



Testimony in **support of HCR 214 and HR 184**

House Committee on Health

Hearing scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2009 @ 10am, room 329

March 16, 2009

To: House Committee on Health
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

By: Valerie Chang, JD, Executive Director
Hawaii COPD Coalition, <http://hawaiicopd.org>
733 Bishop Street, Suite 1550, Honolulu, HI 96813
(808)699-9839

Re: HCR 214 and HR 184 re CDC COPD Module

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

My name is Valerie Chang. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii COPD Coalition. Our organization provides services and support to Hawaii's people affected by Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), more commonly known as emphysema, chronic bronchitis and similar conditions. COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the US and expected to be the third leading cause of death in the US and world by 2020. The American Lung Association has estimated that over 50,000 people in Hawaii have COPD. Many, many more people in Hawaii suffer from asthma, tuberculosis, pneumonia and other respiratory conditions.

I strongly SUPPORT the intent of HCR 214 and HR 184, for CDC Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion **to develop a national plan to respond to COPD**; this plan is referred to in the Hawaii resolutions as a module. In its November 13, 2008 CDC report, an article about COPD was released in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) with key findings: CDC estimates that additional health care costs total \$6000 each year for every COPD patient in the US. More than 126,000 Americans die of COPD each year. More women than men are dying each year from COPD.

Currently there is NO plan in place at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to address COPD. We urge that a joint, concurrent resolution be passed to request that the CDC establish a plan with as little as one million dollars of federal funds appropriated so that CDC can begin its long overdue work to raise awareness and combat this treatable disease.