



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Reducing Harm. Optimizing Health.**  
Serving harm reduction with aloha for over 25 years.

## **The CHOW Project Marks the One-year Anniversary of its Community-Based Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Distribution Program in Hawai'i**

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**HONOLULU, HI – September 12, 2017**

One year ago today, The CHOW Project launched its community-based overdose prevention and naloxone program. Naloxone is a non-narcotic opioid antagonist used to block opioids such as fentanyl, heroin and oxycotin, and when administered during an overdose, naloxone blocks the effects of the drug(s) and restores breathing within 3 minutes. Forty-seven lives have been saved in Hawai'i in the past year due to the program. While this number is just what has been reported back to CHOW by individuals retaining a refill due to use of their overdose prevention kit, it is safe to assume the true number is higher.

600 naloxone doses have been distributed by The CHOW Project to members of its syringe exchange program, family members and friends of people who are at risk of overdose, social service agencies, and medical providers. CHOW staff give individual naloxone trainings, and also give overdose prevention and response trainings to organizations for their staff and/or program participants. In the past year CHOW staff have given 17 such presentations to agencies including Ku Aloha Ola Mau, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, and the Institute for Human Services, and at forums such as the Hawai'i Public Health Conference and Hawai'i Pharmacists Association.

On International Overdose Awareness Day 2017 CHOW held a teach-in and memorial at Harris United Methodist Church, where speakers talked about how to prevent and respond to opioid overdose and shared their personal stories. Seventy people attended, 35 of whom were trained on how to use naloxone and were given overdose prevention kits to take home.

### **Continued Overdose Prevention Efforts**

This year CHOW plans to expand its overdose prevention efforts. Currently CHOW partners with Hawai'i State Department of Health on the Strategic Planning Committee for the Opioid Abuse Initiative. The Planning Committee is comprised of six major areas of emphasis: treatment, prescriber education, law enforcement, opioid prescription protocols, and the group that CHOW will be most heavily involved in, prevention and public education. The CHOW Project is currently developing measurable goals on prevention and public education with hopes to begin implementation by the start of the 2018 legislative session.

For more information about the CHOW Project and its overdose prevention efforts, please visit [www.chowproject.org](http://www.chowproject.org).