



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Urban Sprawl Linked to Declining Public Health

Former director of CDC's National Center for Environmental Health
conducts free public lecture

Clear linkages exist between human health and our built environment, claims Dr. Richard Jackson, former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health.

Dr. Jackson, a physician who has specialized in issues related to health and the environment for over 22 years, will be conducting a free public lecture on **Thursday, November 2, 2006** at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. He will be taking a comprehensive look at the connection between urban planning, architecture, transportation, community design and public health and offering timely solutions geared toward our unique island environment.

Data clearly shows that adverse health affects such as obesity are closely linked to sprawling development. Cities have spread out over vast expanses and countless hours are spent working and commuting. Most communities in Hawai'i are not built to allow people the option of walking to work, school, shopping, etc, which exacerbates the rate of obesity. It is especially imperative here, as obesity rates in Hawai'i are approximately double the national average.

Increasingly, public planners have been looking toward smart growth principles to create more walkable communities that are aesthetically appealing, environmentally sustainable, safe and healthy places to inhabit. Dr. Jackson will outline the complex challenges related to re-creating communities that are well designed using these principles, and how the medical, public health, urban design and planning professionals can work together to create active and livable communities.

Media coverage is invited and encouraged

**Thursday, November 2, 2006, 6:00 p.m.
John A. Burns School of Medicine, 3rd floor auditorium
651 Ilalo Street, Honolulu**

Presented by the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program Center for Smart Building and Community Design in concert with the University of Hawai'i Foundation

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program supports an innovative program of research, education and extension services directed to the improved understanding and stewardship of coastal and marine resources of the state, region and nation. Science serving Hawai'i and the Pacific for 39 years.