



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO M.D.  
DIRECTOR  
Phone: (808) 586-4410  
Fax: (808) 586-4444

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO MONITOR  
NEW YEAR'S EVE AIR QUALITY**

**Public advised to prepare for smoke-filled New Year's Eve**

HONOLULU - The Hawai'i State Department of Health's (DOH) Clean Air Branch will be monitoring Hawai'i's air quality during New Year's Eve and comparing it with national ambient air quality standards. The heavy use of fireworks during the annual holiday celebration can significantly increase the amount of particulates in the air, especially on O'ahu.

DOH Clean Air Branch is encouraging the public, especially people with respiratory conditions, as well as young children and the elderly, to be properly informed and prepared for the upcoming New Year's firework celebration.

Firework smoke consists primarily of particulate matter that can aggravate conditions such as asthma, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis. People who suffer from one of these lung conditions may want to take certain precautionary measures. DOH offers the following guidelines:

- On New Year's Eve, stay indoors and close your windows and doors.
- Check that your air conditioner or air purifier is working properly and change filters if necessary.
- Do not smoke and avoid second-hand smoke.
- If you take medication, make sure you have an adequate supply and use as directed by your physician.
- Contact your physician if you need more medication and to get clear instructions of what to do if your lung condition suddenly worsens.
- Avoid people who have colds and other lung infections and wash your hands thoroughly.
- Drink plenty of fluids to loosen mucus. Warm beverages work best.
- Get plenty of rest and limit physical exertion.

While these suggestions are intended primarily for persons with respiratory or chronic lung disease, they are also useful for healthy persons during air pollution episodes such as particulates dust, firework smoke, or volcanic haze.

For further information regarding air quality you may contact the Clean Air Branch at 586-4200. If you wish to obtain additional information on respiratory health you may contact the American Lung Association of Hawai'i at 537-5966 or visit their website at <http://www.ala-hawaii.org/airquality.asp>.

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For information contact:  
Janice Okubo  
Department of Health  
(808) 586-4402

Wilfred Nagamine  
Department of Health  
(808) 586-4200