Geographic Disparities in Cancer Care for Kaua'i Patients

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1





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2

About me

- Graduated from the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa 2000
- Oncology 2006 present
 - Kaua'i Medical Clinic
 - Wilcox Medical Center Infusion Services
 - Kaiser Permanente of Washington Oncology Infusion Center
- · Nurse Navigation 4/2019 present
- Oncology Certified Nurse 2007 present

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3

Kauai

- Population 72,293 ¹
- 8.5% fall below FPL¹
- ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) = 44%²
- · 3 hospitals on island
- 1 Oncologist / 1 APRN
- 1 Infusion Center



¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 Estimates ² United For ALICE, 2018 Hawaii State Overview CREATING A HEALTHIER HAWAI'I



4

Barriers to care on Kauai

- · No PET/CT access on island
- Limited access to specialists and specialized procedures
- No in-patient chemotherapy services
- Limited transportation options



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5

Imaging

- PET/CT
- MRI breasts
- MRI patients with pacemakers

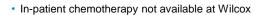
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6

Limited access

- Specialists
- Gamma Knife
- Robotic prostatectomy
- Oncoplastic surgery
- · Breast reconstruction





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7

Case study

- 47 year old male with distant history of cancer, recurrence 14 years later.
- Single parent to 17 year old and 1 adult child living on the mainland.
- Single income household on TDI with employer based coverage.
- Mother, main support person was recently diagnosed with cancer

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8

Case study - Barriers

- Physical barriers
 - Pain
 - Constipation, fatigue, sleep
- Emotional barriers
 - Coping
- Treatment barriers
- Required in-patient chemotherapy
- Transportation barrier
- Flight, ground transportation, lodging
- Financial barrier
 - Insurance coverage terminated



HEALTH

CARE

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Case study - Assistance

- Kaua'i Hospice & Palliative Medicine Partners
 - Only Hospice and Outpatient palliative care service on Kaua'i.
 - Nursing support, Chaplain, Social Work

Patients	2019	2020
Hospice	256	156
Palliative	20	20

- Treatment
 - Provider communication
 - Navigation communication

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10

Case study - Assistance

- Transportation
 - HMSA's Care Access Assistance Program
 - ACS Hope Lodge, Road to Recovery
- · Financial Barrier
 - During treatment patient's insurance was terminated
 - 82% of Single Male-Headed Families are below ALICE Threshold ¹
 - Med-QUEST



¹ United For ALICE, 2018 Hawaii State Overvier

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11

Case Study - Conclusion

Patient was able to complete his in-patient chemotherapy. He is now in surveillance.

"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light."
-Aristotle

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13