



National Public Health Week April 6-12, 2009

Building the Foundation for a Healthy America

Many Local Events Planned for National Public Health Week

Frederick ‘Skip’ Burkle, Kekuni Blaisdell, Jory Watland, George Kent, and Cindy Spencer are just 5 of the many renowned speakers and facilitators that will be showcased for 2009 National Public Health Week.

The University of Hawaii public health student group Hui Ola Pono, Office of Public Health Sciences, Department of Health Office of Health Equity, UH Office of International and Exchange Programs, the Hawaii Public Health Association and 12 other groups are cosponsoring a week long series of events with the theme “Health and Human Rights” for National Public Health Week, April 6-12. The week will be kicked off with HPHA’s biannual public health mixer on Monday, April 6th cosponsored by the American Cancer Society and the UH School of Public Health Alumni Association.

[Click here for a detailed listing of the week long events.](#)

In addition to the 20 cosponsors, 12 presenting groups, 8 facilitators and 6 keynote speakers, approximately 10 organizations with mandates related to health and human rights will have tables in B court. Parking refunds will be provided to the first 60 community members and invited organizations to arrive on Tuesday. RSVP or send questions to Kris Coontz at kcoontz@hawaii.edu or Amy at doff@hawaii.edu.

The goals of the week long symposium are to **educate** the public, the academic community and health professionals about the importance of taking a rights-based approach to health issues, to **link** qualified and interested people to specific NGOs, civil society organizations, nonprofits or other organizations that provide leadership on health and human rights issues, to **create** opportunities for networking and synergy between organizations, and to **agitate** for the creation of a Center for Human Rights at the University of Hawaii.

Department of Health Receives U.S. Surgeon General’s Champion Award



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services officials today recognized the Hawai‘i State Department of Health Healthy Hawai‘i Initiative (HHI) for its work to combat childhood obesity in Hawai‘i. Dr. David Rutstein, Chief Medical Officer of the U.S. Public Health Service,

presented a Surgeon General’s Champion Award with Lt. Gov. James R. “Duke” Aiona, Jr. to Health Director Chiyome Fukino, M.D., during an event with students at Waiālae Elementary School. U.S. Navy Lieutenant Andy Baldwin, also known from the reality show “The Bachelor,” led the dignitaries and students in exercise routines demonstrating how physical activity can be fun and rewarding. [Continued...](#)

Search Begins for New Director of UH Mānoa Cancer Center

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw has appointed a search committee for a new Director of the Cancer Research Center of Hawai‘i. Dr. Carl Wilhelm-Vogel resigned as Director last November and Dr. Michele Carbone is currently serving as interim Director.

The panel is chaired by Jay Maddock, Director of Public Health Studies at UH Mānoa, and the Vice Chair is Jackie Young, Chief Staff Officer of the Mission American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific, Inc. [Continued...](#)

Our Mission

Promoting public health in Hawai‘i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy.

Our Vision

Health equity in Hawai‘i and the Pacific and a strong public health workforce able to effectively respond to health challenges.



March 2009



www.hawaiipublichealth.org

Maui Public Health Mixer!



HPHA will be co-hosting our first neighbor island Public Health Mixer on Maui on **Thursday April 9, 2009**. The event will be co-sponsored by the Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition of Maui County and the UH School of Public Health Alumni Association and held at Maui Community College from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Our Mixers on Oahu have been a great success and we are looking forward to meeting more public health professionals on Maui! Flyers for this event and our **April 6th Oahu Public Health Mixer** will be distributed soon.

Because our Keiki Deserve a Healthy Start!

Shannon Reinelt CYW, BSW, Maui Family Support Services



Evidently, our economy is struggling. With this struggle comes rapid job loss, drastically reduced incomes and consequently, increased rates of stress, anxiety and depression among families and communities. The Center for Law and Social Policy (2008) found that instances of child abuse and neglect increase during financial downturns (Lower-Basch, p.2). Healthy Start (HS) provides a safety net to Hawai‘i’s most vulnerable families and infants along with its mission of preventing child abuse and neglect by providing supportive services to at-risk families. A common sense approach in such a desperate time would be to increase safety net programs such as HS, not to dispose of them completely, as Governor Linda Lingle has proposed in her latest budget.

[Continued...](#)

An Appreciation of the Life of Ah Quon

McElrath (December 15, 1915 – December 11, 2008)

Kris Koontz, MPH Student



WWAQD? What would Ah Quon McElrath do? I found myself wondering this today after having the sad honor of attending the memorial of the recently deceased social worker and activist on health reform and other social justice issues. A.Q. McElrath was born in 1915, and began working in the labor movement upon graduating from the University of Hawaii in the mid 1930s. Throughout her long life, and in various roles as an employee of the Hawaii Territorial Board of Public Welfare and the ILWU, a Regent of the University of Hawaii, and co-founder of the Committee on Labor Concerns, she never wavered in her efforts to improve the wellbeing of the most vulnerable. [Continued...](#)