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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bay Clinic's Mobile Health Services Strives to Address Community Social Determinants

HILO, HAWAI'I, November 21, 2016 — Bay Clinic's new state-of-the-art Mobile Health Unit, providing primary medical and dental care, is the first of its kind in the state. The Unit will expand health care access to remote East Hawai'i communities. Residents of these communities must travel to neighboring towns to access care, which is a potential contributing factor in the high number of residents presenting in the emergency room (ER) with non-emergent complaints. Aligned with Community First's mission, Bay Clinic's Mobile Health Unit will help reduce the high cost of delivering health care by taking health care services directly to these communities on a regular basis.

“In these remote communities, it's cost prohibitive to build and operate a comprehensive site considering what it costs to run that type of operation. The Mobile Health Unit provides us the opportunity to lower that cost while still providing a much needed service to Ocean View, Mountain View, and Volcano Village,” said Harold Wallace, Bay Clinic CEO.

The Mobile Health Unit will make scheduled visits to remote communities, as well as work with the DOE Kau-Keaau-Pahoa District Complex to provide school-based clinic services for the students of the Complex. The Unit will provide services like preventive care, treatment of routine illnesses, urgent care, immunizations and vaccinations, management of chronic diseases, physicals, dental screenings, comprehensive dental exams, dental recalls, dental cleanings, and dental pain relief and extractions. Bay Clinic maintains all medical record information, which will be meaningfully shared with other health care agencies should there be a need for specialty referrals or higher level acute in-patient services.

“Again, being aligned with the Community First mission of working to lower overall health cost across East Hawai'i, we are taking the Mobile Health Unit to these remote areas. We hope that this new service will potentially increase preventive primary care visits and decrease non emergency visits to the ER, which will help abate the high cost of health care in our community,” said Harold Wallace, Bay Clinic, CEO.

About Bay Clinic, Inc.:

Bay Clinic, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Federally Qualified Health Center with 180 employees in 9 sites. Serving over 21,000 patients, Bay Clinic is a community-directed healthcare organization that provides quality primary and preventive care services to the people of East Hawai'i. Bay Clinic will ensure that patient-centered, culturally responsive, and affordable healthcare services are locally accessible in our communities. Learn more about Bay Clinic, Inc. at www.bayclinic.org.

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