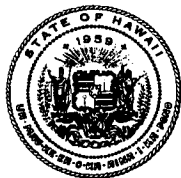


BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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STATE OF HAWAII
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801

'02 DEC 24 File: In reply, please refer to:
File:

December 23, 2002

DEPT. COMM. NO. 16

The Honorable Robert Bunda, President
and Members of the Senate
Hawai'i State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am pleased to share with you a recently completed report, "Women's Health in Hawai'i", published by the Office of Health Equity, of the Department of Health for your information and perusal. Twenty-five (25) copies of this report are transmitted for distribution to members of the State House of Representatives.

The report highlights data from several of the Department's annual surveys, the Hawai'i Vital Statistics, the Hawai'i Health Survey, and the Hawai'i Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. The report examines by ethnicity and age, such issues as breast cancer, cervical cancer, child-birth, overweight, smoking, alcohol consumption, and use of preventive mammogram examinations and pap tests.

The report paints a vivid picture of areas that need to be addressed to meet the nation's Year 2010 Health Objectives, of eliminating health disparities while lengthening healthy and productive lives, as well as improving the health status of Hawai'i's women. This report is being sent in advance of the legislative session to give all members the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the information.

We seek your support for these endeavors.

Sincerely,

Claire K. Hughes

CLAIRE K. HUGHES, DrPH, RD
Administrator, Office of Health Equity

Enclosure