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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A STATE HEALTH  
PLAN INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE OCCURRENCES OF CHRONIC  
OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is a serious  
2 lung disease that makes it difficult for a person to breathe;  
3 the disease includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, although chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is  
6 progressive, it is very preventable and treatable, and  
7 hopefully, it will be curable in the future; and  
8

9           WHEREAS, twenty-four million persons have been diagnosed  
10 with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and as many as five  
11 hundred thousand persons have the disease but are undiagnosed;  
12 and  
13

14           WHEREAS, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is the third  
15 leading cause of death in the United States, and kills more than  
16 one hundred twenty thousand persons a year, or one person every  
17 four minutes; in 2010, the disease cost the United States  
18 government an estimated \$50,000,000,000 in direct and indirect  
19 expenses; and  
20

21           WHEREAS, early screening and detection are critical because  
22 most persons with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are not  
23 diagnosed until they have already lost half of their lung  
24 function; and  
25

26           WHEREAS, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease kills more  
27 women than men each year, and in 2006, the disease killed more  
28 women than breast cancer, Alzheimer's, and diabetes combined;  
29 and



1  
2 WHEREAS, there is no cure for chronic obstructive pulmonary  
3 disease, but proper management of the disease can lead to  
4 improved quality of life and self-sufficiency for affected  
5 patients; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, the State should encourage efforts to prevent  
8 chronic diseases to prevent future medical costs, and the  
9 Department of Health should develop an action plan for chronic  
10 obstructive pulmonary disease education and awareness, as well  
11 as early diagnosis and testing; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, to further reduce the state and federal costs of  
14 Medicare and Medicaid and lost time, the Department of Health  
15 should include chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in its  
16 chronic disease initiatives and advocate for transitional care  
17 programs and third party reimbursements; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, coordinated community efforts such as the Hawaii  
20 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Coalition have been formed  
21 to promote public-private partnerships to bring together  
22 resources to serve all residents afflicted by the disease,  
23 improve the quality of life of those living with the disease,  
24 and reduce the burden that results from chronic obstructive  
25 pulmonary disease; now, therefore,

26  
27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
28 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
29 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is  
30 requested to establish a state health initiative to reduce the  
31 occurrences of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in Hawaii;  
32 and

33



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health  
 3 and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii  
 4 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Coalition.  
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 6  
 7

OFFERED BY:

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JAN 20 2012

