April 2, 2004

Dear Honored Guest:

It is my great privilege and honor to invite you to attend the Pacific Health Summit for Sustainable Disaster Risk Management in Honolulu, Hawaii during the week of June 14 – 18, 2004. I am happy to announce that the University of Hawaii will be sponsoring this summit in association with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Pacific Emergency Health Initiative and the University of Texas School of Public Health.

Pacific islands carry the largest disaster burden of any world region, including Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe. From 1990-1999, this region lead the entire world in rates of disaster-related mortality, percentage of population affected, and disaster damage costs per capita GNP.

The goal of this regional summit will be to identify challenges and opportunities for an integrated, inclusive, multi-hazard and region-wide approach to sustainable disaster risk management for the promotion of health and safety in the Pacific islands.

The outcome of this summit will be a regional declaration of Pacific strategies for sustainable disaster risk management, as related to public health and medical issues. This declaration will subsequently be included as part of the Pacific review of the Yokohama Plan of Action and within a global forum at the 2005 Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan. Please see the attached Summit Announcement for more background and details.

Although we are unable to provide funding to cover the cost of your attendance at the summit, it is our hope that you will join us in this unprecedented opportunity to share your own challenges and to prepare a declaration of emergency health strategy that will represent the common interests of all Pacific islands with a special focus on safety, health, happiness and cultural preservation.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience if you are able to confirm your attendance so that we can officially register you for the summit. If you are planning to attend the summit and would like information on hotel options in Honolulu or if you have any questions concerning logistics around the summit please contact Ms. Marge Kanahele of the Graduate School, USDA at (808) 523-1650 or via email at: margery_kanahele@grad.usda.gov

I look forward to the possibility of seeing you in Honolulu in mid-June.

With Aloha,

Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D.
John A. Burns School of Medicine
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