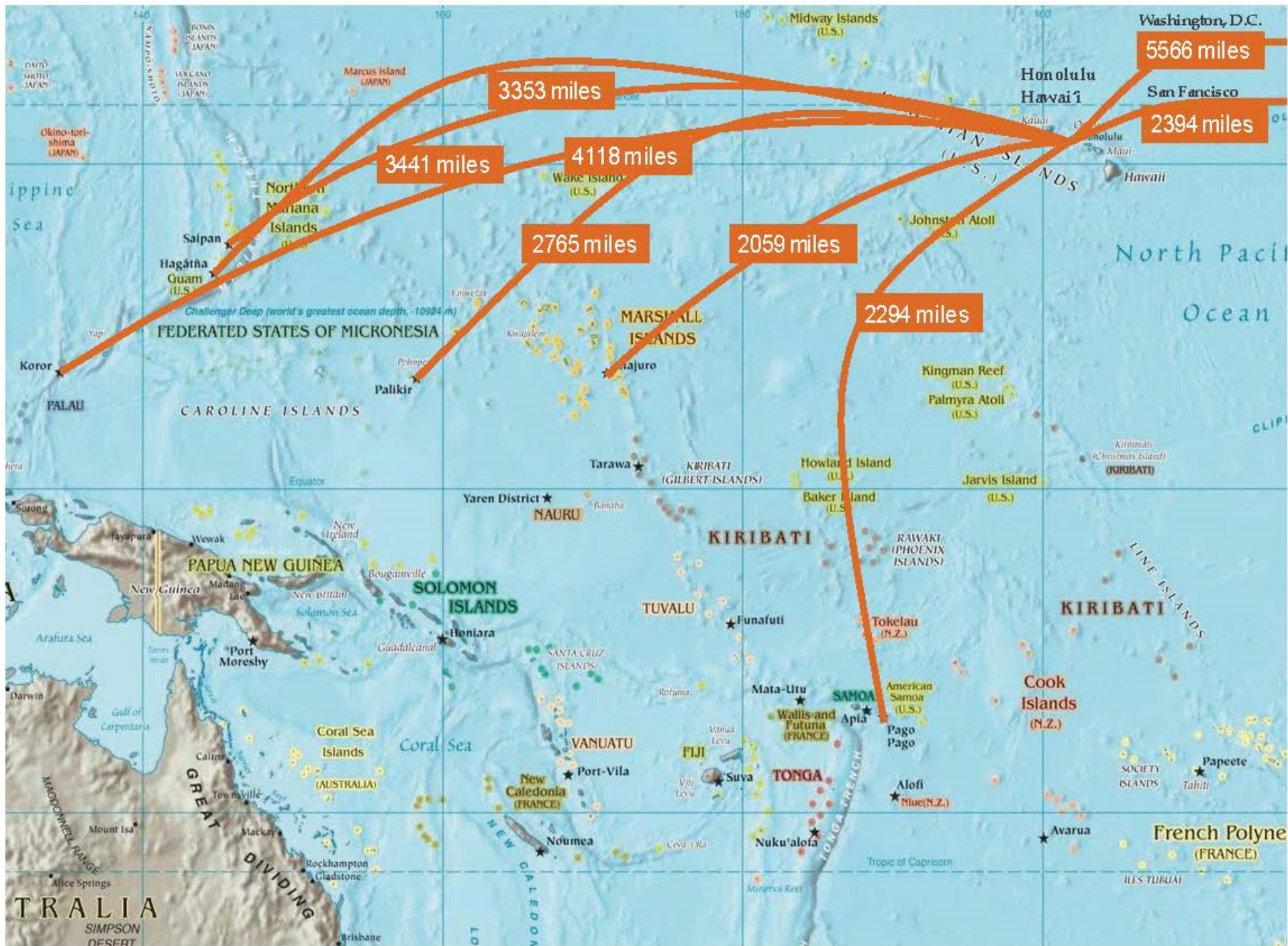


# **Newborn Hearing Screening in Island Nations:**

**GOOD NEWS –  
and  
*Not just for Babies!***

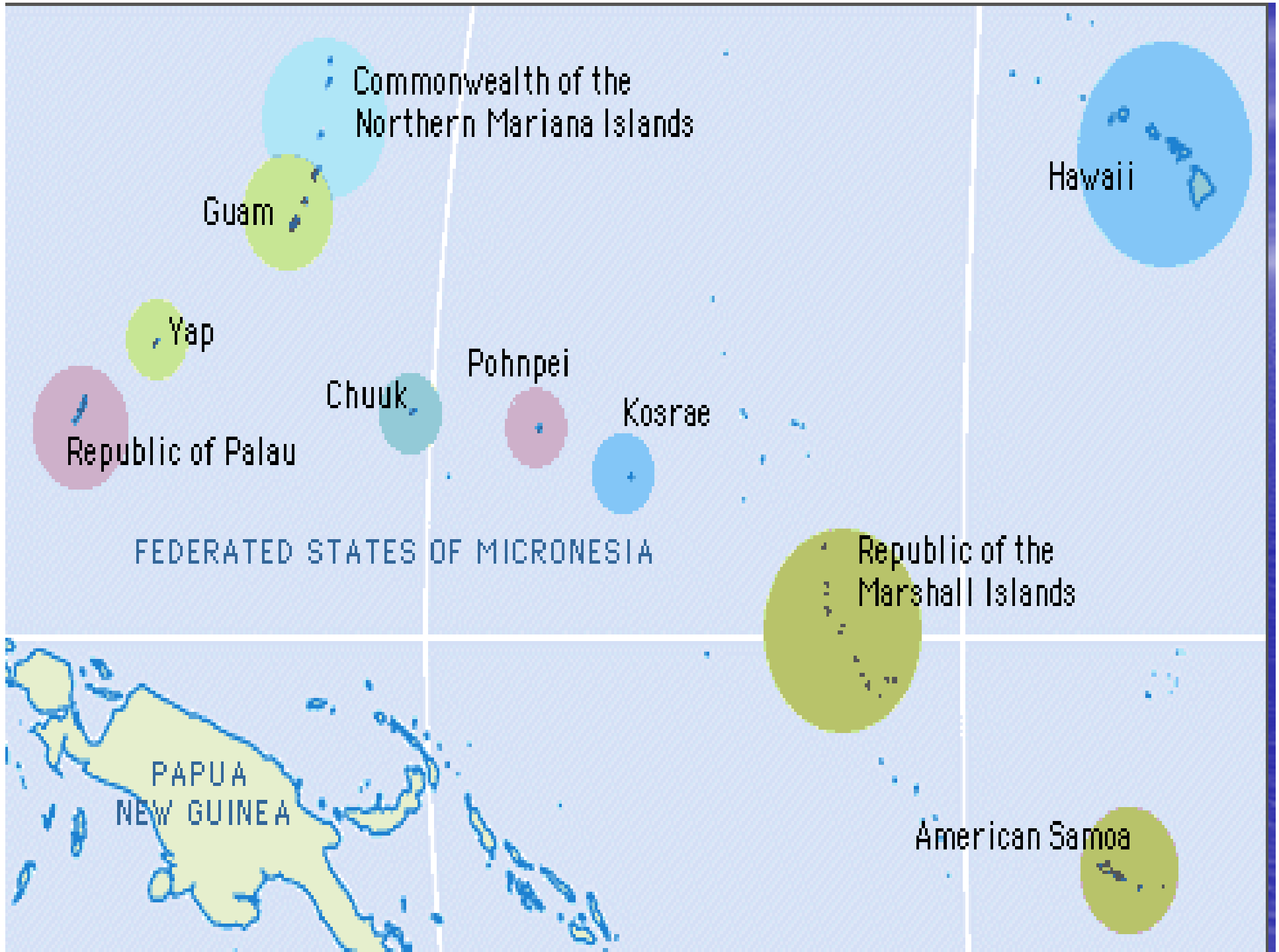
**13<sup>th</sup> Annual EHDI Meeting  
Jacksonville, Florida**

**April 15, 2014**



# Island Nations/Territories

- Republic of Palau
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Territory of American Sāmoa







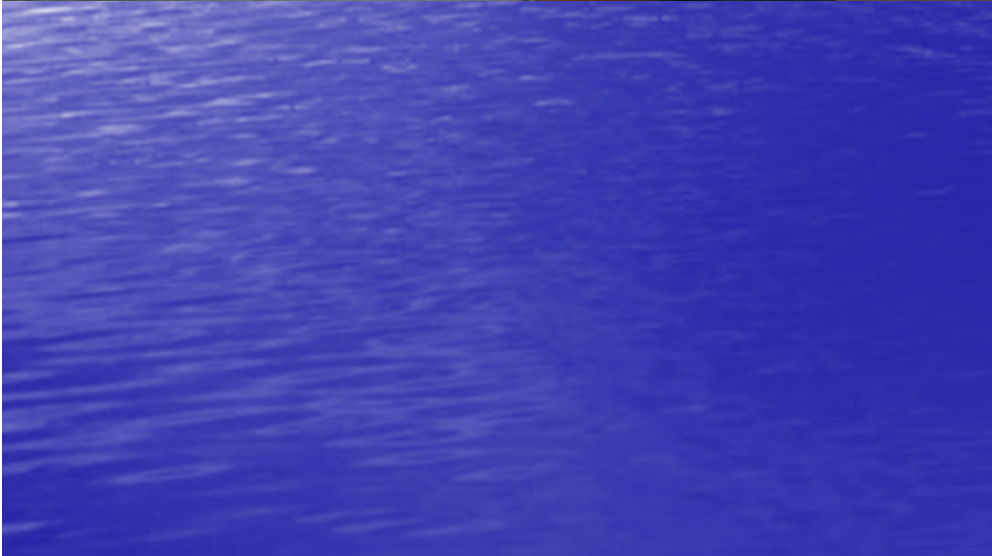
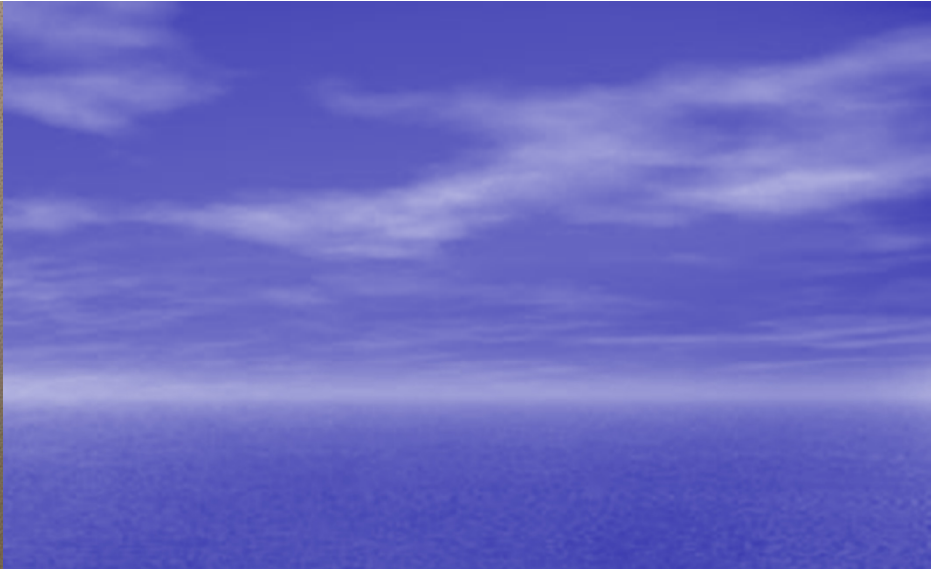
















**LYNDON  
TROPICAL**

**BAINES  
MEDICAL**

**JOHNSON  
CENTER**

# Hearing Health Care

- Identification
- Medical and surgical care
- Audiological diagnostic services
- Intervention services







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for

# Because, this area has . . .

- No ENT specialist
- No audiologist
- No speech-language pathologists
- No early intervention program
- No system for providing amplification
- Not a single cochlear implant

# JCIH Recommendations

- Screened by one month of age
- Evaluated by three months of age
- If a hearing loss is present, amplification fitted within one month of diagnosis
- Early intervention by six months of age

# Identification

- Public awareness
- Newborn hearing screening
- Screening of school age children
- Prevention programs





# Screening Status in the Pacific Islands

<b>Palau</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>99.2%</b> <b>(2012)</b>
<b>American Sāmoa</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>99.9%</b> <b>(2011)</b>
<b>Federated States</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>93.0%</b> <b>(2012)</b>
<b>Marshall Islands</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>96.0%</b> <b>(2012)</b>











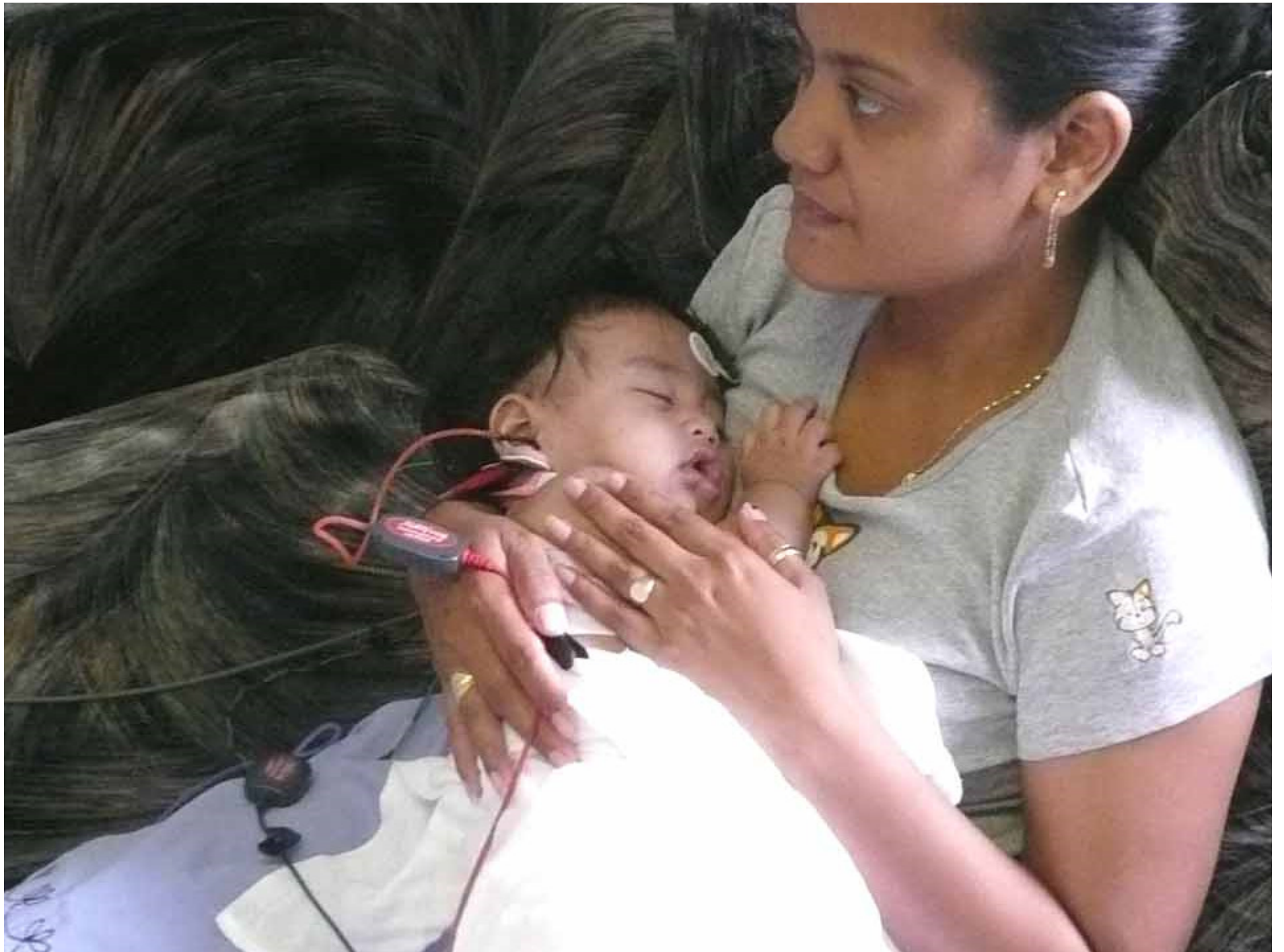
# Audiological Services

- Diagnostic services
- Provision of amplification
- Aural rehabilitation services















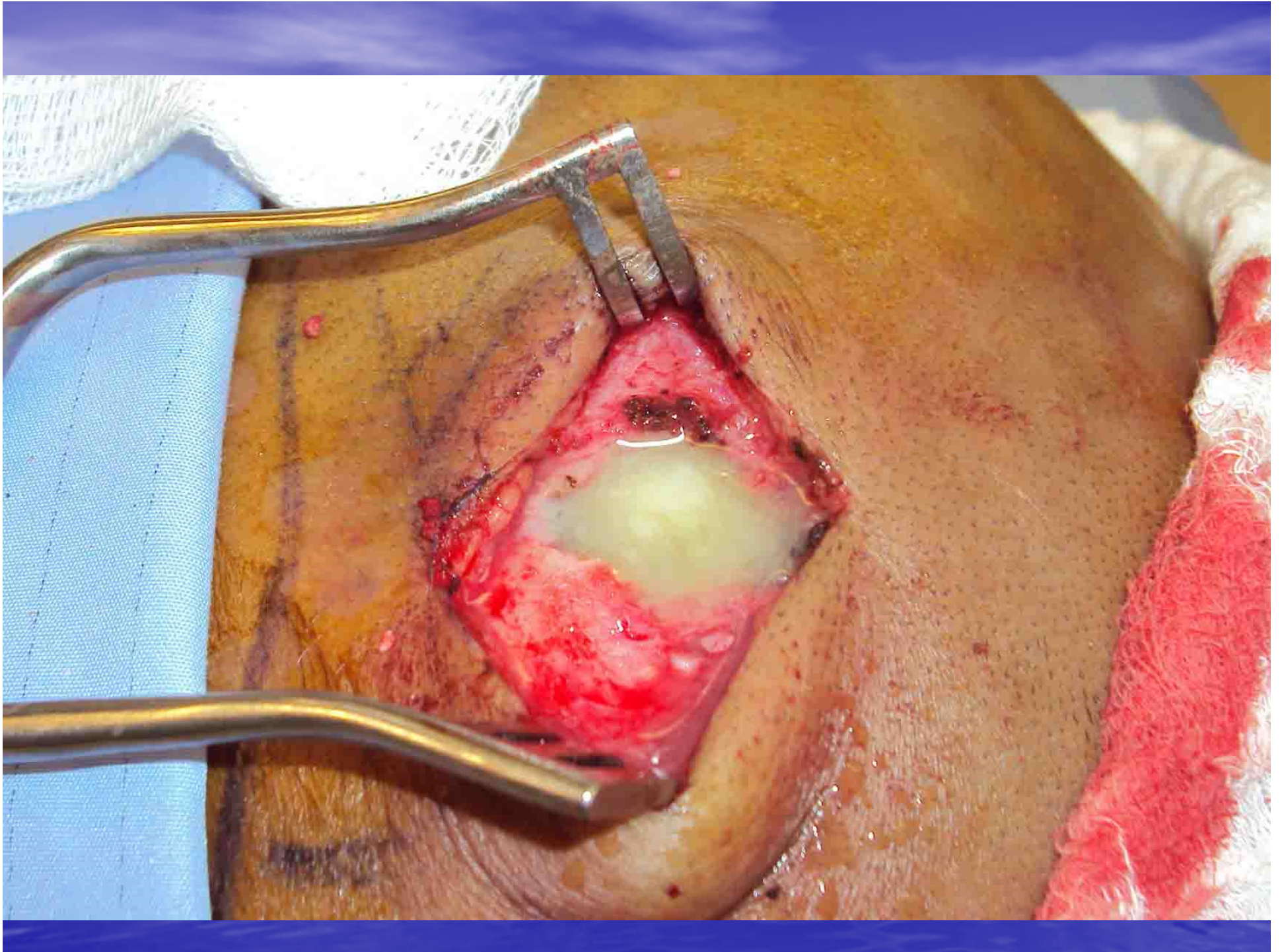
# Medical and Surgical Care

- Availability of primary care
- Resources for ENT specialty care
- Cochlear implants













# Intervention Services

- Early intervention for infants
- Speech-language therapy
- Specialized educational services
- Access to sign language
- Support for families

# Unavailable Technology

- Hearing Aids
- Cochlear Implant
- Assistive Devices



# Amplification Challenges

- **Distribution and support system**
- **Cost**
- **Environment – humidity, heat, and rain play havoc with hearing aids**

# Take Home Message

- **Good news:** available federal resources are being used to expand hearing health care for everyone!
- **Bad news:** the needs far exceed the available resources.

***The goal of sustainability  
remains elusive!***



**Jean L. Johnson, DrPH**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Center on Disability Studies**  
**University of Hawai`i**  
**[jeanj@hawaii.edu](mailto:jeanj@hawaii.edu)**

