

Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Director of Health

State of Hawaii Department of Health

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Professional Experience

Director of Health, State of Hawaii

June 2018 to Present

- The Director of Health is the chief health and environmental official in Hawai‘i and oversees more than 100 programs and over 2,700 dedicated staff whose mission it is to protect and improve the health and environment for all people in Hawai‘i.
- In addition to general administrative and oversight responsibilities, Dr. Anderson provides direction as appropriate to the Office of Public Health Preparedness, Family Health, Disease Outbreak Control, Emergency Medical Services, Communicable Diseases, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Developmental Disabilities, Environmental Health, State Laboratories, Behavioral Health, Hawaii State Hospital, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and other programs within the Department. He also provides administrative support to attached agencies including the State Health Planning and Development Agency, Office of Language Access, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability and Communication Access Board, Executive Office on Aging, and the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

Administrator, Division of Aquatic Resources,

Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii

October 2015 to May 2018

- The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) is responsible for the management of Hawaii’s aquatic resources and ecosystems through programs to protect and restore the aquatic environment, endangered species, combat the introduction of invasive species, effectively manage fisheries; and carry out education and outreach to the public. The DAR Administrator provides direction and supervision to over 100 marine biologists and other professional staff located on all the major Hawaiian Islands.
- In addition to the responsibilities above, Dr. Anderson lead the State’s “30 x 30 Initiative” (to effectively manage 30 percent of Hawaii’s nearshore waters by 2030) and the development of the State’s Coral Reef Bleaching Recovery Plan. These plans are currently being implemented.
- DAR promulgated numerous new rules to better manage fisheries throughout the state, including the Kaupulehu Fisheries Management Area and the first Community-based Subsistence Fishing Area in Haena, Kauai under Dr. Anderson’s leadership.
- As DAR administrator, Dr. Anderson also served on the Papahānaumokuākea Management Board, which is responsible for managing the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, and served as the Department of Land and Natural Resource representative on the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

President, Bruce Anderson Consulting, LLC

August 2013 to September 2015

- Assisted and advised clients on a wide variety of health and environmental management issues, with a focus on planning, environmental permitting, and regulatory compliance.
- Worked closely with State and Federal regulators to establish the first commercial oyster farm in the State of Hawaii at Kualoa Ranch.
- Designed and developed innovative solutions to complex permitting and compliance issues.

President and CEO, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, State of Hawaii*April 2011 to July 2013*

- Responsible for the management of a state-wide system of 12 hospitals, an annual operating budget of over \$600 million and over 4,300 employees.
- Managed the expansion of community-based services, including the Alii Health clinics in Kona, home health, assisted living, memory care, and adult day health directly and through affiliate organizations.
- Secured \$70 million in operating and CIP funds for the planning, development, implementation and operation of an enterprise-wide electronic medical records system, the largest infrastructure development project ever undertaken by HHSC.
- Developed a system-wide strategic plan, reorganized the Corporate Office, redesigned HHSC's website, eNewsletter and other communication tools.
- Hired key managers, including HHSC's Chief Information Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Director of Quality, Director of Risk Management and others.
- Worked closely with the HHSC Board of Directors in developing and implementing new policies and strategic initiatives.
- Supported the development of a state-wide primary care training program based in Hilo, a Center for Excellence in Long-term care at Leahi Hospital and many other regional initiatives.
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Director of Health and Science Programs, Hawaii Pacific University*March 2009 to April 2011*

- Expanded health education and research opportunities at both the graduate and under graduate level.
- Developed a new Health Science degree with a focus on epidemiology, health policy, research methods, and public health practice. Today, it is the first and only undergraduate public health degree of its kind in the Pacific area.
- Identified and established articulation agreements and collaborative health education opportunities with other universities in Hawaii and on the West Coast.
- Presented workshops and seminars on epidemiology and health policy issues and serves on several student advisory committees.
- Invited speaker at numerous conferences, workshops and seminars on current trends in healthcare.

President, Oceanic Institute*August 2004 to March 2009*

- Led a team of over 70 top scientists, researchers and support staff in developing and transferring new technologies to the private sector to produce healthy, disease-resistant shrimp, fish and other seafood in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- Responsible for a budget of over \$8 million in grant funds and private funding to support a wide range of aquaculture research and development activities, fisheries restoration and related projects.
- Transformed the Institute from a situation where it was historically losing over \$1 million per year to the point where saving over \$1 million per year were being realized. Accumulated an endowment of over \$5 million dollars during this 5-year period.
- Managed state-of-the art breeding and research programs acknowledged worldwide for cutting-edge research on shrimp breeding and offshore aquaculture technology development.
- Developed new entrepreneurial programs to sell pathogen-free shrimp breeding stock for sale worldwide, which generated over \$1 million per year in sales to augment grant funds.
- Secured research funding to breed the first Yellow Tangs and Potters Angles in captivity for the aquarium trade, taking pressure off natural stocks.
- Secured contracts to raise moi fingerlings for grow-out by the aquaculture industry.

Environmental Health Program Director
John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii

December 2002 to July 2004

- Developed environmental health and emergency health preparedness programs at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. Responsible for recruiting expert staff, training health professionals and the development of a curriculum in partnership with the University of Texas School of Public Health with \$225,000 in funds provided from the Centers for Disease Control.
- Collaborated with the UH Sea Grant College Program on various projects, including a study of the potential for ciguatera fish poisoning in offshore aquaculture facilities in Hawaii.
- Served as lecturer on environmental health at the University of Hawaii School of Medicine, and on environmental compliance at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

Director of Health, State of Hawaii

January 1999 to December 2002

- Provided leadership and direction for over 100 programs providing health and environmental protection services at Hawaii State Department of Health.
- Advocated for, designed and implemented the Hawaii Health Initiative, a comprehensive program to promote healthy living, tobacco control, exercise and good nutrition, using \$10 million a year from the tobacco settlement.
- Lead the expansion of community-based services for needy children and individuals with disabilities and behavioral disorders. Successfully lobbied the State Legislature for funding to support these programs resulting in an increase of \$125 million annually. In addition to resolving long-standing legal actions against the department, this enabled the State to take full advantage of federal matching funds.
- Effectively responded to public health threats of terrorism, anthrax, and the other events surrounding September 11, 2001 and led a successful multi-agency effort to stop an outbreak of dengue fever in Hawaii.
- Reorganized the Department to create a new Disease Outbreak Control Division to address further threats of infectious disease. Secured more than \$207 million in competitive federal grants.

Deputy Director for Environmental Health, State of Hawaii

July 1987 to December 1998

- Reorganized and created new, statewide programs to protect drinking water, air, coastal water quality, along with programs to regulate wastewater and solid and hazardous waste. In addition, provided direction to the State's public health laboratory, sanitation, food and drug, vector control, and noise and radiation control programs.
- Designed a new program to address indoor air pollution and established a new office to evaluate health risks associated with exposure to environmental hazards and to respond to oil and hazardous material spills.
- Developed a long-term strategic plan for environmental protection. Successfully brought virtually all state environmental programs up to national standards, thus earning full designation for these programs from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Developed private-public partnerships to streamline environmental permitting.

Environmental Epidemiologist, State of Hawaii

January 1981 to July 1987

- Under contract to the State of Hawaii Department of Health, supervised and lead the investigation of reports of adverse impacts associated with environmental hazards in Hawaii, conducted epidemiological studies of various zoonotic diseases (e.g., leptospirosis, schistosomiasis, angiostrongiliasis, and others) and fish poisoning outbreaks.
- Developed educational materials on fish poisoning and other aquatic hazards. Provided risk assessments on EDB, DBCP, TCP and other contaminants found in drinking water supplies.

Appointed Positions, Boards and Memberships

Board Member, Healthcare Association of Hawaii

2012 to 2013

- The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), which includes all acute care hospitals in Hawaii, many of the long term care facilities. HAH is committed to working toward a health care system that offers the best possible quality of care to the people of Hawaii and affordable costs.

President, Hawaii Academy of Science

2007 to 2012

- The Hawaii Academy of Science supports the Hawaii Science and Engineering Fair that involves over 7,000 high school students state-wide. Successfully lobbied for and received \$420,000 in Federal stimulus grant funds from 2009 - 2011.

Commissioner, State Commission on Water Resource Management

1999 to 2002 and 2018

- One of seven committee members responsible for monitoring and regulating the use of water resources throughout the State of Hawaii.

Board Member, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC)

1999 to 2002

- This board oversees operations of HHSC, a system of twelve hospitals and associated clinics who serve the health needs of rural communities throughout Hawaii.

Hawaii Representative, Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)

1994 to 1998

- ECOS assists the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in developing and recommending national policies on key environmental issues. Represented Region IX (California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii) on the ECOS Executive Committee. Additionally, represented “non-contiguous” states and territories, including Guam and American Samoa, on the Executive Committee.

Founding Chairman, Hawaii State Emergency Response Commission (HSERC)

1990 to 1998

- Developed statewide emergency response plan for oil and hazardous material spills and ensured the State of Hawaii is in full compliance with chemical reporting requirements and prepared to respond to emergencies.

Oceania Regional Response Team Representative

1988 to 1998

- Worked with federal agency representatives to ensure Hawaii was ready to respond to major oil spills and the release of hazardous materials.

Board Member, Papahānaumokuākea Management Board

2015 to 2018

- Represented DLNR on the Papahānaumokuākea Management Board, which permits all activities in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (except Midway).

Community and Volunteer Organizations

Past President, The Pacific Club (member since 1976)
Member, Social Science Association (since 1992)
Director, Waimanalo Health Center (2005 - 2011)
Board Member, Friends of Waikiki Aquarium (2009-2011)
Hawaii Business Roundtable (2011-2013)
President, Friends of Nuuanu Reservoir (1997-2000)
President, Waikii Ranch Homeowners Association (2015-2016)

Professional Education

Ph.D., University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii

Degree in Biomedical Sciences in December 1981. Program concentrated on infectious disease epidemiology and biostatistics. Instructor at the School of Public Health and intern with State of Hawaii Department of Health Communicable Division. Internship involved the investigation and control of outbreaks of leptospirosis, fish poisoning and other diseases in Hawaii, with a focus on aquaculture, taro farming and other industries where workers may be a risk of water-borne disease, 1979-1981.
Dissertation title: A Study of the Epidemiology of Leptospirosis on Aquaculture Farms in Hawaii

M.P.H., Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

Degree from the Yale School of Medicine in May 1979. Program concentrated on infectious disease epidemiology and included courses in environmental health, public health administration and public health law. Practicum was focused on air pollution in Connecticut, 1977-1979.
Thesis Title: A Study of Transovarial Transmission of Japanese Encephalitis in Hong Kong

B.A., The Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Degree in May 1974 with a major in Physics.

Personal Background

Born and raised in Hawaii. Graduate of Punahou School (1970). Married. Two children, ages 27 and 30. When not taking care of horses, sheep, bees and other animals on a small ranch on Hawaii Island, Bruce and his wife, Debbie, enjoy hiking, diving, and saltwater fly fishing.

