

HAWAII COPD COALITION

NEWS

Information & resources on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, emphysema & chronic bronchitis

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March 2010

2010: International Year of the Lung

The **Hawaii COPD** (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) **Coalition (HCC)** in collaboration with hundreds of organizations from all over the world, including the American Thoracic Society and Hawaii State Department of Health recognizes 2010 as **Year of the Lung!** More information about Year of the Lung is at www.yearofthelung.org. A request has been submitted to Governor Lingle to proclaim 2010 as Year of the Lung in Hawaii as well.

Help us spread the word that lung disease is very important and needs more research to improve our health and breath!

Important Bills!

Please ask the legislators you know to **oppose HB 2887 and all measures** which would take funding from community tobacco cessation and prevention programs including Project SUCCESS! Your help is urgently needed to preserve valuable community programs.

Please also ask your legislators to **support SB2600, SD1**, licensing of respiratory therapists to help improve the profession. Hawaii and Alaska are the **ONLY** states without licensing which is required to assist in emergencies, like our recent tsunami and other situations!

More info about the legislature at <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>. You can also call Hawaii COPD Coalition at (808)699-9839.

Breathing Hui

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, **2nd Friday of the month from 10-noon**. The meetings are led by experienced respiratory therapist **Jo Ann Ikehara** and registered nurse **Donita Gano**. Many different topics are covered 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. Thanks to trainer **John Cheung**, RD of WCCHC who led us in exercises in February. Upcoming topics and speakers:

- March—pulmonologist, **Dr. Kevin Hara**, MD of Pali Momi- highlights from Hawaii Thoracic Society's Conference on Maui
- April—attorney **Owen Helleckson**, JD talking about estate planning, powers of attorney and advanced directives

COPD Education Day 2010

Mark your calendar for the fourth annual COPD Education Day 2010, celebrating international Year of the Lung! It will be on **Saturday, September 11, 2010 at Queen's Conference Center**. Details to follow! Call (808)699-9839 for more information.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

Welcome to Our New Partners

The Hawaii COPD Coalition welcomes **Earl Bradbury** from the Centers for Disease Control, **Megan Motosue**, third year medical student and **Brent Tatsuno**, second year medical student. They are invaluable additions to our work at HCC!

Free Breathing Test Clinics

The **Hawaii COPD** (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) **Coalition** has partnered with Queen's Medical Center to offer free breathing clinics on Kauai in November, Hilo in February and Kona in April. Priority is given to smokers, former smokers, and adults with breathing problems. Testing is performed by trained, experienced healthcare professionals.

To get more information about the clinics or support groups, contact **Hawaii COPD Coalition** at 699-9839 or copd.hawaii@yahoo.com. Clinics for 2010 are being scheduled and will be posted at <http://hawaiicopd.org> as soon as they are finalized.

Mahalo & Aloha

Congratulations to respiratory therapist, **Joan Loke**, who has recently retired from Kaiser Permanente! Please join HCC in thanking pharmacist, **Cindy Minakami**, of Longs Drugs/CVS Caremark for her countless hours working on Project SUCCESS and partnering with the Hawaii COPD Coalition. Kudos to **Longs Drugs** for its priceless collaboration!

COPD in Hawaii Report

The State Department of Health, Chronic Disease Division is producing a report on the "Burden of COPD in Hawaii 2010." It has data about people who have been diagnosed with COPD for 2007 and 2008, including hospitalizations and some costs. This report and information will be helpful in creating an effective plan to address the over 30,000 Hawaii adults diagnosed with COPD.

Posters about HCC as well as Hawaii COPD data 2007-2009 will be presented at the American Thoracic Society international conference held in New Orleans, May 2010.

Long Term Care Conference

HCC is featuring an exhibit and two lunch speakers (**Dr. Warren Tamamoto** and **Dr. Elizabeth Tam**), at the April 16 Long Term Care Conference for healthcare professionals. <http://kupunaeducation.com/documents/RidingtheWaveConf4-16-2010.pdf>