



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH APPOINTS NEW STATE EPIDEMIOLOGIST

HONOLULU –The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) today appointed Sarah Y. Park, M.D. as the state epidemiologist and chief of the DOH Disease Outbreak Control Division. Her primary role will be to oversee all activities related to emerging infections, disease surveillance and investigations, immunizations and public health preparedness.

"We are very proud to announce the appointment of Dr. Park as the new leader for Hawai'i's disease surveillance and investigation activities," said Director of Health Chiyome Fukino, M.D. "Dr. Park brings a lot of experience to the position as a board certified pediatric infectious diseases specialist. We are confident in her ability to take our disease surveillance to new heights which will help us better protect the public's health."

Dr. Park previously worked as the deputy chief of the DOH Disease Outbreak Control Division for four years under former State Epidemiologist Paul Effler, M.D. Prior to that, she was an epidemic intelligence service officer assigned to the Respiratory Diseases Branch in the National Center for Infectious Diseases at the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dr. Park is the recipient of many honors, two of which in 2005 were as part of CDC teams receiving the Outstanding Unit Commendation, the first for work performed on the West Nile Surveillance and Response Team during the 2002 West Nile virus outbreak in the United

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States, and the second for work performed during the 2003 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic in Asia.

Dr. Park received her bachelor's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her medical degree from Boston University. She received her pediatrics training at the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford and her pediatric infectious diseases training at the University of California at San Francisco.

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