



Proclamation

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a systemic disease that includes emphysema, chronic bronchitis and chronic asthma. It is the fourth leading killer in the United States and causes serious, long-term disability.

COPD is the only one of the top 10 killers that continues to increase, up 163 percent since 1965, whereas heart disease, cancer and stroke have decreased approximately 65 percent during the same period of time. COPD kills more than 120,000 Americans every year, averaging one death every four minutes. More than 12 million people are currently diagnosed with COPD in the United States, with an estimated equal or greater number who are not aware they have the disease. Smoking and secondhand smoke remain major causes, but it is estimated that one in six COPD patients never smoked. In Hawai'i, there are an estimated 38,577 patients with chronic bronchitis and 17,300 with emphysema.

The National Heart Lung Blood Institute has begun a "*Learn More, Breathe Better*" National COPD Awareness Campaign to strengthen prevention efforts and improve diagnosis and treatment. In 2001, November was designated National COPD Month. This year, November 14, 2007, has been designated Worldwide COPD Day.

Honolulu is having three COPD events to increase awareness and education about this growing health issue. The Big Island is also having a COPD event, featuring keynote speaker Dr. James Kiley, director of Lung Division for the National Heart Lung Blood Institute. These events are sponsored by many groups, including Queen's Hospital, the American Lung Association of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Thoracic Society, Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawai'i, Hawai'i State Department of Health, University of Hawai'i School of Nursing, Hawai'i Society for Respiratory Care, Kaiser Permanente, HMSA and the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Therapy Program.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor, of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim November 2007 as

COPD AWARENESS MONTH

in Hawai'i, and urge our citizens to learn whether they are at risk for COPD, get tested and get appropriate treatment.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this tenth day of October 2007.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i