



# National Tongan - American Society

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As the main goal of the National Tongan American Society is to “empower and mobilize for a healthy Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) community,” we support the Healthy Utah Plan because it will allow for increased health access for many NHPI. The Healthy Utah Plan will address the following disparities experienced by Utah’s NHPI community:

<b>Facts</b>	<b>Effects</b>	<b>Problem</b>	<b>Healthy Utah Plan Will:</b>
About 23% of NHPIs in Utah are uninsured. <sup>1</sup> NHPI have the highest rate of obesity, infant mortality. <sup>2</sup>	In 2012, nearly 4,000 NHPIs unique cases accessed the emergency department of the IHC hospital system in SL County alone, for medical care. <sup>3</sup>	Utah’s health care cost is driven up.	Help to insure the uninsured and promote preventative health care, thus reducing use of ER.
Only 1% of NHPI who are qualified for Medicaid apply. <sup>4</sup>	Without language access, many Medicaid qualified NHPI are without insurance, NHPIs are driven to use the ER as their main care hub.	Utah’s health care cost is driven up.	\$260 million tax dollars returned to Utah will help with jobs and perhaps allow access for underserved communities and also help older Utahns waiting for Medicaid.
13% of NHPI household has a household member with mental illness. <sup>5</sup>	Many of those who suffer from mental illness are never diagnosed and repeated visits to ER due to undiagnosed mental illnesses.	Increase cost for mental health needs.	Help save millions that can be used toward mental health access.
Overall 28% of NHPI families in UT have 3 or more workers, a rate higher than any racial group. <sup>6</sup>	82.9% of Utah’s NHPIs main barrier to receiving medical care has to do with financial barriers, mainly having no insurance, too expensive or not covered by work insurance. <sup>7</sup>	Health disparities continue to increase among NHPIs.	66% of Utahns who would benefit are already working 1 or more jobs.
In 2012, 24% of NHPI youth dropped out of high school. <sup>8</sup>	2012 UT Corrections office annual report states that more than half of incarcerated Utahns are high school drop-outs.	High cost of care for incarcerated people.	Millions of tax dollars returned to Utah can assist to improve education and decrease recidivism.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census 2012

<sup>2</sup> UT Department of Health

<sup>3</sup> IHC data, 2012

<sup>4</sup> UT Department of Health

<sup>5</sup> UT Pacific Islanders, 2011, UT Department of Health

<sup>6</sup> UT Pacific Islanders, 2011, UT Department of Health

<sup>7</sup> UT Pacific Islanders, 2011, UT Department of Health

<sup>8</sup> UT State Office of Education. “2012 Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rate Report.” April 18, 2013