



**Hawaii Climate Change & Health Working Group**  
**Hawaii State Capitol Room 329**  
**August 20, 2015**

**Attending**

Judy Kern, Emi Chutaro, Kristin Jaspers (alternate for Victoria Keener), Dr. Robert Hirokawa, Dr. Seiji Yamada, Dr. Nancy Lewis, Jessica Wooley, Dr. Tai Ho Chen, Rear Admiral Colin Chinn, Jessica Yamauchi, Prof. Maxine Burkett, Victoria Rayle (alternate for Bill Gallo), Dr. Virginia Pressler (Chair), Nancy Partika (Co-Chair)

**Guests**

Sam Lemmo – presenter, Dr. Sarah Park – presenter, Rep Della Belatti, Gregg Nakano-DOH, Tom Eisen-DOH, Natalie Farinholt, (Sam Lemmo’s office), Lauren Yasaka (Sam Lemmo’s office), Maile Sakamoto-DOH, Laura McIntyre-DOH, Holly Kessler-HPHA, Sharon Lum-HPHA Intern.

**Opening Remarks**

Dr. Virginia Pressler stated “We are not going to change climate but we can make an impact now. We need to adapt and mitigate climate change that will have impacts on all groups – young, elderly, poor.”

Nancy Partika stated “We hope to accomplish critical recommendations and steps Hawaii needs to make moving forward.”

**Introductions of Work Group Panel**

Each panelist gave a short introduction on their background.

- Judy Kern (Disease Outbreak Control Division)- wants to bring about communal work and engagement, usage of her communication skills, inform on climate change and preparedness
- Emi Chutaro (PIHOA)-from the Marshall Islands, where climate change is affecting families and islanders tremendously, need immediate resolutions to natural disasters
- Kristin Jaspers (alternate for Dr. Victoria Keener)-involved in national climate assessments
- Robert Hirokawa (Hawaii Primary Care Association)
- Seiji Yamada (JABSOM)- teaches at UH medical school, involved in studying typhoon affected areas, most recently hurricane Haiyan in the Philippines
- Nancy Lewis – has been working on climate change for 10 years, with an emphasis and focus on women in climate change
- Jessica Wooley (Hawaii State Office of Environment Quality Control)-interested in environmental justice
- Tai Ho Chen (Quarantine medical officer)
- Jessica Yamaguchi (HPHI)
- Vicky Rayle (alternate for Bill Gallo (CDC)- worked on HIV/AIDS prevention, supports this work group as Gallo may not be present
- Maxine Burkett (UH Law School) - studies climate change, law, and policies surrounding the topic. Research on climate justice and migration.
- Colin Chinn (PACOM Command Surgeon)- US Pacific Command, Department of Defense
- Dr. Virginal Pressler (Director Department of health)
- Nancy Partika (President - HPHA)



### **Resolution Overview/Work Group Outcomes**

Goal is to come up with recommendations before the start of the new legislative session, and to continue working on these ideas after the session's ends. There is no strategic plan this year, only resource gathering. Long-term outcome is to get a permanent DOH position funded to address climate change and health.

**Deliverables** – WG produces recommendation to the Department of Health. DOH transmits to Legislature.

- Work group will prepare a report of findings and recommendations
- Identify key issues to address first
- Identify what the legislature needs to know
- Identify potential partners to accomplish goals

### **Presentations:**

- **Sam Lemmo** - Office of Conservation of Coastal Land-Administrator
- **Dr. Tai Ho Chen** - Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention
- **Dr. Sarah Park** – State of Hawaii Epidemiologist

### **Questions/Comments**

- There are 70 diseases that need to be reported to DOH which is relatively the same as all other US states. Regional information sharing is important to contain health outbreaks and must be supported.
- The correlation of climate change and health. We need to be sure that connection is made.
- Concern for hot days in the schools; how this climate affects DOE/DOT air conditioning.
- International cruise crews supposed to record disease on board
- Airline partners are better at reporting and recording illnesses than seaports.
- Crowding will worsen the health conditions for Hawaii.
- Chronic disease and surveillance of health – what should we do?
- Being able to measure health indicators and the data to determine trends.
- Hawaii needs to look at infectious disease overlaid with other data to look for links. Overlay chronic disease, behavior health issues, etc. They are all related to environmental health. We do not have enough data in these areas.
- Existing diseases will be exacerbated by climate change.
- Public health in Hawaii is still evolving and is currently more services driven. We need to conduct more assessments to see if we are doing the job properly.

### **Follow-up:**

Need a variety of resources to support particular topics to recommend how the state should move forward concerning certain issues. Any issues panelists wish to propose for future work group sessions are encouraged. Possible topics – water safety, heat related impacts, environmental refugees. Air-conditioning issue in schools – discussion so far has been in legislature. We need to give the legislature a “kick” indicating impacts of heat on the body. Any experts or recommendations in this area?

**Next meeting: September 17, 2015, Capitol Room 329**