Diabetes and prediabetes cost an estimated $1.5 billion in Hawaii each year. The serious complications include heart disease, stroke, amputation, end-stage kidney disease, blindness – and death.

Hawaii’s diabetes epidemic:
Approximately 154,365 people in Hawaii, or 13.1% of the adult population, have diabetes.

- Of these, an estimated 46,000 have diabetes but don’t know it, greatly increasing their health risk.
- In addition, 442,000 people in Hawaii, 41.5% of the adult population, have prediabetes with blood glucose levels higher than normal but not yet high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes.
- Every year an estimated 8,000 people in Hawaii are diagnosed with diabetes.

Diabetes is expensive:
People with diabetes have medical expenses approximately 2.3 times higher than those who do not have diabetes.

- Total direct medical expenses for diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes, prediabetes and gestational diabetes in Hawaii was estimated at $1.1 billion in 2012.
- In addition, another $419 million was spent on indirect costs from lost productivity due to diabetes.

Improving lives, preventing diabetes and finding a cure:
In 2015, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health invested $1,359,879 in diabetes-related research projects in Hawaii. The Division of Diabetes Translation at the CDC spent $1,895,855 on diabetes prevention and educational programs in Hawaii in 2016.

Sources include:
- Cost: Dall et al.