

Establishing the Hawai'i Working Group on Climate Change and Health: Encouraging public health focus on the impacts of climate change through intersectoral collaboration, key partnerships and greater community involvement

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Hawai'i Climate Change and Health Initiative: 2013-2015

- In 2013, HPHA's Board began discussing the public health response to climate change and its impacts on health
- In 2014, HPHA applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from APHA, to establish and implement a public policy project, called **Health in All Policies (HIAP)**
- Our overall aim was to address the social determinants of health by focusing on climate change and its consequences on health outcomes, through adoption of new state policy
- Following an HPHA Climate Change and Health survey of HPHA membership (August-Sept. 2014), an October 2014 Stakeholders Briefing was held at the State Capitol, where survey information and other climate change and health presentations were shared

HPHA Climate Change and Health Survey

Key Findings

Climate Change IS a Public Health Issue

- Approximately **58%** of public health professionals responding were "very concerned" about the potential impacts of Climate Change on health on Hawai'i residents or felt that it was the number one health issue today
- Just over **29%** were "somewhat concerned"
- Approximately **66%** felt that the impacts of Climate Change on health in Hawai'i received "little to no attention"
- Less than **6%** felt that the impacts of Climate Change on Health have received "a lot or too much attention"

In terms of human health consequences, the key Climate Change and Health risks for Hawai'i (based on IPCC risk factors) were identified by HPHA members to be:

- Asthma, Respiratory Allergies and Airway Diseases
- Foodborne Diseases and Nutrition
- Heat-Related Morbidity and Mortality
- Cancer

Conclusions

- Current perceptions of Climate Change and Health factors appear to be based on personal knowledge, rather than a more coordinated public health response
- Public Health needs to discuss these emerging/perceived threats to determine a coordinated effective response to Climate Change and Health
- Public health professionals appear to be ready to do their part, if provided the education, skills and resources

ALOHA! For More Information:

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The Hawai'i Public Health Association

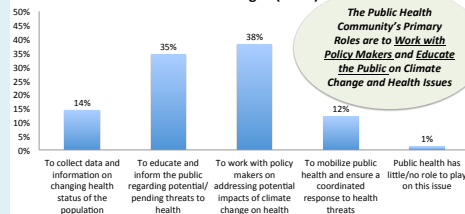
HPHA is an affiliate of the APHA and an association of community members, public health professionals and organizations dedicated to improving public health. HPHA represents a membership of over 650 practitioners, professionals, and students in the field of public health statewide. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA strives to promote health equity and overall well-being in Hawai'i by:

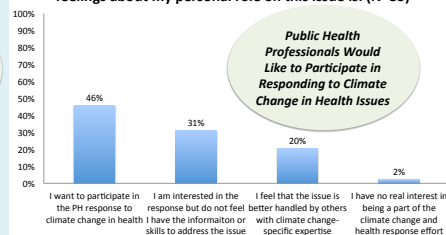
- providing leadership and education on public health issues
- promoting advocacy and supporting coalitions for healthy communities, populations and environments
- fostering networks and training opportunities for public health professionals



What do you see as the PRIMARY ROLE of the public health community in addressing health-related effects of climate change? (N=84)



In terms of climate change and its health impacts, my feelings about my personal role on this issue is: (N=83)

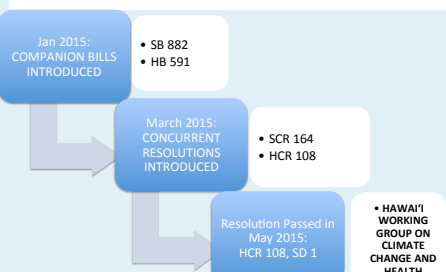


Hawai'i Legislative and Policy Advocacy Climate Change and Health: Spring 2015

- Following an HPHA-organized briefing on climate change and health held at the State Capitol on October 23, 2014, the decision was made to work with key state legislators to introduce a climate change and health bill (HB 591 and SB 882).
- During initial hearings on the 2 bills, resistance emerged that focused on HB 591 proposing to amend the Hawai'i Climate Adaptation Initiative Act 83, Session Laws of Hawai'i, 2014.
- The stated purpose of Act 83 was to address the effects of climate change to protect the State's economy, health, environment, and way of life.
- Act 83 established an interagency climate adaptation committee within the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).
- The proposed Act 83 climate change and natural would first and foremost focus on and develop sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation reports. DLNR opposed revisiting this intent.
- HPHA negotiated a new approach to establishing climate change and health as a resolution rather than a bill

HPHAs Role in HCR 108

- Drafted and edited companion bills SB 882 and HB 591 relating to the establishment of a Climate Change and Health Working Group
- Wrote concurrent resolutions SCR 164 and HCR 108 relating to the establishment of a Climate Change and Health Working Group (no funding)
- Collaborated with other public and private sector organizations to testify in support of the bills and resolutions
- Provided lead testimony at House and Senate Health and Environment hearings related to the bills and resolutions



Implementation of House Concurrent Resolution HCR 108, SD1

"Requested the convening of a Hawai'i Climate Change and Health Working Group by the Dept. of Health to assess the scope of risks of climate change on the health of Hawai'i's residents and to develop a strategic plan to address climate change risks to health statewide"

Hawai'i Climate Change and Health Working Group Goals

Working Group Deliverables

- Produce preliminary report and recommendations to the Department of Health (DOH), which DOH transmits to the 2016 Legislature
 - Identify key issues to address first and potential resources (e.g. CDC's BRACE Initiative)
 - Identify potential partners to accomplish goals
- ### Long-term Objectives
- Establish DOH position to address climate change and health coordination within the DOH and the Public Health workforce
 - Seek resources to support adaptation efforts
 - Train and educate public health workforce and community on adapting to climate change while addressing evolving health-related issues

Working Group Updates

Working Group members (15) identified and invited in June 2015
First monthly meeting held in August 2015
Working Group co-chaired by DOH and HPHA

Meeting agendas to date include:

- Meeting 1: Aug 20, 2015:** Focus: Introduction to WG; overview of HCR108, SD1 and HCCWG purpose; Climate Change Hawai'i activities; Developing, improving, integrating and maintaining state and regional disease surveillance systems and monitoring capacity to respond to health-related effects of climate change
- Meeting 2: Sept. 17, 2015:** Focus: Water security, food safety, and vector-borne infectious diseases
- Meeting 3: Oct. 15, 2015:** Focus: Respiratory and pulmonary effects, including responses to air allergens; The health effects of air pollution, including heightened sensitivity to air pollution; Brief overview of the implications of climate change for the world and Hawai'i; The need for action on climate change starting yesterday
- Meeting 4: Nov. 19, 2015:** Focus: Cardiovascular effects, including impacts of temperature extremes; Mental and behavioral health impacts of climate change in the health of displaced persons and at-risk populations and communities; CDC BRACE resources on climate adaptation

Hawai'i Climate Change and Health Initiative: Lessons Learned to Date

- Involve your Affiliate membership in the issue
- Use APHA Climate Change and Health resources
- Invite all interested state and community organizations to the table
- Include college students/future leaders in the process
- Revisit goals frequently
- Seek partners for research and information sharing
- Provide start-up support for development and implementation, even if it is an unfunded venture