



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**U.S. SURGEON GENERAL TO DELIVER OPENING KEYNOTE AT
SEPTEMBER DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONFERENCE**

HONOLULU – Dr. Richard Carmona, Surgeon General of the United States, will address national and local leaders in public health, health care, business and government as they gather in Honolulu on September 9-10 at the Sheraton Waikiki to discuss the complex issues related to advancing the health system in Hawaii. Presented by the Hawaii State Department of Health, ***Health Care in Hawaii: The Price of Progress*** provides a unique opportunity for health professionals and consumers to take a first-hand approach to learning about and discussing Hawaii's health care system and what it takes to effect meaningful change in this area. The opening session will also feature Governor Linda Lingle to help set the direction for the two-day forum.

Health Director Chiyome Fukino, M.D. said, "Critical to tipping the momentum toward valid change is the involvement of an informed public and private sectors. We are very pleased to have Dr. Carmona speak to us about national efforts to address health system change and what steps Hawaii might take to move forward. This conference is an opportunity for us to learn together about the complex issues facing the health of our people, communities, islands and nation, and the systems that support them."

Discussion forums will include: federal perspectives on Medicare, promoting access to affordable quality health care, rural health concerns, the role of physicians in shaping health policy, the hospital crisis, and public health prevention strategies. Compelling topics will examine Hawaii's rapidly aging population and the continuum of long-term care needs; the health effects of genetically modified organisms; national efforts to prevent agro-terrorism; and the state of all hazard preparedness in Hawaii.

Vice Admiral Richard Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., FACS was sworn in as the 17th Surgeon General of the United States in 2002. Prior to his Presidential appointment, Dr. Carmona was chairman of the State of Arizona Southern Regional Emergency Medical system, a professor of surgery, public health and family and community medicine at the University of Arizona, and the Pima County Sheriff's Department surgeon and deputy sheriff. He has also served as a medical director of police and fire departments and is a fully-qualified peace officer with expertise in special operations and emergency preparedness, including weapons of mass destruction.

This event has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint sponsorship of the Hawaii

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Consortium for Continuing Medical Education and the Hawaii Department of Health, Director's Office. The HCCME is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Hawaii Consortium for Continuing Medical Education designates this educational activity for a maximum of 11.5 category 1 credits toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award.

For a detailed agenda, more information and to register, visit www.hawaii.gov/health.

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