



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

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HAWAII OBSERVES WORLD AIDS DAY

HONOLULU - On Wednesday, December 1st, Hawaii will join communities throughout the world in a unified observance of World AIDS Day. This is the only international day of coordinated action against AIDS and it serves to open channels of communication, strengthen the exchange of information and experience, and forge a spirit of social tolerance.

The theme for 2004 World AIDS Day in Hawaii is "**Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS**".

According to Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, young women and girls are more susceptible to HIV than men and boys. Studies show females can be 2.5 times more likely to be HIV-infected as their male counterparts. Approximately half of all people living with HIV in the world are female.

Governor Linda Lingle has issued a proclamation declaring December 1 to be World AIDS Day in Hawaii and encourages residents to reaffirm their commitment to combating HIV and AIDS and supporting those affected by the disease.

In acknowledgment of World AIDS Day, in memory of those who have passed away, in recognition of those living with HIV/AIDS, and in appreciation for the dedicated health care professionals working with those affected by HIV/AIDS, a calendar of Hawaii World AIDS Day

(more)

events follows. Those interested in participating in World AIDS Day are welcome to attend these events or contact the Department of Health STD/AIDS Prevention Branch at (808) 733-9281 for further information.

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Hawaii State Department of Health
HIV/AIDS FACT SHEET

The following are current data that reflect the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Hawaii:

- It is estimated that there are 2,300 to 3,200 individuals in Hawaii who are HIV positive
- Since 1983, there have been 2,876 reported cases of AIDS in Hawaii (to June 30, 2004).
- A total of 106 new AIDS cases were reported during this last year (July 2003 to June 2004). Of these AIDS cases, 93 percent were among males.
- Twenty-seven percent of AIDS cases reported to June 30th 2004, were among Asians and Pacific Islanders.
- Hawaii has a relatively low rate of reported AIDS cases among injection drug users (seven percent). This is due in part to the statewide needle exchange program, which has been in operation since 1990.

In the United States:

- Approximately 40,000 new infections occur in the U.S. each year.
- An estimated 1 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S.; an estimated 250,000 of these individuals are unaware that they are infected.
- Seventy percent of new infections occur among men, although women are significantly affected.
- There are more people living with AIDS in the U.S. than ever before. At the end of 2003, an estimated 385,000 people were living with AIDS, currently the fifth leading cause of death among people 25 – 44 in the U.S. These data reflect an increasing need for continued HIV prevention services, as well as treatment and care.

Internationally:

- 42 million people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS around the world.
- An estimated 5 million people acquired HIV in 2003, including 2 million women and 800,000 children under the age of 15.
- During 2003, AIDS caused the deaths of an estimated 3.1 million people, including 1.2 million women and 610,000 children under the age of 15.
- Women are becoming increasingly affected by HIV. Approximately 50%, or 19.2 million of the 38.6 million adults living with HIV or AIDS worldwide, are women.

OAHU WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT – Wednesday, December 1ST

- St. Andrews Cathedral in Queen Emma Square at 5:30 p.m. (free parking available in church lot; overflow paid parking on road side). The World AIDS Day event in Honolulu will feature stories about women around the world who have dedicated their lives to fighting AIDS. The local AIDS organizations that have planned the event will be present to offer information on how people can get involved in the fight against AIDS. These organizations include the Hawai'i Cares, Life Foundation, State of Hawaii Department of Health, and West Oahu Hope For a Cure Foundation.

The event will honor those lost in the epidemic with a display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Those courageously living with HIV/AIDS today will also be recognized, as will the many people who have contributed to helping fight the disease and to assisting individuals and families affected by AIDS. Following the ceremony in the church sanctuary, there will be refreshments.

- Blaisdell Center, Oahu Room, 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., presented by the African American Education Cultural Center Hawaii. This service will focus on the HIV epidemic among African Americans. RSVP to Carey: 523-7406 or 597-1341.
- Kapiolani Community College will have information tables displayed at the cafeteria from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., and speakers from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. to promote World AIDS Day.
- The Hawaii Department of Education is making World AIDS Day packets available to public schools statewide. These packets contain information and brochures about HIV for both students and teachers. The DOE has also provided schools with red ribbons and pins so students can make their own World AIDS Day ribbons. Statewide, more than 57,000 public school students will be wearing these red ribbons on December 1st to mark World AIDS Day.

NEIGHBOR ISLAND WORLD AIDS DAY EVENTS
Wednesday, DECEMBER 1ST (Unless otherwise noted)

Big Island

There will be an Interfaith candlelight ceremony at Hulihee Palace in Kona. Representatives from various religious groups will attend and there will be a memorial time for those who wish to speak.

In Hilo, there will be a candlelight ceremony and a memorial tree where people can put the names of loved ones on ornaments on the tree. Mayor Kim has tentatively agreed to speak at the ceremony and make an official county proclamation of World AIDS Day for the entire island.

Kauai

- **November 28** - Church of the Pacific, Princeville: will have handouts about the Quilt, World AIDS Day, and the Winter Ball. The sermon will be delivered on HIV/AIDS.
- **December 1** - Island School, Lihue: Educators will make a presentation about the quilt and HIV prevention.
- **December 4** - Winter Ball and Silent Auction, Kilohana Carriage House, Lihue: Red ribbons and information table at Dance.
- **December 6 - 10** - Kauai Community College, Lihue: Information table in front of the library with brochures and ribbons will be setup.

Maui

- **World AIDS Day Observance and Ceremony of Hope** – A ceremony in remembrance of the many friends and family members lost to HIV/AIDS and a recognition and celebration for those living with HIV disease and AIDS will be held at Trinity By the Sea Episcopal Church in Kihei from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

- **Dine Out For Life** – A select group of Maui restaurants, on World AIDS Day, will have HIV educational and awareness information available for customers. Additionally, these restaurants will donate a portion of their proceeds to Maui AIDS Foundation.

Information on these and other neighbor island World AIDS Day activities are available by calling:

- **Maui: Maui AIDS Foundation at (808) 242-4900.**
- **Big Island: Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation**
 - **West Hawaii: (808) 331-8177.**
 - **East Hawaii: (808) 981-2428.**
- **Kauai: Malama Pono, the HIV/AIDS service agency on Kauai, at (808) 246-9577.**

For more information, on World AIDS Day, please call Nancy Kern at the STD/AIDS Prevention Branch of the Hawaii Department of Health at (808) 733-9281.