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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Network of Public Health Institutes Welcomes Two New Members: Delaware Public Health Institute and Hawaii Public Health Institute

February 11, 2014, Washington, DC: The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) announces two new Provisional/Developmental members, the Delaware Public Health Institute and Hawaii Public Health Institute. Their admission brings NNPHI's total membership to 38 public health institutes (PHIs) in 30 states plus Washington, DC – double the 19 members NNPHI had at its inception in 2001.

"I am honored that both the Delaware Public Health Institute and Hawaii Public Health Institute are now part of our growing network of dedicated professionals working to improve the public's health in these important geographies," said Vincent Lafronza, President and CEO, NNPHI. "All of us at NNPHI extend a warm welcome to staff of both institutes, and look forward to our collaborative efforts ahead."

The Delaware Public Health Institute (DPHI) was formed in 2013 after a two-year process of working with Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC); the University of Delaware, College of Health Sciences (CHS); the University of Delaware's Nurse-Managed Health Center; and the State of Delaware, Division of Public Health. NNPHI member PHMC, Pennsylvania's only PHI, helped develop DPHI with CHS in recognition of the fact that many health needs and services cross state lines between Delaware and southeastern Pennsylvania. The partnership between PHMC and CHS is a first of its kind model for PHIs' development. PHMC has served the Greater Philadelphia region for more than 40 years, and reached out to CHS to develop and implement a Delaware-based PHI to better connect Delaware and Pennsylvania in a meaningful and needed way.

DPHI's mission focuses on enhancing population health across Delaware. Several initial population health projects will be undertaken immediately to illustrate this mission, including the development of the Community Health Data Base Household Health Survey throughout Delaware to identify unmet public health needs. DPHI has also been selected to lead the County Health Rankings for the state of Delaware, as well as partner with the state Division of Public Health to address existing population-level health disparities. DPHI will achieve this mission through building on the strengths of both PHMC and CHS. Leveraging the resources of both institutions will be a major factor in DPHI's success. DPHI's mission, like NNPHI's, encourages collaboration between strong organizations to create a shared vision for population health improvements.

The Hawaii Public Health Institute (HIPHI) grew out of The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii

(CTFH), which was formed in 1996 and became its own 501(c)(3) in 2006. CTFH began the process of expanding its mission and becoming a PHI in 2012. HIPHI was developed in partnership with the Hawaii State Department of Health and the University of Hawaii Office of Public Health Studies, with input and participation from key stakeholders, including the Hawaii Public Health Association, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, the Hawaii Primary Care Association, health insurance companies, philanthropic foundations, and government officials and legislators.

HIPHI exists to weave silos into working relationships as an effective network, ensuring that it comes together across sectors to advance collaboration and innovation in public health and work towards making Hawaii the healthiest place on earth. HIPHI is building healthier communities in Hawaii by providing issue-based advocacy and education, technical assistance, and other capacity-building services through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, businesses, and community-based organizations.

NNPHI looks forward to increased opportunities for PHI collaboration, networking, and sharing of best practices that the addition of these new members to the network will yield. To learn more about NNPHI's expanding national membership, please visit <http://nnphi.org/members>.

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About the National Network of Public Health Institutes

Created in 2001 as a forum for public health institutes (PHIs), today NNPHI convenes its members and partners at the local, state, and national levels in efforts to address critical health issues. NNPHI's mission is to support national public health system initiatives and strengthen PHIs to promote multi-sector activities resulting in measurable improvements of public health structures, systems, and outcomes. Learn more about NNPHI and its member institutes at www.nnphi.org.