

North Hawaii Vision for a Healthy Community

A Vision for Health in North Hawaii

A common vision for North Hawaii was distilled from 12 community focus groups facilitated by North Hawaii Outcomes Project and Five Mountains Hawaii in 1999 and 2000. The *vision* is simple: *North Hawaii is a great place to live, with a great sense of community, a great place to work, play and raise a strong family and a great place to heal.*

The desired outcomes for the people of North Hawaii are: Healthy people making healthy choices and can be described more specifically by life stage:

- Newborns, infants and toddlers will thrive.
- Children will be safe, healthy and ready to succeed in school.
- Youth will make healthy choices and become resilient and successful adults.
- Adults will have meaningful work with family-sustaining incomes.
- Families will live in safe and supportive communities.
- Elders will be respected and integrated into community life.



The Spencer Family



Community Forum 2001- Kahilu Town Hall

What indicators should the community focus on to accelerate progress toward its vision and desired outcomes?

To answer this question, a group of 50 people, broadly representing the North Hawaii community, participated in the first North Hawaii Community Forum in March 2000, sponsored by NHOP and FMH. The participants reviewed findings from twelve focus groups, the community vision and the North Hawaii Community Health Profile 2000 compiled by NHOP. These are the **community selected priorities**:

- ▲ Improve educational attainment,
- ▲ Increase the number of qualified job applicants,
- ▲ Increase constructive youth activities,
- ▼ Decrease substance abuse in youth and adults,
- ▼ Decrease child abuse and domestic violence, and
- ▼ Decrease teen pregnancy.

Follow-up discussions revealed three underlying common issues. There is a clear need to 1) improve economic opportunities in North Hawaii, and simultaneously “preserve what’s special,” 2) improve public transportation and 3) improve access to high quality healthcare.