Preface

In 2003, the Public Health Law Organization (PHLO) was created at the University of Hawai‘i, William S. Richardson, School of Law. PHLO is a student-run organization. The purpose of PHLO is to promote public health awareness and activities, to participate in the legislative process on public health bills, and to disseminate original legal research on health law and public health issues. We are committed to making this happen through various activities.

From the beginning, we have sponsored various health-related presentations, ranging from the elder abuse epidemic in Hawai‘i to nutrition, and our members have aided in Hawai‘i Department of Health surveys of local physicians regarding disease reporting practices in Hawai‘i. We have organized healthy activities like hiking trips, weekly volleyball games and yoga classes. In March 2004, PHLO helped organize the University of Hawai‘i William S. Richardson School of Law’s first volleyball tournament. We have participated in community activities like the AIDS Walk and the Race for the Cure. PHLO has also been involved in following various health related bills in Hawai‘i and has submitted testimony in support of several hotly debated bills including those related to the fluoridation of Hawai‘i’s drinking water and the end-of-life decision making.

In this volume, PHLO has created Hawaii’s first free online law journal that focuses on current public health issues both nationally and in the pacific region. Through the hard work of the various writers and the editors, we were able to complete this inaugural issue. I would like to thank them all for their time, hard work and dedication. We hope that this journal promotes discussion and that you find it useful.

Larry Tam, MPH, PharmD, MBA, JD
Founder, Public Health Law Organization