

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.

May 2011

www.hawaiipublichealth.org

Note From the Editor



Please enjoy this special **Big Island edition** of the HPHA newsletter. This month HPHA will be co-sponsoring the evening reception at the Pūlama I Ke Ola Healthcare Conference on May 20, 2011.

We hope to meet a lot of public health professionals and students at this event and increase our membership on the Big Island. HPHA is as strong as its membership! The more members we have—the more we can do for you. Please forward this newsletter along to your Big Island colleagues and encourage them to join HPHA and attend the [Pūlama I Ke Ola Conference!](#)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!



Please meet Amy Doff. Amy is a recent UH OPHS graduate who currently works at the Big Island Academy of Massage in Hilo, where she teaches an introductory class to massage students in human anatomy, physiology, kinesiology and musculoskeletal pathology. Amy has worked in many areas of public health. While at UH Mānoa she evaluated public health programs implemented by the Healthy Hawai'i Initiative on nutrition education, physical activity and the built environment. Last summer she assessed Hawai'i roads for biking, walking and driving safety and allure. She also worked with disabled public housing residents in Honolulu to secure safer homes. These residents were entitled to reasonable accommodations through the Americans with Disabilities Act (such as grab bars and wheelchair ramps) and needed legal muscle to get their requests fulfilled. In 2009 she worked with the Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy to research the health effects climate change has for Hawai'i residents. She generated and presented a plan with practical policy and behavioral adaptations.

She is currently involved with the creation of a documentary film focusing on Hawai'i's food security and actively participates in our food system by growing vegetables and fruit. She is in the preliminary stage of bringing the Healthy Homes Initiative to the Big Island with a fabulous team and is excited to start projects! As a massage therapist, she educates clients on their physiology and guide them to utilize preventive stretching, proper body mechanics and home care techniques to minimize further injury.

Amy's public health interests reach into nearly all possible domains. She is passionate about the shared human needs for clean water and food, safe environment and housing, education, opportunity, respect and stability. She sees a chance to enhance our life experiences by combining community mobilization, sound policy, implementable education, food security and living wages. The possibility of social justice and a high quality of life becoming status quo stimulates her to get involved and ask difficult questions.

Amy is a member of HPHA, SHPAA, NPAC, the Health Planning Council—Hawai'i County Sub area. You can meet Amy at the upcoming Pūlama I Ke Ola Healthcare Conference on May 20th at UH Hilo. Stop by the HPHA table and say hello! She can also be reached at: doff@hawaii.edu

Nominations Committee Members Needed!

This year's HPHA Annual Meeting will be held on September 28, 2011. During this meeting we will be voting on various board positions. If you would like to sit on the Nominations Committee or are interested in becoming a board member please contact Deborah Zysman at: deborah@tobaccofreehawaii.org.

**Pūlama I Ke Ola Healthcare Conference
eHealth – Increasing Access, Improving Health**



The Eighth annual Pūlama Conference features high quality speakers and a diversity of topics. The conference has evolved over the years and divided itself into two distinct days of presentations with one for high school youth considering a career in the healthcare industry and one for healthcare professionals. [Continued...](#)

**HO`ĀLA
Hawai'i's Opportunity for Active Living
Advancement**



HO`ĀLA is a Safe Routes to School initiative launched by PATH with 14 schools and support from the County of Hawai'i in February 2010.

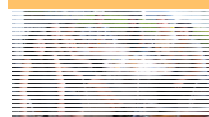
The goal of the HO`ĀLA initiative is to improve the health and safety of our island keiki by making it safer and more fun to walk and bike to and from school. The walk or bike to school offers many benefits including exercise, a chance to see and talk with friends, gain a sense of responsibility, reduce traffic congestion, and save money on gas! A total of 6,862 students, parents, teachers, administrators and supporters took part in this island-wide initiative. [Continued...](#)

**Hawai'i Island School Garden Network
Mission/Goals/Work plan 2010-2011**

The mission of the Hawai'i Island School Garden Network is to assist the development of School Garden Programs, significantly contribute to the increased consumption of locally produced foods, and increase the health, well-being, and academic achievement of the students of Hawai'i Island.

Our Goal is to create a district-wide curriculum strategy and professional development program for teaching the academics, in the context of gardens, where schools become centers for community integration and sustainability education. [Continued...](#)

National Public Health Week Mixer Recap



This year's National Public Health Week Mixer held on April 7, 2011 at Gordon Biersch restaurant was a huge success.

We had our largest turn out so far and everyone had a great time. [Click here](#) to view photos of this event! Mahalo again to our sponsors and to Bamboo Home USA for donating 25% of the evening's gross sales to HPHA. We hope to have an equally wonderful turnout at the HPHA co-sponsored reception in Hilo this month!