



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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For Immediate Release: May 14, 2009

09-040

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH INVITES PUBLIC INPUT ON  
VACCINE ALLOCATION PRIORITIES**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) is seeking the public's input on the subject of vaccine allocation priorities in the event of a severe pandemic. A public meeting will be held this Saturday, May 16, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center in the Dining Pavilion. The gathering is part of an ongoing DOH public engagement project on pandemic influenza funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Participants will be invited to share values and concerns that Hawai'i decision-makers should consider when prioritizing who would receive limited supplies of vaccine in the event of a pandemic. Federal guidance will determine allocation of the bulk of vaccine supplies, but a discretionary amount will also be allotted to each state.

Dr. Sarah Park, state epidemiologist and DOH chief, Disease Outbreak Control Division will give an overview of pandemic influenza and issues relevant to vaccine distribution, as well as a brief update on the current H1N1 Influenza A situation in Hawaii.

Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center is located at 86-260 Farrington Highway. The event is free and open to the public.

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For more information contact:  
Judy Kern  
Communications Office  
Phone: 808-586-4418