

JAN 25 2012

SENATE 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
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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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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
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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
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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
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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,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the
29 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
30 Health is requested to establish a state health initiative to
31 reduce the occurrences of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
32 in Hawaii; and
33



S.C.R. NO. 4

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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