

**REPORT TO THE
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII**

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND

**PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 321-27, HAWAII REVISED
STATUTES, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND**

**PREPARED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE OF HAWAII**

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND FINANCES AND ACTIVITIES DURING FY 2007

The Environmental Health Education Fund supports the training of food establishment personnel and Department of Health staff; as well as educational outreach to the general public regarding food safety. This report provides a broad overview of the functional role of the Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) and how its activities relate to the Environmental Health Education Fund to demonstrate the significance of this fund to public health.

This report is submitted under Section 321-27(d), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which states that the Department “shall submit a report to the Legislature concerning the status of the Environmental Health Education Fund, including, but not limited to the amount of monies taken in and expended from the fund, and the sources of receipts and uses of expenditures...”

EHSD AND ITS APPROACH TO PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

The mission of the EHSD branches is to optimize public health and environmental practices through prevention, assessment, compliance, and education. In performing these functions, the programs within EHSD must be able to prevent or reduce the occurrence of any environmentally-related communicable diseases, illnesses, or injury from contaminated food products, defective medical devices or vectors.

The programs in EHSD are in the following branches: Sanitation; Food and Drug; Vector Control; and, Noise, Radiation and Indoor Air Quality. The Division staff are professionals with capabilities for assessing food contamination and adulteration; inspecting and permitting food establishments; evaluating x-ray devices and other sources of radiation; measuring and testing stationary noise standards; evaluating and monitoring for indoor air quality, asbestos and lead; assessing concerns of unsanitary conditions; responding to and resolving nuisance complaints relating to environmentally-related conditions; and, abating vectors in public areas.

Staff training, public education, information management, and program enhancement are significant division activities, focusing on maximizing program efficiency and effectiveness. The Environmental Health Education Fund allows the Division the appropriate mechanism to provide on-going education for updating and cross-training staff with the technological and organizational changes.

The current EHSD emphasis on education of the public and motivation of operators to comply with applicable standards and regulations has remained unchanged. Compliance with rules to protect public health, not enforcement per se, is the primary objective of the EHSD programs. The fund is thus a vital component in this long-range plan, which includes education for the industries that the Division regulates. The premise is that both education and public outreach efforts enhance compliance. Wide dissemination of information concerning the technical and scientific basis for the program’s regulatory requirements should contribute to a clearer understanding of the necessity for compliance. Education is always continuous, particularly with regards to new scientific findings and new technologies. An informed public

with a clear understanding of the public health rationale of program functions and corresponding regulatory requirements is a fundamental goal in assuring that potential environmental health problems are identified and resolved before actual illness, injury or fatality occurs.

EHEF FINANCES

As authorized in Section 321-27(a), HRS, the Department can collect and deposit fees for permits, licenses, inspections, various certificates, variances and investigations and reviews into the fund pursuant to Sections 321-11.5(a)(c) and 321-15, HRS.

For fiscal year 2007 revenues collected and deposited into the fund totaled \$657,447.39. The primary sources of funds were collected statewide from permit fees for food establishments, plan reviews, temporary food applications, and license fees for tattoo artists, registered sanitarians, embalmers, laboratory technologists and laboratory directors.

For fiscal year 2007, expenditures including personnel costs and encumbrances totaled \$376,433.74.

For fiscal year 2007, expenditures totaled \$270,803.13 for personnel and operating costs of two Registered Sanitarian IV's in the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program (located on the Island of Hawaii and Oahu), an Information Technology Specialist (ITS) IV, and an ITS III. For fiscal year 2007, the Information Technology Specialist III was vacant; however it will be filled in fiscal year 2008. The two Registered Sanitarians in the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program provide educational and training opportunities for food establishments statewide, which are consistent with Section 321-402, HRS. The ITS IV and ITS III provide the Division with technical support for managing the Division's data system and assisting the programs in computer matters.

Funds not expended by the end of the fiscal year in excess of \$300,000 are deposited in the general fund in accordance with Section 321-27 (c), HRS.

FOOD SAFETY CONSULTATION & EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

For fiscal year 2007, the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program provided the following services:

Food Handlers Educated

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>
Food Certification Workshops Given:	27
Student Attendance:	644
Students Certified:	560
Food Safety Classes Given:	53
Student Attendance:	1,123

DOH Staff Educated

The EHEF is also significant for the programs and personnel of the Environmental Health Services Division as a means toward providing improved public health services. In addition to on-going workshops conducted by the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program, the following are highlights of fiscal year 2007:

1. The Food & Drug Branch's Program Manager and Section Supervisor participated in the Pacific Region Retail Food Seminar, August 8 -10, 2006 in Helena, Montana.
2. Two Food & Drug Inspectors participated in the Western Association of Food & Drug Officials Conference, August 20 – 23, 2006 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
3. Three Registered Sanitarians from Oahu, Hawaii, Kauai and Maui attended the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service Conference, September 25 – 29, 2006 in Denver, Colorado.
4. A Registered Sanitarian, whose primary responsibility is regulating milk industries in Hawaii, attended the National conference of Interstate Milk Shippers (NCIMS) Dairy Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HAACP) Auditing Course in Chicago, Illinois, December 10 – 15, 2006, as required for certification as a State Milk Rating Officer for the State of Hawaii.
5. A Food & Drug Branch Section Supervisor attended the Pacific Rim Shellfish Sanitation Conference, February 21 -22, 2007 in Portland, Oregon.
6. A Food & Drug Branch Section Supervisor and Inspector participated in the Food Safety and Security Summit in Washington D.C., March 6 – 8, 2007.
7. A Food & Drug Inspector, whose primary responsibility is implementing the Prescription Drug program, attended the Food & Drug Administration Basic Drug School, March 12 – 23, 2007, in Rockville, Maryland.
8. An Entomologist from the Vector Control Branch participated in the 73rd Annual American Mosquito Control Association meeting, April 2 – 5, 2007 in Orlando, Florida.
9. Two Registered Sanitarians from the islands of Oahu and Hawaii attended the National Conference of Milk Shippers in Salt Lake City, Utah, May 5 – 11, 2007.
10. A Food & Drug Branch Section Supervisor attended the Sanitary Surveys of shellfish Growing Areas Course, May 8 – 10, 2007 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

11. The Food & Drug Branch Program Manager, and a Food & Drug Inspector attended the American Food & Drug Officials Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas, June 16 – 20, 2007.
12. A Food & Drug Branch Section Supervisor, a Food & Drug Inspector; four Registered Sanitarians from Oahu and Hawaii, two of which are part of the Food Consultation and Education program, participated in the National Environmental Health Association Annual Education Conference, June 18 – 21, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. This nationally recognized conference is an annual event, offering various environmental health and protection educational programs and sessions. This conference is one of the largest national conferences providing educational opportunities for knowledge on state-of-the-art technologies, evolution of environmental health, practical information, and information on management skills.
13. The Environmental Health Services Division conducted the annual Emergency & Disaster Response Workshop, September 14 – 15, 2006. The EHSD programs have significant roles and responsibilities in post disaster response, particularly with natural disasters. The annual workshop is to provide continuous training for our staff to maintain essential knowledge on emergency and disaster response.
14. In partnership with the Hawaii Environmental Health Association, the Environmental Health Services Division sponsored the annual education conference on December 8 & 9, 2006. This annual conference provides our staff with educational sessions on food safety, vector control, radiation control, indoor air, and other public health topics.
15. A Professional Development Workshop was conducted for all division staff on April 27 – 28, 2007.
16. The Sanitation Branch conducted a Strategic Planning Workshop on June 7 - 8, 2007 in Maui. This workshop was attended by all Sanitation Branch staff, statewide, and was significant in developing the program's future goals and objectives.
17. Meetings of the Advisory Council on Food Protection Practices were also conducted to discuss food protection and safety issues.
18. Various statewide program and division meetings for managers and staff were also conducted.
19. Investments continued in expanding, upgrading and improving the division's information technology infrastructure and information management system.

In summary, the Environmental Health Education fund was significant in providing for many of these program activities, personnel enhancement opportunities, and technology

infrastructure advancements. Prudent utilization of expenditures for FY 2008 will continue to ensure the protection of public health needs through effective and efficient government services.