



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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State DOH's Thaddeus Pham Selected for National Minority Leadership Program

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health's (DOH) Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator Thaddeus Pham was recently selected to participate in the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) Minority Leadership Program (MLP), now in its second year. Pham joins just 14 others from across the nation in participating, and he is the only participant who is currently combating the spread of viral hepatitis.

Participation in the NASTAD MLP is competitive and offers a year-long program of concentrated learning opportunities and peer-based mentoring for junior- to mid-level HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis health department program staff. They must be from racial/ethnic minority communities and possess the potential and drive to become leaders within their programs.

"I was extremely pleased to nominate Thaddeus for this program," stated Peter Whitar, DOH STD/AIDS Prevention Branch Chief. "He has shown immense growth and leadership qualities. Our entire branch supports his efforts, and we look forward to seeing how much he and the hepatitis prevention program can accomplish over the course of the next year."

As part of the MLP, participants will participate in two face-to-face meetings in Washington, D.C. with mentors from previous cohorts, complete a series of leadership program modules, and develop a personal development plan throughout the course of the program. In coordination with their immediate supervisor, participants are also required to develop a final MLP project concept that allows them to further develop their leadership skills.

(more)

“This is a great opportunity for any career in public health,” Pham said. “However, I am most excited that this program will give me the tools and skills to better serve our minority communities in Hawai‘i, especially those living with or at-risk for viral hepatitis. I envision a Hawai‘i where hepatitis infections are rare and, when they do occur, every person, regardless of circumstance, will have access to quality care and support.”

Thaddeus has worked for DOH for the past 5 years and has been focusing on viral hepatitis prevention and care for the past year as the State’s Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator. Coming from a Vietnamese family, he is especially aware of the burden of viral hepatitis on Asian and Pacific Islander communities. He currently lives in Nu‘uanu/Pauoa, but he works to provide services across the state.

More information on the Minority Leadership Program is available from the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors at www.nastad.org.

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