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

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

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

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

25
26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
28 of 2012, that the Department of Health is requested to establish
29 a state health initiative to reduce the occurrences of chronic
30 obstructive pulmonary disease in Hawaii; and

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

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JAN 20 2012

