

**REPORT TO THE
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
2007**

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND

**PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 321-27, HAWAII REVISED
STATUTES, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND**

**PREPARED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE OF HAWAII**

November 2006

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND FINANCES AND ACTIVITIES DURING FY 2006

The Environmental Health Education Fund supports the training of food establishment personnel and Department of Health staffs; as well as educational outreach to the general public regarding food safety. This report provides a broad overview of the functional role of the Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) and how its activities relate to the Environmental Health Education Fund to demonstrate the significance of this fund to public health.

This report is submitted under Section 321-27(d), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which states that the Department “shall submit a report to the Legislature concerning the status of the Environmental Health Education Fund, including, but not limited to the amount of monies taken in and expended from the fund, and the sources of receipts and uses of expenditures...”

EHSD AND ITS APPROACH TO PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

The mission of the EHSD branches is to optimize public health and environmental practices through prevention, assessment, compliance, and education. In performing these functions, the programs within EHSD must be able to prevent or reduce the occurrence of any environmentally-related communicable diseases, illnesses, or injury from contaminated food products, defective medical devices or vectors.

The programs in EHSD are in the following branches: Sanitation; Food and Drug; Vector Control; and, Noise, Radiation and Indoor Air Quality. The Division staff are professionals with capabilities for assessing food contamination and adulteration; inspecting and permitting food establishments; evaluating x-ray devices and other sources of radiation; measuring and testing stationary noise standards; evaluating and monitoring for indoor air quality, asbestos and lead; assessing concerns of unsanitary conditions; responding to and resolving nuisance complaints relating to environmentally-related conditions; and, abating vectors in public areas.

Staff training, public education, information management, and program enhancement are significant division activities, focusing on maximizing program efficiency and effectiveness. The Environmental Health Education Fund allows the Division the appropriate mechanism to provide on-going education for updating and cross-training staff with the technological and organizational changes.

The current EHSD emphasis on education of the public and motivation of operators to comply with applicable standards and regulations has remained unchanged. Compliance with rules to protect public health, not enforcement per se, is the primary objective of the EHSD programs. The fund is thus a vital component in this long-range plan, which includes education for the industries that the Division regulates. The premise is that both education and public outreach efforts enhance compliance. Wide dissemination of information concerning the technical and scientific basis for the program’s regulatory requirements should contribute to a clearer understanding of the necessity for compliance. Education is always continuous,

particularly with regards to new scientific findings and new technologies. An informed public with a clear understanding of the public health rationale of program functions and corresponding regulatory requirements is a fundamental goal in assuring that potential environmental health problems are identified and resolved before actual illness, injury or fatality occurs.

EHEF FINANCES

As authorized in Section 321-27(a), HRS, the Department can collect and deposit fees for permits, licenses, inspections, various certificates, variances and investigations and reviews into the fund pursuant to Sections 321-11.5(a)(c) and 321-15, HRS.

For fiscal year 2006 revenues collected and deposited into the fund totaled \$679,971.00. The primary sources of funds were collected statewide from permit fees for food establishments, plan reviews, temporary food applications, and license fees for tattoo artists, registered sanitarians, embalmers, laboratory technologists and laboratory directors.

For fiscal year 2006, expenditures including personnel costs and encumbrances totaled \$585,614.00

For fiscal year 2006, expenditures totaled \$505,800 for personnel and operating costs of two Registered Sanitarian IV's in the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program (located on the Island of Hawaii and Oahu, respectively), an IT Specialist IV, and an IT Specialist III. The two Registered Sanitarians in the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program provide educational and training opportunities for food establishments statewide, which are consistent with Section 321-402, HRS. The IT Specialist IV and III provide the Division with technical support for managing the Division's data system and assisting the programs on computer matters.

Funds not expended by the end of the fiscal year in excess of \$300,000 are deposited in the general fund.

FOOD SAFETY CONSULTATION & EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

For fiscal year 2006, the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program provided the following services:

Food Handlers Educated

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>
Food Certification Workshops Given:	21
Student Attendance:	392
Students Certified:	332
Food Safety Classes Given:	48
Student Attendance:	665

DOH Staff Educated

The EHEF also provides the programs and personnel of the Environmental Health Services Division the means to provide improved public health services. In addition to on-going workshops conducted by the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program, the following are highlights of fiscal year 2006:

1. The Food & Drug Branch's Program Manager and Section Supervisor participated in a Retail Food Protection Seminar, August 10 – 12, 2005 in Irvine, California.
2. A Food & Drug Branch Section Supervisor attended the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference in Point Clear, Alabama, August 13 – 19, 2005.
3. Two Food & Drug Inspectors participated in the Western Association of Food & Drug Officials Conference, September 11 – 14, 2006 in Phoenix, Arizona.
4. Two Food & Drug Inspectors attended the Food & Drug Administration & United States Department of Agriculture Labeling Requirements in San Diego, California, November 3 – 4, 2005.
5. A Registered Sanitarian from the Sanitation Branch Oahu, whose responsibilities are key to regulating the milk industry in Hawaii, and a Registered Sanitarian from the island of Hawaii, attended the Southwest and Pacific Region Milk Seminar in San Antonio, Texas, November 27 – December 2, 2005.
6. The Vector Control Branch program manager participated in the West Nile Virus prevention, Surveillance & Control Workshop in Sacramento, California, on December 8, 2005.
7. A Food & Drug Inspector attended the Basic Shellfish Plant Sanitation, January 24 – 26, 2006 in Providence, Rhode Island.

8. The Food & Drug Branch program manager and a Food & Drug Inspector attended a seminar on Managing Retail Food Safety in Sacramento, California, January 24 – 26, 2006.
9. A Registered Sanitarian, newly appointed to oversee the milk program in Hawaii, attended a Milk Plant Sanitation & Inspection Course, Vancouver, Washington, February 12 – 17, 2006.
10. The program manager from the Vector Control Branch participated in the 72nd Annual American Mosquito Control Association meeting in Detroit, Michigan, February 26 – March 2, 2006.
11. A Food & Drug Inspector participated in the Shellfish State Standardization seminar, March 12 – 16, 2006 in Cincinnati, Ohio.
12. Sanitation Branch's Program Manager & a Registered Sanitarian responsible for program standards attended the Conference for Food Protection in Columbus, Ohio, April 5 – 13, 2006.
13. A section supervisor from the Food & Drug Branch attended the annual Pacific Rim Shellfish Sanitation Conference in Ketchikan, Alaska, April 24 – 27, 2006.
14. A Food & Drug Branch section supervisor participated in the Interstate Shellfish Shippers Conference Water Quality Workshop in Seattle, Washington on May 9, 2006.
15. A Registered Sanitarian in the milk program participated in the Milk Pasteurization Controls & Test Course in Peoria, Illinois, June 10 – 16, 2006.
16. The Food & Drug Branch program manager and section supervisor attended the American Food & Drug Officials annual conference in Albany, New York, June 17 – 21, 2006.
17. Three Registered Sanitarians, two of which are part of the Food Consultation and Education program, a Food & Drug Branch section supervisor, and a Food & Drug Inspector attended the National Environmental Health Association Annual Education Conference in San Antonio, Texas, June 23 – 29, 2006. The National Environmental Health Association Educational Conference is an annual event, offering various environmental health and protection educational programs and sessions. This conference is one of the largest national conferences providing educational opportunities for knowledge on state-of-the-art technologies, evolution of environmental health, practical information, and information on management skills.

18. Sanitation staff participated in a Strategic Planning Workshop on June 7 & 8, 2006 in Kona, Hawaii. The workshop was attended by all Sanitation Branch staff, statewide, and was significant in developing the program's future goals and objectives.
19. In partnership with the Hawaii Environmental Health Association, the Environmental Health Services Division sponsored the annual education conference on December 1 & 2, 2005. This annual conference provides our staff with educational sessions on food safety, vector control, radiation control, indoor air, and other public health topics.
19. The division also conducted a seminar for all division program staff on Conducting Effective Investigation & Communication Workshop, September 22 & 23, 2006.
20. Various program and division meetings for managers and staff were also conducted.
21. Investments in expanding, upgrading and improving the division's computer infrastructure and information management system continued.

In summary, it would not have been possible to fund many of these program activities, personnel enhancement opportunities, and technology infrastructure advancements without the Environmental Health Education Fund. Prudent utilization of expenditures for FY 2007 will continue to ensure the protection of public health needs through effective and efficient government services.