

Nia Aitaoto, PhD

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Curriculum Vitae

CURRENT POSITIONS

Associate Professor

Department of Nutrition and Integrative Physiology
College of Health
University of Utah
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Salt Lake City, UT 84112
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Adjunct Assistant Professor

Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion
College of Dentistry
New York University
345 E. 24th Street
New York, NY, 10010
Email: na54@nyu.edu

Adjunct Assistant Professor

Department of Native Hawaiian Health
University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine
651 Ilalo Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

EDUCATION

University of Iowa, Iowa City	PhD	2013	Community & Behavioral Health Health Communication Subtrack
University of Hawaii, Honolulu	MS	2007	Epidemiology
University of Hawaii, Honolulu	MPH	1995	Community Health
University of Hawaii, Honolulu	BA	1993	Psychology
University of Hawaii, Honolulu	Certificate	1993	Gerontology

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

2018-Present	University of Utah Associate Professor, College of Health Department of Nutrition and Integrative Physiology
2015-2018	University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Assistant Professor, College of Medicine Co-Director, Center for Pacific Islander Health Department of Internal Medicine
2014-Present	New York University Adjunct Assistant Professor, College of Dentistry Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion

2013-Present **University of Iowa**
 Research Scientist, College of Public Health
 Department of Epidemiology

2013-2016 **Kokua Kalihi Valley Clinic, University of Hawaii RMATRIX**
 Principal Investigator and Project Director, Manu O Ku Project

2003-Present **Consultant**

- 17- Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii – Public Health Studies
- 17- Kosrae CHC and Kosrae Department of Health Services
- 14-15 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- 13-16 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – Department of Health
- 12- Republic of the Marshall Islands – Ministry of Health
- 12-15 Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organization
- 11-15 Hawaii Pacific Health
- 09- National Association of Chronic Diseases Director
- 09-12 Hawaii Justice Center
- 08-11 Hawaii Psychological Association
- 08-09 Pacific Renal Care Foundation
- 08-09 Covering Kids Hawaii
- 08-09 Health Resources and Services Administration
- 07-12 American Legacy Foundation
- 07-09 U.S Department of Health and Human Services - HRSA
- 07-09 Kauai Rural Health
- 06-07 Hoola Lahui Hawaii
- 05-06 American Samoa Cancer Network
- 04-06 Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training
- 03-06 Hawaii Primary Care Association

2009-Present **National Association of Chronic Disease Directors**
 Advisor, Pacific Chronic Disease Council

2010-2012 **University of Iowa, College of Public Health**
 Principal Investigator and Project Director, Faith in Action Research Alliance

2004-2006 **World Health Organization**
 Curriculum Developer and Instructor, Pacific Open Learning Health Network

2001-2009 **Papa Ola Lokahi**

- 05-09 Program Coordinator, Pacific Diabetes Education Program
- 06-07 Project Director, Micronesians United Breast Cancer Project
- 04-06 Principal Investigator, Samoan Pastors Cancer Project
- 04-08 Program Coordinator, Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands
- 01-03 Program Coordinator, Pacific Diabetes Today Resource Center

1998-2001 **Hawaii Poison Center**
 Health Educator

1996-1998 **Palama Settlement**
 Coordinator, Family Service Centers

1995-1996 **Kokua Kalihi Valley**
 Health Educator, Hepatitis B Outreach Project

HONORS, AWARDS, CERTIFICATES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2009-13 Dean's Graduate Fellowship, University of Iowa
2012 Pacific Chronic Disease Coalition Chairman Award
2008 Pacific Region Diabetes Champion, Pacific Diabetes Prevention and Control Programs
2004 National Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparity Community Partner, National Institute of Health

PUBLICATIONS

Chapters in Books

1. Kaholokula, JK, **Aitaoto, N.**, & Werner, K. (2017). Pacific Islanders and Gender. In K.L.Nadal (Ed.) *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Psychology and Gender* (pp. 1253-1258). Thousand Oaks, USA: SAGE Publications, Inc.
2. **Aitaoto, N.**, Tsark, J.T. & Braun, K. L. (2010). Pacific Diabetes Today: Cultivating Community Partnerships for Successful and Sustainable Diabetes Programs in Hawaii and the Pacific. In L. Liburd (Ed.). *Diabetes and Health Disparities: Community Based Approaches for Racial and Ethnic Population* (pp. 329-344). New York, USA: Springer Publishing Company

Articles in Refereed Journals

1. Subica, A. M., Aitaoto, N., Sullivan, J. G., Henwood, B. F., Yamada, A. M., & Link, B. G. (2019). Mental illness stigma among Pacific Islanders. *Psychiatry Research*.
2. McElfish, P.A., Narcisse, M.R., Long, C.R., Ayers, B.L., Hawley, N.L., **Aitaoto, N.**, Riklon, S., Su, L.J., Ima, S.Z., Wilmoth, R.O., Schulz, T.K., & Kadlubar, S. (2017) Leveraging community-based participatory research capacity to recruit Pacific Islanders into a genetics study. *J Community Genet*. doi: 10.1007/s12687-017-0313-9. PMID: 28689351
3. McElfish, P.A., Goulden, P.A., Bursac, Z, Hudson, J., Purvis, R.S., Yeary, K.H., **Aitaoto, N**, Kohler PO. (2016) Engagement practices that join scientific methods with community wisdom: designing a patient-centered, randomized control trial with a Pacific Islander community. *Nurs Inq*. 2017 Apr;24(2). doi: 10.1111/nin.12141. Epub 2016 Jun 20. PMID: 2732517
4. **Aitaoto, N**, Campo S, Snetselaar LG, et al. (2015). Formative research to inform nutrition interventions in Chuuk and the US Pacific. *J Acad Nutr Diet*. 2015;115(6):947-53. doi: 10.1016/j.jand.2014.11.018. Epub 2015 Jan 27. PubMed PMID: 25634092.
5. **Aitaoto, N.**, & Ichiho H.M. (2013). Assessing the Health Care System of Services for Non-Communicable Diseases in the U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands: A Pacific Region Perspective. *Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health*, 72(5Suppl1), 106-114.
6. Ichiho, H.M., & **Aitaoto, N.** (2013). Introduction and Methods: Assessing the System of Services for Chronic Diseases Prevention and Control in the U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands. *Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health*, 72(5Suppl1), 5-9.
7. Ichiho, H.M., Roby, F., Ponausuia, E.S., & **Aitaoto, N.** (2013). Assessment of Non-Communicable Diseases, Diabetes and Related Risk Factors in the Territory of American Samoa: A Systems Perspective. *Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health*, 72(5Suppl1), 10-18.
8. Ichiho, H.M., Robles, B., & **Aitaoto N.** (2013). Assessment of Non-Communicable Diseases, Diabetes and Related Risk Factors in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: A Systems Perspective. *Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health*, 72(5Suppl1), 19-29.
9. Ichiho, H.M., Shomour, M., Marar, J., Lippwe, K., & **Aitaoto, N.** (2013). Assessment of Non-Communicable Diseases, Diabetes and Related Risk Factors in the Federated States of Micronesia, State of Chuuk: A Systems Perspective. *Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health*, 72(5Suppl1), 30-38.
10. Ichiho, H.M., Tolenoa, N., Taulung, L., Mongkeya, M., Lippwe, K., & **Aitaoto N.** (2013). Assessment of Non-Communicable Diseases, Diabetes and Related Risk Factors in the Federated States of Micronesia, State of Kosrae: A Systems Perspective. *Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health*, 72(5Suppl1), 39-48.
11. Ichiho, H.M., Anson, R.R., Keller, E., Lippwe, K., & **Aitaoto, N.** (2013). Assessment of Non-Communicable Diseases, Diabetes and Related Risk Factors in the Federated States of Micronesia, State of Pohnpei: A Systems Perspective. *Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health*, 72(5Suppl1), 49-56.

12. Ichiho, H.M., Yurow, J., Lippwe, K., & **Aitaoto N.** (2013). Assessment of Non-Communicable Diseases, Diabetes and Related Risk Factors in the Federated States of Micronesia, State of Yap: A Systems Perspective. *Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health*, 72(5Suppl1), 57-67.
13. Ichiho, H.M., Gillian, J.W., & **Aitaoto N.** (2013). Assessment of Non-Communicable Diseases, Diabetes and Related Risk Factors in the Territory of Guam: A Systems Perspective. *Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health*, 72(5Suppl1), 68-76.
14. Ichiho, H.M., deBrum, I., Kedi, S., Langidrik, J., & **Aitaoto N.** (2013). Assessment of Non-Communicable Diseases, Diabetes and Related Risk Factors in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Majuro Atoll: A Systems Perspective. *Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health*, 72(5Suppl1), 87-97.
15. Ichiho, H.M., Seremai, J., Trinidad, R., Paul, I., Langidrik, J., & **Aitaoto N.** (2013). Assessment of Non-Communicable Diseases, Diabetes and Related Risk Factors in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kwajalein Atoll: A Systems Perspective. *Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health*, 72(5Suppl1), 77-86.
16. Ichiho, H.M., Demei, R., Kuartei, S., & **Aitaoto N.** (2013). Assessment of Non-Communicable Diseases, Diabetes and Related Risk Factors in the Republic of Palau: A Systems Perspective. *Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health*, 72(5Suppl1), 98-105.
17. **Aitaoto, N.**, Braun, K.L., Estrella, J., Epeluk, A., Tsark, J. (2012). Design and Results of a Culturally Tailored Cancer Outreach Project by and for Micronesian Women. *Preventing Chronic Disease*, 9, 100262. http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2012/10_0262.htm.
18. **Aitaoto, N.**, Tsark, J.T. & Braun, K. L. (2009). Sustainability of Diabetes Today Coalitions in the Pacific. *Preventing Chronic Disease*, 6(4). http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2009/oct/08_0181.htm. Accessed [11/30/2009]
19. **Aitaoto, N.**, Tsark, J. T., Tomiyasu, D. W., Yamashita, B. A. & Braun, K. L. (2009). Strategies to increase breast and cervical cancer screenings among Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Filipina women in Hawaii. *Hawaii Medical Journal*, 68(9), 215-222.
20. Hosey, G., **Aitaoto, N.**, Satterfield, D., Kelly, J., Apaisam, C. J., Belyeu-Camacho, T., et al. (2009). The culture, community and science of type 2 diabetes prevention in the US Associated Pacific Islands. *Preventing Chronic Disease*, 6(3). http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2009/jul/08_0129.htm
21. Liu, K., Blasdell, K. & **Aitaoto, N.** (2008) "Health Disparities in Hawaii, Part 1" *Hawaii Journal of Public Health*, 1(1), 5-13.
22. **Aitaoto, N.**, Braun, K., Dang, K. & Soa, T. (2007). Cultural Considerations in Developing Church-Based Programs to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities Among Samoans. *Ethnicity and Health*, 12(4) 381-400
23. Withy, K., **Aitaoto, N.**, Berry, S., Amoa, F. & Untalan, F. (2007). Maximizing successful pursuit of health careers in Micronesia: what to do? *Pacific Health Dialog*, 14(1), 146-155.
24. Braun, K., Tsark, J., Santos, L. A., **Aitaoto, N.** & Chong, C. (2006). Building Native Hawaiian Capacity in Cancer Research and Programming. *Cancer*, 107(8), 2082-2090
25. **Aitaoto, N.**, Braun, K., Ichiho, H. & Kuhaulua, R. (2005). Diabetes Today in the Pacific: Reports from the Field. *Pacific Health Dialog*, 12 (1), 124-131
26. Braun, K., Ichiho, H., Kuhaulua, R., **Aitaoto, N.**, Tsark, J., Spegal, R. & Lamb, B. (2003). Empowerment through community building: Diabetes Today in the Pacific. *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*, 9 (Suppl), S19-S25
27. Braun, K., Kuhaulua, R., Ichiho, H. & **Aitaoto N.** (2002). Listening to the community: A first step in adapting Diabetes Today in the Pacific. *Pacific Health Dialog*, 9(2), 150-157.

Editorial Boards, Reviewer

Amerasia Journal - reviewer

American Journal of Public Health – reviewer

Ethnicity and Health - reviewer

Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health – reviewer and co-editor of special issue

Hulili Multidisciplinary Research on Hawaiian Well-Being – reviewer

Journal of Clinical Tuberculosis and Other Mycobacterial Diseases - reviewer

Preventing Chronic Disease – reviewer

Technical Reports

1. **Aitaoto, N** & Tsark, J. (2009). Preferred Communication Assessment For At-Risk Populations (Native Hawaiian, Filipino, Micronesian): Report to the Hawaii Department of Health Tobacco Program. Honolulu HI: Papa Ola Lokahi
2. **Aitaoto, N.** & Tsark, J. (2007). Report: BCCCP needs assessment and evaluation of outreach efforts to recruit eligible Native Hawaiian, Filipina and Pacific Islander women from priority populations. Honolulu HI: Papa Ola Lokahi

CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Invited Presentations

1. **Aitaoto, N.** Insight when serving Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Patients, National Diabetes Education Program, Atlanta Georgia, May 2013
2. **Aitaoto, N.** Diabetes in the Pacific: Indigenous Reference and Community Response, Institute of Medicine Roundtable, Seattle, Washington, November 2012
3. **Aitaoto, N.** Diabetes in the Pacific: Indigenous Reference, Struggle and Resilience, Intercultural Cancer Council Annual Meeting, Houston, Texas, July 2012.
4. **Aitaoto, N.** Obesity and Diabetes in the U.S. Pacific, National Council of Asian Pacific Island Physicians, Washington, DC. June 2012
5. **Aitaoto, N.** Communicating Diabetes and TB risks to Pacific Islanders. Pacific Islands Tuberculosis Association Annual Conference, Koror, Republic of Palau May 2012
6. **Aitaoto, N.** Cultural Insights when Serving Micronesian Patients, Hawaii Pacific Health, Honolulu, Hawaii . January 2012
7. **Aitaoto, N.** Lifestyle of Wellness: A Pacific Discourse. Guam Diabetes Association Annual Conference, Hagatna, Guam, November 2011
8. **Aitaoto, N.** Mediated Communication in the Pacific. PICATA, February 2011
9. **Aitaoto, N.** Research in the U.S Pacific. 49th Meeting of the Pacific Island Health Officers Association. Honolulu, September 2010.
10. **Aitaoto, N.** Culturally Competent Health Care Systems for Pacific Islanders. Hawaii Primary Care Meeting Conference. October 2008

Refereed Papers, Posters and Roundtables

1. **Aitaoto, N.** Cultivating Pacific Leaders for the Journey to Wellness. Center for the Study of Asian American Health 6th Annual Conference, New York, December 2011
2. **Aitaoto, N.** Working with Micronesians United (grassroots social justice organization) to increase breast cancer screening in Hawaii, American Public Health Association (APHA), Denver, November 2010
3. Esah, S., Epeluk, A., & **Aitaoto, N.** Community Cancer Outreach Project. American Public Health Association (APHA), Denver, October 2008
4. **Aitaoto, N.** Pacific Tobacco and Diabetes Program Integration: The Science, Process and Culture. Hawaii Tobacco Control Conference. Honolulu, May 2008
5. **Aitaoto, N.** & Stinnett, K. Diabetes Education in Hawaii and the Pacific. Hawaii Global Public Health Conference. June 2007
6. Fong, M. & **Aitaoto, N.** Partnering with Pacific Island Communities to Develop Diabetes Education Materials. American Public Health Association (APHA), Boston, November 2006.
7. **Aitaoto, N.** Best Practices in Diabetes Prevention and Control for Pacific Island Communities. Healing Our Spirits Worldwide Conference, Edmonton, Canada. July 2006.
8. **Aitaoto, N.** Barriers to Diabetes Prevention, Diagnosis and Control in the US Pacific. Healing Our Spirits Worldwide Conference, Edmonton, Canada. July 2006.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Associations

1. American Public Health Association, member since 2003
2. American Diabetes Association, member since 2005

National Boards/Task Forces

1. National Diabetes Education Program, Operations Committee Member 2011-2013
2. Komen Foundation, Asian American Pacific Islander National Advisory Member 2005-2006
3. American Diabetes Association, Asian Pacific American Diabetes Action Council Member 2012-present
4. Midwest Public Health Training Center, Advisory Council Member 2016-present