INTRODUCTION

• Photovoice (PV) is a participatory qualitative method that asks participants to share photos and narratives to explain concerns within their community (Wallenstein & Duran, 2010; Wang, 1999).
• PV is rooted in Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and Participatory Action Research (PAR) (Wallenstein & Duran, 2010).
• There has been little use of PV to examine issues related to perception of risk for disasters (Crabtree, 2015).
• Culture plays an important role in risk perception; unfortunately little is known about the differences in risk perception between various ethnic groups. (Abramson, 2007; Burns & Slovic, 2012; Slovic, 2000). See Figure 2.
• The frequency and severity of disasters has increased over the past twenty years, risk perception is a precursor to preparedness, a crucial step in disaster preparedness.
• Risk perception is a precursor of preparedness (Paton, 2003; Slovic, 2000). See Figure 1.

PARTICIPANTS

• Six participants, two from three age groups, a) 18 – 39, b) 40 – 59, c) 60 and older.
• Participants must:
  - Self-identify as Native Hawaiian
  - Reside or work in the participating community
  - Be at least 18-years-old
  - Commit to making every effort to participate through project completion
  - Speak English to the extent needed for full participation
  - Publicly share the results of project when the research concludes
• There are multiple reasons for examining this population:
  - PV has not been widely used to study community-based disaster preparedness
  - The use of PV among Native Hawaiians is limited.
  - At risk communities are more vulnerable to disasters (Abramson, 2007).
  - Native Hawaiian communities typically identified as vulnerable (Kamehameha Schools, 2014).

METHODOLOGY

• Participants answer questions or highlight community concerns through photographs and narratives of those images (Wang, 1999; Wang, Burns, & Ping, 1996).
• A crucial component of PV is a final presentation of the finding to stakeholders or policy makers who have the capacity to initiate positive change in the community (Wallenstein & Duran, 2010).
• To maintain methodological fidelity the researcher must see the project through the final phase of making changes in the community (Wallenstein & Duran, 2010; Wang et al., 1996).

OBJECTIVES

• The investigator hoped to determine if PV is an acceptable research platform for understanding community-based risk perception among Native Hawaiians. The investigator believes PV provides an opportunity to share insights not described by other qualitative methods.

RESULTS

• Participants felt the method allowed them to express ideas “beyond words”
• Photos capture complex issues, forming a “starting point” for discussion
• This project brought up “emotional” and “challenging” issues within the community
• Images of the community are complex because they bring up personal as well as policy issues
• The method is “fun” and “exciting” to use
• Results were shared with policy makers within two weeks of completing the project

REFERENCES

References available by request; please email torrishe@hawaii.edu.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

• Dr. Kristine Qureshi RN, FAAN, CEN, PHNA-BC
• University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene

DISCLAIMER:
This research is part of the author’s dissertation studies and received no outside funding.

Morgan A. Torris-Hedlund, MS, RN, CN, PHNA-BC, FAWM