

Virginia Pressler MD



Dr. Virginia Pressler is Director of Health for the State of Hawaii Disease Outbreak Control, Family Health, Emergency Medical Services, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Developmental Disabilities, Environmental Health, State Laboratories, Behavioral Health, Hawaii State Hospital, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and other public health services. She also oversees a number of administratively attached agencies such as the State Health Planning and Development Agency, Office of Language Access, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Executive Office on Aging, and others.

Previously Dr. Pressler was Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH), a non-profit healthcare network that includes Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Straub Clinic & Hospital, Pali Momi Medical Center, and Wilcox Hospital & Kauai Medical Clinic on Kauai.

Prior to joining Hawaii Pacific Health, Dr. Pressler's career included Deputy Director of the Hawaii State Dept. of Health, President & CEO of the Queen's/HMSA Premier Plan, Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems, Director of Surgical Education at The Queen's Medical Center, Associate Professor of surgery at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, private practice in general surgery, and five years in management at Bank of Hawaii. Dr. Pressler holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University, and MBA, MS in physiology and MD degrees from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Dr. Pressler has been active in the community in a wide variety of volunteer roles including past board member and secretary of the YMCA, past board member of the Hawai'i Society of Clinical Oncology, Chair of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i, Past President of the Hawaii Pacific Division of the American Cancer Society and a National Assembly Delegate for the American Cancer Society. She is past chair of the Cancer Center of Hawai'i and former vice chair of the Board of North Hawai'i Community Hospital. She is an ex officio member of the board of the Hawaii Health System Corporation (HHSC), the Commission on Water Resource Management, the Hawaii Medical Education Council, and others. She is also on the Board of the Employee Union Trust Fund. She has served on numerous state commissions and task forces. Dr. Pressler also served on a U.S. Congressional Commerce Committee on health information technology and served on the Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality for the Secretary of Health & Human Services Kathleen Sebelius.

As Deputy Director of the Hawai'i State Department of Health, Dr. Pressler initiated the Tobacco Trust Fund, the Healthy Hawaii Initiative, the Hawai'i Outcomes Institute, the Hawaii Uninsured Project and helped initiate the Hawaii Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, serving as chair from 2003 to 2005.

Dr. Pressler is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Business Leadership Hawai'i Lifetime Achievement Award, and awards from the Shidler College of Business, Hawai'i Institute for Public Affairs, American Cancer Society St. George National Award, Planned Parenthood, Hawaii Medical Association, Healthcare Association of Hawaii, YWCA, University of Hawai'i Distinguished Alumni, and others.