness, the program will be funded for continuation.

With this project, they anticipate screening at least 200 seniors through at least 8 events on O'ahu and will provide educational information to over 500 seniors. Outreach events will be held at various O'ahu locations such as Kuhio Park Terrace, IHS and senior centers. They will track each participant's individual care plan. Starting with the vision screening, they will have conversations about fall prevention, nutrition, socialization and functional mobility. They will bring their RV to each event and will conduct vision, glaucoma, and retinal screening. They will also provide free reading glasses as an incentive and provide assistance in obtaining prescription glasses for seniors who cannot afford them. In addition, they will help those in need to apply for health insurance. It is estimated that 18% of the target group is uninsured.

Original request: $15,000.
4. **Promoting Good Oral Health Care Through the Honolulu Dental Clinic**  
**Aloha Medical Mission Dental Clinic**

Aloha Medical Mission (AMM) requests the support of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Public Health Fund to help promote good oral health through the free Dental Clinic and the First Smile Program. AMM has operated a free dental clinic for the last 18 years on Oahu for the uninsured, the underserved, and those financially unable to pay for care. The Clinic provides basic services, such as oral examinations, dental cleanings, fillings, extractions, and emergency treatment to those in pain free of charge. AMM works with low-cost clinics as a link to long-term dental care and compliments the service of these community health agencies by providing interim care.

Funding difficulties in the last few years forced AMM to reduce clinic hours, terminate dental staff, utilize only volunteer dentists, and suspend First Smile, an interactive prevention program for preschool and kindergarten children. This reduction in operational hours created a dental cleaning wait list of 200 patients and a substantial decrease in dental visits. They were able in 2015 to obtain funds to hire a part-time dentist and a part-time dental hygienist. With the hiring of a dental hygienist, AMM has reduced the wait list for dental cleaning increased the access to services for more people in need, and restarted First Smile which will promote good oral health in the community.

This grant is a request to provide support to continue the dental hygienist position and to purchase dental supplies needed for cleaning treatment provided and to promote the First Smile Program, such as posters, educational activities, educational equipment, etc. First Smile is a preventive oral health education program, targeting pre-school and kindergarten children, with the goal of reaching children at an early age to prevent dental complications as adults. A 45-minute session is held in the classroom or at the AMM Dental Clinic where the dental hygienist will teach children how to brush and floss their teeth and the importance of regular checkups and eating healthy/unhealthy foods. Children will also receive an activity bag, which includes simple instructions on how to brush properly, activity sheets on dental care, a child's toothbrush and toothpaste, adult toothbrush and clinic information for the children's parents. The dental hygienist will be responsible for conducting the First Smile presentations and will recruit other volunteers who can be trained to do presentations, thus reaching more children and their parents in the community. We hope to reach out to at least 10 pre-school or kindergarten classes in the Kalihi-Palama area and conduct First Smile to at least 5 pre-schools or kindergarten classes.

Original request: $20,000

TOTAL AMOUNT RECOMMENDED: $61,000
Public Health Fund Committee:
The members of the Public Health Fund Committee represent diverse professional and cultural backgrounds. About half of the committee members are professionals in the areas of public health or medicine and the other half are business professionals. The members are volunteers and several have served on the committee for over ten years. An experienced administrator facilitates the activities of the committee and the fund.

For each requested grant a committee member(s) reviews the application and interviews the applicant. Interviews are usually conducted at the applicant’s location. The committee member then reports their findings to the entire committee. The committee evaluates the proposed project based on the criteria of the fund and votes on each application based on its individual merit. Only those projects that meet the majority of the criteria and are determined to be good investments in the community are recommended to the Board of Directors for approval.

Background on Public Health Fund
Qualified organizations are encouraged to submit grant applications to the Public Health Fund Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii with project proposals that address health care issues on the island of Oahu.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH FUND
After a serious bubonic plague epidemic closed Honolulu Harbor and quarantined part of Honolulu in 1899, a committee of shipping company representatives and importers assessed themselves ten cents per ton of imports to exterminate rats from the wharves and prevent future epidemics.

In 1914, the Public Health Fund Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Honolulu accepted responsibility for collecting the voluntary assessments and disbursing of funds for public health programs. In 1923, the Equity Court formally appointed the Chamber as trustee of the Public Health Fund and, at the same time, directed the Chamber to limit grants to public health activities of the City and County of Honolulu only. As Hawaii’s economy expanded in the 1940’s, the collections and the fund balance increased substantially and assessments were discontinued in 1950. The fund balance is currently in excess of $2 million, producing about $150,000 in interest income for distribution in grants.

On January 1, 1967, the Chamber of Commerce of Honolulu merged with the Hawaii State Chamber of Commerce and became the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii.

GRANT AWARD PROCEDURES
The Chamber’s Public Health Fund Committee reviews all requests for grants and submits its recommendations to the Chamber’s Board of Directors for awards according to the following policies adopted by the Board in 1974 and amended periodically thereafter:
1. **Purpose and Scope** - The Public Health Fund shall be used to promote the general benefit and welfare of the commercial and shipping community of the City and County of Honolulu by the protection and maintenance of the health of the City and County of Honolulu, including the aiding and encouraging or contributing to the science
and art of preventing disease through organized community efforts. (Source: Court Order creating trust.)

2. **Project Criteria** - Public Health funds should be used for worthwhile projects involving public health education, research and legislation for which funds are not available from other sources. Priority is to be given to projects that will bring visible results and can be readily identified as Chamber initiated. Funds will normally be used as "seed money" to help worthwhile programs with start-up.

3. **Project Review** - Applications for grants for projects other than bona-fide public health emergencies will be accepted only during the months of June and December. Requests shall be submitted on an application form provided by the Public Health Fund Committee. Worthwhile projects will be reviewed by the committee with respect to the following evaluation factors:

   (1) Public health education or research  
   (2) Non-availability of funds from other sources  
   (3) One-time requirement for startup  
   (4) Technical chances of success  
   (5) Large number of people affected (population at risk)  
   (6) Present and potential danger  
   (7) Community benefits (cost/benefit ratio)  
   (8) Benefits for underprivileged  
   (9) Concern and interest of the business community  
   (10) Collaboration with other agencies to achieve the goal of the proposal

**This is a summary of the grants requested and given over the last two years.**

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<th>Date</th>
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