



**For Immediate Release**

June 30, 2015

### **Helping Hands Hawaii Awarded \$20,000 Grant from Atherton Family Foundation for Housing Support of Chronically Homeless Individuals**

HONOLULU—Helping Hands Hawaii (HHH) received a \$20,000 grant from Atherton Family Foundation that will be applied to housing support for chronically homeless individuals struggling with substance use or substance use with mental illness. The grant will assist with costs incurred when applying for personal identification or rental applications as well as move-in kits once individuals find housing.

Without proper identification, such as State of Hawaii IDs or birth certificates, individuals cannot obtain rental units, benefits, healthcare services or sign up for utility accounts under their names. Rental application fees are incurred each time a client applies for housing, whether or not the client is approved, and can become increasingly expensive as it takes a client an average of four applications in order to secure housing. When a client obtains housing, move-in kits will provide them with basic necessities, such as cleaning supplies, bedding, bathroom supplies, kitchen supplies, personal toiletries and organizational tools (calendars, clocks, etc.).

The funding will be distributed through the Hawaii Pathways Project, a partnership between HHH and Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) and as funded by the Hawaii Department of Health's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division through a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The Hawaii Pathways Project is an evidence-based Housing First initiative providing housing first, then implementing wrap-around treatment and life skill services necessary to help individuals stabilize, improve quality of life and maintain housing beyond the support of the project.

#### **About Helping Hands Hawaii**

Helping Hands Hawaii (HHH) was founded in 1974 and connects individuals, families and organizations with essential human and material resources. Through our variety of programs, we provide a full continuum of care and help people overcome obstacles, like homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse and language access. Our strong partnerships with local social service providers and innovative approaches strengthen our community by helping people to help themselves. To learn more about HHH, its programs or services, please visit [www.HelpingHandsHawaii.org](http://www.HelpingHandsHawaii.org).

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