

Acknowledgements

This special issue, *Roadmap to a Healthier and More Equitable Hawai'i: Solutions to Root Causes at the intersections of Chronic Disease and Covid-19*, would not have been possible without the efforts of our guest editorial team. The Editors greatly appreciate the guest consulting editors who gave their time to review manuscripts in the editorial process. Please see the Editors' brief biographies to understand how their diverse expertise was necessary to produce this high-quality special issue. Finally, we would also like to thank the copy-editing team for their assistance in ensuring the manuscripts were complete.

Editors of Special Issue

Catherine Pirkle

Dr. Pirkle received her PhD in Public Health, specializing in epidemiology, from the Université de Montréal, in Québec, Canada. She is currently an Associate professor and Specialization head of Health Policy and Management at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Her areas of specialization are global health, women's health, and evaluation.

Lola Hiroko Irvin

Lola Irvin MEd, is the Administrator of the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division, Hawai'i State Department of Health (HDOH). The Division works on policy, systems, and environmental change strategies to achieve equity, and quality years of life for people in Hawai'i. Collectively, with partners, her team envisions healthy choices being the default wherever people live, work, shop, and play.

Jessica Yamauchi

Jessica Yamauchi MA, has served as the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) since 2012 and has worked to pass several health policies, including raising the age of sale of tobacco products to 21, including electronic smoking devices in Hawai'i's state smoke-free air law, healthy by default beverages for kids' meals, and securing funding for a pilot double up bucks program (increasing fresh local produce for SNAP recipients). Jessica is currently chair of the National Network of Public Health Institutes Board of Directors, ex-officio board member of the Hawai'i Public Health Association and serves on the University of Hawai'i, Office of Public Health Studies, Community Advisory Panel.

Guest Consulting Editors

Forrest Batz

Forrest Batz PharmD, serves on the Boards of Directors of the Hawai'i Immunization Coalition and HIPHI. A retired faculty member of the Daniel K Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Dr. Batz is a passionate community health advocate for the people of Hawai'i.

Haley Cash

Dr. Haley Cash has worked for the Pacific Island Health Officers' Association as a regional epidemiologist for the US-affiliated Pacific Islands for the past six years. She previously worked as an epidemiologist for the Ministry of Health in the Republic of Palau. She received her PhD and MPH from Brown University.

Lance Ching

Lance Ching PhD, is the lead chronic disease epidemiologist at the Hawai'i State Department of Health in the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division. In his current appointment, he provides technical and epidemiological support to over nine programs across primary prevention and chronic disease management. His efforts are focused primarily on policy, systems, and environmental change in various settings (i.e. schools, communities, worksites, healthcare) and at all levels of government.

Jennifer Elia

Jennifer Elia DrPH, is the Maternal and Infant Health Lead at Early Childhood Action Strategy and coordinates the Hawai'i Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative. Through community engagement and qualitative and quantitative methods, her research and practice have focused on family planning, maternal/child health, and health disparities. Jennifer received her BA and MPH from Yale University, and her DrPH from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Kealoha Fox

Dr. Kealoha Fox is a Kanaka Maoli scientist, practitioner, and advocate at AlohaCare, a managed care health plan in Hawai'i. Her innovative programs are uplifting Native Hawaiians by utilizing a model of care that values culturally effective public health and medical services. She was a public servant leading racial justice policies in the government for nearly 10 years and now an Obama Leader for the Asia-Pacific Region at the Obama Foundation. Kealoha is the policy co-chair of the Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander COVID-19 Response Team, Advisory Board member of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Child Well-being Program, and Treasurer of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum.

Beth Giesting

Beth Giesting MS, is the director of the Hawai'i Budget & Policy Center, a project of Hawai'i Appleseed. The Budget Center researches tax, budget, and other public policies related to expanding economic opportunity. Her interest in promoting economic security was fostered by decades of work in health policy where she observed the strong connections between poverty and poor health.

Claire Ing

Dr. Claire Ing is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Native Hawaiian Health in the John A Burns School of Medicine. She received a BA in Anthropology from Pomona College, an MPH in Health Behavior and Health Education from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a DrPH in Community-based and Translational Research from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Her academic and research interests include using a community-based participatory research approach to understand and address cardiovascular health disparities informed by systems science and the social determinants framework.

Brent Kakesako

Brent Kakesako JD, MBA, is the executive director of the Hawai‘i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED), a nonprofit that strengthens the strategic readiness of communities and the capacity of community-based organizations to achieve their vision of genuine wealth. Brent is a board member of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, O‘ahu Workforce Development Board, and Community Steering Committee Member for Prosperity Now.

Stephanie Moir

Stephanie Moir MPH, is the Community Initiatives and Training Coordinator for the HIPHI. In this role, she coordinates the Hawai‘i Public Health Training Hui and facilitates work with Community Health Workers across the state. Stephanie received her Master’s in Public Health with an emphasis in Community and Behavioral Health from the Colorado School of Public Health – Anschutz Medical Campus. She was born and raised on O‘ahu, but now resides on Kaua‘i.

Tetine Sentell

Dr. Tetine Sentell is the Interim Dean of the Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UH) and Professor in the Health Policy and Management specialization. Dr. Sentell has a long-standing expertise in health outcomes and health communication/literacy/language across diverse racial/ethnic groups using mixed-methods and clinical administrative data. Dr. Sentell currently co-leads the Healthy Hawai‘i Initiative Evaluation Team with Dr. Pirkle, which evaluates the diverse, theory-driven efforts of the Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion Division of the Hawai‘i Department of Health.

Cristina Vocalan

Cristina Vocalan RN, is the Chief Strategy Officer at the Hawai‘i Primary Care Association (HPCA), an organization that advocates for and provides support to Hawai‘i’s Community Health Centers. Cristina has been with HPCA for ten years and in that capacity has focused on clinical technical assistance, quality improvement, and implementing programmatic and policy initiatives. Cristina is a Registered Nurse and previously worked in community health centers, a free clinic, and at the Hawai‘i Department of Health.