



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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Department of Health Releases Hawaii's First Asthma Strategic Plan

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) announces the release of the first asthma strategic plan for the state. The Hawaii Asthma Plan is a result of a three-year collaborative effort between DOH and numerous community partners, and represents the unified vision of individuals and organizations across the state of Hawaii. This plan creates a framework within which healthcare organizations can work together to improve the quality of care for people with asthma, while focusing on health disparities. It is based on the current needs of Hawaii's communities and is supported by an explicit set of guiding principles, goals, objectives, and strategies.

According to recent data from the Department of Health, nearly 80,000 people in Hawaii have asthma. Asthma is a serious, costly and common disease, especially among children and Native Hawaiians.

"For the first time, we have a coordinated, statewide plan to work with our dedicated partners to achieve success in the fight against asthma, and to help those who are living with the disease," said Health Director Chiyome Fukino, MD. "I encourage everyone to work together to improve the quality and years of healthy life for individuals, families, and communities affected by asthma."

(more)

In October 2005, over 2,000 copies of the plan were disseminated to healthcare professionals and organizations statewide. The Hawaii Asthma Plan serves as a call to action to improve Hawaii's asthma surveillance, empower individuals with asthma, develop a more effective health system and improve our environment.

In December 2005 and January 2006, the Hawaii State Asthma Control Program will unveil the plan at Island Asthma Coalition meetings statewide. The purpose of these meetings is to provide seed funding to coalitions to begin implementation of culturally appropriate interventions for asthma in their communities.

For more information on the Hawaii Asthma Plan or Island Asthma Coalition meetings, please contact the Hawaii State Asthma Control Program at (808) 692-7472 or email asthma@doh.hawaii.gov.

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