

**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 7:35 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HR10 on 2/24/2012 9:15:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for HLT 2/24/2012 9:15:00 AM HR10

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com](mailto:Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 10:41 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** jikehara@lava.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HR10 on 2/24/2012 9:15:00 AM

**LATE**

Testimony for HLT 2/24/2012 9:15:00 AM HR10

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jo Ann Ikehara  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [jikehara@lava.net](mailto:jikehara@lava.net)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

**Comments:**

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Nishimoto and members of the committee:  
I would like to express my support of the intent of this resolution. As a respiratory therapist, I and many of my colleagues see a number of patients with this diagnosis and test many who weren't aware that they had this disease until it began affecting their ability to walk and window shop, do their household chores and their fun activities. COPD is largely attributed to long time cigarette smoking, however there is a proportion of people who have the disease without ever having smoked or been exposed to second-hand smoke. They have COPD caused by environmental and occupational exposure to lung irritants; and for others because of their genetics. It is a disease that affects as many women as men, at younger ages causing earlier disability and morbidity. It is costly to manage and daily takes one's breath away. The rising numbers of people being affected needs to be addressed. It is a chronic and progressive disease that we in the State of Hawaii need to prepare ourselves to deal with and ultimately try to prevent its occurrence. For the majority of people, it is a preventable disease that required making the better choice - not to smoke; and/or to use personal protective gear when working in these suspect environments. Please support this resolution that asks that COPD be studied and a plan developed to reduce its burden on the patients, their family, caregivers and the community as a whole. Mahalo nui loa!