



Papa Ola Lokahi
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Papa Ola Lokahi

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

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TOWARD TOBACCO-FREE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Kaka'ako, Hawai'i) More than 150 public health delegates from throughout the U.S.-associated Pacific Islands will meet in Honolulu next week to harness the knowledge, wisdom and commitment of Pacific Islanders toward establishing a tobacco-free Pacific. The conference, *Building & Strengthening our Relationships for a Tobacco-Free Pacific*, will be held April 28-30, 2008 at the Ala Moana Hotel and the Queen's Conference Center.

The agenda, like a lauhala mat, weaves cultural values into public health strategies. Speakers include faith-based & traditional leaders, underscoring the important role that chiefs, ministers, and women play in shaping community priorities in the Pacific.

In an effort to look ahead, Pacific Island youth—tomorrow's faith leaders, chiefs, public health workers and government officials—will share how best to involve their peers as emerging leaders in tobacco control programming.

This is the first conference put on by the Pacific Partnership for Tobacco-Free Islands, a coalition of diverse participants from faith-based, traditional, governmental, public health and non-governmental organizations working toward a Pacific-wide tobacco control initiative.

"It's very exciting to be involved in an initiative that is created by Pacific Islanders for Pacific Islanders," exclaimed George Cruz of Saipan and interim chair of the coalition.

Conference sponsors are American Legacy Foundation, 'Imi Hale—Native Hawaiian Cancer Network, Pacific Diabetes Education Program (both programs of Papa Ola Lōkahi), Queen's Medical Center, and the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum, with support from American Cancer Society.

American Legacy Foundation, established in 1999, is committed to building a world where young people reject tobacco and anyone can quit.

Papa Ola Lōkahi, established in 1988, is recognized by the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act to improve the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and their families.