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The University of Hawaii at Manoa announced a five-year, \$15.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to foster clinical and translational health disparities research by providing an integrated research infrastructure that is connected with various University units, the RCMI Translational Research Network (RTRN) sites, and the grass-roots communities on Oahu.

Over the past decade, health disparities has become a recognized scientific field of study, which has evolved from documenting and investigating differences in health status and risk factors among affected populations, to addressing health disparities using traditional and non-traditional research approaches. Recognizing the importance of interdisciplinary partnerships, the RCMI Multidisciplinary And Translational Research Infrastructure Expansion (RMATRIX) -II program will benefit from the leadership of principal investigators, Dean Jerris Hedges, John A. Burns School of Medicine and Dean Noreen Mokuau, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work.

RMATRIX-II will provide the infrastructure needed to build translational research synergy, foster intra- and inter-institutional collaborations and partnerships, and build a community of investigators addressing health disparities in Hawaii. Such research infrastructure is invaluable not only for addressing significant existing health disparities, but also for the development of skilled investigators from Hawaii. Services/resources include:

- Pilot project funds for one to two years per award that supports junior investigators that are conducting clinical and translational research.
- Core infrastructure that includes support from biostatistics, regulatory knowledge, career development, community-based research, clinical research resources and facilities, biomedical informatics, educational opportunities and administrative services.

- Workshops and mini-conferences focused on providing education and training in clinical and translational health disparities.