

## DAY2: Closing Plenary

The meeting focused on Hawaii's climate change and health initiatives, emphasizing the importance of collaboration across sectors. Key points included the critical decade of 2020-2030, the need for immediate action to meet climate goals, and the integration of climate change education into the curriculum. The discussion highlighted the role of individual actions, such as using solar panels and reducing waste, and the importance of funding these initiatives. The conversation also addressed the mental health impacts of climate change, with plans to incorporate climate-related questions in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. The session concluded with a call for continued engagement and collaboration to address climate change and health challenges.

### Action Items

- Explore ways to institutionalize the climate change and health conversation and maintain the relationships and collaborations formed during the conference.
- Incorporate climate change curriculum and workforce development into the education system.
- Continue to educate the healthcare workforce and the public on the intersection of climate change and health.
- Analyze the results of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System questions on the mental health impacts of climate change to better understand the scope of the issue.

### Outline

#### Climate Change and Health Working Group Introduction

- Emcee introduces the Department of Health and its role in facilitating the climate change and health working group.
- James McCallen thanks everyone for attending and emphasizes the importance of the conference in sparking conversations and collaborations.
- James McCallen discusses the challenges of facing difficult issues and the importance of hope and optimism in addressing climate change.
- The relay race analogy is used to illustrate the collective effort required to tackle climate change, emphasizing that no single organization can solve it alone.

#### Year of Climate Action 2025

- James McCallen introduces Leah Laramée, the climate commission coordinator, and Dr. Diana Felton, highlighting their roles in the conference.

- Leah explains the significance of 2025 as the year of climate action, emphasizing the critical decade of 2020-2030.
- Leah discusses the need to ramp up efforts to meet climate goals and the importance of technology and workforce development.
- Leah mentions the goal of catalyzing action and drawing attention to the critical decade to meet climate change goals.

## **Low-Hanging Fruit Actions and Health Sector Involvement**

- James asks Leah about low-hanging fruit actions the commission is looking for in 2025.
- Leah emphasizes the importance of making climate change relatable and understandable to the public.
- Leah suggests actions like using reusable sunscreen, eating vegan meals, reducing waste, and installing solar panels.
- Dr. Felton discusses the role of the Department of Health in addressing climate change and the importance of health education.

## **Education and Climate Change Curriculum**

- James mentions the lack of climate change curriculum in the education system and asks about the role of the Education Department.
- Leah explains the importance of climate and environmental curriculum in K-12 education to prepare students for future jobs.
- Leah highlights the need for training programs to address the workforce shortage in the green global energy economy.
- Dr. Felton discusses the importance of educating healthcare providers and the public about climate change and its impact on health.

## **One Health Approach and Community Involvement**

- James discusses the concept of One Health and its interconnected approach to health and climate change.
- Leah emphasizes the importance of breaking down silos and involving all departments and county planning departments in climate action.
- Leah highlights the role of local and indigenous knowledge in addressing climate change and building resilience.
- Dr. Felton discusses the importance of public education and community representation in addressing climate change.

## **Mental Health and Climate Change**

- James McCallen introduces the topic of mental health and climate change, mentioning the difficulty in quantifying the impact.

- Dr. Felton explains the goal of incorporating questions about climate change into the behavioral risk factor surveillance system (BRFSS) to get a baseline sense of its impact.
- Dr. Felton shares personal experiences of anxiety and sadness related to climate change and the need to understand its broader impact on the public.
- Dr. Felton emphasizes the importance of measuring mental health impacts to prioritize and address them effectively.

## **Audience Questions and Final Thoughts**

- Audience asks about metrics for measuring the impact of the conference and the importance of baseline data.
- James and Dr. Felton discuss the challenge of measuring the impact of the conference and the importance of qualitative measures.
- Audience suggests involving high school students in climate change research and education to stimulate interest in science and healthcare.
- Audience emphasizes the importance of involving all relevant stakeholders, including the insurance industry, in addressing climate change.

## **Institutionalizing Climate Change Conversations**

- Audience asks about opportunities to institutionalize the conversations and keep them going.
- Leah and Dr. Felton discuss the importance of continuing to talk about climate change and incorporating it into regular work.
- Leah highlights the role of the climate commission in building on the momentum of the conference and involving all relevant departments.
- Dr. Felton emphasizes the need for events like this to continue and the importance of pushing the issue at all levels and in every direction.

## **Policy and Health Equity**

- Audience asks about finding a balance between policy and health equity, using the example of sewage removal policies.
- Dr. Felton emphasizes the need to fund more projects and programs to fill gaps and address health inequities.
- Leah discusses the importance of upfront investment in climate-friendly infrastructure to make it more affordable and accessible in the long term.
- Leah highlights the need for policies that enable homeowners to make climate-friendly decisions without burdening them with higher costs.

## **Closing Remarks and Next Steps**

- James McCallen thanks everyone for their participation and emphasizes the importance of taking actions in 2025.

- James provides information on how to join the climate change and health working group and mentions upcoming community listening sessions.
- James encourages everyone to find opportunities to keep the conversation going and to continue addressing climate change and health issues.
- Emcee thanks everyone for their time and contributions, and the meeting concludes.