



*Special Message from*  
**Governor Josh Green, M.D.**  
*In Recognition of the*  
**Hawai'i Maternal Telehealth Summit**

August 9, 2023

On behalf of the people of Hawai'i, I extend a warm aloha to the attendees of the Hawai'i Maternal Telehealth Summit. It is my pleasure to provide my strong support of the telehealth movement across our state, particularly in addressing the issue of maternal and infant mortality.

As a doctor working in rural Hawai'i, I have been a staunch advocate for increased access to care for all people in our state, especially those living in rural and Neighbor Island communities. With rural areas covering approximately 6,000 square miles and making up 94% of Hawai'i's total land area, it is challenging for more than 500,000 people living outside of Honolulu city limits to reach the only hospitals on East Honolulu providing obstetrical services. Furthermore, we face a shortage of healthcare professionals in our state, which means pregnant women and their families must travel long distances to access prenatal care.

Today, you will hear about best practices of telehealth in rural regions through our collaborations with Queens Medical Center, Hawaii Pacific Health, the Veterans Administration, and the Department of Health. These practices could be applied to mother-baby care and have the potential to significantly impact access to care.

I want to empower all of you to continue this great work and identify opportunities for synergy. My heartfelt Mahalo to all of you for your dedication caring for our people of Hawai'i.

*Josh Green M.D.*