



Testimony in support of HCR154

Senate Committee on Health

Hearing scheduled for Thursday, April 19 @ 1:30pm

April 18, 2012

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Josh Green, M.D. Chair, Senator Clarence Nishihara Vice Chair, Committee Members

By: Valerie Chang, JD, Executive Director
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Re: HCR 154: Requesting the Department of Health to Develop a State Action Plan to Combat Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in the State

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

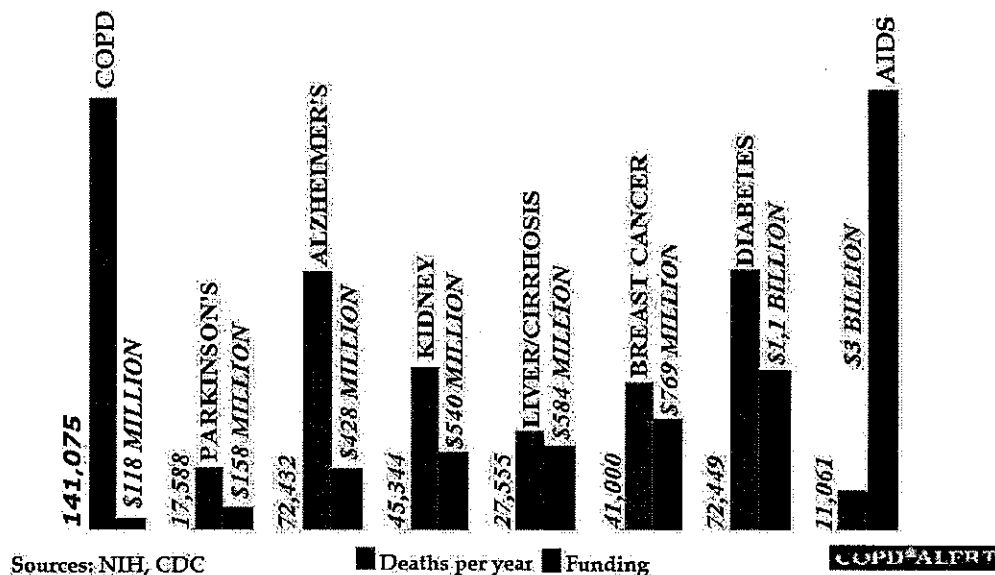
My name is Valerie Chang. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii COPD Coalition. Our organization provides services and support to Hawaii's people affected by Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), more commonly known as emphysema, chronic bronchitis and similar conditions. COPD has risen to the third leading cause of death in the US and is also the second leading cause of disability in the US. The Burden of COPD in Hawaii 2010 report by the Hawaii Department of health estimates that **over 30,800 Hawaii adults have been diagnosed with COPD; likely an equal or greater number remain undiagnosed.** The report also estimates **over \$55 million each year in Hawaii hospitalizations due to COPD.** It is estimated that **24 million people in the United States suffer from COPD, with at least half of them not yet diagnosed.**

I strongly SUPPORT the intent HCR154, "Requesting the Department of Health to Develop a State Action Plan to Combat Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in the State." 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, one every four minutes.

The Tobacco Prevention and Education Program of the Department of Health has generously provided funding for a facilitator who conducted the **first ever COPD strategic planning meeting, which was held all day on Saturday, March 31, 2012** and was well attended by representatives from the legislature, Department of Health (Chronic Disease Branch, Tobacco Prevention and Education Program, Hawaii Asthma Initiative and Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System), University of Hawaii (School of Public Health, School of Nursing, and Curriculum Development and Research Group), Kapiolani Community College Respiratory Therapy Program, Hawaii Primary Care, American Lung Association in Hawaii, Hawaii Society for Respiratory Care, Tripler, Kaiser Permanente, Pali Momi, Kuakini, Queen's Medical Center, Hawaii Thoracic Society, as well as many others. A draft mission, goals and objectives will be drafted by the facilitator, from the work of the group and circulated later in April for comment and potential revision. Follow up meetings will be scheduled as needed before finalizing the plan. It is anticipated that a plan will be presented in November 2012, ahead of the proposed timeline in this resolution.

It is anticipated that having a plan will help to solidify and prioritize among many goals and objectives toward reducing the burden of COPD in Hawaii in a systematic, holistic manner that best uses available resources. This will help guide future efforts and help in coordinating with any overarching chronic disease plan.

NIH DISEASE RESEARCH FUNDING FOR 2010



Currently there is NO plan in place at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to address COPD. In 2009, the Hawaii legislature was the FIRST legislature in the nation that sent a joint concurrent resolution to Congress, urging the CDC to develop a national COPD Plan. Hawaii has submitted an abstract to present at the American Public Health Association meeting in San Francisco about COPD in a session panel with CDC members, the COPD Foundation and colleagues from South Carolina, to encourage further discussion about this important condition. Funding for COPD nationally is extremely low and disproportionate to the huge burden it imposes on society.

It is anticipated that having a plan will help to solidify and prioritize among many goals and objectives toward reducing the burden of COPD in Hawaii in a systematic, holistic manner that best uses available resources. This will help guide future efforts and help in coordinating with any overarching chronic disease plan. **The Hawaii COPD Coalition strongly supports HCR 154.**