

## DAY 2: Opening Plenary

The discussion focused on the intersection of climate change and health in Hawaii, highlighting the impacts on Pacific Island communities. Dr. Kealoha Fox emphasized the importance of community-driven solutions and traditional healing practices. Kylie Wager Cruz discussed legal actions, such as the Youth Climate Intervenor lawsuit, which led to a \$40 million investment in public EV charging infrastructure and other climate initiatives. Josie Howard stressed the need for policy changes to support indigenous practices and healthcare access. The panel underscored the urgency of systemic changes, including increased healthcare infrastructure, disaster preparedness, and culturally competent care to build resilience against climate change.

### Action Items

- Educate the youth about climate change and its impacts.
- Advocate for policy changes to address climate change and promote renewable energy.
- Leverage community-based and indigenous practices to build resilience against climate change.
- Continue fighting for improved healthcare access and coverage for Pacific Island communities.

### Outline

#### Introduction and Panelist Introductions

- Moderator, Dr. Victoria Keener, introduces the focus of the discussion on climate change and health leaders in Hawaii, emphasizing the importance of solutions for the Hawaiian islands.
- Dr. Victoria Keener introduces the panelists: Dr. Kealoha Fox, Kylie Wager Cruz, and Josie Howard.
- Dr. Kealoha Fox is highlighted for her extensive background in biomedical sciences, medical psychology, and her work in health equity and climate change.
- Kylie Wager Cruz is introduced for her work in promoting clean energy, protecting native Hawaiian communities, and her legal background.
- Josie Howard is introduced, detailing her background in Micronesia, her education, and her work with the nonprofit We Are Oceania.

#### Overview of Climate Change and Health in Hawaii

- Dr. Victoria Keener transitions to the main discussion, emphasizing the importance of climate change and health in Hawaii.

- Dr. Victoria Keener recaps the previous day's session on climate trends and projections, focusing on mental and physical health impacts.
- The panel is introduced to share experiences and lessons from Pacific Island communities to inspire collective action in Hawaii and across the Pacific.
- Dr. Victoria Keener invites Kealoha and Kylie to introduce themselves and discuss the climate and health crisis in their respective sectors.

### **Dr. Fox 's Perspective on Climate Change and Health**

- Dr. Fox emphasizes the importance of community-driven solutions and the need for self-determination in addressing climate change.
- Dr. Fox highlights the role of traditional practices and indigenous knowledge in addressing climate change.
- Dr. Fox discusses the importance of learning from the past to act in the present and create a better future for future generations.
- Dr. Fox calls for involvement from various sectors, including sciences, academia, community-based organizations, and public services.

### **Kylie's Perspective on Climate Change and Health**

- Kylie introduces herself and her role at Earth Justice, focusing on climate change and renewable energy.
- Kylie discusses the impact of climate change on natural resources and the relationship between people and place in Hawaiian culture.
- Kylie highlights the work of Earth Justice in promoting clean energy and addressing climate change at its source.
- Kylie shares examples of how climate change has affected community partners and the need for policy changes to address these impacts.

### **Josie's Perspective on Climate Change and Health**

- Josie introduces herself and her organization, We Are Oceania, which empowers Pacific Islanders in Hawaii.
- Josie discusses the impact of climate change on her home island and the importance of land and culture in Pacific Island communities.
- Josie highlights the role of youth in addressing climate change and the importance of education and cultural practices.
- Josie emphasizes the need for policy changes to address climate change and ensure access to healthcare for Pacific Islanders.

## Discussion on Healthcare Access and Climate Change

- Dr. Victoria Keener asks the panelists about the role of healthcare access and culturally competent care in building resilience against climate change.
- Dr. Fox emphasizes the importance of community-driven solutions and the need for mutual gain across different sectors.
- Dr. Fox discusses the challenges of healthcare access in rural, medically underserved communities and the need for policy changes to address these issues.
- Josie highlights the importance of health being defined by community practices and the need for policy changes to support these practices.

## Policy Interventions for Climate and Health

- Dr. Keener asks the panelists about policy interventions that could increase community health under climate change.
- Josie discusses the importance of indigenous practices and the need for policy changes to support these practices.
- Kylie highlights the importance of energy efficiency measures and multimodal transportation to address climate change and improve public health.
- Dr. Fox discusses the need for policy changes to value traditional healing and Native Hawaiian medicine and the importance of organizational policies in addressing climate change.

## Role of Legal Action in Climate Adaptation

- Dr. Keener asks Kylie about the role of legal action in accelerating climate adaptation and mitigation.
- Kylie discusses the Youth Climate Intervenor lawsuit and its impact on policy changes in Hawaii.
- Kylie highlights the importance of legal action in addressing climate change and the need for continued involvement from the public.
- Kylie emphasizes the importance of training young people to care about climate issues and keep consistent pressure on government and systems to change.

## Audience Questions and Discussion

- Audience members raise questions about institutional capacity, partnerships, and opportunities for collaboration.
- Dr. Fox emphasizes the importance of building relationships and partnerships to address climate change and health issues.
- Josie highlights the importance of cultural values and the need for policy changes to support these values.
- Kylie discusses the importance of training and supporting young people to address climate change and the need for continued involvement from the public.

## **Final Thoughts and Closing Remarks**

- Dr. Keener thanks the panelists and audience members for their participation and contributions to the discussion.
- Dr. Keener emphasizes the importance of collaboration and action to address climate change and health issues in Hawaii and the Pacific.
- The session concludes with a call to action for continued collaboration and action to address climate change and health issues.