



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## News Release

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR

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### **VIRAL HEPATITIS SYMPOSIUM ON NOVEMBER 17 TO ADDRESS BURDEN OF HEPATITIS IN HAWAI'I**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) in partnership with the Hepatitis Support Network of Hawai'i, Hep Free Hawai'i, and other local agencies will address the state of hepatitis treatment and care in Hawai'i at "Viral Hepatitis in Hawai'i – 2012." This educational conference on November 17 is designed to provide medical professionals, social service providers, and community members with the most current information about viral hepatitis. National and local experts will talk about hepatitis B and C epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment, hepatitis during pregnancy, care coordination, and updates from the annual meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, and more.

"Often called the silent epidemic, hepatitis B or C affects many people in Hawai'i, but most people don't know about these diseases," stated Thaddeus Pham, DOH Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator and one of the speakers at the conference. "This symposium will provide an opportunity for the medical community to increase their knowledge and awareness about how this disease affects our 'ohana and what we can do about it."

According to DOH Immunization Branch estimates, 1 to 3 percent of people in Hawai'i have hepatitis B, and approximately 23,000 are living with hepatitis C. Hepatitis B and C are the most common known causes of liver cancer in Hawai'i, and Hawai'i has the highest rate of liver cancer in the United States.

(more)

Earlier this year, Governor Neil Abercrombie and Lt. Governor Brian Schatz declared July 28 as Hepatitis Day in Hawai'i. Their proclamation encourages residents to recognize the importance of hepatitis education and encourages testing for those at risk, especially given the burden of hepatitis on communities in Hawai'i.

The symposium will be held on Saturday, November 17, 2012, at The Queen's Conference Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will include auditorium and smaller breakout sessions, exhibits, continental breakfast and lunch. Category 1 CME credit is available for physicians from the Hawai'i Consortium for Continuing Medical Education. Additionally, continuing education units have been approved by the National Association for Social Workers, Hawai'i Chapter and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, State of Hawai'i. Online registration is available at [www.hepatitissupportnetwork.org/symposium2012.html](http://www.hepatitissupportnetwork.org/symposium2012.html).

More information on hepatitis B and C is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov/hepatitis](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis), or by calling 1-888-443-7232.

For local resources and information on hepatitis in general, individuals can call Aloha United Way 211 or go to [www.hepfreehawaii.org](http://www.hepfreehawaii.org)

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