



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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KAUA'I STRENGTHENS BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS MEASURES

LIHUE - The Hawaii State Department of Health Kaua'i District Health Office is holding its second annual conference on bioterrorism preparedness, February 2- 4 at the Kaua'i Marriott Beach Resort in Lihue.

Over 150 public health professionals, medical care providers, emergency responders, and community leaders from across the state will gather to learn greater bioterrorism preparedness and emergency. "The field of emergency preparedness is always changing; you can never be too prepared," said David Lane, Ph.D., Bioterrorism Preparedness Planner for the Kauai District Health Office. "Bringing all the players to the table – health, law enforcement, and private industry - is the best way to ensure an effective and efficient response during an emergency, including a bioterrorism event."

The Hawaii State Department of Health is working with Kaua'i Civil Defense, Kaua'i Police and Fire departments, island hospitals, and community partners to develop plans and procedures to respond to a bioterrorism event such as a release of a biological agent like anthrax or smallpox.

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Presenters at the conference include nationally-recognized speakers Dr. Scott Lillibridge, University of Texas and former Center for Disease Control Branch Chief in Bioterrorism, Dr. Eric Noji, U.S. Department of Defense, and Dr. Mark Keim, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Other invited presenters include: Dr. Paul Effler, Hawaii State Epidemiologist, Toby Clairmont, Healthcare Association of Hawaii, Ken Lee, Hawaii Chapter of the American Red Cross, and Dr. Jeff Goodman of Kilauea.

Cost of the three-day conference is \$150 (including lunch). Continuing education credits are available for nurses. For more information, contact Reina Yonesaki at (808) 241-3595 at the Kauai District Health Office.

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