

What were the goals of the project?

In April 2015, the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), funded selected state and territorial health departments to implement



priority action items from ***The Healthy Brain Initiative: The Public Health Road Map for State and National Partnerships, 2013 - 2018*** (a.k.a., the Road Map)¹. Hawaii was among the seven states awarded funded under this initiative. The Hawaii Executive Office on Aging (EOA) oversaw the development of *Hawaii 2025: State Plan on Alzheimer's & Related Dementias*. In order to implement the plan and action steps of the Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map, Hawaii worked with their partners to: (a) finalize an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias state plan for Hawaii; (b) advance statewide dementia capability training for public health workforce, service providers, government agencies and the aging network; (c) inventory services and facilities in Hawaii that can accommodate those with memory loss or impairment; (d) develop a plan for improving dementia-specific data collection and analysis; (e) increase public awareness of dementia and support for development of dementia-friendly communities; and (f) build and sustain partnerships at the local, state and national levels.

What are the key accomplishments of the project?

- A Special Advisory Panel was convened and met twice to review and approve an Alzheimer's disease state plan for Hawaii entitled, *Hawaii 2015: State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD)*.
- Modifications were made to the *Hawaii Dementia Capability Curriculum* which was developed as part of a previous NACDD grant to inform trainings for public health professionals, clinicians, and those in aging services.
- The initial steps were completed to develop a statewide resource directory containing information about services and facilities in Hawaii that can accommodate those with memory loss.
- The Cognitive Impairment and Caregiver modules were added to the 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to support the collection of dementia-related data.
- *Worried About Your Memory* booklets and flyers were developed and disseminated throughout the state.
- This project was instrumental in building and enhancing partnerships between the Hawaii Department of Public Health, the Hawaii Executive Office on Aging, University of Hawaii, and the Healthy Brain Research Network (HBRN) members at the University of Washington.

What additional lessons have been learned?

- Government leaders need to be kept informed about Alzheimer's disease and dementia so that they understand the public health impact of these conditions and serve as advocates for programs and resources.
- States should collaborate with and be aware of current national and international trends in dementia and cognitive health, expressed in the Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map, Healthy People 2020, National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, and similar resources.
- Even a relatively small amount of funding provided to a state health department can enable the department to engage in meaningful projects and achieve key objectives related to advancing Alzheimer's disease and related dementias as a public health priority.

For Additional Information:

Hawaii Department of Health, 250 S. Hotel Street, Suite 406., Honolulu, HI 96813
Project Lead: Ms. Jody Mishan / (808) 586-0100 / jmishan@hawaii.rr.com

¹ Available online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/aging/pdf/2013-healthy-brain-initiative.pdf>

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