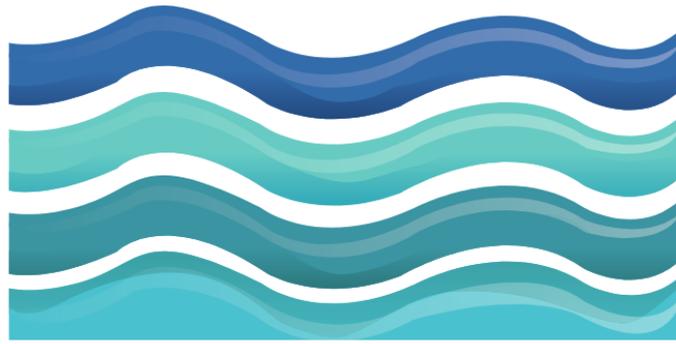


# Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander



**HAWAI'I  
COVID-19**

**Response Recovery Resilience**

**TEAM**

## **Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Groups in Hawai'i Launch COVID-19 Response, Recovery & Resilience Team**

HONOLULU, May 27, 2020 – More than 30 programs and organizations that serve the health and wellness needs of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have established a COVID-19 Response, Recovery and Resiliency Team. This Hawai'i-based team will assess how the Novel Coronavirus 2019 is disproportionately impacting communities that already have the greatest health, social and economic disparities, and are under-represented in the decision-making processes. The purpose is to inventory and support current efforts, identify gaps, and facilitate partnerships and resources.

One of the first tasks will be to look at how data is collected, disaggregated, and shared with those who design health care programs, outreach strategies, and make policy.

“There have been news stories coming out of western states in the U.S. reporting their impact on the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities, but we couldn't make the same case in Hawai'i,” said Dr. Sheri Daniels, executive director of Papa Ola Lōkahi and Co-Lead of the NHPI Hawai'i COVID-19 Team. “The data being collected by the State is inadequate, highlighting an ongoing practice that has negative impacts among NH & PI communities. Data is currently being collected in aggregate and showing the percentage of these community populations are low. We absolutely need to assure the numbers accurately reflect the stories in our communities, both with the disease and how we recover from the shutdown.”

With the curve flattening in Hawai'i, workgroups will be assessing the environment for testing, contact tracing, and health education initiatives. Others will look at the long-range economic, social, and environmental impacts on Pacific Islander communities and whether the well-documented disparities are being addressed in recovery and planning efforts.

Josie Howard is program director of We Are Oceania and Co-Lead of this NHPI Hawai'i COVID-19 Team, “Working together is respecting and caring for each other to appropriately address our communities' unique needs.”

Members of the team include community health centers, major medical institutions, grassroots programs, researchers, clinicians, community health workers, professional associations and more.

# Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander



## HAWAI'I COVID-19

Response Recovery Resilience

## TEAM

Team Co-Lead Felea'i Tau emphasizes, "The impact of this pandemic on our NHPI communities has further highlighted how imperative our combined voices are to our survival. Serving our communities alongside my brothers and sisters is truly an honor and a blessing."

"We all share a commitment to health equity. And we know that we have been left out of the conversations to date," asserts Dr. J. Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, chair of the Department of Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine and Co-Lead. "This Team is open to participation by all who have interest and expertise to contribute, but it shall be Pacific Islander-led. We will remain true to our communities and culturally relevant."

For more information, visit [NHPICOVIDHawaii.net](http://NHPICOVIDHawaii.net) or e-mail [NHPICOVID@papaolalokahi.org](mailto:NHPICOVID@papaolalokahi.org).

*Papa Ola Lōkahi is the Hawaiian health board, a consortium focused on raising the health status of Native Hawaiians and their families.*

*We Are Oceania is a collective focused on empowering the Micronesia community to navigate success while honoring the integrity of their diverse heritage.*

*The Department of Native Hawaiian Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawai'i is concerned with the healthcare of Native Hawaiians, which it addresses through research and education.*

Contact: Kim Ku'ulei Birnie, [kbirnie@papaolalokahi.org](mailto:kbirnie@papaolalokahi.org), 808-383-1651

###