



Summer Research Internship Program

Program Description

The Department of Native Hawaiian Health's Summer Research Internship (SRI) is a 10-week program that provides diverse **undergraduate students** the opportunity to learn and apply research skills from a health disparities framework. Interns conduct a clinical, community-based, or translational research study while being mentored by an expert researcher. Research projects typically focus on a health condition that disproportionately impacts Native Hawaiians and/or Pacific Islanders. Interns also participate in weekly research lectures, professional development seminars, informal talks, physician shadowing, and cultural activities that enhance their understanding of how culture impacts health and well-being. Interns complete a written project report describing their work, and present their findings at a scientific presentation held during the last week of the program.

Purpose

The program is designed to expose diverse students to clinical, community-based, or translational research in health-disparities in order to:

- 1) Improve research and professional skills
- 2) Reinforce the interns' desire to include research in their professional careers
- 3) Increase knowledge of health-disparities research and interns' desire to include it in their professional careers
- 4) Increase diversity in the future research workforce

Compensation

Interns are awarded a modest \$2,000 stipend for the summer. Interns are not provided food, housing, or per diem funding. Though not guaranteed, interns may have the opportunity to apply for additional funding to complete their projects, publish their paper, and/or to travel to a conference to present their findings.

Selection

Interns are competitively selected and **must be US Citizens and either current Hawai'i residents, or former Hawai'i residents with an already-secured housing placement for the duration of the SRI program.** Preference is given to applicants with good academic record, a commitment to learn more about clinical, community-based or translational research in health disparities, an interest in a career in the health sciences (medicine, psychology, public health, etc.), an interest in health-disparities research, and/or who come from diverse backgrounds

(see Diverse Backgrounds section below for additional clarification). Prior research experience strengthens an application but is not required. All applicants should be mature, hard working, motivated, and aware that research often takes many hours of tedious work to produce results.

Diverse Backgrounds

- A. Individuals from racial and ethnic backgrounds that have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be under-represented in health sciences. This includes Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.
- B. Individuals with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- C. Individuals from financially and/or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds, defined as
 - a. Individuals whose families are at or below annual low-income thresholds set by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.
 - b. Individuals who come from an educational environment that has inhibited the individual from obtaining the required knowledge and skills to develop and participate in a research career.
 - c. Individuals who are the first generation in their family to attend a 4-year college or university.

Contact Information:

Phone: (808) 692-1078

Fax: (808) 692-1292

Email: dnhhsri@hawaii.edu