



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MENTAL HEALTH KOKUA RECEIVES PERFECT SCORE  
FOR CARF INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION  
FOR EXCELLENCE AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE SERVICE**

HONOLULU, HAWAII, JULY 7, 2009 ... Mental Health Kokua has received a perfect score with the CARF International Accreditation in recognition of the statewide non-profit mental health organization's excellence and superior performance in providing the highest standards of quality care and services to the people of Hawaii, it was announced today by Greg Payton, Mental Health Kokua's CEO.

This marks the fifth consecutive three-year term that Mental Health Kokua has received CARF International Accreditation in Case Management, Community Integration (Psycho-Social Rehabilitation), Housing and Outpatient Services, and the first time the organization has received a perfect score.

"It is our honor to achieve this accreditation, especially receiving a perfect score," says Greg Payton, CEO of Mental Health Kokua. "We know how important it is for people to have confidence in their health care provider. CARF accreditation is a national standard of quality. Only one in a thousand organizations receive CARF accreditation receive a perfect score. The people we serve can trust that we not only provide excellent care, we also are leaders in administering health care services in Hawaii and the nation."

Mental Health Kokua's perfect score includes the rigorous Carf business standards (called "ASPIRE"), which involves: leadership; governance; strategic planning; input from stakeholders; legal requirements; health and safety; outcome management; human resources; fiscal management; risk management; technology; and rights of persons served. Clinically Mental Health Kokua excelled in all areas including: assessment; treatment plan; discharge; medication management; and clinical Records

Mental Health Kokua is a non-profit agency with offices and programs throughout the State of Hawaii, believes that all citizens should have the opportunity to live, participate in and contribute to their communities. Through specially designed, highly professional and culturally-sensitive services and settings, Mental Health Kokua assists people with mental illness to achieve optimum recovery and functioning in the community, to live independently, and strives to eliminate the stigma attached to those living with mental health challenges.

CARF International Accreditation signifies that Mental Health Kokua has passed an in-depth review, meeting rigorous CARF standards for service and quality, and that Mental Health Kokua is focused on delivering the most favorable and quality results as well as superior performance for the people it services and their unique needs.

Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, CARF International is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of human service providers in the areas of aging services, behavioral health, child and youth services, DMEPOS, employment and community services, medical rehabilitation, and opioid treatment programs. The CARF family of organizations currently accredits more than 5,500 providers at more than 19,000 locations on five continents. More than 7.2 million persons of all ages are served annually by CARF-accredited providers.

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