

Proclamation

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a chronic, systematic disease, which includes emphysema, chronic bronchitis and chronic asthma. This serious lung disease is most often characterized by shortness of breath and a persistent cough and is mainly associated with emphysema, chronic bronchitis and chronic asthma. It is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, and the second leading cause of disability. COPD kills more than 120,000 Americans each year, which averages to one death every four minutes.

Hawai'i statewide health surveys in 2007 and 2008 reported that 30,794 to 37,381 adults were diagnosed with COPD. In addition, in 2005, total emergency room COPD visits in our state increased 54.8 percent from a total of 1,263 in 2001 to 1,956 in 2005.

To strengthen prevention efforts, improve diagnosis and treatment and raise awareness of COPD, the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute initiated the "*Learn More, Breathe Better*" National COPD Awareness Campaign in November 2001. Established in 2007, the Hawai'i COPD Coalition has been a partner in this campaign for the past two years.

The Hawai'i COPD Coalition has collaborated with CVS Caremark/Longs Drugs to launch Project Success in order to increase the awareness of COPD throughout our islands. Funded by a grant from the Hawai'i Community Foundation's Department of Health Tobacco Prevention Control Trust Fund, and sponsored by Community Links Hawai'i, Project Success offers free clinics, which provide lung testing, tobacco cessation counseling, referrals to community resources, support group meetings and education in lung health. In its first 12 months, 12 percent of the individuals tested at Project Success' clinics were found to have low lung function, which required referral and follow up.

On November 7, 2009, the Hawai'i COPD Coalition, in conjunction with the Queen's Medical Center, the Department of Health Tobacco Prevention and Education Program, Kaiser Permanente, American Lung Association of Hawai'i, John A. Burns School of Medicine, Hawai'i Society for Respiratory Care, Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawai'i and HMSA will hold its third annual COPD Education Day. This free event, which brings together patients, caregivers, respiratory therapy students, healthcare professionals, exhibitors, volunteers and interested members of the public, offers inhaler and nebulizer demonstrations, smoking cessation tools and lung function testing, respiratory magazines and handouts. This year's event, focusing on environmental factors affecting COPD, features keynote addresses by pulmonologist Dr. Roger Yim, entitled *COPD in Hawai'i*, and by infectious disease specialist Dr. Eileen Hilton speaking on "*Swine*" *H1N1 Flu & You*.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor, of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **November 2009** as

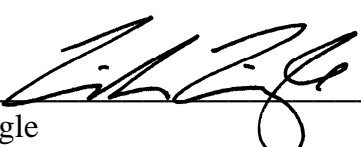
COPD AWARENESS MONTH

and hereby proclaim **November 7, 2009** as

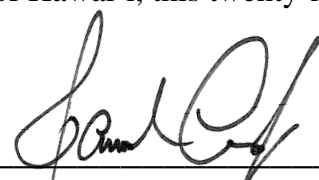
COPD EDUCATION DAY

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 twenty-ninth day of October 2009.



Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i



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