

# A Passion For Public Health Leads Cooper To United Healthcare



Nicole Cooper, DrPH, MPH is vice president of social responsibility at UnitedHealthcare.

focused on facilitating systematic social needs screenings, referrals and navigation within clinical sites across Honolulu.

“I forged strong collaborations with various community-based organizations and the state Medicaid agency in Hawaii to begin integrating healthcare and social services, and to utilize data more efficiently to meet the needs of Medicaid and Medicare populations,” she explains.

In her current position as vice president of social responsibility, Cooper works at the corporate headquarters. She explains her role: “I helped launch a national signature social responsibility grant program and team. Our primary objective is to redefine healthcare access for the medically underserved and those who are uninsured by making strategic investments in community-based organizations that serve communities on the front lines.”

She adds: “I directly lead and develop the office’s national corporate strategy and operations - aligning several initiatives across the company’s businesses and functions - while directly advising the company’s CEO, and reporting to the corporate chief communications officer.” During her career at UnitedHealthcare, Cooper has had several mentors to whom she often looks for help with making professional decisions, and asks for guidance when assessing how to grow her career and continue to challenge herself. Since her current role is a managerial one, Cooper continuously seeks resources and tools, including professional development training and other programs designed to help her and her team further advance their careers.

She’s been a member of the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE) since her undergrad college days. In addition, “I have sought out other organizations that serve the needs of African-American professionals, women of color and women in leadership positions at various stages of my professional career.”

