Elizabeth A Char, MD took over leadership of the Hawai’i Department of Health on September 16, 2020 after being appointed by Gov. David Ige. Dr. Char is an emergency physician and graduate of the University of Hawai’i, John A. Burns School of Medicine. Her vast clinical and administrative experience includes residency training in California, emergency medicine practice at the Queen’s Medical Center, and service as State of Hawai’i EMS District Medical Director for O’ahu.

Dr. Char has a special interest in medical preparation and training for homeland security and mass gatherings events. Much of her work focuses on EMS and first responder systems of care, providing medical oversight for many of these agencies.