



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

---

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

---

For Immediate Release: June 24, 2008

08-55

**ALVIN T. ONAKA, PH.D. RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD**

HONOLULU -- Alvin T. Onaka, Ph.D. received the Halbert L. Dunn Award at the 75<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) in Orlando, Florida in June. Established in 1981, the award recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of vital and health statistics. Dr. Onaka was recognized for his demographic and public health career that spans over 40 years at the international, national and state level. Currently, Onaka is the State Registrar of Vital Statistics and Chief of the Office of Health Status Monitoring for the Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH).

"We are proud that Dr. Onaka has been recognized with this prestigious award and brought it home to Hawai'i" stated Director of Health Dr. Chiyome Leinaala Fukino. "Alvin is a national leader in the field of vital and health statistics and the award is well deserved."

Under Onaka's leadership Hawai'i is a national leader in vital statistics. Hawai'i was the first state in the nation to enact legislation that required the bride and groom to declare both their middle and surnames after marriage facilitating the most frequent method of legal name change especially for women.

The DOH's Electronic Death Registration System, developed by Onaka and his staff, won the 2007 achievement award from the Center for Digital Government in the government-to-government category. The electronic system was the first in the national to develop a seamless link between the Honolulu Medical Examiners Office and the health department's computerized

**(more)**

death registration system. Hawai'i was also the first state to enact legislation that allowed verification of birth certificate information in lieu of ordering certified copies of vital records and piloted the Electronic Verification of Vital Event (EVVE) system nationally.

Dr. Onaka was born and raised in Honolulu and graduated from Iolani School. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and has been an affiliate graduate faculty in the Population Studies Program at the University of Hawai'i since 1982.

###

For more information, contact:

Janice Okubo

Communications Office

Phone: (808) 586-4442