



DEPT. COMM. NO. 178

December 28, 2017

VIA EMAIL & HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
Senate President
415 South Beretania Street
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Audit of the Disease Outbreak Control Division of the Department of Health, Report
No. 17-14

Dear President Kouchi:

We are enclosing copies of our *Audit of the Disease Outbreak Control Division of the Department of Health*, Report No. 17-14, and the Auditor's Summary. The Disease Outbreak Control Division is responsible for the control and prevention of infectious diseases, emerging disease threats, and potential acts of terrorism as well as all hazards that threaten the public's health throughout the State.

Our audit assessed the division's surveillance and response to three disease outbreaks: dengue fever on Hawaii Island, hepatitis-A involving frozen scallops on O'ahu and Kaua'i, and salmonella-infected ogo on O'ahu. We found that, during these outbreak responses, the division and the Department of Health experienced communication breakdowns and did not have a formal communications plan. We also found that the division has inconsistent processes and procedures for recordkeeping, internal reviews, and reporting. These deficiencies result in limited accountability to the public and could also result in missed investigation steps and possible delays and/or replication of efforts during an outbreak response.

The report is accessible through our website at <http://files.hawaii.gov/auditor/Reports/2017/17-14.pdf>.

If you have questions about the report, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

Leslie H. Kondo
State Auditor

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Enclosures