

Hospital Markets in Hawaii *at a glance*

A snapshot of hospital market structure, concentration, and ownership across the state — and how they've changed since 2000. This analysis reflects data available through May 2026.

As of 2026, two-thirds of Hawaii's hospitals operate in a duopoly or monopoly market, and 71% are owned by a multi-hospital system.

WHAT THIS ANALYSIS COVERS

This analysis focuses on the state's 21 general short-term acute care (GSAC) hospitals — the facilities where most privately insured, Medicare, and Medicaid patients receive inpatient care, and where market concentration most directly affects the prices employers and workers pay. Each hospital's market is defined via a 30-minute travel radius around that facility. Within it, we measure concentration using the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI) — a standard antitrust metric calculated as the sum of the squared market shares of the owners in a market. HHI ranges from 0 (many small hospitals, low concentration) to 10,000 (a monopoly market, which has a single owner). Our hospital-centric HHI is a consistent analytical proxy for market concentration, not a legally defined antitrust market.

● **GSAC Hospitals (21)** ● VA / Military ● Psychiatric / Behavioral ● Rehabilitation ● Children's Specialty

Market Concentration

Hawaii's hospital markets are shaped by its islands: hospitals on the smallest islands have no competitor within a 30-minute drive, while hospitals on the two largest islands have the least concentrated hospital markets. The average concentration level of Hawaii hospitals grew 16% between 2000 and 2026, with average HHI reaching 6,752 in 2026. In 2000, six hospitals (27%) operated in moderately concentrated markets; by 2026 none did. Half of the state's hospitals (10 of 21) are now monopolies. Over the period, two hospitals closed and one opened. Two transactions shifted ownership, though neither was a “Red Zone” merger. A Red Zone merger raises at least one merging hospital's market HHI by over 100 points to above 1,800, which Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) guidelines presume is likely to raise prices.

2000 | 22 hospitals overall



2026 | 21 hospitals overall



CONCENTRATION SCALE (IN HHI)

● **Low** (<1,000 HHI) ● **Moderate** (1,000 to <1,800) ● **High** (1,800 to <5,000) ● **Higher** (5,000 to <10,000) ● **Monopoly** (10,000 HHI)

Explore the data yourself

Our tool has three components. **The Market Explorer** tracks how hospital market concentration has evolved from 2000 to May 2026, drawing on ownership data from the AHA's Annual Survey, validated against state health department filings, SEC disclosures, and public reporting. **The Closures Explorer** tracks hospital closures and openings nationwide, each year since 2000. **The Forecast Lab** uses that same data to model how a proposed merger, closure, or opening would reshape a hospital market as it stood in 2026 — it models the scenarios you specify and does not identify potential mergers.

Note on the data: The tool uses a first-of-its-kind database that we built from scratch. We have done our best to gather and validate the data; however, if you notice an error (e.g., a hospital's name, a merger year) or if you have questions about our methodology, please notify us at HealthCareAffordabilityLab@yale.edu.

Health Care
Affordability Lab
at Yale

Explore Market Concentration at
Markets.HealthCareAffordabilityLab.org



QR code to HI Hospitals

Hospital Markets in Hawaii

October 2026

Key Stats

SYSTEM OWNERSHIP

59% → 71%

13/22 → 15/21 part of system

AVG HHI INCREASE

+948

5,804 → 6,752

NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS

2

since 2000 (0 Red Zone)

MONOPOLY MARKETS

10 of 21

48% of hospitals

Ownership Consolidated, Concentration Rose

Between 2000 and 2026, the six Hawaii hospitals that initially operated in moderately concentrated markets all moved into higher HHI (concentration) bands, and the share of system-owned hospitals rose from 59% to 71%. The largest hospital operator is the state-run Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, which runs seven hospitals, five of which are the only hospitals in their area.

2000 | 22 hospitals overall

■ 13 in 5 systems ■ 9 independents

59%

41%

2026 | 21 hospitals overall

■ 15 in 5 systems ■ 6 independents

71%

29%

Hawaii's Largest Systems

Five systems own 15 of Hawaii's 21 hospitals; the three largest are detailed below.

SYSTEM	HOSPITALS IN STATE	AVERAGE MARKET HHI	HOSPITALS WITH CONCENTRATION ABOVE 1,800 HHI
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation	7	8,673	7 of 7
The Queen's Health Systems	3	5,420	3 of 3
Hawaii Pacific Health	3	3,550	3 of 3

Average market HHI reflects the mean HHI across each system's hospitals within the state. HHI is calculated within a 30-minute travel radius of each facility. National hospital data typically lags by one to two years for new openings and recent ownership changes, so figures for 2024–2026 are preliminary and may not yet reflect all recent activity.

Hospital Markets Shaped by Population and Geography

In Hawaii, hospital market concentration levels are shaped by population density and geography. The area with the lowest levels of market concentration is on the most populated island of O'ahu, where seven hospitals have at least one competitor within a 30-minute drive. O'ahu's neighbor islands are served only by hospitals in duopoly or monopoly markets.

O'ahu

8 hospitals

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● 38%

Neighbor islands

13 hospitals

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● 62%

Each dot is one of Hawaii's 21 hospitals, colored by its 2026 market HHI. O'ahu holds the state's least concentrated markets.

● High ● Higher ● Monopoly | color shows each hospital's 2026 market HHI band