

# HAWAII COPD COALITION

## NEWS

*Info & resources on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, emphysema & chronic bronchitis*

**Volume 1, Issue 2**

**March 2009**

### **Free Breathing Test Clinics**

The **Hawaii COPD** (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) **Coalition** in collaboration with **Longs Drugs** offers free breathing tests. Priority will be given to smokers, former smokers, and adults with breathing problems. Testing is performed by trained, licensed healthcare professionals.

For more information about the clinics or support groups, contact **Longs Clinical Services** at 988-2439 or **Hawaii COPD Coalition** at 699-9839. Clinics for 2009 are as follows and will be posted at <http://hawaiicopd.org>. Dates on reverse side.

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### **Help us help you!**

Please ask the legislators you know to **oppose** **HB 1731** which would reduce funding for community tobacco cessation and prevention programs including Project SUCCESS!

Please also ask your legislators to **support** **SB1332**, licensing of respiratory therapists to help improve the profession. They are vital team members for our respiratory health. Hawaii and Alaska are the **ONLY** states without licensing!

More info about the legislature at <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>.

### **Breathing Hui—new group**

*Support Group on breathing and cessation*

Everyone is invited to attend the Breathing Hui meetings held monthly at Kaiser Honolulu (1010 Pensacola), meeting room 2A/B, **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month from 10-noon**. The meetings are led by experienced respiratory therapists, Joan Loke and Jo Ann Ikehara and cover a variety of topics including exercise, travel, oxygen supplies, medications, latest research, legislation about breathing issues, and much more! There is no charge for the meetings; refreshments and supplies are included. There is a nominal \$3/3 hour parking fee. Upcoming topics and speakers:

March—pulmonologist

April—COPD patient about travel & O2 concentrators + new rehab study

May—pharmacist

A **new group** is being formed to meet regularly in **Hawaii Kai**; details to be posted on our website, <http://hawaiicopd.org>.

### **COPD Education Day 2009**

Mark your calendar for next year's COPD Education Day 2009. It will be on **Saturday, November 7, 2009** at **Queen's Conference Center**. Details to follow!



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## COPD Study in Hawaii

Hawaii has been invited to participate in an on-going international study. It will help determine how common COPD is. Hawaii is only the second state ever invited to participate. Twelve sites around the world have completed their data collection and recording to date with many more in progress. Hawaii COPD Coalition continues working on funding and details—stay tuned for updates!

### Free Breathing Clinics

Sat., Feb. 28, 10am-1pm, Longs Kam  
(1620 North School Street)  
Sat., Mar. 21, 10am-1pm, Longs Kam  
Sat., Mar 28, 10am-1pm, Longs Windward  
(45-480 Kaneohe Bay Dr.)  
Sat., Apr. 11, noon-3pm, Longs Maui  
(70 E Kaahumanu Ave., Ste C, Kahalui 96732)  
Sat., Apr. 25, 10am-1pm, Longs Kam  
Sat., May 9, noon-3pm, Longs Hilo  
(555 Kilauea Ave., 96720)  
Sat., May 30, 10am-1pm, Longs Windward  
Sat., June 13, 10am-1pm, Longs Kam  
Sat., June 27, 10am-1pm, Longs Windward

## Legislative Update

Cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation will be covered by Medicare in January 2010—regulations are in progress.

The Centers for Disease Control are considering adding COPD as a separate chronic disease IF funding is allocated. In March, Hawaii COPD Coalition will participate with 250 patients, healthcare professionals in meeting with Congress on this issue. You can help by writing letters and testimony. More information is available from **Joan Loke** of the American Association of Respiratory Care at [catnap@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:catnap@hawaii.rr.com) or call **Hawaii COPD Coalition** at **699-9839**.

Send suggestions, comments, suggested articles to Hawaii COPD Coalition for future newsletters; contact information above.