

# **A Community-Provider Partnership to Train Cancer Patient Navigators for Native Hawaiians: Lessons Learned**

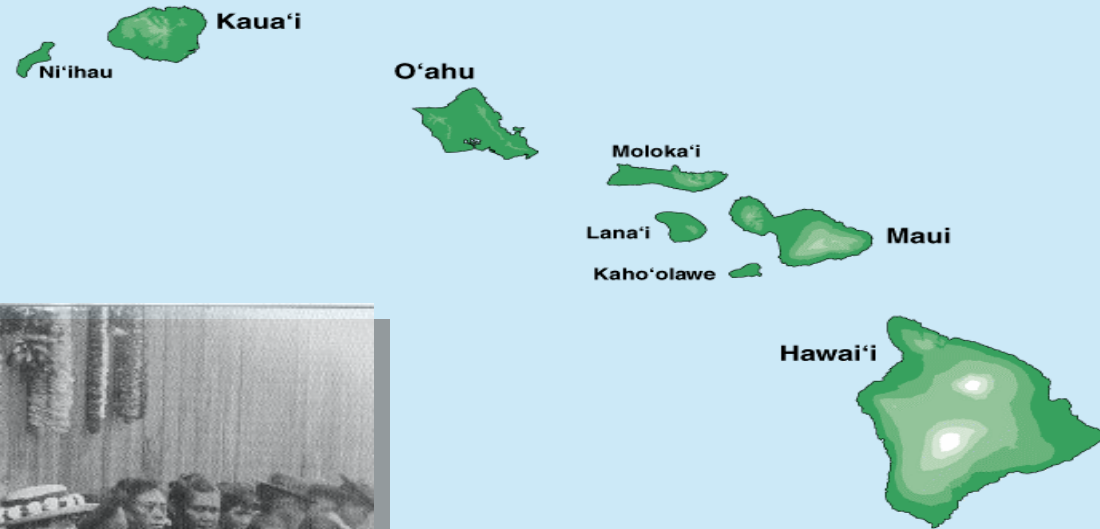
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**`Imi Hale – Native Hawaiian Cancer Network,**

**a program of Papa Ola Lokahi**

# Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of the Hawaiian Archipelago



# Cancer Statistics

- 6,000+ new cancer cases each year in Hawai`i
- Native Hawaiians have higher mortality rates than other ethnic groups in Hawai`i.



# 'Imi Hale

## Native Hawaiian Cancer Network



Halehuki circa 1940

### 'Imi Hale

**Native Hawaiian Cancer Awareness  
Research & Training Network**

*A Program of Papa Ola Lōkahi*

- One of 25 “Community Network Programs”
- Funded by the CRCHD - NCI (National Cancer Institute)
- To reduce cancer health disparities

# Patient Navigation

NCI definition:

- Assistance offered to healthcare consumers (patients, survivors, families, and caregivers) to help them access and then chart a course through the healthcare system and overcome any barriers to quality care.

# Patients and families experience “access” and “systems” barriers

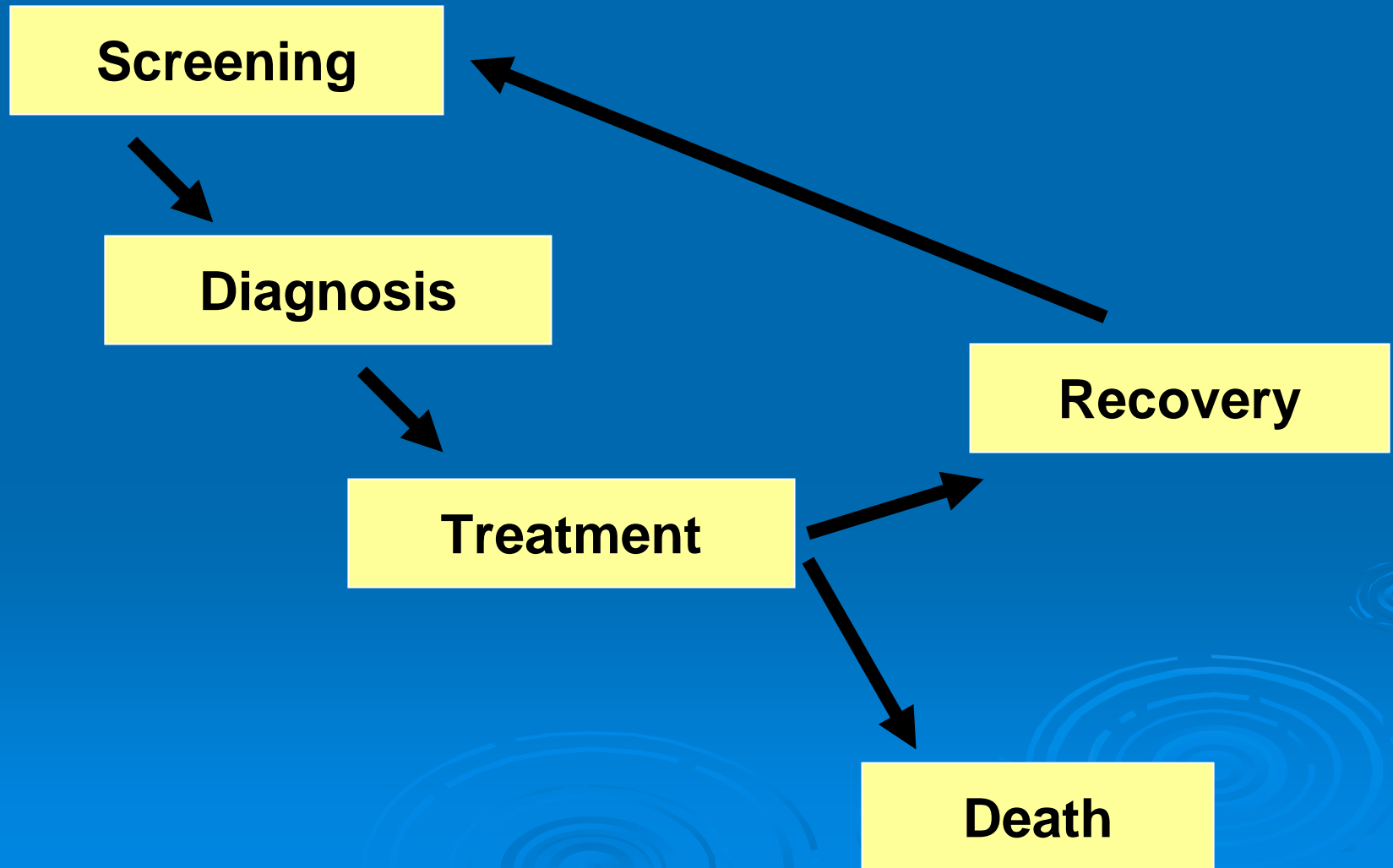
## Access Barriers

- High costs
- No insurance
- Few providers and services on island
- Distance to care
- Too busy to seek care
- Stressed or limited support system

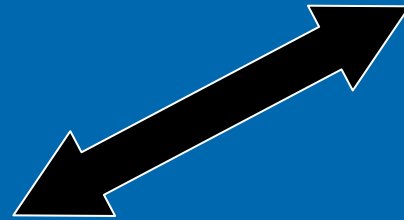
## Systems Barriers

- Need to run around between providers, offices, and facilities
- Lost referrals and paperwork
- Not knowing who is in charge
- Not knowing what to ask
- Feeling intimidated
- Providers' lack of sensitivity, time to answer questions, or knowledge of resources

# Cancer care is complicated.



**People with cancer  
need community-based  
AND clinical-based  
assistance.**

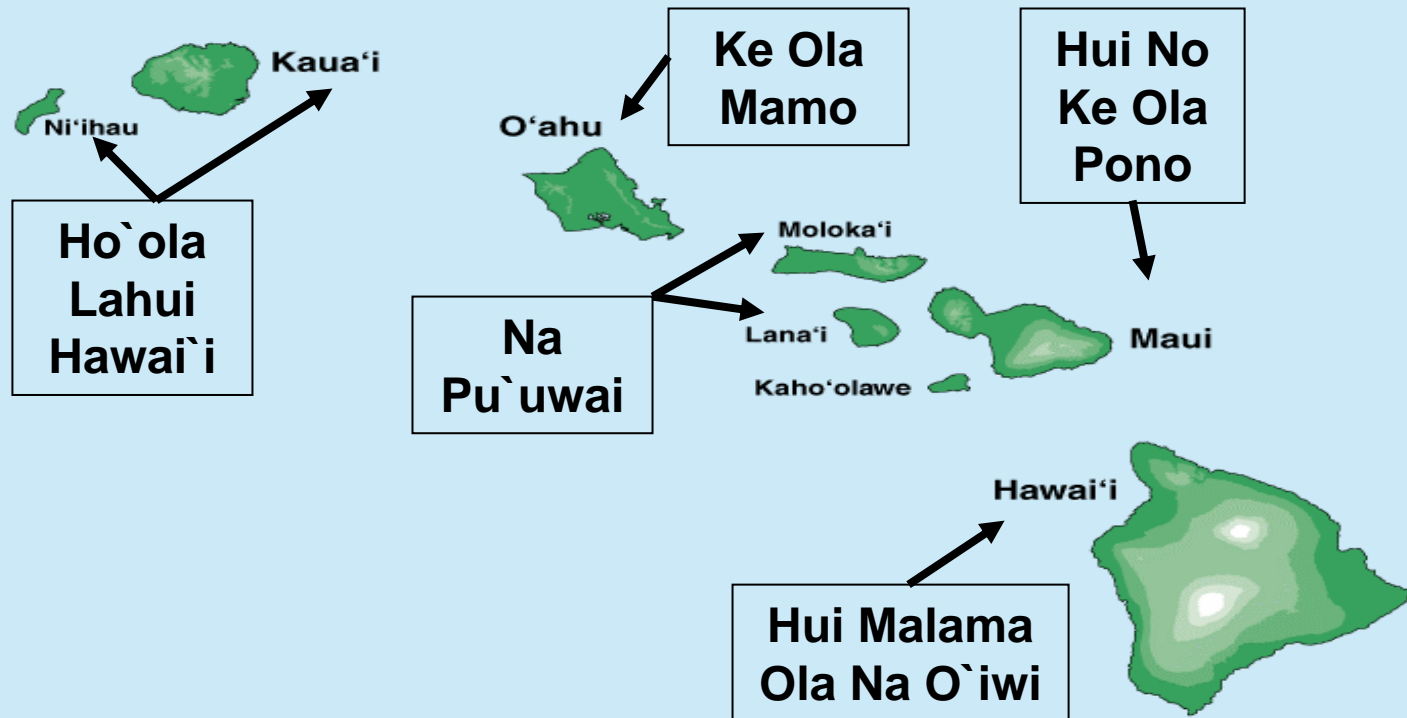




# 1<sup>st</sup> Partner – Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems COS



- CHWs at each of 5 NHHCS that help clients access care



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Partner – NCI supplement to support young indigenous researcher

- Review of Navigator programs elsewhere
- Key Informant interviews and survey
- Patient and family discussion groups
- Discussions with Community Outreach Staff (COS) with Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems)



Research by  
Ka`ohi Dang,  
future  
Native Hawaiian  
physician

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Partner – Other Navigation Programs and People

## ➤ Curricula

- Dr. Harold Freeman – Harlem, NY
- Theresa Guthrie - Cancer 101, Portland OR
- Native Sisters
- Nova Scotia Healthcare System
- Lance Armstrong
- Pfizer

## ➤ Navigators

- Lisa Harjo, Denver
- Pattie King, Gila River

## ➤ New Programs

- NCI-funded navigation programs (9 sites)
- CMS (6 sites, including one in Hawai`i)



Lisa Harjo, from  
Native Sisters

# *Ho'okele i ke Ola*

## Curriculum and Training for Cancer Patient Navigation

- Designed to “enhance cancer navigation skills” of CHW at NHHCS
- Learning Objectives in 3 Areas
  - Cancer knowledge  
Lectures, discussions, homework
  - Cancer services and providers  
Tours and relationship building
  - Communications  
With patients, families, and providers

# 4<sup>th</sup> Partner – Health care providers and researchers



# 5<sup>th</sup> Partner – Community agencies and coalitions



American  
Cancer  
Society



Kokua Mau  
Palliative Care  
Coalition



# 6<sup>th</sup> Partner - Navigators on different islands



45 to date:

15 - O`ahu

18 - Maui

7 - Moloka`i

3 - Hawai`i

2 - Kaua`i



# Comments from COS Navigators

- The connection with Andrea at Queen's Hospital has been invaluable. I know her and can refer my patients to her.
- The ACS people helped too by getting a grant for the family to stay at Manamana for a week.
- Now I know to link patients to *Malama Kou Kino* for counseling, a \$200 stipend, a phone card, and resource list.
- The *Ke Ola Mamo* worker in Honolulu met my patient at the airport and took her to Kuakini for treatment.
- I didn't know about that type of cancer, but I helped her look on the Web and then call CIS.



# Partners 7, 8, and 9

## ➤ Queen's Medical Center

- Piloting Cancer Nav program in-house, providing good links for our CHW

## ➤ HMSA - Blue Cross/Shield

- Working with “Blues” to test for cost-savings associated with navigated cancer patients.

## ➤ Community Colleges

- Piloting 3-credit course at MCC this fall.

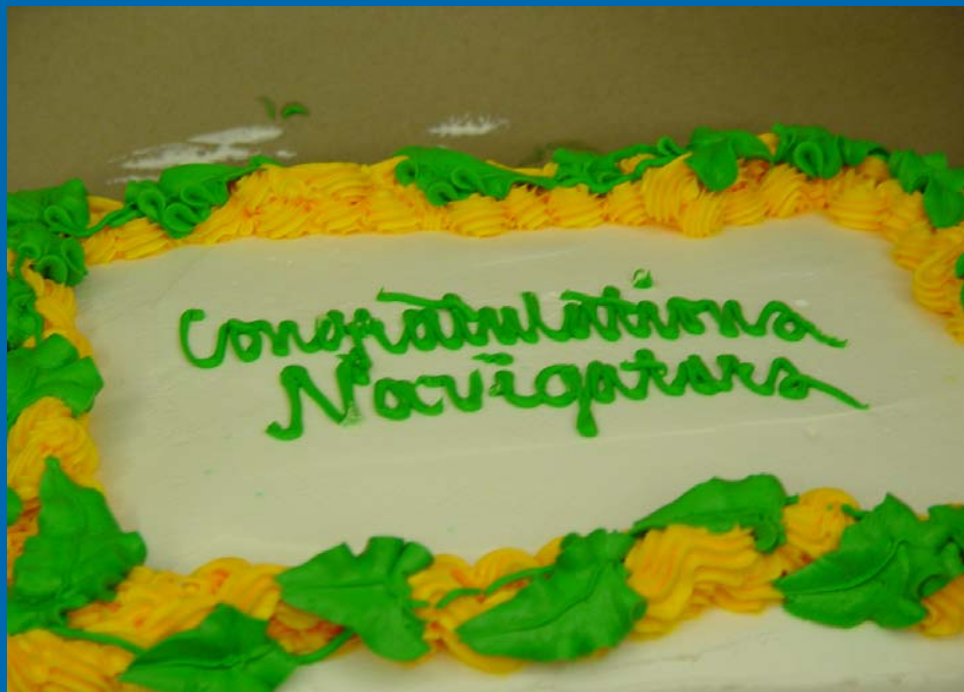


# Lessons Learned



- Contacts are critical.
- You can't learn everything, but you can "learn how to learn."
- Curriculum is best offered as a supplement to basic CHW training; assessment and case management are essential to navigation.
- Navigators need on-going CE sessions and opportunities to share cases.

# Conclusions



- Cancer navigation makes a difference.
- CHWs can do it.
- Partners are critical to training and navigation programs if community-based navigators are to get their patients into and through care.