



Hawaii Climate Change & Health Working Group Meeting #6
Department of Health Room, First Floor Board Room
January 21, 2016

Attending

Dr. Virginia Pressler (Chair), Nancy Partika (Co-Chair), Dr. Seiji Yamada, Dr. Tai Ho Chen, Barry Choy, Jessica Yamauchi, Nancy Lewis, Maxine Burkett, Victoria Keener, Krista Jaspers

Guests

Gerald Ohta, Daniel Lin, Vicky Rayle, Elizabeth Erickson, Marilyn Chow, Tom Eisen, Greg Nanako, Zena Grecni, Holly Kessler-HPHA, Sharon Lum-HPHA Intern, Shelby Wardle-HPHA Intern

Welcome

Virginia Pressler welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Meeting notes from December 17, 2015 were distributed. CCHWG report and recommendations was submitted to DOH in December 2015 and DOH has since submitted it to the legislature. A copy of the report is posted on the HPHA website.

Presentation:

Maxine Burkett –Associate Professional of Law, University of Hawaii: **“Connections between Climate Change and Migration to/from Hawaii: How that May Affect Health and Well-Being”**

Presentation is available on HPHA website: www.hawaiipublichealth.org

Discussion and Recommendations:

- Trying to get better research on how climate affects migration. This is a big issue.
- Global picture vs. Hawaii – need to pay attention to both.
- Refugees may not only be environmental/climate related, can also be socio-economic.
- Economic refugees may be climate related but categorized overall because of political term as refugee.
- Migration status not the same as refugee status with regard to the law.
- Need to introduce political concept of migration refugee and parameters.
- How will sea level rise affect migration in Hawaii?

Discussion and plans for future meetings:

- Discussion relating to upcoming working group meetings and topics/issues to address for February – May 2016 meetings
- Post report activity? – CCHWG is to be dissolved in June 2016, unless DOH decides otherwise.
- What will be on-going efforts with regard to Climate Change?
- Need to strengthen the recommendations of the Report in the next 6 months.
- How can we develop a resource compilation on who is going to be responsible for Climate Change for the State in the future? Please provide information of any known resources to HPHA interns Sharon Lum at sharonss@hawaii.edu and Shelby Wardle swardle@my.hpu.edu who will work to compile a resource list.
- Need a set of indicators to track climate change and health issues on regional assessment.
- CCHWG Report Page 18 has Conclusions and Recommendations.
- DOH is working to get Dengue under control on Big Island at this time.



- No vector control branch at the moment
- Need emergency funding to support DOH efforts
- Raising awareness, decrease mosquito population
- DOH not expert on Climate Change
- Public Health piece needs to be rebuilt
- We need to expand resources and rebuild division on vector control
- Collaboration-DOH needs help from other community members
- How do we build that research and partnership? Do we need a lead and co-lead? Who takes this responsibility? University? Department of Defense? State?
- We need to come up with health impacts. Like avian flu - we once built awareness with a short video that highlighted health effects of avian flu, and it was mandatory to watch.
- Will this be an output of the group?
- Shelby Wardle, HPHA intern, is working on infographic on Hawaii climate change and health
- What can we do about COFA insurance coverage? Can Medicaid be reinstated to them?
- DHS and DOH working on getting COFA migrants coverage

Next meeting: February 18 at 9:00am to 10:30am-this meeting will be focused on health-related mosquito research and efforts within the Navy, JABSOM and other experts in Hawaii, with agenda to be coordinated by Dr. Tai Ho Chen and Judy Kern.