A Comprehensive Multi-level Approach for Passing Safe Routes to School and Complete Streets Policies In Hawaii

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Overview

Key Partners

- **Healthy Hawaii Initiative (HHI)** – State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) focus on health promotion, and chronic disease prevention

- **Contractor, Mark Fenton** – expert in active transportation, background in planning and engineering

- **Evaluation Team** – University of Hawaii at Manoa
Problem

- Physical inactivity contributing to obesity rates
  - Average prevalence for the state 17.6%
  - 37.5% of Native Hawaiians are obese
- Safety concerns for Active Transportation
  - Many streets lack sidewalks, adequate crosswalks, and bicycle lanes
  - High pedestrian fatality rates
  - High bicyclist fatality rates
- Only 6 county-level policies across the state specifically promote physical activity
To describe our capacity building approach leading to the passage of statewide safe routes to school (SRTS) and complete streets policies in Hawaii, highlighting lessons learned.
In the Beginning

- We knew nothing…
  - Our focus had been on health promotion activities
- However…
  - We had “support” of key influential leaders
  - Were willing to dive into unchartered territory
- We started small…
  - Worked with Hawaii County Planning Department
Social ecological model – synergy between individual behavior and multiple layers of influence

Behavior affected by downstream effects of
- education, advocacy, organizational change, multi-method strategies, policy development, economic supports, and environmental changes

For large-scale policy changes, focus should be on multiple strategies at multiple levels
## Methods

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>March 2008</td>
<td>Community Workshops (Active Living Communities)</td>
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Methods

- 18 month period
  - Meetings (legislators, council members, commissioners, planning department staff, etc.)
  - Workshops (key community members, advocates, health organizations, state and county agency staff, etc.)
  - Conferences (cross disciplinary representation and at all levels within organizations and within government)
- Informational Briefing with Legislators
Results

- January 2009
  - SRTS bill and complete streets bills introduced in Hawaii State legislature
  - Advocates
    - monitored bill progress
    - testified at hearings
    - helped craft amendments to strengthen bill wording
  - SRTS statute articulated expectations for the Department of Transportation administration of funds
  - Complete streets law tasked the state and county DOTs with adopting complete streets policies and establishing a temporary taskforce to review existing highway design standards and guidelines
Policy Change

- June 2009
- Both bills were signed into law
- Now we work towards…IMPLEMENTATION
Lessons Learned

“Must Have’s”

- High Level Buy In and Support
- Strategies in place for building and maintaining relationships
  - Use of open communication and supportive tones
  - Leveraging the work of others, recognizing each other’s roles and the resources each are able to provide
- Partners from various backgrounds/fields/expertise “must” be part of the dialogue (Govt. DOT, DOH, counties, advocates, coalitions, elected officials, community members, etc.)
- Flexibility
  - Funding
  - Flexibility to capitalize on and learn from opportunities (Mid-stream flexibility)
Lessons Learned

“Must Have’s”

- Have a dynamic consultant
  - Local pictures and examples
  - Working knowledge of the community and a sense of place
  - Open to suggestions from the “local” organization
- Evaluation and consultant built in from the beginning
- Design program based on the “place” (the State, County or Neighborhood)

FOCUS on your OUTCOMES and the REASONS WHY they are IMPORTANT
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- HHI Evaluation Team Members
- Advocates
Mahalo (Thank You)

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