



Climate Change and Health Stakeholders Meeting

Thursday, October 23, 2014 – 9:00am

Hawaii State Capitol

Meeting Notes

Note: All presentations and referenced materials from meeting can be downloaded from the HPHA website at <http://www.hawaiipublichealth.org/Climate-Change-&-Health>

In attendance: Angela Sy, Christina Deely, Clifford Chang, Genevieve Hillard, Holly Kessler, Jacqueline Kozak-Thiel, Kathleen Baker, Laura McIntyre, Mary Dixon, Michele Bray, Michelle Quenselle, Michelle Tagorda, Nancy Lewis, Nancy Partika, Russell Dean Henion, Sher Pollack, Stacie Gandauli, Therese Argoud, Victoria Keener. On phone: Ann Pobutsky.

Nancy Partika (HPHA) provided an overview of the meeting goals and a brief history of the Climate Change & Health Initiative. HPHA conducted a Climate Change and Health Survey in August 2014. The results were shared with the group.

An overview of Baseline Data issues on Chronic Diseases and the Hawaii Health Survey were presented by Dr. Kathleen Baker (DOH).

An Overview of the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment (PIRCA) report for the U.S. National Climate Assessment was presented by Dr. Victoria Keener, Ph.D. Research Fellow, East-West Center.

Dr. Nancy Lewis, Director-Research Program at the East West Center, presented an overview graphic of Climate Change and Health issues.

An overview of the 2014 Hawaii Climate Change Adaptation Initiative bill, President's Task Force on Climate Change and Aloha+ Challenge was presented by Jacqueline Kozak-Thiel, Hawaii State Sustainability Coordinator, Department of Land and Natural Resources.

An Overview of Hawaii State Department of Health's work on Climate Change relating to Environmental Protection & Impacts on Human Health was presented by Laura McIntyre, Program Manager, Environmental Planning Office-EHA-DOH.

Nancy Partika facilitated a group discussion among participating stakeholders on Climate Change and Health. Items discussed were:

- HPHA was asked to represent health interests on the EWC Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment process (PIRCA) that currently has approximately 15 collaborating organizations.
- The Hawaii Public Health Institute indicated an interest in working with HPHA on developing a draft bill for introduction in the 2015 legislative session relating to Climate Change and health.
- There is interest in continuing to look at Hawaii baseline data on health conditions relating to climate change and strengthening collaborative efforts to do this.
- Specific areas and concepts identified:
 - Social capital, resilience – key underlying strategies. Social capital has to be supported and well established.
 - Water quality:- wealth is water (ex. wealth is not oil, wealthy countries cannot drink their oil)
 - There is a need to identify and monitor health-related conditions impacted by Climate Change
 - There is and will be more climate displacement of populations
 - Mitigating Climate Change has other-benefits to the community in terms of health
 - Need to think more broadly than just human health –i.e. veterinary health for zoonotic disease, etc.—needs to be a “systems approach” to health to address Climate Change
 - What is best practices/recommended re: monitoring for climate change?
 - Need to focus on resiliency – how to educate and prepare the community for climate change
 - Roles for public health with regard to climate change:
 - Work with legislators
 - Inform the public

Meeting adjourned at 10:55am