

# TESTIMONY

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# SCR4/ SR5

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A STATE HEALTH PLAN INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE OCCURRENCES OF CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE IN HAWAII.

Report Title: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Description:

Companion: SR5, HCR16, HR10

Package: Women

Current Referral: HTH

Introducer(s): FUKUNAGA, BAKER, CHUN OAKLAND, KIDANI, SHIMABUKURO, TOKUDA, Kim, Ryan

HTH  
Committee Hearing  
03-27-2012

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SCR0004, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A  
STATE HEALTH PLAN INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE OCCURRENCES OF  
CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE IN HAWAII

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
Director of Health

March 27, 2012  
1:30PM, Room 229

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent to create a common and  
2 unified Hawaii plan to address Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department of Health acknowledges the importance of Chronic  
5 Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) as a serious progressive lung disease that makes breathing  
6 difficult. COPD has become the third leading cause of death, illness, and disability in the United States.  
7 Tobacco use is a key factor in the development and progression of COPD, but asthma, exposure to air  
8 pollutants in the home and workplace, genetic factors, and respiratory infections also play contributing  
9 roles. In the US, more than 12 million adults have been diagnosed with the disease. However, data  
10 from national health surveys suggest that many more Americans are affected.

11 DOH has actively pursued supportive measures to include COPD in its chronic disease initiatives  
12 through the purchase and addition of surveillance measures in the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance  
13 System, creating a COPD Burden Report; supporting the COPD Coalition's community efforts through

1 the Tobacco Prevention and Education and Asthma Control Programs; and providing funding for the  
2 development of a COPD Strategic Plan. Further, the COPD Coalition participated and provided input to  
3 both the statewide tobacco control and asthma strategic plans.

4 The programs in DOH's Chronic Disease Control and Management Branch are funded by the  
5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through federal grants. COPD has yet to be  
6 designated as a categorical federally funded program. Without additional resources it would be difficult  
7 to establish a COPD program.

8 At this time, DOH will continue to support the efforts of the COPD Coalition through  
9 surveillance, policy, training and technical assistance.

10 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

## Green4 - Mailene

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:49 PM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Cc:** copd.hawaii@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR4 on 3/27/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 3/27/2012 1:30:00 PM SCR4

Conference room: 229

Testifier position:

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Valerie Chang

Organization: Hawaii COPD Coalition

E-mail: [copd.hawaii@yahoo.com](mailto:copd.hawaii@yahoo.com)

Submitted on: 3/21/2012

Comments:

Sorry, will be out of state at the time of the hearing but will be happy to answer any questions prior or at any later date.