



Hawai'i Veterans Need Action Now

- **Almost 4 months:** The average amount of time a veteran in Hawai'i must wait before seeing a primary care doctor at a VA facility.
 - Hawai'i continues to have the worst average new patient primary care wait times in the nation. In June, the first VA audit revealed that Hawai'i had a 145-day wait time. The most recent data shows that wait time is still 110 days.
- **8 years:** The longest time some Hawai'i veterans waited just to get on a list to set up an initial appointment with a VA doctor.
 - In Hawai'i, some newly enrolled veterans have been waiting since May 2006 on a list just to request an initial appointment at a VA facility. Veterans on this list have not even had that initial appointment scheduled.
- **5 years:** The longest a Hawai'i veteran waited to see a VA doctor who had already tried to schedule an appointment with a VA provider.
- **Only \$250,000:** The amount of additional funding requested by the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System (PIHCS) from the VA to accelerate veterans' ability to access care from private non-VA physicians. There are still 1,331 veterans waiting to see a doctor for the first time. The VA PIHCS serves an estimated 127,600 veterans throughout the Pacific.
 - Other locations around the nation have asked for additional funds to accelerate veterans' access to care. For example, the Fayetteville VA Medical Center in North Carolina received \$7.4 million from this program.
- **Private Physicians Offer Help:** Many local physicians in Hawai'i have offered to assist the VA PIHCS to provide medical care for veterans. VA PIHCS has not even begun to contract out non-VA care to help alleviate Hawai'i's backlog.
 - In early June, the Hawai'i Medical Association urged private doctors to volunteer to treat veterans to help alleviate a crisis in veterans access to care in the islands.
 - As it stands, major local health care networks and facilities have not even been contacted by the VA to provide medical care to veterans.