



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD
News Release

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**POLLUTION PREVENTION WORKSHOP TARGETS
HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY**

HONOLULU – To promote effective environmental protection while helping the healthcare industry reduce costs, the Hawai'i State Department of Health, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Kaiser Permanente, SBM Site Services, and Practice Green Health are offering a two-day workshop on September 8 - 9, 2009 at the Ala Moana Hotel. The workshop will give presentations about energy conservation, recycling alternatives to medical waste, and examples of environmental stewardship at hospitals. The workshops are open to all healthcare professionals and anyone interested in environmental sustainability. Registration is \$60 and includes refreshments and workshop materials.

“The healthcare industry faces a constantly changing landscape of demands and issues” said Health Director Dr. Chiyome Fukino. “Pollution prevention solutions can help hospitals minimize environmental impacts while saving money and maintaining high standards of patient care.”

With the increased awareness surrounding global climate change and the connection between human health and the environment, healthcare facilities are recognizing their role in responsible procurement, use and management of materials. Hospitals use double the amount of energy per square foot than commercial office buildings, and medical waste incinerators are a major source of mercury in the environment.

For more information, please contact Travis Hiramoto at (808) 586-4226, or go to <http://hawaii.gov/health/environmental/environmental/waste/index.html>

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