



2019

PUBLIC HEALTH FORECAST AND PRIORITY LEGISLATION

prepared by



HAWAI'I
PUBLIC
HEALTH
INSTITUTE

2019 Public Health Forecast:

The start of a new biennial legislature offers promising opportunities, despite uncertainty and instability at the federal level

Healthcare was front and center in the 2018 midterm elections thanks to the Trump Administration's focus on dismantling the Affordable Care Act and Congress effectively repealing the individual mandate. In fact, healthcare was the top issue on voter's minds, beating out the traditional frontrunner: the economy.

Hawai'i lawmakers, seeing the threats from the White House and Congress, were quick to protect certain provisions of the ACA last session by preserving them in state law (Act 111, 2018 Session Laws). Whether or not future lawsuits or federal legislation move forward to challenge the ACA, we can expect the same type of swift action from our lawmakers to preserve health care coverage for our residents.

Hawai'i still faces many challenges despite what national health rankings say. The state spends roughly \$470 million annually on obesity-related medical costs and about \$770 million on diabetes-related medical costs. Hawai'i's health policies need to address the reality that health disparities still exist and that too many residents remain without access to care, resulting in poor health.

This new biennium, along with the election of some new legislators, provides an opportunity to advance progressive policy in Hawai'i. Among the major topics to watch are substance use and mental health, whole person health services, affordable housing policies, value-based payments that focus on patient outcomes, and solutions to high insurance prices.

While discussions of health are always wide-ranging, legislators will likely consider key social determinants of health, which are the factors affecting health outside of the four walls of the hospital. Housing, social services, food security, and education are some of the most common determinants. In some cases, the limited state budget will be a limiting factor in enacting significant change.

In 2018, the legislature introduced 321 bills that were referred to a health committee in the House or Senate, with 37 bills being enrolled to the Governor. With at least 3,000 bills typically introduced each year, this document aims to put the spotlight on key public health legislation expected to be introduced and debated in the 2019 state legislative session.

PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY LEGISLATION

Supporting organizations are listed in alphabetical order.

TOBACCO PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Prohibiting the sale of all flavored tobacco products and vaping liquids, including menthol, to prevent and protect youth from a lifetime addiction to tobacco (Bill)

Supporters: American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Blue Zones Project, Hawai'i Public Health Institute - Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i, see full list of supporters at www.flavorshookkidsHI.org

Regulate electronic smoking devices or e-cigarettes by introducing a tax and requiring a tobacco permit and license in order to sell these tobacco products (Bill)

Supporters: American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Blue Zones Project, Hawai'i Public Health Institute - Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

HEALTHY EATING + ACTIVE LIVING

Make the default beverage in restaurant kids meals a healthy drink by replacing sugary drinks with water or milk (Bill)

Supporters: American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, Blue Zones Project, Hawai'i Initiative for Childhood Obesity Research and Education, Hawai'i Public Health Institute - Obesity Prevention Task Force

Support garden-based learning by creating the Hawai'i School Gardens Program and establishing positions in the Hawai'i Department of Education (Bill)

Supporters: Blue Zones Project, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Establish and fund a P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator within UH CTAHR to expand agriculture education to all students in Hawai'i, from preschool

through post-secondary levels (Bill) Supporters: Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Create a nutrition incentive program that doubles the purchasing power of SNAP recipients when purchasing Hawai'i-grown fresh fruits and vegetables

(Bill) Supporters: American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, Blue Zones Project, Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, Hawai'i Children's Action Network, Hawai'i Food Basket, Hawai'i Public Health Institute - Obesity Prevention Task Force, see full list of supporters at www.doubleuphawaii.org

ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE USE MENTAL HEALTH

Improve the Assisted Community Treatment Act to more effectively assist people with severe mental illness (Bill)
Supporter: Partners in Care

Identify Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) as eligible for Developmental Disabilities services (Bill)
Supporters: Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai'i, Hawai'i Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Action Group

Authorize the Department of Education to provide annual training on students' mental health issues including, but not limited to autism and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (Bill) Supporters: Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai'i, Hawai'i Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Action Group

ECONOMIC JUSTICE & FAMILY HEALTH

Raise the minimum wage to \$17 per hour (Bill)
Supporters: Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, Hawai'i Children's Action Network, Hawai'i Public Health Institute, PHOCUSED Hawai'i

Eliminate the state income tax for those living in poverty (Bill) Supporter: Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

Establish a family leave insurance program in Hawai'i to provide 16 weeks of partial wage replacement, based on a sliding scale (Bill) Supporters: Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, Hawai'i Children's Action Network, Hawai'i Public Health Institute, PHOCUSED Hawai'i

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Increase fines, issue citations, and require annual reporting for pesticide drift and to further protect communities from health impacts due to exposure (Bill) Supporters: Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action, Hawai'i Center for Food Safety

Eliminate the use of coal in Hawai'i for electricity production by 2023 (Bill) Supporters: Blue Planet Foundation

HEALTHCARE & WORKFORCE

Provide matching funds for the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment program for healthcare professionals who work in federally-designated health professional shortage areas (Bill) Supporter: Hawai'i State Rural Health Association

Expand funding for Community Health Worker apprenticeship programs across the state (Bill)
Supporter: Kapi'olani Community College

Support funding for pipeline programs that will help increase the number of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in healthcare careers (Bill) Supporter: Native Hawaiian Health Task Force

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Add \$16.5 million to the base budget to provide a stable and secure funding source for proven-effective homelessness programs (Bill) Supporters: Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, Partners in Care

Appropriate \$200 million for low-income housing, with \$75 million going toward Permanent Supportive Housing (Bill) Supporters: Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, Partners in Care

Appropriate \$1.3 million for new pilot programs such as short-term rental assistance for families and long-term rental assistance for kupuna (Bill) Supporters: Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, Partners in Care

ORAL HEALTH

Re-appropriate funding for adult dental care as a benefit for Medicaid enrollees (Bill) Supporters: AlohaCare, American Diabetes Association, Hawai'i Dental Service, Hawai'i Public Health Institute, 'Ohana Health Plan, Oral Health for All Hawai'i, PHOCUSED Hawai'i

POPULATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Make insulin accessible and affordable for all people with diabetes (Bill) Supporter: American Diabetes Association

Consider including the National Diabetes Prevention Program as a covered benefit under Medicaid (Resolution)
Supporter: American Diabetes Association

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Enable legislation for camera enforcement of speeding violations (Bill) Supporter: Hawai'i Bicycling League

Enable legislation for camera enforcement of red light violations (Bill) Supporter: Hawai'i Bicycling League

Monitor this legislation, find policy factsheets, or join a policy workgroup at hiphi.org/policy.

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Mahalo to all contributing organizations and partners:

AlohaCare
American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
Blue Planet Foundation
Blue Zones Project
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai'i
Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i (HIPHI)
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action
Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Hawai'i Bicycling League
Hawai'i Center for Food Safety
Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Hawai'i Dental Service
Hawai'i Farm to School Hui (HIPHI)
Hawai'i Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Action Group
Hawai'i Initiative for Childhood Obesity Research and Education
HMSA Foundation

Hawai'i Public Health Institute
Hawai'i State Rural Health Association
Kapi'olani Community College
Native Hawaiian Health Task Force
Obesity Prevention Task Force (HIPHI)
'Ohana Health Plan
Oral Health for All Hawai'i
Partners in Care
PHOCUSED Hawai'i
The Food Basket, Hawai'i Island's Food Bank

