



**Puna  
Community  
Medical Center  
Foundation**

**PCMCF OFFICERS**

*President*

**Steve Sparks**

*Vice-President*

**Darlene Viggiano**

*Treasurer*

**Ralph Boyea**

*Secretary*

**JD Domizio**

**Board of Directors**

**Luana Jones**

**Hart Miller, MD**

**Ariel Murphy**

**John White**

**Terri Bryant**

**Helen Shirts**

**Neva Winter**

**Marlene Tebele**

*Phone*

**(808) 937-7234**

*Mail Address*

**P.O. Box 1082**

**Pahoa, HI 96778**

*Email*

**thePCMCF@gmail.com**

*Visit Us Online*

**PCMCF.COM / PCMCF.ORG**



**Please Follow us today!**



**Puna Community Medical  
Center Foundation**

**October 2023**

**Aloha kākou!**

**Latest news:** We are continuing to pursue our Certificate of Need. This is required by the state of Hawaii and its purpose is to ensure medical care access to disadvantaged populations, or other geographic areas not served by existing medical facilities. With this in place, we will have more flexibility in applying for grants. There is a cost associated with a CON, but we believe the advantages outweigh the cost.

We recently had a meeting with Pua Ishibashi from the Department of Land and Natural Resources. He understands what we are doing and was favorable to our leasing more acreage. He indicated that we may be able to add on the additional 12 acres with little or no additional cost. This additional land will be used for a solar farm, and a wastewater treatment plant among other things.

Finally, we have received an updated report regarding the community needs that is based on 2020 census data. This report will guide us in our staffing and services planning going forward.

**Kipuka Farmacy**

Work has been continuing on the Dane Silva Hawaiian Healing Center and Kipuka Garden. Dane’s statement in June of 2021, “As we herbalists find it difficult if not impossible to access adequate supplies of medicinal plants growing in the wild, it is imperative to create gardens for use within the community. It is no longer enough to grow and process the traditional plants for use by a handful of family members or friends. The community is large and requires a large supply of clean, toxin-free, healthy medicinal plants. Native leaders have been working hard over the years to educate the community in using conventional evidence-based wisdom with traditional, cultural practices. This month, leaders in Puna have begun to build a healing center for the community, by starting a new garden of Hawaiian medicinal plants.”

Hawaiian medicinal plants initially planned for the Kipuka are ‘Uhaloa, Noni, ‘Olena, Kalo, La’i, Niu, ‘Awa and Kukui. Plans are in the works to create weekly classes for our community as well as an after-school program. We will announce these classes on our website as soon as plans are finalized over the next few weeks.

**Community Events**

PCMCF will be represented at the October 21st Revitalize Puna event. Stop by and talk story! Also, we are in the process of organizing a community outreach meeting at the Nanawale Longhouse in mid-November. Date to be announced. The goal is to present our current plans and answer questions from the community about the Medical Center and Kipuka Farmacy projects.

Our Public Relations and Executive Committee will choose up to four dates, spread out over the next 6-12 months to hold these community events. We are hoping to live-stream the events for those who can’t attend in person.

For more information on our community events and to view our Medical Center and Kipuka Garden campus map, please visit our website: [PCMCF.org](http://PCMCF.org) Click “About” to view the map.

**Mahalo for your kokua,**

The Board of the Puna Community Medical Center Foundation