



**Hawaii Climate Change & Health Working Group  
Hawaii State Capitol Room 329  
September 17, 2015 Meeting Notes**

**Attending**

Judy Kern, Billie Hiraishi, Regie Tolenfino (alternates for Emi Chutaro), Dr. Laura Brewington (alternate for Victoria Keener), Dr. Robert Hirokawa, Dr. Seiji Yamada, Dr. Nancy Lewis, Tom Eisen (alternate for Jessica Wooley), Dr. Tai Ho Chen, Dr. Danny Shiau (alternate for Rear Admiral Colin Chinn), Prof. Maxine Burkett, Dr. Victoria Rayle, Dr. Virginia Pressler (Chair), Nancy Partika (Co-Chair)

**Guests**

Ethan Allen- PREL, Barry Choy, Randy Bartlett, Laura McIntyre-DOH, Holly Kessler-HPHA, Sharon Lum

**Welcome**

Dr. Virginia Pressler and Nancy Partika welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Meeting notes from August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting 1 were distributed.

**Presentation #1:**

- **Dr. Laura Brewington** – East West Center Research Fellow; Program Manager for the Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments program, **“Climate Change: Water & Food Access, Security & Safety Issues for Hawaii and the Pacific”**

**Discussion and Recommendations:**

- Emphasis currently is on environmental impacts on climate change—need to do more collaborative work on climate change impacts on health
- DOH should have access to the presentation. There was so much important information shared here that has not been previously published.
- There is much data and science collected to support how climate change affects health. Need to inform the public of these forecasts
- Goal is “translation into practice”
- How to put these action items into data the public can use and understand
- We need public education of the impacts of climate change on health
- There is a causal piece – human effects on climate change so we are not only reactionary.
- Community level action items
- For example, in areas where water catchment is utilized, need to inform communities to start saving ground water.
- Need this adaptation piece
- Possible grant funding for these activities?
- How does this fit in with the Aloha+ Challenge?
- What are the renewable energy effects on climate change?
- IPAC (Interagency Climate Impact Agency Charter) is up for amendment. Create an office on Climate Change? Public education outreach is a critical piece here.
- Human inputs on climate change
- There are large scale social and economic forces in play that have impact on water. This needs to be brought to the public’s attention.



- Need examples of success and innovation on the local, regional and global levels.
- Water reclamation – DOH and DLNR are looking at this.
- CDC BRACE grant – We need to apply as a State for this funding for adaptation planning.

### **Presentation #2**

- **Dr. Tai Ho Chen** - Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention, “**Climate Change and Health: Vector-borne infectious diseases in Hawaii & the Pacific**”

### **Discussion and Recommendations:**

- Public health surveillance is important, we need to track and monitor. Frequency - monthly vs. quarterly?
- Marine pathogen surveillance is very important
- Potential exposures: temperature vs. virus
- 10 years ago a team from UH studied the correlations between El Nino and Dengue. Dengue affects various regions very site specific. El Nino helps mosquitoes breed.
- So what needs to be done? Do we wait until something happens? How do we prepare?
- Not going to study and recommend a vaccine for dengue if it's not an imminent threat to Hawaii.
- Current surveillance is aimed at specific threats – not diseases that we are not experiencing.
- Need a good surveillance plan, then a plan of action.
- Scenario planning – need to explore further in future planning sessions.
- We don't know what will work yet to prevent. Spraying mosquitoes is unknown tactic.
- Singapore has great resources for mitigating dengue. They were able to concrete it. Also able to create surveillance, structure, and treatment for those affected by the disease.
- Example tires held swarms of mosquitos. This becomes a waste management issue. Who can we give tires to in order to make use of them? Is there a demand?
- Is there minimal amount to start addressing issues? We need public education.
- Are repellents and coils useful? We need plans of action immediately. AC and trade winds - does this pose a problem for dengue?
- How does vog play into all of this? Problem as it becomes air pollutant, and causes cardiovascular diseases, as well as asthma and respiratory problems.
- We need surveillance in Hawaii and in the broader Asian countries.
- Do we have resources for vector control and surveillance?
- Adaptation planning and funding is important for local, regional and national planning.

### **Follow-up:**

- Presentations will be provided to the group via email.
- HPHA is creating an informal speakers bureau on climate change. If you are interested in sharing your expertise with the community and other groups, HPHA has been receiving requests for presentations. If you are interested, let Nancy know [nantika@hawaii.edu](mailto:nantika@hawaii.edu) .

**Next meeting: Thursday, October 15, 2015, 9:30am to 12noon, State Capitol Room 329**