

the Central Conference of American Rabbis and serves on a team that counsels other rabbis. Many of his sermons have been published in "American Rabbi," and he has edited national books on rabbinical contracts and retirement.

I began my community service career on the local school board about the time that Rabbi Cohn became the spiritual leader in Congregation Emanu El. It was clear even then that he would be a force to bring all of the people of our community together. Throughout his career, his integrity and reputation for conciliation have shown through, and I am grateful for his wise counsel on many matters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Rabbi Cohn for his years of service and leadership, and to wish him and his wife Rita good luck in their future endeavors. I am sure they will be active members of our community for many years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1886

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce H.R. 1886, a bill aimed at closing an unfortunate administrative loophole and bridging a legal gap in the working of our intellectual property system. As you know, I chair the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property. In that capacity, my colleagues and I have as one of our continuing goals making certain that the U.S. patent system is the finest regime in the world. This bill relates to two important areas within our jurisdiction, namely the procedures linking the courts and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO). This legislation eliminates an asymmetry in an administrative procedure disallowing the public the right to appeal a question from the PTO to a higher and independent authority for redress.

This legislation closes a procedural loophole that is a gap in the law. Today, many of these administrative appeals are prohibited by current law. In my view, this makes the patent system unable to fully serve the needs of inventors and the public. Congress created the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in 1982 with a specific goal. It was intended to be a specialized forum that brings both legal and technical expertise to bear on appeals of certain issues of national importance, including patent issues. The overwhelming consensus is that in the past 20 years, the Federal Circuit has proven to be a marked success. It contributes to the fairness of the system in two ways. First, it ensures predictability and certainty to appeals within the subject matter of its jurisdiction. Second, it is a check on the agencies within its jurisdiction.

We have all heard stories about patents that issue but are subsequently challenged based on new evidence pertaining to scope and validity. This bill will ensure that the outcome of these challenges initiated by the public and consumers through the optional inter partes

reexamination will be fair by establishing the right to appeal and judicial review. It is a very limited measure and it does not lead to any additional district court trials, or other added discovery burdens or expenses for inventors. It is aimed at the improved functioning of our domestic system and has no relation to what our trading partners use in their systems. While this is admittedly a small bill—some will describe it merely as a housekeeping bill—I believe that it will contribute greatly to the improved functioning of our patent system for all parties involved.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL AUTHORIZING EXPANSION OF PU'UHONUA O HONAUNAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to authorize the expansion of the Pu'uhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park, which is located in South Kona on the island of Hawaii.

Pu'uhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park, formerly known as the City of Refuge National Historical Park, was authorized by an act of Congress on July 26, 1955 (60 Stat. 376) ". . . for the benefit and inspiration of the people . . ." The park was formally established in 1961. All the lands included within the park are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The overall management goal for the historical park is for the resources to accurately represent a slice of time ranging from pre-contact (circa 12th–13th century) to about 1930, when Ki'ilae Village was completely abandoned. The objectives developed to meet that goal focus on preservation, stabilization, and restoration of the park's cultural and natural resources.

A significant portion of the ancient Hawaiian village of Ki'ilae lies outside of the current park's boundaries. The proposed addition of 805 acres, located within the tradition land divisions of Ki'ilae ahupua'a and Kauleoli ahupua'a, contains significant cultural and natural resources, which complement the Park's mission of preservation and rehabilitation of Hawaiian natural, cultural, and historic resources. These lands contain at least 800 cultural sites, structures, and features; at least 25 caves (or cave openings), many of which are refuge caves; a minimum of 10 heiau (temples); more than 20 platforms; 26 enclosures; over 40 burial features (or highly probable burials); trails and trail remnants; a minimum of 6 residential compounds; a holua slide; several canoe landing sites; a water well; numerous walls and wall remnants; and a wide range of agricultural features.

Ancient Native Hawaiian burial sites are a particularly sensitive issue in Hawaii. Many descendants of the Ki'ilae villagers live in the area and want to make sure that the graves of their ancestors are respected and that archeological and historical sites are preserved. The local community strongly supports incorporation of these lands into Pu'uhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park.

I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this bill.

ANNAPOLIS CENTER REPORT ADDRESSES KEY CONCERNS ABOUT ASTHMA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues an important report that was recently issued by the Annapolis Center for Science-Based Public Policy. Asthma is a serious disease that is often undetected, misdiagnosed and not properly treated. I am hopeful the Center's Executive Summary will help to enlighten my colleagues about the importance of addressing the problems associated with asthma.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report defines asthma, evaluates trends, and reviews how it is studied. It reviews potential triggers of asthma attacks and their proper management, which can dramatically decrease morbidity and prevent mortality. The report recommends prudent steps that decision-makers, doctors, and patients should take in combating the disease. Several major points of the report are as follows:

Asthma is a serious disease, with a great impact on public health and the economy;

Asthma has a disproportional impact in the United States on minorities, the poor, and children;

Asthma is a complex disease. We do not have a complete picture of asthma because we have an insufficient understanding of all the interacting mechanisms. Because of this, there is no universally accepted definition of the disease;

Because of the lack of a completely acceptable definition of asthma, it may be underdiagnosed or over-diagnosed;

We do not yet know all the causes of asthma. Genetic factors play a role but these alone do not explain the disease. The strongest (but incomplete) evidence exists for interactions between genetic factors, indoor environmental allergens and tobacco smoke; however, finding "the cause" (or causes) of asthma will take time and money.

Underlying causes, unlike immediate triggers, are speculative, or highly speculative, requiring much more research.

A national asthma registry is needed.

Action strategies aimed at eliminating some suspected environmental risk factors may reduce the prevalence of asthma attacks but are not guaranteed to reduce the incidence of new cases of asthma. There is evidence that dust mites, cockroaches, cat dander, spores of the common airborne mold, and Alternaria (a type of fungus) play an important role. It seems reasonable to clean homes, workplaces, and schools to reduce exposure to these triggers. This may not prevent all asthma attacks, but it may lessen their frequency and/or severity;

Asthma is a very manageable disease. Much of the current morbidity and mortality is avoidable;

Many asthmatics and their doctors do not take the disease as seriously as they should; Clinical guidelines for asthma treatment need to be followed;

Better disease management is the strategy most likely to yield benefits for asthmatics