Basic Health Hawaii: Broken Spirits, Healing Souls

Keola Kim Diaz  
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Tuesday, March 20 2012  
12:00 – 1:00 pm  
John A. Burns Hall,  
Room 3121/3125 (3rd floor),  
East-West Center

Keola Kim Diaz will present his independently-produced video project that investigates the Hawai’i State Department of Human Services’ “Basic Health Hawaii” health insurance program for Micronesian immigrants. The Compact of Free Association binds the peoples of three Micronesian nations – the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands – with the United States in an international treaty. Despite being promised healthcare, among other benefits, by the United States, migrants from these three nations have been denied medical access in an attempt to reduce state and national spending. Many in dire need of medical services have faced severe and sometimes fatal consequences. This film provides snapshots of some Micronesians’ experiences and an explanation on how the situation began.

Keola Kim Diaz is from Palau. He has a BA in communications from UH Mānoa and is currently pursuing his MA at the Center for Pacific Islands Studies. Keola is interested in the transformative power of the media, particularly visual media, and utilizes different forms of media to address issues that affect the Pacific region, particularly Palau.

Generous funding for this project was provided by Hawai‘i Council for the Humanities.