

Hawai'i Journal of Health and Social Welfare

Background:

The HHIET, in collaboration with leadership from the Hawai'i Department of Health and Hawai'i Public Health Institute, invited authors to provide fresh viewpoints and innovative solutions to address the underlying inequities and injustices that the COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated. This resulted in the October Special Issue in the Hawai'i Journal of Health and Social Welfare (HJH&SW), entitled "Roadmap to a healthier and more equitable Hawai'i: Solutions to root causes at the intersections of chronic disease and COVID-19." This issue includes 11 different articles, representing a variety of populations and perspectives, ranging from COVID-19 challenges and impacts, responses during the pandemic, and ways to move forward to advance health equity. The process from call for papers to abstract reviews to submission review to final proofing was a lengthy but necessary journey; all of which could not have been accomplished without the efforts of the editorial team (3 main editors and 11 guest consulting editors). The editorial team brought their diverse expertise to help produce the special issue.

HHIET Member Articles:

- **Advancing Health Equity in Hawai'i: Critical Reflections on COVID-19, Chronic Conditions, and Health Disparities.** By: **Catherine M. Pirkle PhD**; **Kara N. Saiki MPH**; Jessica Yamauchi MA; and Lola H. Irvin MEd
- **Vaccines and Variants, Valiance, and Variance.** By: Sarah Kemble MD; Desmond Edward PhD; Lola H. Irvin MEd; and **Catherine M. Pirkle PhD**
- **Exploring Challenges and Opportunities for Breastfeeding in Hawai'i During the COVID-19 Pandemic.** By: **Nicole Kahielani Peltzer MPH**; Krista Olson MC-MCH IBCLC; Sasha Williams DNP(c), RN, IBCLC; Heidi Hansen-Smith BA; Jennifer Elia DrPH; and **Meghan D. McGurk MPH**
- **Health Literate Hawai'i: A Blueprint to Empower Health and Wellbeing** By: **Tetine Sentell PhD**; Uday Patil MA; and Uliana Kostareva PhD, RN
- **Sugar- Sweetened Beverage Fee: A model to Address Health Disparities in Hawai'i.** By: **Meghan D. McGurk MPH**; Colby R. Takeda MPH, MBA; Jaylen Murakami BS; Trish La Chica MPA; and Jessica Yamauchi MA

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Please visit the HJH&SW website to view the Special Issue in its entirety [here](#).

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