

Health Department grants available for tobacco-control activities

The Department of Health's (DOH) Tobacco Prevention and Education Project (TPEP) is looking for innovative community-based approaches to reduce tobacco use and exposure among children and adults, and to increase the commitment and capability of organizations engaged in tobacco-control activities.

TPEP will be awarding a limited number of mini-grants to support

these local and statewide tobacco prevention and control efforts. The deadline for submitting applications is Oct. 30.

"We are looking for ideas born out of the needs of different communities and put into action by a variety of local organizations," explains Lila Johnson of the Tobacco Prevention and Education Project. "We find people are better served when different

organizations work together."

This is the third year the grants are being offered in Hawaii although this year the program has expanded and the grant amounts increased. Past projects have included video productions, surveys, the development of school curricula, smoking cessation programs for pregnant women, and poster and T-shirt contests.

The 1998 mini-grants will be

awarded in the following areas for tobacco control interventions:

- Four Community Coalition Projects: up to \$8,000 each for East Hawaii, West Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui. Projects should include at least two community-based organizations and demonstrate collaborative efforts toward creative and innovative tobacco control activities.

- Two Special Populations Projects:

up to \$6,000 each. Projects should identify populations at risk and focus on tobacco-specific activity areas which address and involve the affected population. Examples of at risk populations include teens, pregnant women, and ethnic groups whose smoking rates are above the state and national average.

- One Rural Populations Project: up to \$3,000. Project should focus on

capacity building activities in underserved and geographically remote areas without current tobacco control coalitions or programs.

To request a mini-grant application or for additional information regarding the mini-grants program, contact, toll free, (888) 810-8112.

Neighbor Island residents may contact their respective District Health Offices for applications.