



# Healthcare Association of Hawaii

July 11, 1994

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## Re: **Respiratory Protective Devices; Proposed Rule; 42 CFR Part 84**

Dear Sirs:

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii represents all the acute care hospitals in the State of Hawaii and two-thirds of the state's long term care beds. On behalf of our members, we would like to express our support for the proposed regulations that create a new Class C respirator which would provide 95% filter protection at the 0.3 micron particle size.

In particular, the Class C respirator would be a more economical protection for health care workers who care for TB patients than the high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter respirators now being used. As the incidence of TB rises -- especially here in Hawaii, due to our state's growing number of immigrants -- this becomes an important factor in providing effective care.

It is obviously important that the certification process for Class C respirators meet the Center for Disease Control's performance criteria to assure respiratory protection against TB for our health care workers. Due to the increase in strains of TB that are resistant to traditional treatments, we urge the new regulations to be approved and implemented as quickly as possible.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

  
RICHARD E. MEIERS  
President/CEO