

# What is the Community Outreach Core?


The Community Outreach Core (COC) engages communities in the reduction of cancer disparities in incidence and mortality in the Pacific Island Population (PIP) groups of Hawai'i and Guam.

The COC supports the Pacific Island Partnership for Cancer Health Equity (PIPCHHE) in the identification of community needs and priorities. The COC's activities facilitate the building, support, and maintenance of sustainable community infrastructures in PIP communities to support education, research, and the dissemination of evidence-based practices.



**Pacific Island Partnership  
for Cancer Health Equity**

## Contact us

 **(808) 441-8186**

 **MWillingham@cc.hawaii.edu**

## Resources

UHCC/UOG Pacific Island Partnership for  
Cancer Health Equity (PIPCHHE)  
<https://www.uhcancercenter.org/u54>

University of Hawai'i Cancer Center  
<https://www.uhcancercenter.org>

University of Guam Cancer Research Center  
<http://u54.guamcrc.org>

National Cancer Institute  
<https://www.cancer.gov>

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# U54 Community Outreach Core (COC)



# What does the Community Outreach Core do?

Provides an essential resource to the Pacific Island Partnership for Cancer Health Equity (PIPCHÉ) research projects and the Partnership.

Implements evidence-based cancer prevention outreach, resources, and promotion of PIPCHÉ research.

Assesses the Partnership's capacity to design and implement culturally relevant research in Hawai'i and Guam.

## Engages With:

- Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino community members

## Focuses:

- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccinations
- Clinical Trials
- Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Cancer Screenings and Interventions
- Cancer Education and Communication
- Community Engagement
- Long-term goal to reduce barriers leading to cancer disparities in Guam and Hawai'i

# Meet the Hawai'i Community Outreach Core



**Kevin Cassel, DrPH, MPH**  
Co-Leader

Assistant Researcher of Epidemiology at UHCC. He brings more than 24 years of extensive experience working with medically underserved communities in Hawai'i and the Pacific. He has been an active member of the Hawai'i Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition for over 19 years.

**Angela Sy, DrPH**  
Co-Investigator



Assistant Professor of Medicine at UHCC. She is a qualitative researcher who has worked extensively with Dr. Cassel on colorectal and cervical cancer as well as HPV immunization projects involving USAPI populations.



**Munirih Taafaki, MS**  
Co-Investigator

She recently completed her Master's degree in Biomedical Sciences with a focus on clinical and translational research. She has been part of an effort organized through PIPCHÉ and the UHCC to support the initiation of clinical trials on Guam.

**Mark L. Willingham, MS**  
Community Health Educator



He is a PhD student with a focus on Medical Sociology and Social Psychology. He has years of experience working with non-majority communities and health disparities and inequalities analyzing social networks and ethnic identities.

**Jane Nicole Teneza, BS**  
Graduate Research Assistant



She is a Master's student in Public Health with a focus on epidemiology. She is an aspiring physician and hopes to reduce health disparities within underserved communities in Hawai'i and the Pacific.

**Christopher Aguirre, BS**  
Research Associate



A recent graduate of UH Mānoa with a BS in Molecular Cell Biology and experience working with underserved populations. He aims to use his interests in medicine and cancer to serve the community.

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