SEQUESTRATION’S DEVASTATING CUTS TO MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS: HAWAII

On January 2, 2013, federal agencies and programs that fund maternal and child health services and research will experience an across-the-board 8.2% cut under sequestration. These cuts will devastate the ability to deliver critical services to mothers and babies in need, disproportionately impact low-income and uninsured families, and deliver a major blow to local economies. Below is a snapshot of how Hawaii women, infants, children and families will be impacted.

ACCESS
- 3,000 mothers and young children in Hawaii will be cut from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. WIC provides nutrition and breastfeeding education, nutritious foods, and improved healthcare and social service access for low and moderate-income women and children.
- Nearly $274,000 could be cut from the Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education program in Hawaii, which the state relies on to train its next generation of pediatric physicians.

PREVENTION
- Over $182,000 would be cut from the Hawaii Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant. This would result in 12,500 fewer women, children and families served in the state. The MCH block grant supports a myriad of initiatives designed to promote optimal health, reduce disparities, combat infant mortality, prevent chronic conditions, and improve access to quality health care in the state. It currently serves 91,307 individuals in the state.
- Over $93,000 would be cut from the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program, resulting in 350 fewer Hawaii women being screened for cancer. Roughly 947 cases of breast cancer and 56 cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed every year in Hawaii. This program – which helps low-income and uninsured women get access to cancer screenings – served over 3,695 women in Hawaii over a 5-year period, catching over 39 cervical/pre-malignant cancers and 70 breast cancers.
- Over $84,000 would be cut from the Hawaii Section 317 Immunization Program, resulting in 1,200 fewer children getting vaccinations. This program targets uninsured and low-income children who may not otherwise have access to life-saving vaccinations.
- Hawaii was 1 of 28 CDC-Funded Birth Defects Tracking Systems – funding decreases over the last decade has reduced the number of systems to only 14, and eliminated the program in Hawaii. Sequestration will eliminate 3 additional Birth Defects Tracking Systems. Since 1988, the tracking system historically collected data on 800 to 1,000 infants with birth defects annually.

RESEARCH
- Over $6.6 million in Hawaii research funding could be cut from the National Institutes of Health. Currently, about $61 million in NIH-funded awards goes to Hawaii supporting research at 13 institutions. These grants support local economies, contributing to over 3,330 jobs in biological sciences in Hawaii and over $50 million invested by venture capital firms into biomedical firms between 2004 and 2009.
- Over $51,000 could be cut from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development – the NIH Institute that conducts a majority of the Nation’s federally-funded maternal and child health research. Hawaii is home to the University of Hawaii, which conducts major research in child development. The university is also known for its research with cloning cells for genetic treatments.