



# Draft Environmental Justice (EJ) Plan 2015-2020

State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH), Environmental Health Administration (EHA)  
September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Policy Statement:** The Hawaii Department of Health will, through the implementation of federal and state environmental laws, rules, policies and programs, endeavor to ensure that no segment of the population bears a disproportionate share of the risks and consequences of environmental pollution.

DOH's environmental justice policy goal is to steward the health and environment of all Hawaii residents. Where health and environmental inequities exist, we will aspire to take action to address and remedy these disparities. This includes support for community-based action and partnerships with relevant organizations and government agencies. This Draft Environmental Justice (EJ) Plan will impel positive change. We will:

- I. **Participate** in environmental justice analysis and procedures throughout DOH for the betterment of human health and the environment;
- II. **Partner** with relevant stakeholders to maximize our impact;
- III. **Prove** that environmental justice is being implemented in our procedures; and
- IV. **Plan** long-term policy outcomes to better ensure human health and a quality environment in Hawaii.

## I. **Participate in environmental justice analysis and procedures throughout DOH for the betterment of Hawaii's health and environment.**

- A. Promote data-based metrics for environmental justice in *screening* and *decision-making*
  - i. Continue to compile EHA environmental data into public databases ([the Environmental Health Warehouse Public Explorer](#))
  - ii. Instruct constituent organizations in how to use The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [EJSCREEN](#) as requested
  - iii. Foster community-based, participatory, environmental research and monitoring
- B. Incorporate environmental justice in EHA *permitting*
  - i. Continue to generate opportunities for public input and participation
  - ii. Assess framework and analytics for seamless consideration of environmental justice in permitting
- C. Further environmental justice through *compliance and enforcement*
  - i. Target and resolve instances of environmental health injustice when possible
  - ii. Study impacts before establishing projects, funds and monies for mitigation arising from enforcement settlements
  - iii. Expand communication and transparency with affected communities and the public concerning environmental justice compliance and enforcement activities
- D. Include environmental justice in *rulemaking*
  - i. Develop guidance on assessing environmental justice in rulemaking
  - ii. Advance EHA's use of guidance through practice, outreach and evaluation

## II. **Partner with other stakeholders to maximize our impact within communities**

- A. Collaborate with *state and county governments* to expand environmental justice practices
  - i. Share knowledge on tools like EJSCREEN to promulgate environmental justice
  - ii. Mutually identify areas for greater public inclusion
  - iii. Exercise open-handedness with sharing innovative practices

- iv. Continue efforts to make the Hawaii Environmental Policy Act more equity-oriented
- v. Work with our partner agencies and organizations in considering environmental justice in collective decision-making

B. Work with the *federal government* to advance environmental justice

- i. Match Hawaii environmental justice activities to EPA plans, goals, and actions
- ii. Leverage federal resources to support community-based action, in partnership with community groups and business

C. Aid *community-based groups* that seek to transform their communities

- i. Support efforts for communities to identify their unique environmental challenges
- ii. Recognize the status of community-level challenges in strategizing the achievement of environmental health goals
- iii. Initiate and join public-private partnerships with various groups to specify action down to the most precise location possible
- iv. Encourage and assist with local applications for [available grants](#)
- v. Engage business and industry in promoting sustainability within communities

III. **Prove that environmental justice is being implemented in our procedures**

A. *Maintain accountability* through recognized environmental metrics and measures on:

- i. Air and water quality
- ii. Waste
- iii. Rehabilitation of polluted lands
- iv. Food safety
- v. Human health vectors and diseases

B. *Welcome inquiry* into [available DOH data](#)

C. *Encourage recommendations* for the improvement of metrics

D. *Assist with the development of goals and relevant indicators* of improvement through inclusive activities with communities, government and other stakeholders

- i. Continue to work with partners on the [Aloha+ Challenge dashboard](#)

E. *Demonstrate results* in sustainability, problem-solving and grassroots team-building that stem from community-based action

IV. **Plan long-term policy outcomes to better ensure human health and a quality environment in Hawaii**

A. Develop and implement [climate adaptation and resilience](#) policies and actions

B. Implement State and Federal rules to [reduce greenhouse gas emissions](#)

C. [Prevent and/or control vectors](#) that pose a serious threat to human health

D. Ensure a continuous supply of [clean drinking water](#) for all

For more information please go to: <http://health.hawaii.gov/epo/ej>

To provide comments via email: [doh.epo@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:doh.epo@doh.hawaii.gov), or call 586-4337 or send a letter to the:  
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