

# Background on Community Health Measurement

## Goals

goal of the North Hawaii Outcomes Project (NHOP) is to support existing and future efforts to improve the health and quality of life in North Hawaii and Hawaii County by developing a useful community health measurement system to clarify common priorities and to track improvement.

North Hawaii Outcomes Project is a project of The Earl and Doris Bakken Foundation and works closely with Five Mountains Hawaii, North Hawaii Community Hospital, Friends of the Future, The Kohala Center, Hawaii Learning Resource, and the Hawaii County Healthcare Alliance. NHOP also collaborates with local, county, state and national organizations, which have overlapping missions.

NHOP's shared health measurement system, or Community Health Profile (2010), is designed to serve as a tool to help raise awareness, help focus collaborating organizations on their common goals, mobilize resources and evaluate progress. Where relevant this report notes Health People 2010 goals as potential targets.

## Assumptions

One of the key underlying assumptions of NHOP is a broad definition or expanded view of health. See page two for World Health Organization definition of health. Our second key assumption is that improving community health and quality of life is a shared responsibility.

## Why are We Measuring Community Health?

There is clear evidence from similar community health projects across the country that identifying health disparities, common

priorities (outcomes) and measuring common targets (indicators) can help engage stakeholders to improve population health. Similar efforts have demonstrated effectiveness in other communities. The *Vermont Community Profile Project*, the *Maine Development Foundation* and the *Sustainable Seattle* projects are three strong examples demonstrating that a collaborative focus on measuring and tracking priority community outcomes does facilitate improvement.

## What is the Model for this Community Health Profile?

The Community Health Profile (2010) data was based on the 25 core indicators as recommended by the Institute of Medicine (1997) *Improving Health in the Community: A Role for Performance Improvement*.

## What is the Model for Community Health Improvement?

The improvement model used by NHOP is from the Institute of Medicine (1997) and is pictured below in **Figure 1**. The application of this model is demonstrated in the significant reduction of traffic deaths in Hawaii County over a five year period. See **Figure 67** on page 31.

Figure 1

